



Disciple
Nations
Alliance

equipping **the church** to transform **the world**



Strategic Plan 2011–20

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Executive Summary

The Disciple Nations Alliance exists to help the church rise to her full potential as God's principal agent in restoring, healing, and blessing broken nations. We accomplish this purpose by equipping God's people to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their families, communities, and through their vocations.

Since we began in 1997, the Disciple Nations Alliance (DNA) has had a remarkably significant impact on churches worldwide. This has come, in large part, through a strategy aimed at catalyzing a movement. DNA messages and materials are the core of the movement. They are spread through a global network of local champions who are supported by DNA *regional networks*, *national organizations*, and collaborating networks and organizations.

Over the next ten years, we believe God is calling us to spread our training and messages as widely as possible for the greatest possible impact. To this end, our aspiration is to see a multiplication of champions *in every major country of the world*. We desire to see these champions *supported* by growing, vibrant, locally-led DNA networks and DNA national organizations *in every major geographic region of the world*, all working together to equip millions of followers of Christ to bring hope and healing to this broken world.

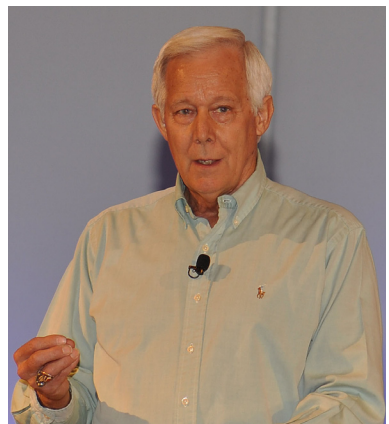
This document was developed by the Disciple Nations Alliance Global Leadership Team (GLT) and the president of the International Secretariat. It is intended to provide a “north star” which will set direction and provide a vision for Disciple Nations Alliance over the next ten years.

What are we deeply burdened by?

By a church that doesn't fully understand its essential, biblical role in healing and restoring broken nations.



Darrow Miller, co-founder of the Disciple Nations Alliance



Bob Moffitt, president of the Harvest Foundation and co-founder of the Disciple Nations Alliance.

Our world is horribly broken. Idolatry, fear, deception, emptiness, violence, poverty, oppression, and injustice are pervasive conditions in all nations. Every year, 15 million children die of hunger or preventable hunger-related diseases. Between 25 and 50 percent of adult women worldwide are victims of domestic violence each year. Abortion claims the lives of millions of children per year, while corruption and injustice trap millions more in poverty. In the 20th century alone, over *180 million people* were victims of wars, genocide, or other atrocities. The grim statistics seem endless.

Yet God has a strategy to decisively confront this brokenness and bring healing and restoration to all things broken through the Fall. At the vanguard of this glorious redemptive movement is Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed on the cross to “reconcile all things” (Col. 1:20).



Members of a local church build a home for a neighbor in Southeast Asia.

To advance His strategy, God has redeemed a people unto Himself, a holy nation (1 Pet. 2:9), His precious Bride whom He calls to be “salt and light” in the midst of this dark world (Mt. 5:13, 14). Christ’s Body, the church, is His primary redemptive agent, empowered to “make disciples of all nations.” God has promised that “through the church” all nations will be blessed (Eph. 3:10; Gen. 18:18) and thus “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the seas (Hab. 2:14).”

Respected Indian scholar Vishal Mangalwadi has said, “If God were to create an NGO (non-governmental organization) to deal with the problems of this world, it would be the church.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “The Church is only the Church when it exists for others.” Yet we live in a time of great paradox. *Never have there been more churches, yet, at the same time, never has there been more brokenness.* Countless local congregations have been planted in nations around the world. Yet these same nations continue to be wracked by corruption, idolatry, fear, and poverty. *Why is this so?*

Tragically, the church worldwide has largely misunderstood her mandate. Consequently, she is largely ineffective in carrying out her purpose, and the nations are paying the price. *The church is God’s answer to the most urgent problems facing our world. The problem is she doesn’t realize it.*

Today, the church is experiencing unprecedented growth in some of the most broken nations on earth. A deep hunger is rising in the hearts of Christians in these nations. They long to bring hope and healing *now*—on earth, as well as a future heavenly hope. The Disciple Nations Alliance exists to address this hunger. We are convinced that God has raised up the DNA “for such a time as this.” We humbly recognize we are not alone in this, but are confident in our calling as part of the Holy Spirit’s present work to strengthen Christ’s cherished Bride.

Our Purpose

The Disciple Nations Alliance exists to help the church rise to her full potential as God’s principal agent in the restoration, healing, and blessing of broken nations.

■ How do we accomplish this purpose?

We accomplish our purpose *by equipping God’s people to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their families, communities, and through their vocations.* To this end, our activities are focused in four areas:

FIRST, we develop, promote and broadcast a specific set of messages and teachings on:

- The Lordship of Christ over all creation
- God’s mission for comprehensive redemption and restoration
- The central and specific role of the church (and local churches) in carrying out this mission
- The importance of wholistic, incarnational ministry
- The power of truth (the biblical worldview) for social and cultural transformation



More than 300 talented local trainers and champions are impacting churches around the world.

SECOND, we equip and empower “champions” who contextualize and spread these messages and teachings at the local level, and help local churches put them into practice.

THIRD, we catalyze and support indigenous DNA regional networks and national organizations that, in turn, train and support local champions who take ownership for accomplishing the purpose of the Disciple Nations Alliance in their nation or region.



A Vision Conference in rural Mozambique.

