



UNTIL THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS

Biglife® /



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WELCOME

— *friends* —

Biglife's mission is to empower believers to reach and disciple their own people for Jesus Christ. When we reach and disciple our own people, we encourage them to go and do the same. From there, the network of faithful disciples multiplies from person to person, city to city, nation to nation, and worldwide!

I love playing Pickleball.

My family, friends, and much of Biglife's leadership are also fanatics of the sport. We often find time to play during our free time. As it happens, Pickleball is currently the fastest-growing sport in America. A major appeal of the sport is that it's widely accessible. There's a low barrier for entry, courts are everywhere, and even curious novices can pick up a paddle and learn the ropes easily in one afternoon. If no courts are available, we motivated Pickleball players are known to build our own courts in garages, parking lots, or abandoned warehouses. In fact, I read an article about delayed airport passengers who united to build a makeshift court in the middle of their deserted terminal.

I remember the first time I played Pickleball. My son came home from college and said, "You've got to try this. You'd love it!" I got hooked quickly and invited my friends to play with me. Then, they went and invited their friends to play with them. Pretty soon, we had a multi-generational network of Pickleball fanatics.

That's why Pickleball grows so fast—it strengthens existing relationships and catalyzes new ones. Someone invites a friend to see what it's all about, then they invite their friends to do the same.

The Gospel moves similarly. When Jesus changes our lives, we can't help but share Him with those around us. Once Jesus transforms their lives, they go and do the same. His name is contagious!

Biglife's mission is to empower believers to reach and disciple their own people for Jesus Christ. When we reach and disciple our own people, we encourage them to go and do the same. From there, Christ's name multiplies from person to person, city to city, nation to nation, and worldwide!

In Mark 5, Jesus healed a man who had been possessed by a legion of demons. The man earnestly begged to join Jesus—to study at Christ's feet to grow in knowledge and understanding. Instead, Jesus commanded him to go and share his story with his friends. He only had his story, but Scripture shows us that his testimony was more than enough to turn the Decapolis upside down for Christ!

Are we willing to be obedient like that? To be so overjoyed by the Gospel that we can't help but go and share how

Jesus Christ has changed our lives, and that we will never be the same again?

A few years ago, Biglife's Middle East director and I stood at the same tombs that the demon-possessed man lived among. The director explained that he was a follower of Christ because the formerly demon-possessed man shared his story with his ancient ancestor, who shared Jesus with their family and continued to pass the Gospel through generations for two millennia.

We are constantly amazed by God's beautiful story of redemption and how He rescues people from sin to be brought into His Kingdom. We are also encouraged by the radical obedience of Jesus' disciples from every corner of the earth. It is our prayer that the stories, strategies, and testimonies in this book will encourage you to follow Christ in radical obedience by making disciples who make disciples.

In 2000, we never could've imagined the journey that would lead us here: coaching Olympic baseball in Iran, working with ex-Green Berets to rescue over 55,000 people from the Taliban, the Lord revealing Himself in scraps of trash swirling on the street, and other incredible stories that you'll read about in the following pages. Today, we can look back and see He was faithful through all the frustration, persecution, celebration, and sacrifice. Ultimately, He is moving, and we're blessed that He's invited all of us to be a part of His story to make all things new!

Biglife is ordinary people led by our extraordinary God. Just like anybody can pick up a paddle and play Pickleball, God can use anyone to make a big Kingdom impact. Just like you can play Pickleball anywhere—in a warehouse, in an airport terminal, or in a driveway—God will move anywhere—at a tea stand on the side of the road in Pakistan, in prison cells in Central Africa, in a community of deaf people on an island in the Indian Ocean, or even on a Pickleball court in the United States. God's plan is so much bigger than we could ever fathom. Join us as we go out as disciples of Christ and ambassadors of His Kingdom!



Until the whole world knows,

John Heerema
John Heerema, CEO

The *Beginning* of Biglife



One night in a Chicago suburb, John Heerema's car slid off the road and got stuck in a snowbank. Outside it was 91 degrees below zero with wind chill. The cold was beginning to take a toll on John when a state trooper on a snowmobile found him. He took him to an abandoned farmhouse up the road and told him to wait while he searched for others trapped in the snow. Once inside, John realized that even though he'd been in real danger, it hadn't occurred to him to pray. It saddened him to realize he was that far from God.

