Abstract
This thesis is a qualitative study examining Bethany Christian Assembly’s (BCA) effectiveness at discipling new Christians. BCA is a church in Everett, WA located in the Pacific Northwest. BCA has a 100 year history and is currently averaging 1,500 in attendance on a given Sunday. This work explores whether BCA is fulfilling the biblical mandate of giving proper care to new converts. This study was driven by 5 research questions: 1) Is the current approach to discipling new Christians at BCA effective for their ongoing spiritual growth? 2) How do participants who have gone through the new believer process in the last 5 years at BCA view this journey? 3) How do participants who went thru the process more than 5 years ago feel about the new believer process they were apart of? 4) What systems and practices are other select churches employing and what can BCA learn from them? 5) What changes, if any, does BCA need to make in its care for new converts? Data was gathered by collecting anonymous surveys from recent attendees of Basic Christian Beliefs (BCB) class, which is the initial step for new converts at BCA. In addition to collecting surveys, 11 face to face interviews were performed to gather data from 3 different groups of individuals: 1) Attendees of BCB within the last 5 years, 2) Attendees of BCB from more than 5 years ago, and 3) Church Leaders. The Church Leader interviews consisted of one Church Leader presently on staff at BCA and 2 Leaders serving at other churches. These Church Leaders provided triangulating evidence based on their own separate experiences. Overall, the data revealed a combination of strengths and weaknesses in the new believer process at BCA. During the research project 4 implications emerged: 1) New Believer Discipleship must become a “church wide movement.” 2) BCA must repurpose Basic Christian Belief’s class and make the necessary adjustments for greater effectiveness and ongoing spiritual growth. 3) Launch a follow up class to BCB focusing on reading and understanding the Bible. 4) Provide each new Christian the opportunity to have a Spiritual Coach or mentor. These themes that emerged serve as mandates for the leadership at BCA in our effort to disciple brand new Christians.

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. There are some similarities between this anointing in Bethany and an unnamed sinful woman anointing Jesus’ feet in a separate instance in Luke 7:36-50, which took place earlier in Jesus’ ministry. Mary Magdalene, a wealthy and devoted disciple from Magdala, on the west coast of the Sea of Galilee, was said to have been delivered from seven demons (Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9). Much later Mary Magdalene was thought to be a sinful woman, since the demonic involvement was assumed to be sexual (thus making her a "sinful woman"), and since, her name was Mary (thus confused with Mary of Bethany). Christian Discipleship - The First Twelve Christian discipleship is a concept that was born when Jesus Christ hand-selected His first followers. A disciple, by definition, is a convinced adherent of a school or individual. In the case of Jesus, His disciples were those who followed Him while He was on earth, as well as those who continue to follow Him and His teachings today. Christian discipleship began, according to John’s Gospel, the day after Jesus was baptized (John 1:35-39). According to this passage, the first two men to follow Him heard John the Baptist declare that Jesus was the Christian Education. Influence Discipleship. March - April 2020. The Influence Discipleship Christian education classes are offered on an annual rotating schedule, listed below. Sunday 9:00am Classes. THIS I BELIEVE. In this class you will continue to learn, or be reminded of, some essentials of the Christian faith and will discuss how to apply them to your life.-- with Marie Jablonski – Room 100. Breakthrough prayer workshop. This interactive class is a prerequisite for those interested in becoming a potential alter or prayer team member.