

Reproducing Your Life in Others

Renewal Conference 2011



Cameron Norvell
Texas A&M Navigators
979-574-3547
fellowsheep@hotmail.com

You! Go Make Disciples

Do you have a Commission for Your Life?

📖 Read the Great Commission and answer these questions:

- Matthew 28:18-20 How do you feel about Jesus sending you to go and make disciples?

- What excuses do you think people would come up with to personally avoid making disciples? What excuses would you tend to use?

- What hope does this passage give you when you think of mentoring a younger Christian?

- What is one question about making disciples that you want answered?

Do you have a Vision for Your Life?

- God has a problem. He wants to reach the world. What plan do you suggest?

- Would you rather reach 1000 people a day for Christ or disciple one person a year?

- If Jesus appeared and asked you to do something would you do it?

Do you have Faith that God can use Your Life?

- Isaiah 60:22 says: “the least of you will become a thousand.”

- Write down your biggest fear about you personally discipling a freshmen in Navs next year.

- ✍ Write out a couple heart words right now that express how you feel about God using you to make disciples:

- Tell your accountability partner about your biggest fear and pray about it. Ask God to help you disciple someone for this semester or next year.

<p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual Addition</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If you reach 100 People for Christ Each Day</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Years</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual Multiplication</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If you Win, Build & Send One Person Every 6 Months</i></p>
36,500	1	4
73,000	2	16
109,500	3	64
146,000	4	256
182,500	5	1,024 (thousand)
219,000	6	4,096
255,500	7	16,384
292,000	8	65,536
328,500	9	262,144
365,000	10	1,048,576 (million)
401,500	11	4,194,304
438,000	12	16,777,216
474,500	13	67,108,864
511,000	14	268,435,456
547,500	15	1,073,741,824 (billion)
584,000	16	4,294,967,296
602,250	16.5	8,589,934,592
<p>This Strategy will require 164,000 years to reach the 6 billion people alive today!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Which Strategy are You using?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">This Strategy will reach the entire world in 16.5 years!</p>

PLAN FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Describe the kind of man/woman you want to be in 5 years:

What are SPECIFIC steps you can take THIS SEMESTER to get there?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Are you dating anyone?

If so, what are your BOUNDARIES (be specific)?

If not, what sort of man/woman would you date/not date?

Whether you're dating anyone or not, what steps are you taking to maintain purity, both of mind & body (be specific)?

What are your priorities this semester?

First list out all the areas of your life that are important to you (work, job, health, school, relationships, etc.); THEN prioritize them.

Please rate each of the following areas in your walk with the Lord & answer the accompanying questions:

	1 Yikes - I need help!	2	3 Growing	4	5 The Lord has really blessed!
Intimacy with the Lord					
How would you like to grow in this area this year?					
Consistent Time in the Word					
How would you like to grow in this area this year?					
Prayer Life					
How would you like to grow in this area this year?					
Evangelism					
How would you like to grow in this area this year?					
Servanthood					
How would you like to grow in this area this year?					
Openness and Vulnerability with other					
How would you like to grow in this area this year?					
Submission to the Lord's will					
How would you like to grow in this area this year?					
Confidence in your identity in Christ					
How would you like to grow in this area this year?					

Accountability Questions:

Write out at least 3 questions (as many as you want) that you want an accountability partner to ask you about every week, which will help you meet your goals for the semester. Think of areas you are struggling with, or want to grow stronger in.

Think through this question VERY carefully. What is the ONE area in your life that you would like to see victory in over this next year or the one area that you would like to grow in most this next year through the Spirit's help.

Six Hindrances to Becoming a Disciplemaker

By Skip Gray

I'm not an architect. But I appreciate the importance of a strong, solid foundation upon which to construct a house or other building.

In a parable in Matthew 7, Jesus Christ told of a house built upon a weak, sandy foundation and one that was built upon a solid rock foundation. When the rains came, the former crashed to the ground while the latter stood fast.

Just as a firm foundation is vital for the survival of a building, so a good foundation is necessary for the building of spiritual generations of men and women.

The apostle Peter says, "As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house . . ." (1 Peter 2:4,5). Just as Christ is the chief cornerstone of our faith, we can be the foundation stones for many spiritual generations.

