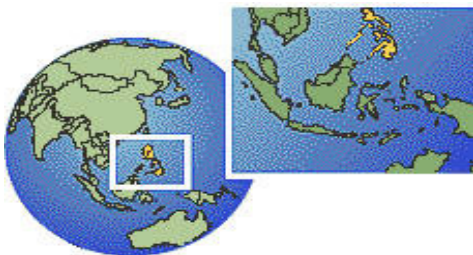


Proverbs for Church Planters

Words of encouragement from Pastor Rey to
church planters in the Philippines – gleaned from
Facebook postings in 2011-12

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www.plantanotherchurch.com/proverbs.pdf

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NOT EVEN A HINT

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." -EPH 5:3



Thank God that He has not lowered the moral and ethical standard for His holy people. Anything less than His brand of pure life is improper. This exhortation is for all "saints" - the regular believers, not to mention those who are Leaders! We need a revival from God on a daily basis, because of the toxic world and the mould of evil pressing on us - as we walk, work and witness.

Let us pray, that God's Light for holy life will always be visible to all of us and that we will have the moral courage to "walk in the Light as He is in the light"; that we will be able to discern the seduction of evil and to stay away from it; that we will pursue holiness without which no man will see the LORD!

NOT A HINT - because whoever you are (leader or member), you are influencing, you are messaging, you are giving others signal - of your life! They read you, and therefore read the God in you, OR the evil in you. Again.. this is not just for PREACHERS! And this is not just about sexual immorality (or any kind of impurity) but about other evils like GREED!

NOT EVEN A HINT (continued)

SAD: Gallup and Barna’s polls demonstrate that evangelical Christians are as likely to embrace lifestyles every bit as hedonistic, materialistic, self-centered, and sexually immoral as the world in general. ..George Barna concludes, “Every day, the church is becoming more like the world it allegedly seeks to change.”

The True Church is Indestructible:

But as believers, we really need a New Awakening..

"For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”EPH 5:14

In the second century, Justin Martyr said of Christians:

_____ "Those who once delighted in fornication now embrace chastity alone; ... we who once took most pleasure in accumulating wealth and property now... share with everyone in need; we who hated and killed one another and would not associate with men of different tribes because of their different customs now, since the coming of Christ, live familiarly with them and pray for our enemies."

"There is a stunning contrast between what Jesus and the early church said and did and what so many evangelicals do today.

Hopefully that contrast will drive us to our knees, first to repent, and then to ask God to help us understand the causes of this scandalous failure, and the steps we can take to correct it." - By Ron Sider, The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience

"Proverbs for Church Planters"**"AOG" - Assemblies of God OR Approved of God**

1TH 2:1-5 Both Character and Charisma are essential assets of the Churchplanter, but most of the time, "Character" suffers neglect. "Charisma" gets help from seminars and seminaries (as if the Holy Spirit is not enough!) but who is building up "Character"?



1 You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. **2** We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. **3** For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. **4** On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. **5** You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness.

1. **Emboldened By God:** God is right there where we are. And there is no failure in serving God in the mission field! *"Our visit to you was not a failure."* There is no strong opposition that could discourage God or His man. Any experience of sufferings and insults has no effect in an empowered man. *"With the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel."* The enemy would try to make it difficult for us to tell, and God may not remove the difficulty - But He will increase our boldness!
2. **Approved By God:** *"God is our witness"*. God approves men and women. He knows the motives, the message and the methods. He tests their hearts. Then He trusts them with the Gospel. What a blessing it is to be endorsed by the Credentials Committee, and to carry a credential card from the Assemblies of God! - But that is nothing compared to God's stamp of approval: -- Pure Motive.--Correct Message.--God Pleaser.--Not a flatterer.--No Mask for Greed.--Approved!

THE WORD WORKS!

CHURCH PLANTING alludes to agricultural terms like field, seed, plow, harvest.. etc. Jesus Himself used parables saying that the Seed is the Word of God.



1TH 2:13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

- What we sow, to expect a harvest must be the seed of the **WORD OF GOD**.

