

Chapter 5

Starting Churches Starting Churches

- 1) Multiplying disciple makers multiply churches. Starting churches starting churches can not be simply hoped into existence. Multiplicative church starts must be intentionally built into the DNA of the people who are the church. Unsubstantiated soap-boxing for church starts will fall far short of real multiplying results. At best such church start approaches, with skilled and motivated pastoral leadership, may yield some additional starts. But that is a far cry from the Spirit initiated and empowered starting of churches starting more and more churches.
- 2) Keys to reproducibility
 - a) Inductivity: the ability to draw conclusions from particular facts, i.e., to think on your own two feet. Avoiding a sense of dependency on others.
 - i) The platform to create inductive thinkers is the use of inductive questions. If a Disciple Maker chooses to teach or interpret the text for disciples in a group, thus eliminating the need for the disciple to think for himself, he will set a precedent against inductivity.
 - ii) Inductive questions establish the skill for personal growth which sets people free to act independently and spontaneously.
 - iii) Using questions to find out what the text says, affirms the Bible as the authority for decision making. Should there be a difference of opinion, the model affirms scripture as the authority to settle the question. Ask, "what does the Bible say?" Let the Bible speak for itself.
 - iv) Avoid establishing a false standard (too high) for the leader. He doesn't have to be an "expert." If an "expert" standard is established in a group, it will greatly diminish the reproduction of the people within the group who feel they are not "experts."
 - b) Simplicity: having one or a few parts; freedom from complexity; absence of elegance, luxury; plainness.
 - i) The more difficult the method and the higher the leader skill and the more complicated the outcome, the less likely it is that reproduction will occur.
 - (1) You may be prone to look at the Triggers and say that is too simple; there is so much more that they could get from the study if I would just inject what I know.
 - (2) Don't do it. If you do, you will be raising the standard of success to a level that is quite likely to be unachievable by the laos (people in general).
 - ii) Those of us with long church traditions will have to restrain ourselves from complicating the simple patterns of emerging disciples. The Lord's Supper served on a cookie sheet and cups you find at the bathroom sink may seem nearly sacrilege to the Christian with a tradition of fine silver service and neat little cups. But remember: Simplicity for reproducibility --- don't overcomplicate the process with buildings, programs, organization, skill/expertise, or personalities
 - iii) Enjoy the ride of simplicity with a smile. Relax!!! Let the people themselves begin to make the decisions which will develop the structure of the group as they have a clear grasp of their mission in the world.
 - c) Flexibility: the ability to bend without breaking; easily influenced; adjustable to change;
 - i) Forced conformity will shut down reproduction. Because every situation will vary (education, income, background, space, etc), the practices of each situation will vary.
 - ii) One shoe doesn't fit all. Each situation and each set of people must be evaluated and responded to in a unique way. No one should think that he can figure out exactly what is needed in every case by one unbending approach.
 - iii) Even the Triggers you will use will vary from group to group.
 - iv) Emerging leaders who conclude that the way he saw it is the way it must always be will be stifled and refuse to venture into the next situation which he already knows will be considerably different.
 - d) Spontaneity: acting according to internal causes; without constraint; resulting from impulse
 - i) One disciple makes another disciple out of the initiative of his own heart.
 - ii) No hierarchical oversight or approval is necessary to move effectively to reach a population with new disciples congregating in new churches. Spontaneity moves purely according to the

obedience of indigenous people to the Spirit of God in their lives. Churches start without back breaking expectations or requirements or regulations.