In *The Navigators*, we speak of spiritual multiplication. This is a process where one individual comes to a personal knowledge and relationship with God through Jesus Christ, matures in the Word and in obedience to God, and begins to share with others the Gospel message. As another person receives the Good News, he or she becomes a mature believer and, in turn, tells another of new life in Christ. A chain of spiritual generations has begun.

We all can be the founding "parent" of many spiritual generations. Your life has an incalculable potential for Jesus Christ.

But this is only potential, and potential is not always realized. There are several things that can hinder you from being the kind of strong foundation necessary upon which to build spiritual generations.

1. Laziness. Ezekiel 16:49 says, "Behold this was the guilt of your sister Sodom; she and her daughters had pride, surfeit of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy." This is in the RSV, and another translation says that Sodom had an "abundance of idleness."

Both phrases mean the same thing: laziness. And a lazy Christian will never be used by the Spirit of God to be the foundation for spiritual generations.

There are not threats to lazy believers in the Scriptures, only promises. For example, Proverbs 10:4 says, "Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth." That is not a threat, but a promise of something that will occur. You will be poor, spiritually and materially, when you are lazy and half-hearted.

Another verse says, "The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied" (Proverbs 13:4). The Christian who is lazy has many desires but can never satisfy them. In contrast, however, the verse goes on to say, "the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied."

King Solomon advises, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

2. Busyness. Individuals can often create the illusion of great accomplishments by appearing to be continually busy. But if you analyze their activities, you may realize that the significance and value of their busyness is minor.

In 1 Kings 20, we read a story about a guard who was assigned watch over a prisoner. That was his sole responsibility: to keep the prisoner under his guard and to prevent him from escaping. However, the prisoner did escape. When the soldier was questioned about this, he replied, "While your servant was busy here and there, the man [the prisoner] disappeared" (1 Kings 20:40).

How often are we busy "here and there"? Sadly, it could be that we're too busy to realize that all our activities really mean very little in terms of eternity and the Great Commission.

3. Prayerlessness. How many problems in our lives can be traced to our neglect of prayer? In Luke 5, we read that the multitudes were surrounding Jesus so that He might heal them of their infirmities. In fact, the pressure of the crowds became so great that Jesus withdrew from them and went alone into the wilderness. His purpose: to pray to the Father.

When we are pressured, what is our response? Pressure should result in prayer. And prayer results in power from God.

4. Shortsightedness. Hebrews 12 tells of one who was shortsighted. "See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit his blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears" (Hebrews 12:16,17).

Esau was the founder of the "Now Generation." He decided for now. He sought immediate gratification. He acted without considering the future or the consequences of his acts.

As believers, we too have a birthright. Our birthright is the privilege of being the foundation of many generations of Christians. But we can also sell that, just as Esau sold his birthright, by deciding to live for the moment.

Without patience and consideration of the future, we can say, "I'd rather have my own way now. I don't want to wait." God will not stop you, but you will later regret your decision as Esau regretted his. You can only say then, "If only . . ." Bitterness, remorse, and regret are the consequences of shortsightedness.

5. Indecisiveness. In 1 Kings 18:21, we see Elijah on the mount, surrounded by the prophets of Baal and the people of Israel. "Elijah went before the people and said, 'How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.' But the people said nothing." The Israelis were uncommitted. They were indecisive.

Jesus Christ will not let you be indecisive. "No man can serve two

masters," He says (Matthew 6:24). Everyone is a servant, but the question is, whom do you serve?

6. Unconfessed Sin. As we read the account of Eve in the Garden of Eden in Genesis or of Achan in Joshua 7, we find that sin is a process: I see, I covet, I take, and I hide.

Sin begins with your eyes, either your physical eyes or the eye of the imagination. Then it works into your minds and we begin to desire and covet. Our attitudes soon transmit themselves into actions and we commit sin. Finally, we try to hide our transgression.

The power of temptation lies in its reasonableness, but the price of yielding to temptation is great. It can disqualify us from our part as spiritual foundations. 1 John 1:9, however, gives us the remedy for sin in our lives. It says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

The artist, the musician, or writer—capable of creating beauty through colors, music, or words—who is hindered from achieving his potential, is often a sad and tragic figure. But even more tragic is the Christian who is hindered from his or her potential as a parent of generations of believers.

Laziness, busyness, prayerlessness, shortsightedness, indecisiveness, and unconfessed sin can all be hindrances to the Christian. And yet, this need not be so, for God has provided power to overcome these barriers. As we seek His power, we can work toward fulfilling Jesus' commission of making disciples of all nations and becoming the foundation of generations of men and women.

