



BUILDING CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP

April 2, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Mr. Bill Lohnes for approximately thirteen years, having been introduced to him and his wife, Paula, by mutual friends. During this time, I have had the privilege of observing his life from many vantage points and have enjoyed a strong and rich relationship with him. We have spent many hours together over coffee or meals, in his office and mine, in his home as well as in the Georgia Dome, in a discipleship group for leaders, in discipleship training seminars, and most recently, in Lagos, Nigeria training African nationals in Christian discipling. We have shared our lives together, and I can honestly say that knowing Bill has been one of the great joys of my life.

Bill has known Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord since 2002 and has demonstrated remarkable spiritual growth and development since that time. It is fair to say that Bill has now become a leader of leaders and exhibits the fruit of the Spirit as well as a strong passion to make Christ known in the world. After reading scores of books, meeting with national Christian leaders, practicing the spiritual disciplines, and seeking to know God with all of his heart, mind, soul, and strength, the Lord has prepared Bill to equip and train others to know and walk with Christ. He has spent hundreds of hours studying, reading, and investigating Jesus' methods of training the twelve Apostles to carry the gospel to the world, and now fully embraces our Lord's strategy of discipling a few who, in turn, are able to invest their lives discipling others for the glory of God and the expansion of His kingdom. I believe I am on safe ground when I say that Bill has probably read more books on evangelism and discipleship than most pastors. Most importantly, however, he has taken the principles and truths he has learned and applied them in his daily life. The number of people he has impacted with the gospel are truly astounding (for which he gives all the glory to Christ).

Bill's capabilities and gifts, accompanied with his ever-growing body of knowledge and wisdom, have made him extremely effective in teaching and training others to become equipped discipling. I was privileged to spend two weeks with him at the West Africa Theological Seminary (WATS) in Nigeria in the fall of 2011, where we team-taught a course on *Discipling*. For the first time I witnessed the depth and breadth of Bill's knowledge as well as his wonderful skills of teaching, impartation, and presentation. He was always clear and concise, well-organized and prepared, forceful and humble, as he exhorted and challenged the men and women to learn and practice discipling for the rest of their lives – wherever and however the Holy Spirit led them in the future. The response to Bill was extremely positive (by the administration, faculty, and student body) as demonstrated by the number of students who

have already formed new discipleship groups in their churches and communities. After this experience, I can now say categorically and unequivocally that Bill has truly embraced Jesus' strategy for taking the gospel to the world as revealed in the Scriptures, has modeled discipling by the way he lives out that strategy, and is intent on equipping and training as many discipleship leaders as possible during his lifetime.

It is without hesitation or reservation that I highly recommend Bill Lohnes to you. Through his ministry, *Narrow Gate*, Bill will bring a strong set of skills and a rare understanding of the process of spiritual formation and discipleship to those you wish to train. The combination of his knowledge of discipling and implementation strategy will be invaluable for those who really want to learn how to fulfill the Great Commission in all of its dimensions.

If you have further questions or desire additional information, please contact me at (404) 376-3127.

Sincerely yours,

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