John was raised in the church by parents who loved the Lord. Not only did he know about God, he'd witnessed His miraculous power firsthand in his own life. John was born with clubfoot. The doctors said he would never walk, but his parents had faith. They prayed and their church prayed, and—to the doctors' astonishment—John did walk. In high school, prayer even saved his life. An ulcer in John's stomach burst, and he began bleeding internally. The doctors didn't think he'd make it through the night, but if he did, they were certain he'd suffer significant brain damage. John's church and community again rallied in prayer, and the doctors were amazed when he left the hospital without any harm. Yet, for all these testimonies to answered prayer, John now found himself so far from God that he didn't even think to pray to Him when he was stranded and alone in a deadly blizzard.

The wind blasted through broken windows panes and the old furniture was eerie in the gloom. John prayed that he would make it through the night, and that in the morning his car would start and he could drive home. "If you do this," he said "I'll move to Florida and you'll never have to worry about me freezing to death again." John was bargaining with God. He then lay down on a cold, musty sofa and closed his eyes. Suddenly, there was a scuffling noise and John bolted upright again. Someone else was in the room. He was alert and scanning the dark walls for movement. The thing moved past a window and, to his relief, John saw it was a large dog. Tail wagging, the dog came and jumped on the sofa with him, the two of them warmer together. *Is this dog a gift from God to help me get through the night?* John wondered.

He did make it through the night, and on July 5, 1982 John left the freezing Midwest winters behind and moved to Florida to take a job as the superintendent of a golf course.

Life in Florida went well for John. He became well-established at the golf course. A friend also introduced him to a beautiful young woman named Kathy. The two

soon started dating and were happy together. By the end of 1984, John had some money saved and began planning the launch of his own landscaping business, Agro Turf. John went door-to-door delivering flyers and spreading the word and Agro Turf soon grew into a thriving business. But despite his external success, John was no longer following Jesus, even if he still considered himself a Christian. When John and Kathy were married in April 1987, it was the first time either of them had set foot inside a church in years. They chose that church specifically because it didn't require couples to take a class or attend services before getting married. It was a venue, nothing more.

God would soon draw the Heeremas to Himself, but in an unlikely way. While John had grown up in the church and considered himself a Christian, Kathy was strongly opposed to faith of any kind. When the two first started dating, she snapped at John for even talking about his faith. She was angry and defiant, wanting nothing to do with God. But over the years, that attitude changed. Kathy struggled with spells of depression, and her dreams were often dark and full of creatures and images that frightened her. As John became absorbed in growing Agro Turf, Kathy began feeling isolated. Whenever she was in the car, she turned on the radio to avoid being alone with her thoughts. But one day, every song on the station she normally listened to was as sad as Kathy felt. She began flipping through the stations until she found something that sounded upbeat and happy. Although she didn't realize it until after she'd listened to a couple songs, Kathy was listening to a local Christian radio station. She liked it and became a regular listener. Between songs the radio hosts talked about Jesus, and the people who phoned in constantly talked about how the Gospel had changed their lives. They had a peace and joy that Kathy craved.

One evening near Christmas, she told John she had been listening to Christian radio. He was shocked. She asked if they could start looking for a church—just to try it out. John smiled at her. "Well, that's quite a coincidence," he said, "because we've been given tickets for a Christmas concert at a nearby church. I'm told it's quite a show. So, I was actually going to talk to you about going." John and Kathy went to the Christmas concert, and both of them left the church knowing they'd be back.

By 1999, John and Kathy were committed members of the church. The Lord had also blessed them with the birth of their first child, a daughter they named Kristen. John and Kathy were full of joy. One evening, John was playing



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**ARE YOU WILLING
TO LEAD A BIG
LIFE WITH A BIG
KINGDOM IMPACT?**

with Kristen while Kathy sat on the sofa, and John's heart swelled with gratitude. God had given him a beautiful wife and daughter, a great church, a nice home, a thriving business, and the means to be semi-retired by mid-life. "I think we have the perfect life." He said, "Just perfect." But even as he said it, he felt hollow, as though he didn't quite believe his own words. Something was still missing, and it took a traveling revival preacher coming to town for John to finally realize what that was.

During the seven day revival, John felt the Lord speak directly to him. The message was about complete surrender and obedience—themes the Lord had been drawing John to since even before the revival. This was the hardest week of John's life. The Lord revealed to him all sorts of areas he hadn't turned over to Him. That week John wrote checks to people he'd been dishonest with, asked forgiveness from people he'd wronged, and laid down any desires that weren't from God. After a week of realizing how much rebellion and

disobedience remained in their lives, John and Kathy both felt God say that if they would surrender completely to Him and devote themselves to prayer and waiting on Him, then He had a plan for them. They both agreed and soon God was at work in their lives—but once again, not in any way they expected.