Skip Gray is a former state director for The Navigators. This article first appeared in *NavLog*, January 1978.

M2M Meetings

(Man to man or mam to mam, not man to mam)

How to Start a M2M Meeting:

Don't make this an awkward thing. You're not proposing marriage. Just be yourself and invite them to do something you commonly do. Ask if they'd like to grab a lunch. Let them know that you'd love to hear their testimony, or hear what God is doing in their life. Friendship should develop before discipleship.

After 2 or 3 lunches, begin to share your life and what God is teaching you (if you haven't already). Then share the wheel illustration. Get them to draw their diagnostic wheel and ask them if there's an area of their wheel that they'd like to grow in. Start where they want help. Later on you can help where they need help.

As you continue to meet with your disciple, look for a person who is F.A.T. That's an old school Nav way of saying look for a person who's Faithful, Available, and Teachable. If they're missing one of these, look for someone else to meet with.

During your 3rd or 4th meeting, get them to fill out the "Plan for Spiritual Growth." This will bring further clarity to their diagnostic wheel. If they are a brand new believer or a baby Christian you'll take them through the "Follow Up Categories" (see below). If they are a more mature believer, make sure they understand the "Follow Up Categories" and then you can move into "Discipleship Categories" (see below). Eventually you can move into memorizing and studying books together with your disciple. Always have a B.L.T. – Bible, Life, Training!

Follow Up Categories: The term "Follow Up" refers to the initial meetings with a person who has recently come to faith or is a babe in the faith.

Ten to Fifteen Minute Plans

- 1) Assurance of Salvation – The fact that there's security in Christ
- 2) Quiet Time – P.B. & J. (Prayer, Bible & Jesus)
- 3) Bible Study – Small group Bible Studies
- 4) Testimony – Their personal testimony of coming to faith.
- 5) Scripture Memory – The value and skill of hiding God's word in our hearts.
- 6) Meetings – Attending meetings where Christians gather

Discipleship Categories: The term "Discipleship" refers to the time spent together with a person who is growing in their faith and is no longer a baby Christian.

Twenty to Thirty Minute Plans

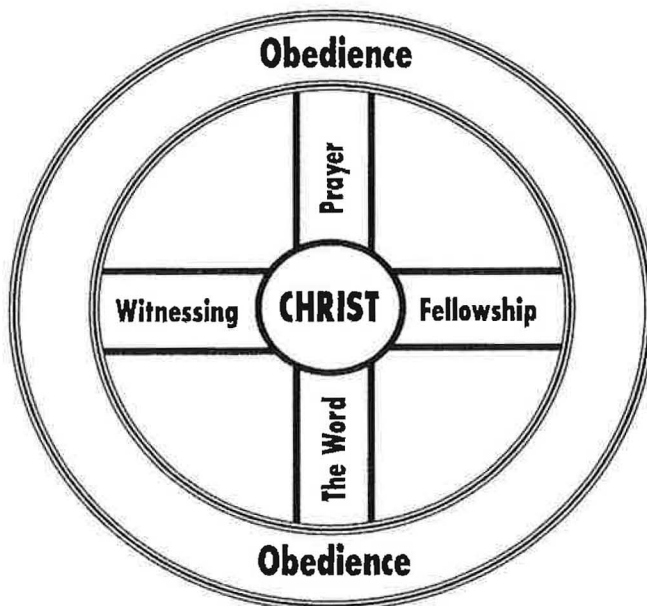
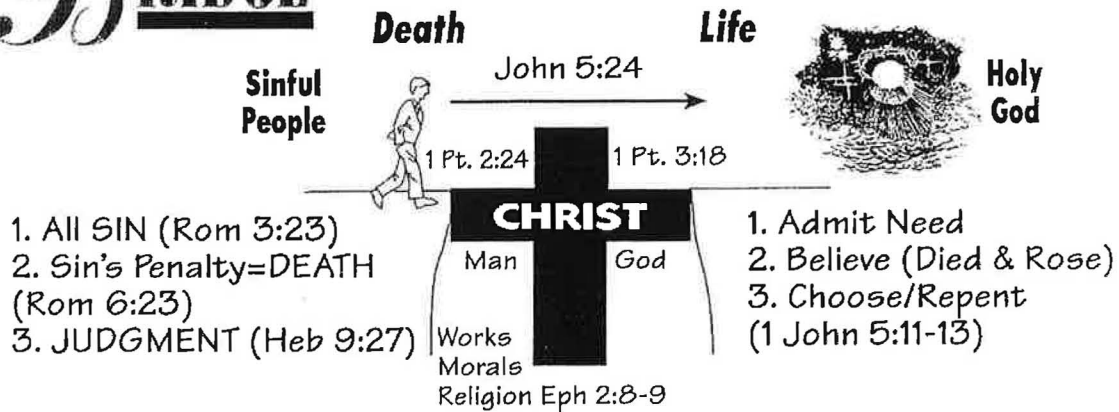
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 7) What is a disciple | 11) Fellowship |
| 8) Lordship (Obedience) | 12) Witnessing |
| 9) Word | 13) In Christ |
| 10) Prayer | 14) Optional (Character). |