- We must believe and be so convinced about what it is: *"as it actually is, the word of God.."*

- We must also be convincing in our preaching or teaching - so that our hearers will accept it as the **WORD OF GOD**, not as the word of men! - *1PE 4:11 If you speak, you should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.*

- We must put premium importance to the **WORD of GOD**.. it is what will continue to work in the life of those who believe. Never neglect the preaching of the Word.

IT IS ABOUT WHAT HE SAYS.. not what man says, not what religion propagates, not what philosophers propose.

MASK FOR GREED?



A DIFFICULT THING TO DISCERN:

- **Flattery** feeds the insecurity of people and their desire for praise even if it is insincere and overdone.

- **"Mask"** is effective too, to lure others, because it hides the real and what could have been obvious - and projects what is acceptable and nice.

Please check if this form of mal-practice still exist!

1TH 2:5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness.

- Paul here is trying to defend himself and his team from lots of shameful accusations about methods and motives for doing what they were doing.
- Flattery, is a form of praising people to gain entrance and win their approval. But this kind of "good speech" is really insincere.. untrue. It is a mask to hide inappropriate intent.
- MASK for greed: describes a form trickery, to gain approval and favor for some materialistic ends. It is a pretense to hide greed and covetousness. - Obviously, in Paul's time, people are marketing themselves as ministers of the gospel, but they are actually just using it to satisfy their greed and covetousness, people he referred to as idolaters (COL 3:5 *covetousness, which is idolatry*), whose god is their stomach who mind earthly things-PHI 3:18-19. - Jesus used the term "hirelings" to describe shepherds who do not really love the sheep, but the wages from the hire!- What a shame that a "sacred calling" can be converted into a commodity - with a price tag!

MASK FOR GREED? (continued)

- I am aware that there are valid ministries that are operating under a generous partnership of outside sponsors: There is accountability there, there is transparency there, and things are done with no disguise for greed whatsoever. Praise God for this biblical way of partnership in the gospel;
- What bothers me is the present-day tolerance of leaders and Christians to certain mal-practice among ministers: - Those who flatter politicians (unconverted) to get their financial sponsorship; - Those who are willing to take down their Church Nameplate for one Sunday picture taking of some "korean/malaysian/singaporean" missions in exchange for some financial support; - Those raising funds abroad for some non-existent project (ghost projects, pastor sponsorship, bible school student sponsorship, etc..). - This is also complimented by the likes of wealthy "Simon, The Great Power" (ACT 8:10) - rich men who also wants to use their money to get a spiritual ministry for themselves and instead of giving with no-string attached, they have reduced giving into some ego-trip, and ministry-buying! They have willingly promoted "dependency" to them.
- I could wish we have some way to regulate solicitations, where the potential givers are also protected from these masquerading solicitors, the resources of God's people are faithfully utilized not for the greed of someone else, and the credibility of the Church is not placed in suspicion.. But they are really sneaky.
- And so we are left to the basic issue of the "Character" of the minister and the lack of godly ethics in the handling of finances in the ministry.

"Proverbs for Church Planters"

One Job



The Gospel work in the New Testament is ALWAYS a partnership work (PHI 1:5, 27); a partnership in the Gospel from the beginning to last. It is a picture of believers and churches standing fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel.

This is what I see in those Districts, churches, ministers and members - the teams involved in SOS. This is the genius of the Assemblies of God, the organized interdependence of churches dedicated for the furtherance of the Gospel. As local churches, we are autonomous with independent directions, goals and programs, but as an Assembly of God movement, we regroup to unite for a common cause.

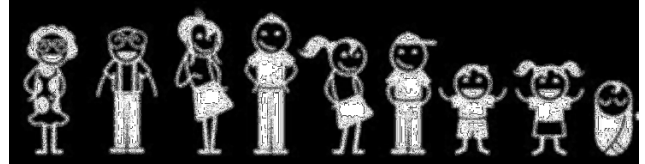
For this reason I am urging you to pray for more involvement and collaboration of churches and districts.

- Pray that our churches will become "great commission churches", faithful to God and obedient; that we grow in size in the process.
- Pray that our district leaders will lead us into the evangelistic front of church planting, and not away from it.
- Pray that there will be more Churchplanters; that our Bible schools will increase in enrolment for church planting.
- Pray that more and more Christians will prepare and join next Summer.