One Sunday, as John was leaving church he noticed a book about international missions sitting in the back seat of his truck. He didn't particularly want to read it—someone from the church had asked him to—but once he opened it, he couldn't put it down. It was the first time he'd heard that one person dies every second without hearing the name of Jesus, and this moved and saddened him deeply. John pleaded with God to reveal what He was trying to tell him. Then, as John continued to read, he heard the question, "Are you willing to lead a big life, a life with a big **Kingdom** impact?" John, of course, already knew his answer.

He founded Biglife the following year.





VISION

Why We Exist

Over the years, Biglife has learned that God works through obedience. Staying in step with the Spirit—wherever the Spirit leads—is the only way to get where we are going. We continue to take prayerful risks, always trusting an unknown future to a known and holy God.

WE ENVISION RADICALLY OBEDIENT DISCIPLES IN EVERY NATION TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN FOR JESUS CHRIST.

Logistically, we move forward in faith and obedience as God continues to reveal His plans for us. However, from our current vantage point, here's what we see: *A self-sustaining Disciple-Making Movement in every corner of the world.*

LET'S BREAK DOWN WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE

By a self-sustaining disciple making movement, we mean that both leadership and financial needs are met locally.

The reason self-sustaining leadership is important is because we believe local, indigenous Biglife leaders are best equipped to reach their own people with the Gospel. For example, we have seen in the field that the best people to reach Pakistani non-believers are Pakistani believers. That's because they already know the culture and religion in Pakistan, so they're best able to overcome those obstacles and share Jesus with others.

By financially self-sustaining, we mean that local needs are most often met locally, rather than from the U.S. This is for two reasons:

01 When a Disciple-Making Movement is locally self-sustaining, it's more likely to spread faster.

02 The goal of Disciple-Making Movements worldwide is to keep growing and spreading, regardless of circumstances in the U.S. This ensures that, even if funding ceases one day, the mission of reaching and discipling the lost will continue in perpetuity.

By a Disciple-Making Movement in every corner of the world, we mean we want to see Disciple-Making Movements everywhere. It's a God-sized goal, but He's commissioned us to reach for nothing less. With contacts, training sessions, and active partnerships in over 170 countries, Biglife continues to accelerate toward this vision. It's essential that we do: There are still entire communities who've never heard the name Jesus—not even once.



MISSION

What's Our Plan?

A God-sized goal requires a God-sized plan—we truly believe that. If we feel comfortable with the plan and think we can achieve it on our own, it's likely not from God. A plan we know we can accomplish leaves no room for faith. However, if the plan feels too big and impossible for us to achieve on our own, that's probably a God-sized plan. It's the kind of plan where, without God moving through us, it simply won't happen.

EMPOWERING BELIEVERS WORLDWIDE TO REACH AND DISCIPLE THEIR OWN PEOPLE FOR JESUS CHRIST.

Ultimately, our plan is less about *how* than it is about *who*—a Disciple-Making Movement is, after all, a movement of people.

PEOPLE OF PEACE

“But whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you.” LUKE 10:5-6 (NKJV)

To start a Disciple-Making Movement, Biglife seeks **people of peace** as described in **Luke 10**. People of peace are those people in whom God is already stirring. They come from every religious background and are often not followers of Christ. These people are the gateways to communities, people groups, and even nations.

The Samaritan woman Jesus spoke with at the well was one of these people. She was in search of peace and found herself in the presence of the Prince of Peace. After this encounter, she testified to her people that Jesus had “told her everything that had ever happened to her” (John 4:39), and this was the key to bringing an entire community to belief in Jesus. When Biglife seeks out a person of peace, we are looking for people like this Samaritan woman.

STRATEGIC PLANS

If, during our research of a nation or region, we find no evidence of any active Disciple-Making Movements, we then ask, “Who in the Biglife network has the strongest connections to that area?” Building around this connection, we compile a team of three to four other **disciple makers** who are proven catalysts and send this team to the area we want to see a Disciple-Making Movement take off. This team will engage the community through **prayer walks** and through meeting people of peace. This is one way for new Disciple-Making Movements to begin where previously there were none.

NEW STRATEGIES

Loving God and loving people are Christ's greatest commandments (Matthew 22:36-40). We have learned that this great love takes many forms. Biglife will continue to look for new opportunities and projects that actively and directly impact people for good, much like the disaster relief efforts which bore much **fruit**. At the same time, all new projects and aid-based initiatives will continue to align with the Biglife model which points people to Christ above all.

Training DISCIPLE MAKERS

Although strategies may vary from context to context, the basics of disciple making cross every language and border.



