

## Chapter 6

### Catalyst Church

#### 1) Introduction

##### a) Concepts

i) **Multiplying Church Initiative:** The Multiplying Church Initiative is a comprehensive church starting strategy fanning a Gospel brush fire across the plains of Iowa and surrounding regions:

- (1) by engaging equipped and motivated disciple makers to initiate and develop *Discipling OutPosts* in under-reached towns and/or people groups with view to the formation of simple multiplying indigenous churches
- (2) by providing an Indigenous Leadership *Equipping* system to train laymen with basic shepherding skills for a simple multiplying congregation,
- (3) by *networking* emerging simple congregations for kingdom purposes. Extensive documentation and conferencing are available as resources for the MCI-C.

ii) **Catalyst:** A simple definition of a catalyst describes it as a substance that increases the speed of a chemical reaction without itself being consumed by the reaction. In this strategy, a local church is the Catalyst. Two important characteristics transfer into the application of the term in the Multiplying Church Initiative strategy.

- (1) *A catalyst speeds up the reaction.* A catalytic church will by virtue of its meaningful participation in the Multiplying Church Initiative accelerate the rate of gospel expansion resulting in new church starts in a given locale or people group.
- (2) *Without itself being consumed.* The catalytic church will find itself (viz. the twelve basket fulls left over after feeding the five thousand) remarkably as strong or stronger by being catalytic than by not being catalytic.

(a) Reasons abound:

- (i) It is healthy for the church to be kingdom minded
- (ii) Vision inspires faith and commitment!
- (iii) Leadership development provides local skills
- (iv) Testimonies of God at work fuels passion.
- (v) Answered prayer for MCI-C activities
- (vi) Laymen called and released to new ministries

(b) The common conclusion of existing churches --- “we can’t start a church (much less churches) because it will cost too much, drain our leadership too much, etc.” --- has unnecessarily limited the forward progress of the Gospel into under-reached communities and people groups. Churches don’t need to have bankrolls of money to be a MCI-C. Neither do they have to fear that their leadership base will be depleted in the MCI-C. The catalyst is not consumed in the Multiplying Church Initiative.

- (i) Building costs: \$0 (emerging groups meet in homes and other “free” facilities unless the emerging group chooses to pay for its facility)
- (ii) Salary costs: \$0 (workers are volunteers or self-funded or otherwise employed; the Multiplying Church Initiative can function without the MCI-C putting money into salaries)
- (iii) People costs: 0 (Church members never have to miss a Sunday; start-up activities can occur on days other than Sunday; meanwhile, on Sunday, they can bring back to the Sunday congregation the joy of doing kingdom work and awakening a similar heart in others).
- (iv) Ministry expenses: There are some costs associated with doing ministry in new locations and people groups. The good news is that those costs are typically minimal and shared. For example ---
  1. Mission teams are available to provide initial ministries; they will come at their own expense and with resources to provide the ministry project.
  2. Curriculum is centered on the Bible. A disciple making tool called Triggers for Disciple Making is a reproducible resource available for photo copy.