OneJob.

One People. One God. One Church. One Job.

FATHERING OR MOTHERING?



Here's a graphic description of the Pastoral ministry in Churchplanting. It is called "*parenting*".

We encourage all churchplanters ***"to plant the church that they will pastor, and pastor the church that they will plant!"***

In Churchplanting, you start your own "family" and you parent them. (If you take over a pastorate, you are adopting someone else's children - members you did not travail for birth! - that is why it takes a long time for new pastor to bond with old members, and to function as their new "parent").

1TH 2:7-12

7 Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nursing mother nurtures her own children. 8 We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 9 For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers. 11 As you know, "like a father with his own children, 12 we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

FATHERING OR MOTHERING? (continued)

OBSERVATIONS:

- **Churchplanters play the Dual Role** -as Mothers and Fathers. This puts the ministry in the perspective of the Family, God's family. The blending of Gentle caring and Firm discipline-needed to grow a new churchplant. (Pastoral theology courses have not fully explored this role. Could have been easy to play compared to the "religious-institutions" point of view, or to that of the corporate world's.
- **Churchplanters are lovers of people.** As a mother **nurturing her own children**.. caring so much, sharing not just the gospel, but even his own life! *"You had become dear to us"*.
- **Churchplanters are hard working parents.** v9 labor and hardship.. working night and day.. not burdening others, preaching the gospel of God.
- **Churchplanters are people of integrity.** v10 *You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers.*
- **Churchplanters are great leaders.** v11 a father to his own children. Encouraging, comforting, imploring so that children will walk worthy of God (to live to honor God). They implement and facilitate God's will for the church people. They respect God's call on people's life! They understand it is GOD who calls them to His kingdom and glory!

*“Proverbs for Church Planters”***WORSHIP IN A NEW CHURCH****A TEMPLATE FOR CHURCH SERVICE****FOR NEW CHURCHPLANT:**

ACT 2:42-47 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Starting a new church is like driving a bus. You start from first gear: maybe slow but it has power!.

You shift gear as it gains speed - you use the momentum and apply speed gears as you accelerate.

In other words: you plan your services for new converts - knowing these are new believers, forming new habits and culture. It must be different from regular Sunday event of your home church!

WORSHIP IN A NEW CHURCH (continued)

Here are some of the features you should include:

1. **Foundational Teachings.** *Apostle's doctrine:* This is more of content than method (you can teach, preach, dramatize, sing, show movie, Q and A). But must be basic indoctrinations for beginners. MILK of the word. The building blocks of faith: elementary and foundational doctrines, example HEB 6:1-2
2. **Fellowship Time:** *devoted ..to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread* -community relationship that could go beyond acquaintance. Knowing each other, and valuing each other; Sharing life and work, sharing joy and sadness, giving to each other, eating together, helping one another. Building a strong link that goes beyond handshake! Training them to love the brotherhood. Fellowship was a Celebration. It also had regularity, daily! And it happens everywhere: publicly and from house to house. What is "Linga-Longa" fellowship? It is when we extend time to stay with one another (Linger longer).
3. **Prayer and Power:** *devoted .. to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles..* Practice pentecostalism. Give opportunity for God to show His power! Give your new converts an experience of the supernatural. Demonstrate God's love and omnipotence! Pray for miracles. People's faith will stand not on the wisdom of men but in the power of God!
4. **Sharing and Caring:** *44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.* You facilitate this among new converts. When you build a caring church, you build loyalty; you build an attractive church! A God-glorifying church. *"That they may see your good deeds and glorify God."*
5. **They Evangelize and Attract people to Jesus everyday.** *"..and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."* They have intentionality in evangelizing others, they have gained the favor of the community.