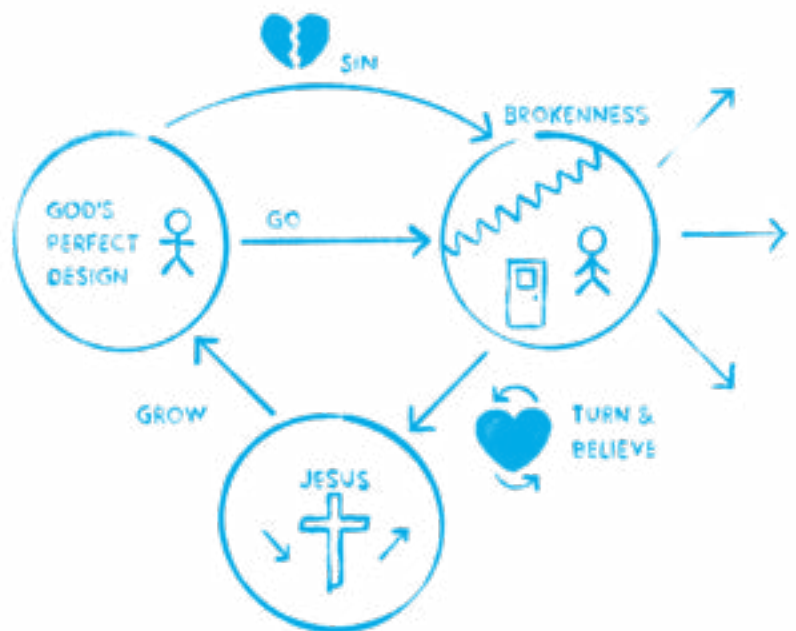
This is what the training is all about—getting back to the fundamentals of making disciples who go and make more disciples right where they are. God promises that every nation, tongue, and tribe will one day bow at the feet of Jesus. Training disciples who make disciples is how we play our part in seeing this come true.

The goal behind the training is to establish long-term relationships with local people who catalyze and shepherd **Disciple-Making Movements** in their own areas, in obedience to the Lord Jesus. So far, we've seen this training work in every cultural context and in more than 170 nations and, as a result, there have been Disciple-Making Movements in many of these places. Establishing a Disciple-Making Movement in every nation and people group on

earth is the God-sized vision we're proactively working toward.

The training is what we use to launch believers into this full and joyful disciple-making lifestyle. It helps eliminate the excuses many people have for not sharing the Gospel or discipling those they lead to faith. The two most common are: "I'm not called" and "I've not been trained." Whether in ministry or in the marketplace, we are all called to love God, love others, and make disciples. Biglife's training activates believers to fulfill this calling and begin making disciples.

IT'S SIMPLE.
IT'S REPRODUCIBLE.
IT'S SCRIPTURAL.



The full training takes 1-2 days of interactive participation and practicing simple tools. While we explain the training in print, its true effectiveness hinges far more on doing it than understanding it. However in its most basic form, here is the training.

01 — WRITE DOWN A LIST OF 20 NAMES

Write down the names of 20 people you know who do not have a relationship with God. Pray for them and seek opportunities to share your story and God's story with them.

02 — SHARE YOUR STORY

Write down the story of your life before Christ. Tell how you met Christ. Explain how your life changed after you met Him. Describe what it looks like now. Practice sharing your story with a partner. When you've finished, ask the other person if they want to respond to anything you've said. Answer any questions, then offer to share God's story.

03 — SHARE GOD'S STORY

When we share God's story, we assume our listener knows nothing about the Gospel, so we avoid "church" language and instead use simple, accessible language. It goes something like this:

We live in a **world** characterized by brokenness—disease, war, disaster, pain, injustice, and evil. But that's not how God made things to be. His original design was perfect. The way our world and everything in it became broken is through, what the Bible calls, sin. Sin is a rejection of God and turning away from His perfect design. This is what leads us to brokenness.

Choosing brokenness and rejecting God eventually leads to death. This death separates us from God forever. But God doesn't want us to remain in brokenness or die, so He made a way out. That way is Jesus. Jesus came and entered into our brokenness and died the death we deserve for pursuing brokenness. He took our place and died on a cross. His body was broken for us, but three days later He rose from the dead, making a way out of brokenness.

People try everything to get out of brokenness—religion, politics, success, relationships, substances—but none of these things work. Only Jesus has this power. So, if we turn from our sin and believe Jesus died for us and rose from the dead, we can leave the cycle of brokenness and grow and pursue a relationship with God in His original design. Then, just like Jesus, we are sent back into brokenness to help others come out of sin and death through Him and begin pursuing God's design.