3. It is possible that travel and other ministry related expense associated with a Mission Service Corps worker can be shared with the association and the Baptist Convention of Iowa.
- b) Evidence: John 6 --- A meager resource of a “boy” with 5 “small” loaves and 2 “small.” The question: “how far will they go among so many?” Jesus answered with the Feeding of the 5000. To top it off there were 12 baskets left over after all had eaten. Jesus said, “Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38
  - c) Vision: The Multiplying Church Initiative-Catalyst strategy enables us to see the day when
    - i) Churches believe they can impact its community, region, and world by extending the Gospel into new locations and people groups.
    - ii) New congregations spontaneously are started out of the initiative of God at work in existing congregations.
    - iii) Multiplying and pastoral leadership is raised up from among indigenous personnel.
    - iv) All communities and people groups in Iowa are served by a multiplying expression of the body of Christ. Saturation!
    - v) Missional networks of cooperating simple churches are formed and function for local and global kingdom advance.
- 2) Characteristics of the Catalyst Church
    - a) Kingdom minded --- eager to see Christ impact people in the region and the world beyond its own walls
    - b) Trusts God to be able to use non-professional leadership in a dramatic way
    - c) Steadiness and resolve in pursuit of a goal
    - d) Willing to adjust its practices enough to accommodate the Multiplying Church Initiative-Catalyst strategy
    - e) Functional Assets
      - i) Experienced pastoral leadership
      - ii) Established record/history
      - iii) Permanent facility
      - iv) Existing programs/structure
      - v) SBC roots
  - 3) Roles of the Catalyst Church
    - a) Define and accept a focal ministry area or people group
      - i) Get on your heart what God has on his
      - ii) Set an approximate range/circle of influence, e.g., 12 mile circle or a people group such as migratory Hispanics in a county
      - iii) Study and understand the patterns (e.g., economic, religious, cultural, educational, social) and needs (drugs, parenting, food/clothes, language, etc) of the area and group
      - iv) Distinguish ministry models suitable to the ministry area or people group
      - v) Draft and adopt a compelling vision statement of multiplicative kingdom impact resulting in Gospel saturation within the focal area or people group.
    - b) Deploy a missionary band
 

The missionary band will function as Multiplying Disciple Makers (MDM) in new locations and people groups. They will start Discipling OutPosts in which disciples can emerge, mature, reproduce, and network and potentially result in simple expressions of church.

      - i) Praying: it is the “Lord of the harvest” to whom we make appeal; not trusting instincts and resourcefulness but faithfully and humbly trusting God for the laborers in his field. Engage the church in consistent and bold praying for laborers within and beyond the walls of the church.
      - ii) Enlisting: the church will serve as a “voice” for God to communicate His appeal for laborers for the field.
        - (1) The church will have an important role of connecting vision, strategy, and people by voicing the vision clearly and boldly where its influence reaches both locally and nationally. An expanded vision will likely expand the “voice” in new ways and in new circles.
        - (2) The missionary band will be enlisted from multiple sources:

- (a) Externally: Non-local personnel may be enlisted from at least two sources: Mission Service Corps (MSC) workers or US/C2ers. \*MSC workers are committed Christians processed by the North American Mission Board and with the recommendation of a local church. They work either full or part-time. They live and work on the mission field for a minimum of four months; financial support is derived from contributors to their MSC work or self-funding. \*US/C2ers are college graduates who serve two years under appointment with the [North American Mission Board \(NAMB\)](#), SBC, and participating state conventions in US territories and Canada. The US/C2 strategy is designed to focus full-time efforts on the lost and unchurched with view to direct ministry of evangelism and church starting. Additional funding information is in the appendix.
  - (i) Define the missionary characteristics essential and/or beneficial to impact the focal ministry area or people group
  - (ii) Prepare a written job description of the Multiplying Church Initiative Missionary for a given locale or people group. (Examples available)
  - (iii) Formalize a request for the Multiplying Church Initiative Missionary by submitting a request to the North American Mission Board using appropriate forms
  - (iv) Prepare vision casting presentations to communicate what you believe God would have done by implementing the Multiplying Church Initiative strategy in the designated range/circle of influence
  - (v) Provide preview trip to visit the field, get acquainted with church leadership, understand the role, and see potential living conditions.
  - (vi) Provide strategy orientation
    - 1. Insure that the catalytic missionary understands and accepts the principles of the Multiplying Church Initiative
    - 2. Direct the emerging catalytic missionary into Multiplying Church training conferences and events as possible.
    - 3. Reinforce the concepts of the Multiplying Church Initiative within the local church
  - (vii) Enter a work agreement where the MSC/US C-2er person knows:
    - 1. Direct lines of supervision
    - 2. Financial channels and support network for income and expenses
    - 3. Minimum length of stay
    - 4. The strategy being implemented
  - (viii) Assist in getting the MSC/US C2-er on the field to live (moving, job if necessary, housing, open DOOR events)
- (b) Internally: Indigenous (local) personnel offer a certain advantage generally over non-local personnel for cultural, relational, financial reasons. Indigenous (local) personnel can also be Mission Service Corps, if desired. Indigenous personnel may be enlisted from at least two internal sources.
  - (i) From within the Church: Indigenous Multiplying Disciple Makers (MDM) in new locations and people groups will keep their jobs while remaining connected to their local church.
    - 1. Create an in-church culture for enlisting and engaging MDMs.
    - 2. “Appoint” with honor MDMs going out to new locations and people groups to start Discipling OutPosts
    - 3. Celebrate the missionary ventures of the church as Catalyst
  - (ii) From within the Focal Ministry Area or People Group: Indigenous MDMs will be raised up from the emerging new groups to initiate the second and third generation starts of Discipling OutPosts.
- iii) Encouraging: the church will provide encouragement to the missionary band both external and internal
  - (1) Attend to the ministry and personal needs of the missionary band.
  - (2) Reduce the sense of isolation that might be felt by the missionary band.

