

QUESTION #3:
What can we do to educate, motivate and promote church multiplication among our fellowship?

Recommended Reading: Wounded: How to find wholeness and inner healing in Christ by Terry Wardle

PRIMER for discussing Question #3...

We stand on the backs of great people.

- Who's going to train the trainers? Who's going to ask the right questions to ask, and know where to go to get the answers? Us.
- Who taught us this? Who trained us? We are the products of great churches and Christian schools.

Who are our heroes?

- In the last 50 years our heroes have been academicians. Thank God for them!
- In the next 50 years who will they be? We need some new kinds of heroes, too.

"Finding Our Spine... to educate, motivate and promote for church multiplication" by Scott Lambert

- What is our *motivation* for church planting? To reach the world! Not to save the Churches of Christ! Let our vision be lifted from our little slice of the Church (our fellowship) and set our eyes on the greater kingdom of God.
- We need to "find our spine" because we're going to be shot at. Good people will be opposed to us.
- Wise Gunslingers - We're going to have to kinda have an attitude, willing to boldly walk into the saloon and ask 'em to "Meet me outside by the corral!"
- Approaching Our Audiences:
 - Vision keepers – often it's the pulpit minister
 - Elders
 - Opinion Leaders
 - The Church (your own local congregation)
 - Our Regional Neighbors
- Capture and Rehearse Our Stories

- Your Church's Story
- Every Church was PLANTED!
- The Power of Heroes
 - Ask people, "Who started *your* church?"
 - Jesse Hahn – helped start Scott Lambert's homechurch. His picture is on the wall in that little church in Nebraska.
 - Look around at the church planters you know. 80 years from now you could see their face a picture in a church they planted.
 - Get Jerry Rushford to tell churches their stories to get them on board with church planting.
- Metaphors, Pictures and Vision-casting
 - Tell stories.
 - Use word pictures.
- How To Use Our Resources
 - Kairos
 - Mission Alive
 - Successful Plants
- Local, Regional and National Forums

ANCILLARY QUESTIONS

What fears does church multiplication hold for our fellowship?

- They're going to be afraid that what the good thing they have is threatened.
- We've failed before, it'll fail again.
- Our fear as planters of not "doing it right." Not relying on God. Not stepping out of faith.
- Fear that God won't anoint it.
- The only antidote for fear is faith.

What language, analogies, history, etc. can we use to talk about church multiplication?

- See notes from "Finding Our Spine" presentation by Scott Lambert (above).

What people, forums and opportunities are available to us to use to promote church multiplication?

- **Lectures:**
 - Do Kairos Symposium at Pepperdine Lectures, ACU Lectures, Lipscomb events, Harding Lectures.

- **Luncheons:**
 - Regional Preachers Luncheons.

- **Field Trips:**
 - Got To Broaden the Vision. Show our leaders some healthy churches.
 - Take six Church of Christ preachers to a city look out (Griffith Observatory), then take them down into East Hollywood to see the faces and pray with some people you already have engaged (pre-arrange).
 - When you are with them, resist the urge to tell them a bunch of stuff.
 - Don't just educate them with knowledge / data-seminars.
 - Just ask them to participate with you in engaging lost people, to pray with lost people.
 - Let them experience it and come to the conclusion themselves that a church needs to be started here.
 - How do we reach elders?
 - They assumed their eldership roles because they had the best intentions, because they love the church.
 - They don't have many years left, and they really want to make a difference.
 - If they really believe God can use them to make a difference and have a lasting effect (leave a legacy), then they are willing to take a risk and step out!
 - Give them a thirst. Tell them success stories of what God is doing. Open their eyes – They'll get the idea, "We can do this! Why can't we do this!"
 - Take our leaders/elders on field trips.
 - Elders can be suspicious of their minister's persuasive speeches and theological arguments. They hired their ministers for their ability to be persuasive, so they see need to "see" and experience for themselves.

- **Tell Stories:**
 - Get the Loris (of Hilltop), the Javiers (of Hollywood) to tell their own story. Powerful.
 - Benton, Baird, Tippon, Chesnut, Durham
 - Ask ministers to tell you the story of why they got into ministry.
 - Most did so to save the world, not b/c it was a good career choice. ☺
 - To remind them of why they got into ministry maybe a good way to restore their old passion for the lost.

- **Prayer Walks:**
 - with major influencers in the areas we want to influence.
 - then we're letting God take the lead.

- **Find out who can tell you the hero stories.**

- These are probably the people you're most concerned about persuading.
- **Interview lost in East Hollywood.**
 - People from your own town on what they think about God.
 - Put it on video/DVD.
- **Share how our fellowship (and the larger Church) is doing in North America.**
 - Most people don't know this story.
- **Affirm the existing churches.**
 - If they don't really believe we love the churches we're in, they won't be interested in listening to us.
 - "There's nothing wrong with loving your church and wanting to plant another one."
- **Tell success stories of the benefits to the church that does the planting!**
- **Be persistent! (e.g., about getting campus ministry started at LACC)**
- **Tell success stories on a web site.**
 - of church planters
 - of churches that planted churches
 - of church plants
- **Host regional gatherings with a missions focus.**
 - be selective and intentional about who to invite
 - personal invitations
- **Continue to ask the right questions.**
 - Don't ask, "How do we grow our churches?"
 - Ask, "How do we reach our city?"
 - Privately among themselves, one church was motivated by asking themselves, "Do we want to have more than the Mormons?"
- **Get a partner to pray Luke 10:2b with you daily! Infect other people with the "Luke 10:2b virus" (an idea from John White of DAWN Ministries that is catching on among simple church planters)!**

"Our Resources" by Everett Huffard

- God provides what is needed. Plain and simple.
- What/Who are our resources?
- Churches have a tendency to become temples, and preachers have a tendency to become priests. Last argument in Hebrews: Jesus is the same

yesterday, today and forever. The temple is not. Our story is more moved by those heroes, evangelists, church planters and martyrs in chapter 11 than it ever is by priests in temples.

- Some of your best resources are missionaries. (Returning foreign missionaries are a huge driving force for missions in the US.)
- If the future of the church is dependent on the academy we're in a lot of trouble, b/c most of the people coming out of academy want to become little professors.
- If future church planting is done without the academy we're also in trouble, b/c we'd be reinventing the wheel in so many things. Academicians can help us think missiologically and theologically.
- Need accountability, ideas and tools from academicians (school) and elders (church).
- Liberal Arts colleges have produced strong bivocational ministers, elders and missionaries. More missions teams have come from our colleges than our churches.
- Churches, don't leave academy out of the conversation! Include them. Tell them about the issues you are facing in church planting. Inspire them to do research that you are needing.
- Don't pigeon our graduate programs; continue to look at them as resources.
- Apprenticeships are key! It will take a whole new generation to do inner city missions b/c in the inner city it's not business as usual.
- If you go to grad school, please do half time grad studies and half time apprenticeship. Don't do full-time grad school because you'll get all theory and no practical – the stuff you learn will go over your head. Instead, go half school and half ministry, so when you show up to class you'll see how it applies in ministry right now. Full-time grad students come not knowing the questions to ask but they want all the answers. Half-time grad students who are apprentices are asking the questions and really learning / becoming equipped!