



Discipling Marketplace Leaders (DML)

What is DML?

The Discipling Marketplace Leaders ministry was designed to empower the local church to both establish and run successful marketplace initiatives. Through church-based Business as Mission the DML ministry, business owners and entrepreneurs will be empowered, equipped, and encouraged as they work towards success which is measured by missional, social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Why is this Important?

For many in the global church, wealth creation and spirituality are like mixing oil and water – the difference between light and darkness. But these misconceptions are not rooted in the Word of God and hinder the church in reaching its full potential in society. Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV) states, "But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your ancestors, as it is today."

Wealth creation is rooted in God the Creator, who created a world that flourishes with abundance and diversity. We were created in God's image, and He has invested in us the ability to be creative through His Holy Spirit, instilling in us the ability to create products and services for the common good of mankind. In the Wealth Creation Manifesto, issued through the Lausanne movement of 2017, the Manifesto states, "Wealth creators should be affirmed by the church, and equipped and deployed to serve in the marketplace among all peoples and nations."

How is this Accomplished Through the Global Advance DML Ministry?

DML runs structured courses through the local church which provide the basic training needed by every business. From writing a business plan to managing accounting, participants learn what it means to both nurture and successfully run a business. This is accomplished through weekly classes conducted over a twelve-week period.

The DML leadership team also helps class participants find and utilize mentors for their business. This additional coaching helps business owners and budding entrepreneurs easily answer questions that arise as they develop their business entities.

Additionally, it is important that every business has a voice, and that Christian business owners and entrepreneurs work together for the betterment of their communities. Often, the voice of small business owners is stifled when dealing with governmental agencies or larger service providers. But working together, helping each other expand both business opportunities and the gospel of Jesus Christ, this network represents a significant voice. ***Global Advance calls the development of these networks CBN's, or Christian Business Networks – all started through the implementation of church-based DML ministry.***

Now is the Time

The world is changing, and the church is losing influence over a new, unchurched generation. By teaching the spiritual principles of wealth creation and proper stewardship through the local church, the church helps meet both the spiritual and economic needs of its members. Through the Global Advance DML ministry, churches become equipped to help answer the complex questions members have concerning the marketplace in today's society. Now is the time for churches to step up and provide this form of business empowerment to their members through the Global Advance DML ministry.



Discipling Marketplace Leaders:

Vision Statement: To reclaim the redeemed marketplace through Church-based Business as Mission and bring it under the Lordship of Christ.

Mission Statement: To empower the local church to establish and run successful Marketplace Ministries, empowering, equipping, encouraging, and discipling business owners to work toward a quadruple bottom line that is measured by: missional, social, economic, and environmental outcomes.

What Does Discipling Marketplace Leaders Mean?

Discipling – A Christian disciple is one who accepts and assists in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. A disciple is also a student, undergoing learning and training. We want to be in the ongoing process of discipling; learning God's will for business and how that applies to each of us.

Marketplace – The marketplace is that combination of business, education, and government that come together to make economic transactions possible. These three systems are the key components of a nation and the health and heart of a nation can be surmised by looking at these three organic systems in themselves as they interrelate. We are called in the Great Commission to “disciple the nations” not just individuals. This ministry focuses specifically on the business aspect of a nation.

Leaders – A leader directs a business, organization, or group. A leader has influence or power. 1 Peter 2:9 tells that we are a “chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” Business leaders are also called to be priests if you will, and the workplace is their parish. Leaders need to know how to use power and influence and declare the praises of God in what they do as business leaders.

Introduction/Foundation of Business as Mission

1. What percent of the adults in your congregation are involved in the Marketplace (business, education, government)?
2. How does the church view business and business men and women?
3. How do business men and women view the church?

We were created on purpose and we were created for a purpose. Problems are everywhere, but a proper perspective sees problems as opportunities in which people, who are made in the image of God, can find solutions.



Recommendations from Lausanne Commission

1. We call upon the Church worldwide to identify, affirm, pray commission and release business men and women and entrepreneurs to exercise their gifts and calling as business people in the world – among all peoples and to the ends of the earth.
2. We call upon business men and women globally to receive this affirmation and to consider how their gifts and experience might be used to help meet the world’s most pressing spiritual and physical needs through Business as Mission.

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What is the Role of the Church in Business as Mission?

God has given us three key resources to accomplish His purposes: Talent, Treasure, and Time. Time is the only non-renewable resource. The average worker will spend 40% of their time at work and 16% of their time in the church. The goal is to use part of this 16% of time in church equipping them to be God’s light in dark places. This is done by realizing that work is a calling, just as being a pastor is a calling. This has always been part of God’s great plan.

God created us on purpose (Psalm 139) and for purpose (Eph. 2:10). God’s purpose is for us to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19,20) while living out the Great Commitment (Gen. 1:28), motivated by the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:37-40). Work is where the Great Commitment is lived out and the Great Commission is carried out. As we care for creation through our work (the Great Commitment), we are ambassadors of reconciliation between man and God, man and man, and man and creation.