- (3) Acknowledge the work of the missionary band (praying, training, releasing, and reporting)
- (4) Create an in church culture that says the church is supportive of the work of multiplicative churches
- c) Equip Emerging (indigenous) Leadership
  - i) The Catalyst sees itself in part as a training center for emerging leaders to function as shepherds of emerging/multiplying congregation within its accepted ministry area or people group. (An emerging leader arises from the Discipling OutPost and is not to be confused with local or emerging church missionary band; the emerging leader is the one to whom the ministry of shepherding is transferred by the missionary)
  - ii) The Catalyst recognizes the resource it has in its experienced pastor to resource emerging shepherds to function in their unique capacity within a simple multiplying congregation.
  - iii) The Catalyst will operate an Indigenous Leadership Equipping system whereby emerging leaders can, in addition to the 40 hour a week job they already have, develop the skills, discipline, etc needed to continue to function in the simple church. This is not intended to be seminary or even look like seminary; instead, it is intended to be an up close and personal “just in time” “on the job training” relationship whereby the Iowa hog farmer, for example, conscripted by God to shepherd the new simple congregation, can understand and implement his role.
  - iv) The Catalyst will provide equipping consistent with the concepts and methodology of the Multiplying Church Initiative. Curriculum content for Indigenous Leadership Equipping is available from the Association; additional curriculum developed and shared with others Indigenous Leadership Equipping processes will further expand the work of the kingdom.
- d) Host Emerging Network
  - i) It is natural that the Catalyst will have a special affinity with the emerging congregations within its focal area and people groups, first, through the missionary band’s personal initiative, involvement, and influence and, second, through the Catalyst’s interaction and support. In this sense, each emerging congregation has a mini-network by way of its catalytic church.
  - ii) In addition, the Catalyst will serve, by virtue of its initiative and resources, as a kind of focal area/people group hub for each of the emerging congregations to be connected. Thus, the Catalyst provides a way for an emerging congregation to be linked to other emerging congregations in a larger community of faith. In this sense, emerging congregations within a focal area are networked with each other and with the Catalyst.
  - iii) Also, emerging congregations are positioned to learn about the larger network of churches by way of the Catalyst’s involvement in Association and Baptist Convention of Iowa and Southern Baptist causes.
  - iv) The goal of this linking is not to diminish the autonomy of the emerging congregations but to minimize the sense of isolation and independence experienced by a small emerging group. The following could result from the network experience:
    - (1) Fellowship --- to know somebody else cares, to compare stories, to be encouraged, etc.
    - (2) Accountability --- to work in harmony with others, to not be isolated, etc.
    - (3) Doctrinal integrity --- to surface doctrinal issues/questions, to correct error, etc.
    - (4) Partnership --- to experience the larger work of God and find a place, etc.
    - (5) SBC Cooperation --- to discover the CP, to link with local and global causes, etc.
  - v) The network is conveyed through relationships, gatherings, events set in motion by the Catalyst and its missionary band. It moves forward on the momentum of the advantages seen in the network by the emerging congregations.
- e) Operate Resource Center
  - i) Provide information services (constitution, Incorporation issues)
  - ii) Provide legal umbrella (bank, 501 c3, etc)
  - iii) Do problem solving
  - iv) Involve Mission Support Teams
    - (1) Request
    - (2) Support
    - (3) Coordinate

