* Where growth has occurred they have been in areas, where **churches have supported particular projects or campaigns**. Having visual reminder to people what the church is for nudges people into asking questions. The largest growth of a nation in Christianity is in China, similar to the growth of the church in Acts.

***A Divine commission***

* The Greek verb ***matheteuo***(make disciples) occurs three times in the NT.
* However the use in Matthew has made enormous impact to Go, Baptise and Teach.
* Luke in Acts focuses on the power of the Spirit to make disciples
* In the NT there is divinely infused passion, urgency, energy and fruitfulness about the Holy Habit of making disciples. **There is a spirt filled excitement.**

***Questions for consideration.***

**Do we / you have a Spirit filled passion to evangelise?**

* To whom could you be a blessing to day
* If a stranger appeared in your church, who represented all your fears and anxieties and society, how would you respond?
* How can we blend in this Holy Habit into our community?
* Learn about other countries and how disciples are being made in different countries.
* Pray for new disciples

Excerpts from **Roberts Andrew** *Holy Habits*, Malcolm Down Publishing 2016

Developing Holy Habits

**10. Making more disciples**

**Sacrificial nature of Discipleship**

Sacrifice is at the heart of discipleship and suffering, and to a greater or less extent, it is inevitable on the adventure. Jesus was not slow in challenging Simon Peter and his companions to go beyond their experience and comfort zones, thereby helping them grow in confidence. Sometimes in our discipleship there will be those moments when we are called to go beyond our comfort zones and discover Gods resources in new ways, and there will be times when we need to encourage others to take steps of faith on the adventure of discipleship. However living sacrificially, in obedience to the call of Jesus, may also involve suffering because of our association with the one we follow. This could be in the form of snide comments, being excluded from conversation or activities, or to stand alongside the people whom the rest of society would exclude.

**The tenth Holy Habit is ‘Making more disciples’.**

Think about the times when you have experienced a ‘light bulb’ moment, or an ‘epiphany’ about your faith? How did you respond?

**What is Evangelism?**

* To understand the full meaning of evangelism, we need to return to the Greek word *‘****sozo****’* to heal, to save, to be made whole.
* Biblically being saved is much more than getting our cards stamped for heaven. It is about **being whole, being reconciled with God, reconciled with others, reconciling with creation and being reconciled with yourself.**
* Discipleship is about transforming the world, for the kingdom of heaven is here on earth. Evangelism is how we do it; not about getting people into heaven but about putting heaven into people
* Evangelism is **preaching or communicating** the gospel values and **putting our discipleship into action**

**The process of Evangelism**

* There are many bookshops and on line resources for evangelism that offer explanations for the process by which people come to faith and embark on this Christian discipleship adventure e.g. Alpha, Emmaus, Disciple
* However learning is not just a **cerebral activity**, is an **emotional** **activity** as well.
* **Discipleship is caught as well as taught**

**Bless belong and believe**

* In recent years there has been a renewed **emphasis on the place of blessing** in living out the commission to make disciples.
* Living with others a community of faith, **gives a sense of belonging.**
* **Through blessing and belonging, belief will emerge.**

**Markers and milestones**

* For all who follow Jesus on the adventure of discipleship there will be **significant moments.**
The start of discipleship is marked with two markers,

 **Baptism with water**

 **Baptism of the Spirit**

* Many traditions offer services to people who have drifted away and want to declare their allegiance to Jesus, through confirmation, covenant services, or membership.

**An expectation of growth**

* Sadly, in recent years, when it comes to making disciples, many in the western churches have brought a narrative of decline and have limited expectations of making more disciples.
* The growth in Acts is constantly highlighted. However the harvest was a ripe, Jesus had done his work, and the disciples reaped the harvest. In Acts we saw

- Numerical growth,

- Geographical expansion

- Growth in ethnic diversity.

* In the UK, many of the newer churches, churches who experience fresh expressions of church, and black Pentecostal are the areas where growth has occurred.
* But what about our presence in our town or village? Do we **Gossip the Gospel?**
* **Through conversations** and Gossiping the Gospel, the seed of faith will be laid. That means **all disciples have a responsibility to make disciples**, but we may never see the fruits of our harvest, that is for other people to reap.