WORSHIP IN A NEW CHURCH (continued)

A LINEUP OF A WORSHIP EVENT (Suggestion)

1. **Welcome.** 5 Minutes: Greetings and ushering.. you are glad to see them, you miss them and their company.
2. **Wizeup.** 15 Minutes: Question and Answer portion: This helps new converts find answers to their doubts and question. This also equips them how to answer those who ask them.
3. **Worship:** 30 Minutes: Sing the songs of salvation, of praise and worship - in their language. Teach them how to express to God what they have in their hearts. Teach them how to enjoy God, and get excited with God. Lead them how to worship God in Spirit and in truth.
4. **Warfare:** 10 Minutes: Flow from worship (where you are aware of God's presence and power) to warfare (where you pray for people's needs). *In His presence there is fullness of joy, in His right hand are pleasures forevermore. Submit yourself to God and resist the devil and he will flee from you!* Believe God for the impossible.
5. **Word:** 45 Minutes: preach or teach. Speak as though it is the very word of God. Enjoy sharing, and they will enjoy listening; Feed them. Give a good, passionate altar call. Speak to the heart!
6. **Work:** 15 Minutes: After the closing prayer, do not dismiss them. Let them stay to plan for "What is next". Assign work to them, visiting those absent, inspire them to invite other people to church! Reading assignments, cooking ministries,

Through the years, I found out that creativity in the conduct of Church is the key to having church.

10 Ministry Principles I Wish I Knew When I Started

by Brady Boyd



Brady Boyd: "No matter how hard I try, I will always be tempted to measure my success by attendance numbers."

I have been a pastor for about 15 years now, and it has mostly been a fantastic journey with some of the best people on the planet. I did not attend seminary or have much formal training when I started out, but I sure wish someone had told me these ten things in the beginning.

1. Sheep bites can't kill me, but the gnawing will make life miserable a few days each year.
2. No matter how hard I try, I will always be tempted to measure my success by attendance numbers.
3. The best thing I can do to build and grow God's kingdom is to be myself and not compare myself to others.

10 Ministry Principles I Wish I Knew When I Started (continued)

- 4.** It takes a long time to become old friends so nurture and cherish the old friendships God has given me.
- 5.** I will only have as much spiritual authority as I am willing to submit to myself. Independence will destroy me, but there is power in submission.
- 6.** If it were easy, everyone would be doing it. Challenge people to go deeper even when the message is unpopular.
- 7.** My brain will always feel like scrambled eggs on Sunday afternoon so don't make any major decisions until Tuesday morning.
- 8.** Some people will only trust you after a really long time of proving yourself, and another group will never trust you no matter what you do.
- 9.** Don't feel guilty about taking a Sabbath. It was not a suggestion.
- 10.** I will never regret spending time with my family instead of saying yes to a church meeting that someone else could lead.

GROWTH OF NEW BELIEVERS: Part 1

Your authenticity as a Churchplanter is reflected in the authenticity of your converts. The critics will say, "His converts are fake - he must be a fake apostle!". This was the challenge Paul was facing when he wrote this letter to his Churchplant in Thessalonica.



1TH 1:2-3

2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

ABC Growth Versus Transformational Growth: While others today talk about "Attendance-Building-Cash" (ABC growth) to measure their churchplanting success, authentic churchplanters are aiming at spiritual life and transformational growth of believers.

We must beware, because today's churchplanters can easily fall into materialistic traps which could be categorized as "mask to cover up greed" -1TH 2:5. The godly focus is on the areas where God Himself is causing them to grow!

Growth should be an important matter to the Churchplanter because it is of much importance to God the Father!

Transformational Growth: When sinners repent and become followers of the Lord Jesus, they become "brand new" inside. The old is gone and the new has come. Churchplanters facilitate this growth, like watering a new plant. The Initial growth of new church could be in three areas: Faith, Love and Hope.

"Proverbs for Church Planters"

GROWTH OF NEW BELIEVERS: Part 1 (continued)

1. Faith must become active enough to produce "work", otherwise faith will die, for faith without works is dead! Churchplanters must build people's faith in God, resulting in godliness and good works.

- They must desire (like Paul) to be able to "supply what is lacking" in people's faith, 1TH 3:10.
- They must see to it that they are strengthened and encouraged in their faith, 1TH 3:2.
- They must find out how to protect their faith from the evil one, 1TH 3:5

2. Love must become strong enough to produce "labor", otherwise love will be lazy and fade away. Jesus said that love for Him will make us obey Him. Churchplanters should help people grow in the love of God and for each other, that their "love increase and overflow." 1TH 3:12

- They must be lovers of people themselves, 1TH 2:7-8 willing to share not just the gospel but their lives too!
- They must encourage believers to love each other.. more and more, 1TH 4:9-10
- They must structure the church as a loving and forgiving community, 1TH 5:12-15

3. Hope must be so inspiring enough to produce patience and endurance, otherwise they will lose heart and give up! Hope must be strong especially in the midst of trials and persecution, 1TH 3:3-4. Churchplanters must prepare the new church for future shocks.