- 4) Resources of the Catalyst Church
    - a) The MCI-C will function in relationships which enhance its work; it will not be necessary or desirable that the Catalyst proceeds in solo fashion. Other organizations will work in a cooperative fashion to advance the Multiplying Church Initiative alongside the Catalyst
    - b) Resourceful relationships for the SBC Catalyst Church include:
      - i) The Association:
        - (1) Training
          - (a) Multiplying Church Initiative strategy
          - (b) Triggers for Disciple Making
          - (c) Disciple Making Conferences
          - (d) Indigenous Leadership Equipping Modules
          - (e) Ongoing Simple Church training
        - (2) Consultation with the Missionary Strategist related to the applications of the strategy
        - (3) Liaison with the Association, North American Mission Board, Baptist Convention of Iowa, and the Tennessee Baptist Convention
        - (4) An eye to gather and glean documentation printed or on the web from like minded practitioners around the country and world.
        - (5) Climate for success
        - (6) Fellowship network of emerging simple church leaders
        - (7) Assistance for enlistment of the missionary band and of volunteer mission teams
        - (8) Some operational expenses for the missionary band
      - ii) The Baptist Convention of Iowa
        - (1) Climate for success
        - (2) Some operational expenses for the missionary band
      - iii) The North American Mission Board
        - (1) Enlistment support for the Missionary Band
          - (a) Mission Service Corps
          - (b) US- C2
        - (2) Enlistment support for volunteer Mission Teams
      - iv) The Tennessee Baptist Convention
        - (1) Enlistment support for volunteer Mission Teams
        - (2) Long term partnerships
      - v) The harvest represents a resource to the Catalyst
        - (1) Stories of faith, witness, conversion, and transformation will trickle back to the Catalyst from the emerging congregation
        - (2) The example of the missionary band will inspire the Catalyst
        - (3) Training will carry-over from the emerging leaders and Multiplying Disciple Makers to other members in the Catalyst.
        - (4) Vision will be expanded again and again as the Catalyst sees what God is doing beyond the walls.
- 5) Conclusion
  - a) A new direction is needed!
    - i) In one 15 county region in Iowa, there has been a net increase of 0 churches in 25 years.
    - ii) The traditional model of funded professional starts resulting in 5 star program churches has not only failed in its multiplication but, even more alarmingly in its inception and maintenance.
    - iii) Meanwhile, additional mainline churches are closing in the very communities under our noses that are already under-evangelized or lacking any evidence of a Great Commission church
  - b) The Multiplying Church Initiative is a strategy whose time has come!
    - i) It provides a simple, reproducible format for church starts
    - ii) It engages the indigenous personnel within our churches in a boldly relevant mission
    - iii) It requires no extra money
    - iv) It maximizes the seminary training of pastors by equipping new shepherds for the task
    - v) It lifts the sights of the church to impact a people, a region, a nation, and a world.
  - c) Existing churches and their leadership play a strategic role

- i) Nothing excites the genuine disciple in the pew more than the thought that his life could count for Christ in a dramatic way. Generally, he welcomes excitedly the prospect of the Multiplying Church Initiative and wonders how he could advance it. A commitment to be a Multiplying Church Initiative-Catalyst would open the way not only for that disciple to play a significant role in kingdom impact but for the whole church to intentionally and dramatically advance the kingdom in a given focal area or people group.
- ii) The opportunity of the experienced pastor to provide indigenous leadership equipping in a network of emerging shepherds in a multiplying church raises the potential impact of the pastor not only geographically but also numerically.
- d) The Catalyst can find its identity as an equipping and sending agent for the start and multiplication of simple churches in a given focal locale without depleting itself.
  - i) Defining a focal locale
  - ii) Raising up a missionary band of internal and non-indigenous workers
  - iii) Equipping emerging leaders as shepherds
  - iv) Networking emerging leaders and congregations
  - v) Operating a resource center
- e) You have the opportunity to turn the ship not only in Iowa with the start of numerous new multiplying congregations; you also can be the answer to the question: “where is it happening in America?” Iowa multipliers can be the answer! You hold the key!