Format for a M2M Meeting - GIBSAE

- 1) Goal – Tell them where we're going
- 2) Introduction – Tell them why
- 3) Bible – Show them how
- 4) Start – To get them started (share a story)
- 5) Assignment – Keep them going
- 6) Evaluation of Goal

NAVIGATOR TOOLS FOR EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

The BRIDGE



The WHEEL

Christ the Center: Gal 2:20;
2 Cor 5:17

Obedience to Christ: John 14:21;
Rom 12:1

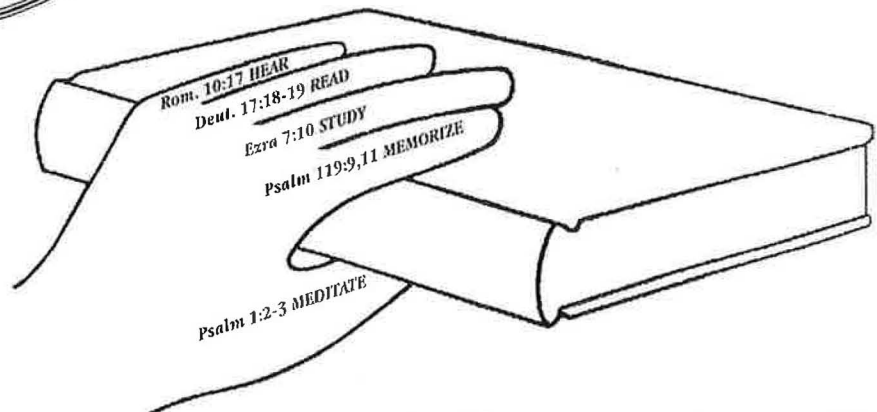
The Word: 2 Tim 3:16; Josh 1:8

Prayer: Phil 4:6-7; John 15:7

Fellowship: Mat 18:20; Heb
10:24-25

Witnessing: Mat 4:19; Rom 1:16

The HAND



ASSURANCE OF SALVATION – GIBSAE SAMPLE

1) GOAL

- a. For him to be fully confident that he is a Christian.
- b. For him to be fully confident that he can't lose his salvation.
- c. For him to verbally communicate his assurance to someone else.

2) Introduction – Why do we need to study this topic?

- a. We'll be attacked from several directions. Can you think of some?
 - i. Our own self doubt
 - ii. Friends and Family
 - iii. Professors, Bosses, and co-workers
 - iv. Satanic Forces
- b. God has told us that we can know for sure (1 John 5:13). Why do you think God has made an effort to let us know?
 - i. Because it's important for us to know.
 - ii. We wouldn't naturally know.
 - iii. It's important for us to develop a habit of listening to God's word.

3) Bible – Look at Assurance in the Scriptures

- a. Look at 1 John 5:11-13 –
 - i. 11-12 = Who gives eternal life? Where is eternal life found? Who has eternal life? Who does not have eternal life? Which category are you in? How do you know you have eternal life?
 - ii. 13 = Why did John write these things? What is this passage telling us we can know?
- b. Train Illustration
 - i. Facts: Engine that drives the train. Facts from the Bible.
 - ii. Faith: Coal that goes into the engine. Our faith in Christ.
 - iii. Feelings: Caboose that follows the facts and faith. What we feel on a daily basis.
 - iv. Main Point – Facts and faith go hand in hand and feelings will follow. Feeling saved or not doesn't lead us in our Christian walk. We don't base our assurance on whether or not we feel saved, we base it on the facts and faith that we have.
- c. Substitutes for 1 John 5:11-13
 - i. Romans 5:12-21 – Security evidenced by two men. Death secured in Adam and life secured in Christ
 - ii. Romans 5:1-11 – Security evidenced by Faith, Hope, Life and God's love.