There are two types of people in the world: those who have been freed from brokenness and are pursuing God's design and those who are still stuck in brokenness. Which do you think you are?



ORDINARY PEOPLE

Led by an Extraordinary

GOD



FOR OVER 20 YEARS, BIGLIFE HAS EMPOWERED BELIEVERS WORLDWIDE TO REACH AND DISCIPLE THEIR OWN PEOPLE FOR JESUS CHRIST.

The Lord has moved in incredible ways to use Biglife leaders, ordinary people, to make disciples in over 170 countries. Biglife has often been referred to as ordinary people led by an extraordinary God. The Lord can use anybody to make His great name known. The Scriptures are full of examples: a Samaritan woman with a long history of broken relationships, a formerly demon-possessed man, beggars, lepers, paralytic people, and rabbinical school dropouts. Jesus didn't look at status; He looked at the heart.

Biglife's heart is to see Jesus' great name brought to every tribe, tongue, and nation by faithful people who reach and disciple their own people. Jesus set an example of the necessity of building relationships for **discipleship**. In **Luke 10**, He sent out 72 disciples, commanding them to go into towns and villages looking for **people of peace**—the people who would welcome the disciples into their homes.

Then, they spent their time together building relationships to prepare the way for Jesus.

Since 2003, Biglife has operated under the same strategy, seeking out people of peace and empowering them to reach their own people in Jesus' name. The Lord has repeatedly shown that when disciples make disciples, the name of Jesus multiplies rapidly through generations. This commission to make disciples is intended for every person who follows Jesus.

In order to empower believers to reach and disciple their own people, it is important to clarify what reaching really means. Biglife uses "reaching" interchangeably with "sharing the Gospel." In other words, Biglife encourages and challenges followers of Jesus around the world to connect their own people to Jesus Christ through the Gospel, follow with discipleship, and teach them to go and do the same.

IT'S SCRIPTURAL

When Jesus empowered a person of peace, the movement would continue in that town in Jesus' absence. When Jesus healed the demon-possessed man in Mark 5, Jesus commanded the man to go and share with his family and friends how much the Lord had done for him (Mark 5:19). That testimony alone turned the Decapolis upside down. When Jesus ministered to the Samaritan woman at the well, John writes, "Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony" (John 4:39).

The Great Commission commands believers to go and make disciples. Some interpret this "go" command as an instruction to physically leave where they are and make disciples elsewhere. Others interpret Jesus' words as "as you are going" or while they go about their lives.

The call to make disciples is not either/or, it is both/and. There is a time and a place for both of these to be necessary for the furthering of the Gospel.

For example, in Acts 16:9-10, Paul had a vision of a Macedonian man begging him to come and help them. Paul needed to go to Macedonia to share the Gospel. It was necessary for missionaries to leave their places if they were to make disciples of all nations.

The vast majority of believers do not live as foreign missionaries, but the Great Commission is relevant to every believer's life. In Luke 10, after Jesus and the

disciples had visited a village, where they cast out demons and healed the sick, they needed leaders in those communities who could continue the work that Jesus and His disciples catalyzed. This is why the person of peace is necessary. They were someone who could follow Jesus' visit by ministering to the people of the village long after Jesus left. The faithful leaders who made disciples of their own people helped the movement grow faster and more sustainably because the movement could continue in perpetuity after Jesus was gone.

Jesus promised His disciples they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8). In His ascension, Jesus made it clear that the disciples had the power to go and do mighty works in Jesus' name in His absence. Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, Jesus can be "with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20), not just as an abstract set of values and ideas, but as a divine force that has a relationship with and guides every follower of Jesus. He is with us always until the end of the age. The Lord can use anybody to perform mighty works in His name because the Holy Spirit lives within us.

Biglife believes discipleship does not stop after a Gospel presentation. Rather, discipleship happens when a believer follows up after the Gospel and holds a new believer accountable to following Christ, encourages them to grow in their walk with Jesus, and then empowers them to go and do the same for others. It is necessary to have obedient believers who will make disciples of their own people.

**IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE
OBEDIENT BELIEVERS WHO
WILL MAKE DISCIPLES OF
THEIR OWN PEOPLE.**

IT'S SIMPLE

Think of it this way: Becoming fluent in a foreign language may take months, even years. In the same way, cultural differences often make for complex adjustments for missionaries. And, some areas of the world are entirely closed off to **Westerners**. Empowering local believers to reach their own people eliminates many of these hurdles because they know the language, have lived in the culture, and already have relationships with the people.

The meaning of believers "reaching their own people" is not limited only to geography. "Their own people" could be defined by any number of social groups they are part of.

