

Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries  
SDMI 2019  
Darlene Franks, Chair



**SDMI Vision:** *A Culture of Biblical Discipleship*

*A Culture of Biblical Discipleship* begins with being in an intimate relationship with Jesus. Jesus declared, **“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”** (Matthew 11:28-30) If we are to make disciples of all nations, we must first be a disciple of Jesus ourselves. We must **come to Him** and **learn from Him**. It is in this close relationship with Jesus that we grow in our passion for those who don’t know him. When we know His love for us and grow in our love for Him, we desire what He desires – *that none should perish but that all come to repentance* (2 Peter 3:9), hence the command – *“Go make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:19-20)

Making Christlike disciples is a big call and hard work! When we approach making disciples and disciple makers as a program it can bring the *“all who labor and are heavy laden”* part of this verse into reality; but when we follow Jesus’ model of discipleship multiplication with intimacy with God at the core, we experience peace, joy, and much fruit in our labor; our *“yoke is easy and burden is light.”* Jesus showed us that being in an intimate relationship with His Father was the only way to remain at rest in his soul during the toughest days in His life while making disciples. He knew he could do nothing of Himself and that His teaching was not His own. He came to His father many hours before dawn to learn from Him, listen to him, and get the encouragement He needed for another day of disciple-making, proclaiming the gospel, and healing. Jesus shows us how to listen carefully to the Father in the midst of our busy lives and trying times. If we are to be fruitful in the Great Commission, we must keep coming to Him and learning from Him so that no matter what comes our way, we will incline our ear to His voice and do what He says.

We heard His voice this year through His Word, His Holy Spirit and His Church! We were blessed beyond measure as we learned through some of His precious and Spirit filled saints in the Church today! We had the opportunity to come to Jesus and learn from Him as we gathered in Oroville at the 2018



Discipleship Summit – *Living His Story*. Seventy people met for a weekend of sweet fellowship and equipping in making Christ-like disciples, being a Kingdom leader, and telling God’s story. Steve Scott (Keynote speaker), Hal and Debbi Perkins (Heartwalk Ministries), Kyle Phillips (International Leadership Institute) and Trey and Candice Brooks



(Equip to Engage Ministries) challenged us and equipped us for living His Story all for the Glory of God. In addition, Hal and Debbi Perkins led two discipleship conferences - one in Yreka (Discipled by Jesus) and one in Gardnerville (If Jesus were a Parent). We have been given such great coaches and mentors in making

disciples and empowering leaders on our district. If you are interested in having personal coaching and mentoring in any area of discipleship and leadership and need some encouragement, please contact us anytime. We are here to serve you!

In October, SonRise Community Fellowship hosted our annual District Women's Conference. Deborah Hiebert (director of OneEleven Global and daughter of Hal and Debbi Perkins) preached a powerful message to remind us of God's great delight in us, the relationship He desires with us, and the unimaginable plans He has for those who look to Him. *"Those who look to Him are radiant: their faces are never covered with shame"* (Psalm 34:5). Here are just a few of the comments from our weekend together: *"I have been to many retreats; this was anointed beyond measure. The presence of Jesus was strong throughout the entire conference. What a revival for sure!!"* This year we are happy to announce that Pastor Janine Metcalf will be our speaker for the District Women's Conference (see flyer in yearbook). Mark your calendars for this year's conference which is scheduled for October 11-12 at SonRise Community Fellowship in Vacaville, California. You won't want to miss it! All ages will be touched by Janine's message of reflecting Christ to a watching world in loving relationships.

I'd like to thank each person on the SDMI board for being such a valuable part of making disciples and empowering leaders this year through the many different conferences, trainings, camps, events, and one on one meetings in the Sacramento district. I am so thankful to each SDMI team member for their leadership, prayers, love, and commitment to our vision and mission. Thank you, Dale Marsh for so faithfully leading our district recovery ministry. Dale is going to be conducting trainings across our district for churches who are interested in building a bridge between the local recovery community and the Church of Jesus Christ. Please sign up with Dale at His booth today if you'd like him to come to your church or community. A big thanks goes out to Cathy Scharf, our SDMI children's director, for bringing Trey and Candice Brooks into our district to equip us in Telling God's Story with impact and transformation for all ages. You don't want to miss the *Tell the Story* training at LifePointe Church in Rio Linda on September 19-21. Sign up with Cathy Scharf today at the SDMI booth. Thank you also to Ron Zimmer (Camps Director) and Austin Bender (NYI President) for your continued leadership and dedication to the youth and youth leaders of our district! Finally, my deep appreciation to SDMI team members Elaine Briefman, Gayle Hefley, Mirna Perez, Beler Watts, Vicki Reese and Steve Scoot for your committed leadership, friendship and support on this SDMI team. It's a joy working together to see a *Culture of Biblical Discipleship* in our lives, families, district and world! Thanks for coming to Jesus, learning from Him and helping others do the same!

All for His Glory!

Submitted by the SDMI Council: Darlene Franks, Elaine Briefman, Mirna Perez, Melissa Smit, Gayle Hefley, Ron Zimmer, Cathy Scharf, Austin Bender & Vicki Reese-Secretary