

MULTIPLICATION CHURCH BIRTHING FOR REGIONAL SATURATION

Picture the Body of Christ in our area being birthed with lean and reproducing gatherings of people in every hamlet, city, suburb and even subdivision.

Is this not what God's picture for us would look like? I believe that it is, and that God has made a way that we can do it together, right here right now. Let me summarize the basic steps.

Because of current economic and cultural dynamics, there will need to be a few things that look different to begin with. In truth, as you will see, these differences are actually quite Biblical because everything will begin with a church planter and his family moving into the target neighborhood and beginning to minister to people. It will *not* begin with training a core, incorporation and renting a building. These things will come later.

In this plan the planting couple, in all likelihood, will begin a first group in their own home. From here on in, we will refer to groups like this as "Self Contained Spiritual Communities" (or SCSC). As this couple begins ministering to people, they will begin watching and praying for two other couples who can be developed as the leaders of the next SCSC. At an appropriate time this first group will be divided into two SCSCs with each of the new couples leading their own group, while praying and watching for one more couple in their new group to emerge as leaders in training for the next SCSC.

A very important point needs to be established here. The church planter from here on in will not have his own SCSC. From now on he, and to a large degree his wife, are disciples, mentors and coaches for the developing leaders. At first, it was his and his wife's job to model the best procedure for a Self Contained Spiritual Community. It is now their job to help the developing leaders succeed.

At this point the church planter begins to attend to other matters beyond the spiritual communities and leadership mentoring and development. He now begins doing those things that relate to every day church life. One of these issues includes the beginning of a regular church service. We call these first services "Believers Gatherings" and they are to occur no more than monthly to begin with. These Believers Gatherings are to be celebration services where people from the various groups get to know one another in the style of Acts 2:42-47.

"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to

house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

As Self Contained Spiritual Communities, the other groups will be addressing internal care along with outreach. The Believers Gatherings, on the other hand, are for celebrating Christ and His Body.

The way that this approach to church planting leads to saturation of an area is that through multiplying the Self Contained Spiritual Communities, eventually a community or group of SCSCs that are spread a little far from the gathering, will begin a Believers Gathering in their neighborhood. We now have the basis for the next church. Saturation type growth occurs under strategic oversight of a church planting supervisor, or of a church planting network.

Can you picture this? As I said before, I believe that this is along the lines of what God would picture.

Pastor Harry Olsen

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