SOME EXAMPLES FROM THE BIGLIFE NETWORK INCLUDE:

- Pickleball players reaching other Pickleball players
- Pakistani people reaching other Pakistani people
- Gen Z reaching other Gen Z-ers
- Prison inmates reaching other inmates
- Tech developers reaching other tech developers
- Someone in a village reaching fellow members of their village
- Deaf people reaching other deaf people
- CEOs reaching other CEOs
- Former religious extremists reaching current religious extremists

This model of bringing the Gospel into existing relationships is reproducible across all sorts of hobbies, interests, cultures, and people groups. Each may be tailored to that specific relationship, but each share the common fact that existing relationships create some of the most fertile ground for the Gospel. They also help create a space for following up with discipleship.

For example, a mountain biker shares the Gospel with a friend with whom they mountain bike. They already have the existing relationship of going on mountain bike rides together. Now, the time they spend together can be used not only for their shared interest but also for exploring Scripture, holding each other accountable, and encouraging each other to be obedient to Christ. The existing relationship opens the door for the Gospel, and the Gospel strengthens their existing relationship.

When believers reach and disciple their own people like this, nothing is required of them— no Ph.D., no formal seminary training, no passport, and no foreign language lessons. It is the way of living as ambassadors of the **Kingdom of Heaven** (2 Corinthians 5:20) and is available to everyone who is in Christ!

IT'S SUSTAINABLE

A study conducted by 24:14, a collaborative of believers dedicated to reaching unreached people and places, showed that the **DMM** approach can outpace global population growth with the Gospel. **Disciple-Making Movements** see multiplication through generations. This means that when one believer reaches and disciples one other person and encourages them to do the same, they create a network of disciples who are empowered to reach and disciple their own people. The believer would represent the first generation. A disciple whom they make would be the second generation. The disciples that the second generation make would be the third generation. As each believer makes disciples, these generations multiply rapidly!

If a believer made one disciple and empowered them to go and do the same, the network would consist of 16 people by the fifth generation. By the tenth generation, it would be 512 people. By the 21st generation, there would be over one million obedient disciples. By 33 generations, the entire world will have heard the Gospel! If Biglife ceased to exist, but believers were empowered to reach and disciple their own people, the movement would continue because each generation was learning to do the same.

Disciple-Making Movements are also financially sustainable because movements are able to meet

needs locally, rather than relying solely on Western organizations for support. In a sustainable movement, believers first turn to God to meet their needs. Next, they assess how they can address their needs individually. Following that, they look to their network of disciples, family, and friends. After that, they seek support from their local **body** of believers, then the regional body, and, finally, the global body. Biglife has witnessed movements grow much faster when they focus on meeting needs locally.

Biglife also encourages believers to gather locally for times of worship, prayer, fellowship, and teaching, often called **3/3rds Groups**. These groups are reproducible across nations and cultures because they don't require a building or a pastor. Instead, they focus on gathering local believers in small groups to read Scripture and rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit for teaching and interpretation. The only thing required is ordinary people willing to be obedient to Christ! To learn more about 3/3rds groups, read chapter 8 on page 32.

The **world** awaits the good news of Jesus Christ. God is equipping ordinary people all over the world to make a big Kingdom impact in his name. Since Biglife's founding in 2000, the Lord has not ceased to be faithful to His promises. We trust in the providence of the Lord and guidance of the Holy Spirit to transform lives through the Gospel!



BIGLIFE'S GLOBAL PRESENCE

Working and
Serving in **170+ COUNTRIES**

7.5 MILLION+
people have heard the Gospel

750,000+
people have come to faith in Christ



We don't have Disciple Making Movements in all these areas, but we have partners we've trained to make disciples and/or we have connections we are working with to launch Disciple Making Movements.

Strategic
INITIATIVES

01 SPECIAL OPS The goal of Special Ops is to eventually see a **Disciple-Making Movement** grow in every country on Earth.

To achieve this goal, Biglife identifies areas of the world where there are currently no Disciple-Making Movements and sends a team of proven catalysts to **prayer walk**, identify **persons of peace**, and launch Disciple-Making Movements.

Since 2020, the Lord has opened doors for Biglife to start working in 92 areas through Special Ops. Praise God that over 30 of those areas are now seeing Disciple-Making Movements! We know the Lord is already moving in these places and trust Him to guide us to persons of peace.

By collaborating in unity with other ministries, Biglife can focus specifically on the 70 remaining targets where there are no known movements until every tribe, tongue, and nation knows Jesus is Lord!

02 ADOPTION OPTION UNICEF estimates there are 140 million orphans worldwide. God's design is not for children to grow up alone but in a family with a father and mother.