- They must warn them about the inevitable persecution because of their new relationship with Jesus.
- They must tell them about the promises of God, about the second coming, about the rapture and the hope of the church, 1TH 5:13-18
- They must lead them to celebrate the hope of salvation, 1TH 5:8-9

Faith, love, hope. The eternal areas of life that must be cultivated. These are the areas in fact that will remain. 1CO 13:13 COL 1:5 1TH 5:8

"Proverbs for Church Planters"**GROWTH OF NEW BELIEVERS: Part 2****Minding Their "*Faith in God*"**

1TH 1:6-10 These were Pagans, idol-worshippers, selfish, materialistic sinners. How can the Churchplanter minister effectively to them for a genuine conversion to the Living God?

Here's a good roadmap to follow in monitoring our converts' faith in God:

**1. Their Reception:**

6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us.

- **People will read Your Life:** The first message they will hear is - YOU! That is the reason why in reaching the whole World, the LORD started with discipling, transforming, empowering those original apostles! The Churchplanter sets the foundation of faith for the new church: The LORD Jesus Christ - 1CO 3:10-11. But then, the Churchplanter is the first person they will know HIM from! -- "*You know how we lived among you..you became imitators of us and of the Lord.*"
- **People will receive Your Message:** They must welcome your message. Paul later advised Timothy, another churchplanter: 1TI 4:16 *Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*
- **People will value the message:** In spite of suffering -(they saw it on you, in the first place), they will welcome it with joy and obedience! The Holy Spirit will help them enjoy and endure!

"Proverbs for Church Planters"

2. Their Response:

7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

- **To Trust God.** 8b *"your faith in God has become known everywhere."* It was an outstanding faith!
- **To Witness for God:** As they say, the mission field became a missionary force! The Lord's message rang out from them in their province and beyond.. everywhere! They became *"a model to all the believers"*.-- Interesting Note: Thessalonica was a hub of communication, travel and trade. It was the capital city of Macedonia. As a churchplanting strategy: it was a great investment to build this church - to reach other people for the Lord!
- **To Worship the Living God:** This churchplant is a joy to behold in their conversion. They turned to God from idols to start serving the Living God. There is no ambivalence in their faith. No need to worry about the genuineness of their conversion.
- **To Wait for Jesus' return:** Their understanding of the gospel is thorough: Jesus came, died, lived again, ascended to heaven, and is coming again! They also know the purpose of His return: to rescue us from the coming wrath (tribulations or judgment). Hope is built on this!

Conclusion: The churchplanter is not only concerned about how converts begin, but also how they grow, become servants of the Living God, and how they would go out and spread the good news to others, and how they could continue doing it in the midst of difficulties and sufferings. They wait for Jesus - yes. Meanwhile they serve Jesus!

IN DUE TIME

Churchplanting respects "due time".

You cannot hurry life, whether in plant or animal world. A pregnancy has a full-term and a due date! A harvest of a crop has its due time of harvest.

GAL 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

- **Wait.** It is the action of hope, the attitude of patience, the motivation of work! - It says, "Not yet". - Do not give up. Do not breakdown before you have a breakthrough! - Ripeness can wait. - Patience is better than pride (Pride wants to impress, to boast about how quick and how instant your harvest is).
- **Work.** It is what you do while waiting! - It says, "Do not stop, do not be weary in doing good". - You put effort and work creatively - for results. You maintain progress towards it. - Implement your action plan. Work hard.





GO YE, AND

Church planting should be disciple-making from the start.

- ♥ To "make disciples" is the direct order of the Lord Jesus, and we better focus on that. This again is a "major-major" thing in ministry.
- ♥ The process of making disciple starts even before the actual conversion, and goes on further to maturity, ministry and missions!
- ♥ This means that discipleship effort does not begin only when they have been baptized in water and become member of the church (as I was taught to believe, a long time ago!)