4) Start

- a. List verses and passages that talk about assurance.
- b. Memorize 1 John 5:13
- c. Come up with a word picture or illustration that communicates the idea of 100% assurance. (Gravity, Death, Taxes, Vastness of space, seasons,..)

5) Assignment

- a. Go through 1 John and underline every time you see the word "know."
- b. Next week we can talk about what you've learned.
- c. Memorize 1 John 5:13 (if we didn't do this together)

6) Evaluation

- a. When he prays does he thank God for his salvation?
- b. When he has memorized 1 John 5:13 and can explain it.
- c. When he has shared with someone his assurance of salvation.



Experts Share the Secrets of Monster Melons and Pumpkins

IF YOU HAVE a green thumb and are looking for a new challenge, try raising whopper watermelons or pumpkins in your garden this year.

By whoppers, we mean *really big* melons and pumpkins like the ones you occasionally see in our "Can You Top These?" feature on page 57 each issue. For example, Scott Solomon of San Jose, California produced a pumpkin that tipped the scales at 783 pounds!

Then there's Bob Dwyer from Sikeston, Missouri. He raised a watermelon that weighed in at 213 pounds!

These backyard gardeners compete for the fun of it, and their hobby could grow on you, too. So for this Country Primer, we asked them and several other experts to share tips on how they grow their garden giants.

Their first piece of advice: Be prepared to spend a lot of time in the garden. You'll understand why when you learn how they pamper their plants to produce a prize-winner.

"If you're going for a world record (262 pounds for a watermelon and 1,043 for a pumpkin), you can't just throw a few seeds in the ground," says Bob. "From the time the season starts, I'm in the garden at 4:30 every morning until it's time to leave for work."

"I used to grow a dozen plants each year, but they require so much attention that I've cut back to six."

Huge Vines

The secret to success is to grow a huge, healthy vine—and then cull almost all the developing fruit so all the plant's energy goes into producing one or two pumpkins or melons.

"Otherwise, instead of a 450-pound pumpkin, you end up with 150 three-pounders," explains Clyde Allen, a re-



BACKYARD BEAUTY. Scott Solomon of San Jose, California grew this 751-pound pumpkin. He raised another weighing 783 pounds.

tired Extension agent from Ripley County, Indiana.

He's been growing big pumpkins for 30 years and produced a 402-pound winner in the Indiana Vegetable Growers Contest a few years ago.

Clyde figures each plant leaf contributes a pound to the weight of a pumpkin, so the more leaves the better. "A lot of the leaves on my vines are as big as bushel baskets," he notes. "The garden looks like a jungle."

To produce pumpkin vines like that, Clyde prefers a deep clay-loam soil with a pH of about 6.5. He gives the plants lots of elbowroom, too—a minimum of 30 feet in each direction between hills.

You also need to select varieties that have the genetic potential to produce big vines and big fruit. The pumpkin growers we talked to lean toward Atlantic Giant, Big Max or Prizewinner, all available through most seed catalogs.

Some growers like Scott take seed selection a step further by cross-pollinating the female blossoms with pollen from another promising plant. That's a time-consuming process—in addition to collecting pollen from the male, you have to cover the female blossoms to make sure they're not naturally pollinated by insects.

Crossbreeding doesn't impact pumpkin size that first year. But by doing so, Scott hopes to pick up some genetic traits in the seeds to produce an even bigger pumpkin the following year.

"I know a lot of other growers, and we exchange seeds with each other," he adds.

Plenty of Fertilizer

Every gardener has his own notions regarding the feeding program that works best. For starters, you should get a soil test to tell you what nutrients may be lacking in your garden.

Clyde recommends applying animal manure in the fall. Then, prior to planting, he fertilizes with 10-10-10 or 12-12-12 at the rate of 50 pounds per acre.

When the plants have about six leaves on them, he starts side-dressing with ammonium nitrate each week—generally about 3 to 5 pounds per plant per application. "I like to do it while it's raining, so I get good plant uptake and don't burn the plants," he explains.

Scott applies a water-soluble fertilizer through his drip irrigation system, starting with an analysis of 20-20-20.