- iii) Unless a group senses that it is okay and even desirable to start another group, they will not move in that direction. Thus, it falls to the Disciple Maker to develop a culture for spontaneity. He must send the signal that it is good to follow the leading of God's Spirit.
- iv) Movements exceed control. They take on a life of their own. If we desire reproducibility, we must shed the external constraints regarding "my church turf and your church turf" and simply rejoice in the expansion of the kingdom wherever God sparks it to occur in the hearts of his people.
- e) Clarity: having a clear quality; free from clouds; certain; free from obstruction
 - i) Only to the degree that reproduction is plainly presented as the intended outcome of the discipling process will it occur.
 - (1) The disciple maker must know what he is reproducing and demonstrate it clearly to the disciple.
 - (a) That target must be demonstrated by the disciple maker's own lifestyle. Everything the disciple maker does must model the desired outcome of the discipling process lest the disciples become unsure of the intended result. Everything means everything: his life will be scanned from every angle including these:
 - (i) How he treats his wife and children
 - (ii) How he handles stress, difficulty, and opposition
 - (iii) How he exemplifies making disciples in his own life
 - (iv) How he relates to people that are different
 - (v) How he examines world events
 - (vi) How he handles his finances
 - (b) To say one thing and do another creates confusion as to the goal, i.e., "what is the intended outcome --- what he says or what he does?"
 - (2) The disciple must be able to tell exactly where he is being directed to go so that he can know when he has arrived at the destination; he must be able beyond question to identify the intended outcome in the models of disciple making before him; he must have a clearly defined target that is frequently and plainly communicated.
 - ii) The outcome of the discipling process will be set according to the modeled behavior presented by the lifestyle and habits of the disciple maker
 - (1) The DOP provides a context for relationships which give evidence of the life transformation of the participants.
 - (2) Information only will not provide the up close authentication of the Christian experience being sought by the searching heart.
 - iii) The disciple must understand that he is ready to reproduce.
- f) Rapidity: quality or state of moving or occurring with speed, swiftness, or quickness.
 - i) The Disciple Maker must have a clearly defined destination for your disciples and then do a little geometry. The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Don't meander around.
 - ii) The longer it takes, the more likely the following will occur:
 - (1) The easier it is to become comfortable with non reproduction.
 - (2) Increased dependency on external leadership occurs with each passing day.
 - (3) Absence of urgency snatches initiative from emerging disciple makers
 - iii) The goal is not to teach everything you know. The 26 week plan is for rapid reproduction; but even that could send the wrong signal.
 - iv) In fact, the disciple may be only a few short steps ahead of his own disciple. The disciple need not and should not wait until completion of the 26 week process to begin the reproductive cycle (waddling ducks in a row are following the lead of the duck only one step ahead of him)
 - v) Practical Responses are built into the Triggers to facilitate varying levels of reproductive activities to occur along the way of the 26 week period.
- g) Accountability: obligation or willingness to accept responsibility
 - i) Working in isolation fosters independence that often reduces a sense of responsibility to be obedient to the Word.

- ii) By developing a spirit of affirming accountability, the Disciple Makers are better able to keep their disciples on track.
- iii) Accountability keeps disciples on task and forges a partnership that far exceeds anything that might be achieved with simple accountability.
- iv) Accountability segues to colaboring. Healthy partnerships improve the likelihood of successful reproduction.
- h) Indigeneity: the quality of having originated in and being produced, growing, living, or occurring naturally in a particular region or environment; native
 - i) An indigenous congregation will develop in its own time, in its own way, with its own people, according to its own resources.
 - ii) Conformity to someone else's image or model is not expected. Freedom is allowed for uniqueness.
 - iii) Fretting over the individuality of each Discipling OutPost impedes progress.
- 3) Multiplication of churches
 - a) Christ's Kingdom model not My Kingdom model; multiple vs magnificent
 - b) Saturation --- like crushed ice in tea rather ice cube;
- 4) The Story of elephants and rabbit reproduction
 - a) A contrast in reproductive patterns
 - i) A cottontail rabbit weighs up to 6 pounds; carries its young for 26-30 days; bears 4-5 kits at a time with new litters as often as 4 times per year; begins to mate as early as 6 months
 - ii) An African elephant is the largest land animal weighing up to 12,000 pounds; carries its young for 22 months; bears 1 calf at a time weighing 255-300 pounds; begins to mate at age 12.
 - b) Important questions
 - i) How many elephants can be funded?
 - ii) What if the elephant dies before maturity?
 - iii) Can we reach the small towns, the low-income, the poorly educated with mega models of planting?
 - iv) Will the birth rate of elephants surpass the death rate of American churches.
 - c) Multiplicative reproduction is the answer!

5) Strategy Essentials

- 6) It is simple structure so it can be reproduced
- 7) It develops its own leaders (which are in short supply in Iowa) from local people and with specialized training
- 8) It is relational so it expands through its participants rather than through costly and non-reproducible events and programs
- 9) It is systematic and orderly in such a way as to provide for the rapid development of new disciple makers
- 10) It is intentional; it insures that the multiplying gene is in the DNA of each new disciple and church