The process is a cycle (repeated continuously) and not a line (with a start and finish, and then - done).

**WHY ARE WE
PLANTING
CHURCHES?**

Luke 4:18 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.”

"Proverbs for Church Planters"

My midnight musings on this question from God (Ezekiel 37:1-3)

CAN THESE BONES LIVE? [1]



I could not sleep because I could not shake it off. I have been thinking and praying about an AWAKENING; a REVIVAL that I thought we really need. *"Can these bones live?"*

(1) The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

THE LORD WANTS TO INVOLVE ME.

He overpowers me. *The Hand of the Lord was upon me.*

He orients me about the real state of things. *The Spirit of the Lord set me out in the middle of a valley.* (It is a big-sized spiritual need.)

He's showing me how "dead" things are: *full of bones.*

He is making me feel how depressing things are: *middle of a valley.*

(More..)

CAN THESE BONES LIVE? [2]

(2) He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.

THE LORD TRIES TO INTENSIFY MY AWARENESS.

He wants me to survey the need - *He led me back and forth among them.*

He wants me to see the seriousness of the need.

How numerous it is. *I saw a great many bones, very dry.*

How widespread it is. *On the floor of the valley.*

How long has it been this way. *They were very dry.*

[3] He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

THE LORD COMES TO INSPIRE MY FAITH

He challenges me if I can believe the impossible. *Can these bones live?*

He challenges me if I can see what could be possible. *Can these .. live?*

He challenges me. Can I trust Him to do it.

O Sovereign LORD, You alone know.



(More..)

CAN THESE BONES LIVE [3]



After writing what I thought God was trying to do to me
I was able to rest.

In the morning, I am more committed to be involved for
an Awakening.

I am more aware and convinced of the real need for it.
and I am more challenged and inspired to see God doing and
performing it.

God bless you more.

INSIGHTS



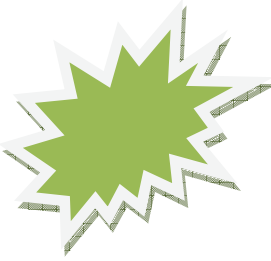
- **If we cannot visualize, we cannot organize.**
- **If we cannot organize, we cannot actualize.**

- **Church planting is about how we work together.**

- **There are things that we, as local churches, should be doing separately without interference from others, but Church planting and missions is not one of them.**

- **Urgency initiated by circumstance and deadlines creates pressure. But when we have a sense of it from within, it creates diligence and promptness.**

INSIGHTS



- A building plan starts in the minds of architects and engineers, then they plot it on those blueprints. That to me is destiny. From that time onward everything they do is dictated by that "destiny": Hiring of workers, purchase of materials. It's a wonder how much of that (destiny) influences the daily schedules, efforts and determination. Once you know what it will be, that's where your direction will be.
- As a Pastor and Trainer, I spy around a lot, to discover what God is doing in the lives of the young believers in terms of calling and serving. Once I sense that God is touching the hearts of certain individuals, I give them some a sort of "second look" and in conversation I poke them a bit on how they are experiencing God. It is a good way to identify future leaders.

NEED FOR NEW BREED

Effective church planting is the direct result of effective ministry of the WORD. God must speak and be heard. People must believe and live. It is when the choice word, God's Word is preached to people - and when people accept it as the actual word of God that faith is validated, and vitalized.

How can we fulfill the Great Commission with the present state of the Church? It will take a long time for people to realize that the answer is in the making of disciples and sending them as apostles, like Jesus did.

The old church is slow in responding to this mandated method! The majority of the saved too, exempted themselves from the great commission, either by ignorance or intent. The minority of the saved have elevated themselves into elite reverends, enjoying the monopoly of the clergy who failed to disciple the laity, thereby creating a need for themselves.

While the traditional church seemed to exclude so many saints from the ministry, the devil commissions everybody to serve him.

The Young, New Breed of the Church will stop this nonsense, and OBEY the LORD, without hesitation. And they may have to "break tradition to fulfill HIS Mission!"