Biglife is empowering Jesus-following families worldwide to reach, disciple, foster, and adopt orphans for Jesus Christ. Finances are the primary reason people are hesitant to adopt, so Biglife is helping solve this problem by financially supporting Biglife leaders and families who wish to adopt. This initiative is currently active in many parts of South and Central Asia and Africa, enabling loving families to adopt orphans and teach them to know and love Jesus as their Savior.

Our prayer is that thousands of children will be adopted by Jesus-following families and raised as the next generation of **disciple makers**.

03 MOVEMENT SUSTAINABILITY We've seen that Disciple-Making Movements are healthiest when the local **body** of believers are empowered to provide for needs locally, rather than relying on **western** support. Often, the inability to provide for the movement locally has the potential to slow the progression of the Gospel and even stop movement altogether.

Biglife is empowering Disciple-Making Movements worldwide to continue in perpetuity, even if Biglife ceased

to exist as an organization. Every movement should first be fully dependent on the Lord and allow that dependency to build unity among the local body of believers. We see this model in Acts 2 when the movement multiplies rapidly partially because the disciples are able to meet one another needs. When movements have this mindset, they are also able to set an example to others.

04 GLOBAL DEAF ENGAGEMENT Ninety-eight percent of the global deaf community, totaling nearly 70 million individuals, remain unreached by the Gospel. This staggering statistic compelled us to take action, engaging deaf communities and catalyzing Disciple-Making Movements. Initially launched in Africa, this initiative is also rapidly expanding across South America and Asia. By bringing the Gospel to deaf individuals and empowering them to share with others in their community, we are reaching previously unreached people and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to encounter the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

05 PASTOR TO PIONEER Pastor to Pioneer is a network of practicing disciple makers walking alongside pastors who are yearning to transform their community by pioneering a movement of healthy disciples and simple churches. We empower pastors who feel burdened by the demands of managing an institution and help them live into God's call for them without compromise.

06 DISASTER RELIEF This initiative leverages Biglife's network of disciple makers to provide aid in areas affected by disasters. Some examples include delivering food relief to the Pakistani brick kilns, conducting rescue missions in Afghanistan, and providing food and shelter to internally displaced people on the Myanmar-Thailand border, all followed by Gospel sharing and **discipleship** efforts.

In locations where Biglife has established connections with local disciples, we watch world events, confer with indigenous leaders, and consider ways Biglife can be a physical blessing, share the Gospel, and follow up with discipleship. While this is an opportunity to obey Jesus' command to love people, our focus always remains on making disciples.



*Biglife's brand mark is a slash set at a 115.1 degree angle.
It is inspired by Psalm 115:1.*

**"NOT TO US, O LORD, NOT TO US,
BUT TO YOUR NAME GIVE GLORY,
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR STEADFAST LOVE
AND YOUR FAITHFULNESS!"**

The slash reminds us that everything that we do is for the ultimate glory of Jesus Christ. We're encouraged that our God is steadfast in His love and faithful in His provision. What an encouragement to know that we get to spend eternity glorifying Him!

The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5 that we have been made new creations in Christ. As new creations, we've been entrusted with the message of eternal life and forgiveness of sins found only in Christ. By making disciples who make disciples, we can multiply the name of Jesus from house to house, city to city, and nation to nation!

Praise God for all the ways that He has provided faithfully. We're grateful for a network of generous partners who help further the Gospel through prayer and financial support. If you would like to support Biglife's mission of empowering believers worldwide to reach and disciple their own people for Jesus, there are many ways to get involved.



01

FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

There are always needs in Biglife's operations. Financial partnership is a great way to support Biglife's work, whether you're supporting Biglife team members who are reaching and discipling their own people, helping bring Bibles to new areas, supporting persecuted families, or giving to areas of greatest need. To learn more about ways that you can make a tax-deductible gift, visit big.life/give.

02

PRAYER SUPPORT

Scripture is clear that when the **Body of Christ** is committed to prayer and fasting, the Lord moves in incredible ways. Biglife is committed to prayer in all we do. You're invited to join us in lifting up the furthering of the Gospel and celebrating all the Lord has done already! If you would like to learn more about joining Biglife as a prayer partner, visit big.life/prayer to view prayer requests and sign up for weekly prayer updates.

03

HOST A TRAINING

Biglife's training is designed to empower believers to live the **lifestyle of disciple making** and eliminate the excuses that keep us from sharing our faith with others. The training focuses on key areas such as prioritizing obedience to Christ; learning to share both your personal story and God's story; understanding why, how, and with whom to share the Gospel; and multiplying disciples. To learn more about hosting a training or download free training resources, visit big.life/training.