"When the pumpkin gets to be about 200 pounds, I switch to an analysis that's higher in potassium," he continues. "At that point, the plant needs extra potassium to produce really big fruit."

Lots of Water, Too

Speaking of irrigation, Scott makes sure each plant gets about 800 gallons of water each week! When it's hot, he

also mists the leaves to keep them cool. "Pumpkins don't like temperatures above 85," he informs.

It's a good idea to stake the vines to the ground, Clyde advises. It prevents them from blowing in the wind and keeps them in close contact with the soil. That way, they'll sink down additional roots at the leaf nodes, which allows for maximum uptake of water and nutrients.

Scott allows each plant to set six pumpkins, and he measures them every day to determine which ones are growing the best. He'll allow the best two or three to develop and prune off the rest. After that, it's a matter of a little luck—and the perseverance to keep trying and fine-tuning your program every year.

Scott has been competing for about 4 years. The first year, he took his best pumpkin to a local contest, where another contestant's pumpkin tipped the scales at 696 pounds. "Mine was so small it could have fit inside the winner," he chuckles.

Then he got serious about the hobby. The following year, he produced a 430-pounder, but the year after that, he grew three that weighed over 700 pounds, including the one that went 783 pounds. "It was a brute," he says proudly.

Scott's goal for this season—800 pounds!

Menu for Melons

Growing whopper watermelons requires many of the same techniques as raising prize pumpkins—with a few exceptions.

For one, watermelons prefer sandy soil. They also like hot, dry weather—90° to 95° and plenty of sunshine, according to Bob.

Unlike big pumpkins, which can be grown anywhere that has at least a 110-day growing season, you're more likely to raise monster melons if you live in a southern climate.

Bob is in southern Missouri, which is in hardiness zone 6. Even there, he figures it's just barely warm enough to raise record-setters. "The really big ones come from farther south, in zone 7," he observes.

Bob started with the Carolina Cross variety. He, too, cross-pollinates to

blend desirable traits from other promising plants.

He adds that watermelons will also tolerate quite a bit of inbreeding. So you can self-pollinate a plant to exaggerate traits (like size) that a plant may already have.

Because he's on the northern fringe of the best melon-growing area, Bob germinates his watermelons indoors to get a jump on the season. Then he transplants them in the garden around April 15.

In fall, he works horse manure into the soil and, like Scott, applies a water-soluble commercial fertilizer through a drip irrigation system.

"Early in the season, we use an analysis that's higher in nitrogen to produce a lot of foliage," he explains.

"But once the fruit has set, we lower the nitrogen to under 8% and increase the level of phosphate for root growth and potash for bigger fruit."

He keeps the soil moist—but never wet. And Bob allows only one watermelon to develop per plant. "It means I have just one chance," he notes.

One more tip: Be sure to protect your plants from pests like coyotes. "They'll tear a watermelon patch to pieces," he says. Bob puts an electric fence around the garden to keep intruders out.

Watch It Grow

Bob sums it up this way: "You have to give the melon vine everything it needs when it needs it. Then you also need Mother Nature on your side."

If all conditions are right, you can literally watch a watermelon grow. In fact, the 213-pound beauty Bob grew a couple of years ago gained 8 pounds a day for 10 straight days!

Under optimum conditions like that, you can surround a watermelon with Popsicle sticks and watch the melon push them over during the course of a day.

Bob donates many of his big watermelons to fund-raisers for youth groups.



DIG IN! Bob Dwyer of Sikeston, Missouri grew this 213-pound watermelon. He and wife Tina served it to 40 people at a neighborhood party, but it was so big they could only eat half of it.

He has even set up a computer Web site (www.melonman.com) to share what he's learned about growing them.

"We're not in this for any commercial gain," he explains. "We do it for the enjoyment, and we set up the Web site to encourage other people to get involved."

"It's a great hobby for older folks because it gives them something to look forward to each day. Even in the winter, I'm dreaming about watermelons every night."

Give It a Try. If growing giant watermelons and pumpkins sounds like fun to you, we'd like to hear from you at the end of the growing season. Tell us how you grew your pumpkin or watermelon and how big it got. Include a photo, too!

Mail it to "Monster Melons and Pumpkins", *Country EXTRA*, 5925 Country Lane, Greendale WI 53129.

MARGARET WYTE: A flower falls even though we love it. A weed grows even though we don't love it.