

Using Discipleship, Business and Leadership to Multiply Churches

LDC Workshop

Introduction

We represent Global Disciples. We have worked with local churches for over 20 years to help them take an active part in the Great Commission. We are currently working in over 40 nations.

God has entrusted to Global Disciples a focus on three types of training which we believe strengthen and encourage church planting movements. It is on this that we will focus today. We hope that you will see ways that this model can be used in your own context and mission.

I. The goal of church planting movements.

To see locally sustainable, reproducible fellowships of believers. We see the model of the Apostle Paul as fitting for our day. We often focus on the teachings of Paul and miss the model which he used to begin churches that multiplied.

We believe that church planting movements require at least three elements:

Continuous outreach.

If a church is not continually outward focused, the results will soon be stagnation.

Paul continually focused on “the regions beyond.”

Consistent support.

If churches are not financially viable and able to be self-sustaining, the movement will not gain momentum. Paul received some support from sending churches, but primarily supported himself with tent-making.

Concentrated leader development.

Where strong attention is not given to developing leaders, the movement will not have the capacity to multiply. Paul continuously had a team of leaders around him that he was developing. Much of his writing could well be considered as a part of his leadership development.

II. The call for discipleship.

Discipleship is much more than conversion; it is a life of total obedience to the will of the Father and daily walking in Intimacy with Him.

We believe all churches are called to make disciples and to send disciples. Our discipleship training model encourages churches to gather a group together for a minimum of two weeks of training followed by practical outreach opportunities. We emphasize developing intimacy with Jesus and a heart for the unreached. The practicum is at least twice as long as the class experience.

We are seeing churches planted with this simple model.

III. The call for business.

The cry for supporting church planters is nearly universal. We simply believe that the model of the Apostle Paul is fitting for our time. This is not to discount other forms of support, but to say that this model works!

We train church planters how to operate a small business that can provide support to them and their family as well as an identity to be in a community. All our business training must have church planting as the goal, not simply economic empowerment. We invite every participant to prayerfully consider “What is in your hand?”

IV. The call for leadership.

We believe God has given the local church the primary responsibility to raise up Christ-like leaders who are strong in character, knowledge and skill. We use these three elements as a skeleton for developing curriculum. We focus on transformational training rather than informational. We encourage the use of four transformational elements developed by Malcolm Webber: Spiritual, Relational, Experiential and Instructional.

The leadership training must be locally sustainable and reproducible.

V. The result of a holistic approach.

If a model focuses only on church planting, it may lack a means for financial sustainability and strong leadership.

If business skill are taught with no connection to church planting, economic growth may occur, but without significant kingdom impact.

If leadership development is done in the absence of the other two, the results will strengthen the church but not deliberately expand to newly planted churches.



Conclusion

We believe that the three working together offer a simple approach that can be used by any church in any context to reach out to the least reached with the Good News of the Gospel.

We are using this model and learning a lot as we continue. We encourage each of you to consider how this model could be applied in your context to enhance what God is already doing.

Q&A

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