MOTIVATION FOR OUR ACTIONS

Deuteronomy 10:17-19 New International Version (NIV) ¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. ¹⁸ He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. ¹⁹ And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

Isaiah 1:17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷ Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed¹
Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

Jeremiah 7:6-7 New International Version (NIV)⁶ if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, ⁷ then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever

Zechariah 7:10 New International Version (NIV)¹⁰ Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.

Psalms 72:13 New International Version (NIV) ¹³ He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

Psalms 113:7 New International Version (NIV) ⁷ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap;

Psalms 140:12 New International Version (NIV) ¹² I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.

Isaiah 10:1-2 New International Version (NIV) ¹ Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.

OUR ACTIONS

- ❖ **Holistic Approach** of meeting the need to the Total Man by serving in Christ’s Name towards Total Transformation of the man. Prosper the soul, prosper the man. Holistic Message.

- ❖ Strategy of applying the Inclusive Policy of reaching the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned and in the “principle of equality” **let the “Haves” help the “Have-Nots”**. *To whom much is given, much is required. “From the least of them to the greatest of them will know the Lord.”*

- ❖ **Social Action** – (New amendment in AOG-US Constitution, on the Purpose of the Movement). Church Involvement in Community Service. *[Mic.6:8] Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly.*

- ❖ **Pentecostal Empowerment** - Baptism of the Holy Spirit; Walking in the Spirit.

On the functions of anointing: Preach the Good News to the Poor; Heal the Sick and Broken; Set Captives Free; Comfort those who mourn; Build God’s People; Proclaim God’s Time.

IN THE LORD, NO LABOR IS IN VAIN.

Church planters should hold this promise close to their hearts.

How we help to build lives in Christ - helping people trust Him, call on Him, love Him, learn from Him, labour for Him - all this humble service will be remembered.



**DON'T SPEND A LIFETIME BUILDING
SOMETHING THAT ISN'T GOING TO
LAST INTO ETERNITY.**

**YOU NEED TO BUILD AN ALTAR
FOR GOD TO VISIT NOT JUST A
BUILDING FOR PEOPLE TO FILL.**



SOME PROFOUND THOUGHTS ON PRAYER



**Let us NOT make 'praying' an end in itself.
Or a perpetual goal -
It should be a MEANS to an end. Let's push into God's presence!**

**In the 70's wave of revivals in many charismatic meetings,
we would "pray until something happens" (P.U.S.H.)**

**Pray in these levels..
Ask. Seek. Knock. In that increasing degree of persistence and
importunity; until the "door shall be opened" and we stand in His
presence!**

Then

**LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY - cleanse us, redeem us, repair us,
purify us, discipline us, operate on us, break us and bind us, purge
us, humble us, redirect us..**

Whatever He wants.

NOW!

HE IS LORD.

TEN REASONS WHY I HATE CHURCH PLANTING!

[I am sorry but here they are.]

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

NONE!

That is all.

STOP SHARING YOUR FAITH

- If you believe that people's goodness or religion can save them;
- If you are convinced that Jesus Christ is NOT the only way to the Father;
- If you know in your heart that there is no hell OR heaven, that there is none to escape from and none to long for;

“Proverbs for Church Planters”

GOD HAS A PLAN

- ✓ **God has a Plan.** To take back the kingdom from the Enemy, and to build His Church on earth. Like the prayer: *“Let your kingdom come, let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* The Redeemer has come, and the King of Kings is coming back. In between that space is the work of global missions, *“occupy till I come.”*
- ✓ **The job is not yet done.** There is the problem of Delay. Distraction. Disobedience. Division. – and, of course, the Devil. The urgency of this is plain but ignored by many. ***But the Holy Spirit is here, and the Lord of the Harvest is taking charge. The march is restarted, the faithful are regrouping, the adventurers are running to the frontline, the missions enterprise is rebooting... Church Planting everywhere will take place!***
- ✓ **The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.** ***The expansion of the Church from Jerusalem will extend to the ends of the whole earth. The gospel shall be preached to all the world before the end comes. And the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the whole earth as the waters cover the sea. Let it be. AMEN!***

SOME THOUGHTS:

Urgency initiated by circumstance and deadlines creates pressure. But when we have a sense of it from within, it creates diligence and promptness.

God bless all the hard-working Church Planters out there.
Night is coming when no man can work.