FOURTH, we collaborate with other organizations, denominations, and networks who value DNA teachings and messages and incorporate them into their particular programs and strategies.

In short, our aim is not to grow an organization, but to catalyze and foster a movement in order to spread the messages and teachings as widely as possible.

■ What does “success” look like?

Imagine what your nation would be like if a majority of communities had, within walking distance of every person, a thriving local congregation that was:

- Practicing sacrificial neighbor-love, meeting the physical, spiritual, and social needs in the community.
- Functioning intentionally from a biblical worldview, bringing the truth of God’s Word to bear on all areas of community life: the family, business, politics, justice, the arts, agriculture, etc.
- Experiencing growth and multiplication as a result of their “witness of love” in the community.

You could expect to see:

- Christ increasingly acknowledged and exalted as Lord over all.
- Biblical reform occurring in various areas of community life (family, business, etc.).
- Increased economic sufficiency, social peace, and greater justice for even the weakest, poorest, and most marginalized.

We know we are being faithful to God's call when we see these qualities in congregations and communities that have been influenced by the Disciple Nations Alliance.

Track Record

Since our inception in 1997, DNA "Vision Conferences" have been conducted in more than sixty countries, and more than 300 local champions are actively spreading DNA's training and messages.

In Africa, a vibrant continent-wide network exists (called "Samaritan Strategy Africa") and has trained hundreds of local trainers and champions in more than twenty-five African nations. The spread of DNA messages across Africa is so widespread that one network leader commented, "in the same way that the early church 'filled Jerusalem with [its] teaching (Acts 5:28),' the messages of the DNA have filled the continent. It is increasingly difficult to find places where churches have not been exposed."

Thousands of "Seed Projects" have been carried out by local churches with their own resources. Through these wholistic outreach efforts, hundreds of thousands of community members have been touched by Christ's love.

In one of the most impoverished slums in Nairobi, a pastor attended a Vision Conference with members of his congregation. Through this training, they were equipped to plan and implement a "Seed Project." They identified the lack of basic education for children in the slum as a key need. Their Seed Project initially involved opening their tiny, one-room, church building for free classes during the week. Children were divided into four grade levels, sat with their backs to the four walls of the small building, and were taught by four volunteer teachers simultaneously! Ten years later, this tiny school now educates hundreds of slum children each year, while providing clean water and nutritious meals for the children. It is also reaching out to parents with the love of Christ. The church has experienced dramatic growth as a result. This project was initiated entirely by the church with its own resources. *Thousands of similar Seed Projects are the fruit of DNA teaching worldwide.*

In regions where DNA training has taken root and is faithfully practiced, entire communities have risen out of poverty.

In one “creative access” country in Southeast Asia that has historically been resistant to the gospel, DNA training has taken root through a unique training program contextualized for rural, minority churches. As a result of Christians putting the teaching into practice, *entire communities have risen out of poverty*, and churches in the region are experiencing unprecedented growth as hundreds come to faith in Christ through the powerful witness of love. The impact has been so dramatic that the demand for the training has outpaced the ability of the local team of champions to meet it.

Several major organizations and denominations have made DNA training a central component of their strategy.

One of these is ReachGlobal, the international outreach arm of the Evangelical Free Church of America. DNA champions are helping inform their global strategy at the highest level. Kevin Kompelien, part of the ReachGlobal leadership team said, “In the early months in my new role [as ReachGlobal Africa Director] I read Darrow Miller’s book *Discipling Nations* and Darrow and Scott Allen’s book *Against All Hope: Hope for Africa*. God used these books to begin to show me what had been missing in our training of the Sudanese pastors. Later, we arranged training for twenty key Sudanese leaders in DNA principles. This training was life changing and revolutionary! I met with ten of the Sudanese leaders just a few days following the training and what I saw was amazing. When I asked these leaders what they had learned from the training, instantly one of them said, “I learned that we Sudanese are not poor. In fact, we are very rich.”



Thousands of local church “Seed Projects” are the fruit of DNA teaching. This slum church in Brazil cleans a community street.

The DNA is having a similar influence on many other organizations and networks at the local, regional, and international level. In turn, these organizations and networks are “spreading the virus” of the DNA messages to the many thousands of people they are reaching.

Locally governed DNA national organizations now exist in Uganda, India, Japan, Korea, Nepal, and the Philippines. Active regional networks exist in Africa and Asia.

In Myanmar (Burma), in less than ten years, through the efforts of a dedicated team of local champions and cooperating organizations (including Food for the Hungry and Campus Crusade for Christ) thousands of church leaders in nearly every corner of the nation have been influenced by DNA teaching. Today, this influence is clearly evident *in virtually every major denomination*, with many exciting stories of transformation emerging as a result.

Going Forward (2011–20)

We believe God is calling us to apply all of our talents, resources, and relationships to spread the DNA message as widely as possible. To this end, by 2020, we desire to see:

- A continually refreshed and expanded set of messages, materials, curricula, and application tools.
- A multiplication of champions *in every major country of the world*.
- Vibrant regional networks and national organizations *in every major geographic region of the world*.
- A strong, well-organized global leadership team and secretariat that serves the entire DNA global movement.



By 2020, we desire to see a multiplication of champions in every major country of the world.

Conclusion

To achieve these goals will require significant growth, and such growth cannot happen apart from God. It will also require our very best in terms of intentional strategic planning and execution. Much prayer and collective effort has gone into the development of this plan, yet we hold it loosely, keeping our eyes fixed on God, the true founder and leader of the DNA, standing ready to move when He leads.