This is what it means to make disciples. We are to “go” about our work with an emphasis on making disciples. Every member of God’s Church is a priest with the mission of sharing God’s word and truth with others (1 Peter 2:9). The Great Commitment in Gen. 1:26-31 is our first Great Directive. It is God’s call to manage His creation with fruitfulness and creativity.



Genesis 1:28 has five commands that link together like a chain: be fruitful, multiply, fill, subdue, and reign.

- To be fruitful and multiply refers to procreation (having children) and productivity. You cannot have one without the other. We are to be co-creators with God, not as employees, but to find the potentials of the earth and multiply them.
- To fill the earth refers to population and spreading.
- To subdue means to bring under your will; this command was given before the fall and is mostly referring to the plant kingdom.
- We are to reign as benevolent kings, ensuring the flourishing for all living creatures in the Kingdom.

As the heart is to the body, so the Marketplace is to the community. To transform the community, you must transform the marketplace. The four great arteries of the community are the church, education, government and the marketplace. It is the synergy between these four that brings about wealth and prosperity to the community. China is an example of this. Over the past 30 years, they have cut extreme poverty from 84% to 10% by focusing on job creation and building increased capacity.

Members of the church must come to realize the holy calling of work and business. They need to see and understand work as worship. This emphasis will help the church integrate Jesus into every area of a church member's life. They will come to appreciate that the marketplace is the "canvas on which salvation is to be written." When this happens, the local church will find increases in giving, participation and new members.

Business as Mission is...

- About real, viable, sustainable, and profitable businesses with a Kingdom of God purpose, perspective and impact;
- Leading to transformation of people and societies **socially, economically, environmentally, and missionally**

- To the greater glory of God. (adapted from the Lausanne Commission)

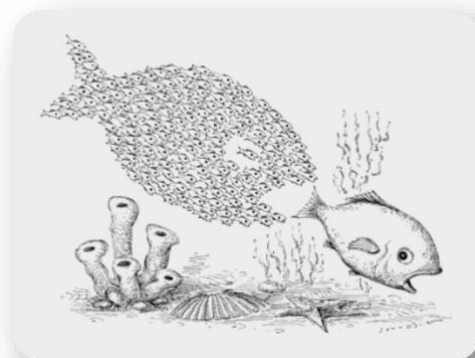
And the Christ-Centered Purpose of Business...

1. To provide individuals and the community with products and services that will enable it to flourish (outward focus, part of the economic and ecological bottom line). [This means that WHAT is created is relevant.]
2. To provide opportunities for meaningful work that will allow employees to express their God-given creativity (inward focus, part of the social and spiritual bottom line).

Notice maximizing profits is not a purpose of business; rather employees and customers are key. While profits are import, and all companies will die without profit, profit is not the end-all goal. Profits help our businesses fulfill their Christ-centered business as mission focus.

What Does DML Look Like in the Local Church?

It provides the basic training needed by every business. From writing a plan to taking care of the accounting, participants learn what it means for a business. This is accomplished through weekly classes over a week period. The Global Advance/DML team helps members find and mentors. This additional coaching helps the business men and women with that come up as they develop their businesses. Finally, it is important business has a voice. Too often the small business has little chance other larger entities like the government or service providers like insurance agencies. But working together they represent a significant voice.



Called to Work

What are some perceptions for why we work?
Why does God say we work?

"Thinking of work only as a means of self-self-realization slowly crushes a person and society itself." (Tim Keller)

What is our call to creation? To preach.
Compare Mark 16:15 to Matthew 28:19, 20. What is between making disciples of all nations and proclaiming whole of creation?



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Creation understands worship. Jesus has an intimate relationship with nature. Genesis 9 reminds us that the covenant was made with all living creatures, not just people. We are to preach to creation through our work. We help creation achieve its goal of worshipping God.

Dorothy Sayers, in *Letters to a Diminished Church*, writes: Work is not, primarily, a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do. It is, or it should be, the full expression of the worker's faculties, the thing in which he finds spiritual, mental and bodily satisfaction, and the medium in which he offers himself to God.

God's work includes six areas:

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| Redemptive Work | God's saving and reconciling actions | Pastor, counselors, peacemakers, writers, artists, poets, actors |
| Creative Work | God's fashioning of the physical and human world | Interior designers, metalworkers, carpenters, builders, fashion designers, architect, novelists, urban planners |
| Providential Work | God's provision for and sustaining humans and creation | Utility workers, shopkeepers, farmers, firemen, repairmen, printers, transport workers, IT workers, entrepreneurs, bankers, civil servants, mechanics, engineers, janitors, plumbers, and all who keep economic and political order working smoothly |
| Justice Work | God's maintenance of justice | Judges, paralegals, lawyers, legal secretaries, government regulators, city managers, prison wardens and guards, police officers, administrators of law enforcement |
| Compassionate Work | God's involvement in comforting, healing, guiding, and shepherding | Doctors, nurses, paramedics, therapists, social workers, pharmacists, community workers, nonprofit workers |
| Revelatory Work | God's work to enlighten with truth | Teachers, preachers, scientists, journalists, writers. |