04

MAKE DISCIPLES

Now that you've reached the end of the book, you are faced with the same question that convicted John over 20 years ago: Are you willing to lead a life with a big **Kingdom** impact? Will you join Biglife in obedience as we bring the Gospel to the ends of the Earth by making disciples who make disciples?

We trust in the Lord's words in Matthew 28. Christ is with us always until the end of the age. His wisdom, guidance, and example drive us to do all things so that His name will be glorified and multiplied because we serve a God who is worthy of all praise!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is Biglife?

Biglife is an international disciple-making ministry headquartered in Blue Ridge, Georgia and established in 2000.

How was Biglife started?

A few men were invited into Iran to coach Olympic baseball. The Lord opened doors to share the Gospel, and a prominent imam came to faith in Jesus. However, we noticed that when similar methods were used in South Asia, the results were few. The Lord led Biglife's founder John Heerema to **Luke 10**, which talked about finding **persons of peace**. A person of peace is a person who is uniquely equipped to help catalyze a **Disciple-Making Movement** in their own community. To read the full version of this story, read chapter 3, Beginning of Biglife (p 6).

What does Biglife do?

Every believer is commanded (Matthew 28:19-20) and called to make disciples (Mark 16:15, Luke 16:27-28, 1 Corinthians 9:16-17, Acts 16:9). Biglife empowers believers to reach and disciple their own people for Jesus Christ by mobilizing ordinary people to live the **lifestyle** of loving God, loving others, and making disciples. For more about what Biglife does, read chapter 5, Mission: What's Our Plan (p 12).

What is Biglife's vision for the future?

We envision radically obedient disciples in every nation, turning the world upside down for Jesus Christ. For more about Biglife's vision, read chapter 4, Vision: Why We Exist (p 10).

Where does Biglife work?

Biglife's network spans over 170 countries across the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Middle East. To see Biglife's global footprint, read chapter 7, Biglife's Global Presence (p 21).

How are donations used?

Biglife invests in people who are committed to Jesus Christ and have counted the cost to become His disciple. Those people become **disciple makers** and reach their own people and make disciples of new believers, teaching them to go do the same.

These disciple makers also need support for their families and for things like Bibles, bicycles, and motorbikes so they can bring the Gospel and **discipleship** training to remote areas. Biglife also helps provide medical aid and relief for persecuted believers and supports the families of disciple makers who have been martyred.

Donations can be made by visiting big.life/give

What kind of impact has been made?

Disciples making disciples leads to movement that spreads across countries, through borders, and around the globe. We call this a Disciple-Making Movement. Since 2003, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, atheists, and others have been led to Jesus Christ by disciples who came out of those religions and beliefs. From 2019 to 2022, Biglife distributed over 500,000 print Bibles to new believers and seekers in over 55 countries. Biglife is certified as a non-profit member of Excellence in Giving.

How is Biglife different?

Biglife is dedicated to the multiplication of disciples. Growth like this comes through the lifestyle of being disciples who make disciples. When Biglife enters a new region, we seek a person of peace—a person who is uniquely equipped to reach their own people with the Gospel. Once that relationship is established, we empower them to become a disciple maker because persons of peace often open doors into families, communities, and even countries. When a believer makes disciples and teaches them to do the same, then Disciple-Making Movements can take off and believers multiply. To learn more about Biglife's strategy, read chapter 6, Ordinary People Led by an Extraordinary God (p 16).

How does Biglife find persons of peace?

All of Biglife's work is done through fasting and prayer, full reliance on Christ, and the expectation that He will show up in miraculous ways. We trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit to open doors for God's will. With this expectation, many disciple makers **prayer walk** in order to meet people, pray over them, present the Gospel,

and identify persons of peace. Others start by inviting their friend or family member to coffee to share about all the Lord has done for them. There is not a one-size-fits-all method. We have faith the Lord will guide us and empower us toward obedience.

How do you train disciple makers?

Jesus commissioned His disciples to go, make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey all He had commanded them. Today, we believe it is every believer's duty to make disciples and teach them to obey Christ. Much of Biglife's training is relational—believers empowering new believers to go and make disciples. Biglife also hosts in-person trainings to help catalyze groups of believers to reach their neighbors. To learn more about Biglife's training, read chapter 5, Training Disciple Makers (p 14).

Can I be trained?

Visit www.biglife.life/training to see how you can become a disciple maker in your community.

Is my gift to Biglife tax deductible?

Yes! Biglife is a 501c3 charitable organization.

More questions?

Email info@big.life
or call 855-244-5433



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