
Stories from the Front March 12, 2026

1 message

'Bill and Peggy Mowry' via office <office@linworthbaptist.org>

Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 8:57 AM

Reply-To: wjmowry@gmail.com

To: Linworth Baptist <office@linworthbaptist.org>

Stories from the Front



The Mowrys



March 12, 2025

Dear Linworth Baptist

If you had eight hours with a church's leaders, what would you do?

The first thing I would do is enlist the prayer support of friends like you — thank you for praying for my January weekend with the pastors and elders of Providence Church in Avon, Ohio. It was an intense but rich eight hours with these leaders. What occupied the eight hours?

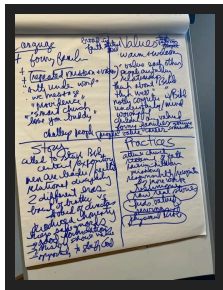
First, the pastors wanted me to refresh their thinking and practice of discipling. Second, they needed guidance on how to establish a picture of a disciple, chart a discipling pathway, and create some progress markers. All of these factors would help lay the foundation of a discipling culture — a church environment where discipling is a natural part of all that happens.

I'm not an answer-giver in this process. I provide a framework of biblical principles and invite their participation. This means orchestrating learning rather than lecturing. I create settings where leaders explore and discover new insights from the Scriptures and through discussion. After all, who wants to listen to me talk for eight hours.



Leaders at work

After I leave, the church leaders will reflect and plan together what this picture, pathway, and progress looks like for their church. This becomes a local act of creation guided by the Holy Spirit. I've found that over the years what people plan **THEY OWN**.



Lots of Ideas!

What resulted from the time? The walls were plastered with large pieces of paper listing the group's insights, comments, and discoveries. The leaders are now in the "sorting" stage — taking what is most relevant and important and exploring its application.

I finished our eight hours with a simple questions, "What is one new insight that you or the church can begin to apply?" We went around the table with each leader describing their lesson. Here are some samples.

- "I need to invest in the next generation of leaders."
- "I need to intentionally disciple my children."
- "We need to develop more leaders through our small groups."
- "We need to be clearer about our vision."
- "I need to be more intentional with 2-3 men."
- "We need to incorporate our disciple picture into all we do."

As each person shared, I'm thinking to myself: "Thank you Lord. These comments are more than I expected!"

I'm now working with the church leaders on the follow-up. The pastoral staff are eager and committed disciplinarians. What they needed was a fresh vision and a framework to enlist others and create a culture of disciplinarianism.

Thank you for praying and giving so that I can invest with churches like Providence. Your support enables us to minister at a local, national, and international level. It's so special to partner with God in His great commission.

Prayer Postings

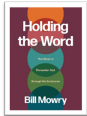
- We had a divine interruption lately. A nodule was found on Peggy's lung during a stress test and nuclear test for some findings from her pacemaker. The "C" word came up with the physical — it could be cancerous. Peggy went through a PET scan to discern the nature of the finding. She was cleared of cancer and her heart is doing great. We praise God for her clear bill of health.
- Pray for my follow-up with Providence Church. Ask God to help build a culture of disciplinarianism as we equip more people to be disciplinarians.
- Peggy is leading a Navigators Discipleship 2:7 group with several women. Pray that the

time would inspire and resource women to follow Jesus as wholehearted disciples.

- I'm now working through the edits of my next book *The Craft of Disciplemaking*. The task is a bit daunting (lots of edits!) Pray that I can learn from my editor's comments and for the Spirit to guide in my writing.
- My cohort of West Virginia Baptist pastors are embracing the monthly training. Each are now discipling people one-to-one or through a triad of 3-4 people. Pray that they would grow in their heart, vision, and know-how of disciplemaking.

For His Glory,

Bill & Peggy



Check out my latest book *Holding the Word: Five Practices to Encounter God in the Scriptures* at <http://navpress.com/search?keyword=holding+the+word> One pastor described it as a "gift to the church."

Bill and Peggy

wjmowry@gmail.com/pamowry35@gmail.com

614/396-6343

Sign up for my blog postings at

www.alongsider.com

You can give on-line by going to

www.navigators.org



Copyright © 2026 nonprofit, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

The Navigators

60 Pocono Rd