CHURCH PLANTING SHARPENS:

"If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength, but wisdom helps one succeed."

-Ecc.10:10

DEVIL-AWARE?

The church planter must be God-Aware. He knows that Jesus is with him to the ends of the age!

But the Church Planter Must Also Be Devil-Aware:

Early in his conversion, Saul (later, called Paul) received this mandate from Jesus Christ Himself:

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

READ THIS OUT IN A VERY LOUD VOICE!

We are not surprised or overwhelmed by what we face in the church planting targets. We are fully aware that this is a Spiritual War, and we are bringing in Christ's dominion in these places.

Satan cannot forever monopolize these people and places. He is a squatter in God's world in these places, and his permit has expired!

We are dispossessing the enemy and opening the way for Jesus to reign!

Jesus is building His Church in these towns. Those who want to oppose, will please surrender now!

Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Let Him be Lord. Now!

DON'T BELITTLE LITTLE

I like the fact that the Lord Jesus started with 12 people. That was small a number by the standard of "belittlers" today whose pride always advertises an impressive number.

Jesus said that the number of believers that could gather to make an effective prayer meeting is TWO or THREE. Ah, but that is too small a group to make it to a web blog, that even if you capitalize the headline, the "2 or 3 Prayer Meeting" will fail getting attention of belittlers.

The seed is always smaller than the plant that it will eventually become. The disciples one time asked the Lord to increase their faith. Instead, He pointed out to them the power in the mustard-seed-size faith - that it can command the mountain to move away.

If you are starting a Big Work, it is ok to start small. Almost everything BIG now actually started small yesterday.

Despise not small beginnings.

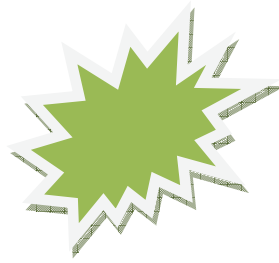
RECRUITING OTHERS TO HELP YOU:

When you are pioneering a church, you tend to monopolize the work of ministry, for several reasons:

- ✚ I'm the only one here trained to do this. (So why not take time to train them; what are you equippers for?)
- ✚ My new-converts are too young to take up responsibilities. (You would not know that until you let them try. God gives gifts. God calls them at once. Acts 9:19-21; 26:15-18; Phm.6)
- ✚ What if they fail. (You raise them up again, part of training; part of risk-taking. Starters and beginners have the right to fail, too. Ministry is not for mean-spirited perfectionists. God has to risk too, when He called you.)
- ✚ I don't know how to recruit and train. (Try to repeat your own training. MTM, Motivate-Train-Mobilize. Try The Shepherd Staff. Try on-the-job. Try tears.)

Just today, I found this webpage:
http://www.ericbryant.org/article_recuiting.html

INSIGHTS

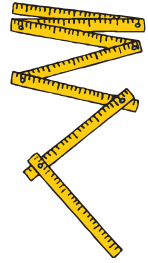


- A building plan starts in the minds of architects and engineers, then they plot it on those blueprints. That to me is destiny. From that time onward everything they do is dictated by that "destiny": Hiring of workers, purchase of materials. It's a wonder how much of that (destiny) influences the daily schedules, efforts and determination. Once you know what it will be, that's where your direction will be.
- As a Pastor and Trainer, I spy around a lot, to discover what God is doing in the lives of the young believers in terms of calling and serving. Once I sense that God is touching the hearts of certain individuals, I give them some a sort of "second look" and in conversation I poke them a bit on how they are experiencing God. It is a good way to identify future leaders.

[1] THE RULE OF YOUR RULE

HOW SHOULD LEADERS RULE?

HERE'S THE Rule:



But about the Son he says, *"Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the sceptre of your kingdom. [9] You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."* – [HEB 1:8-9 (NIV)]



Spiritual Leaders should rule like the Son: -
IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- The Sceptre, the authority of your rule, is righteousness. Therefore by this you are protected (because righteousness is a weapon) and by this you are established (because that is the nature and quality of God's everlasting rule, a throne that will last forever).
- Righteousness or Justice (in other translations) is the practice of making things right: leaders should love righteousness and hate wickedness. He lives right, thinks right, and pursues what is right.
- Pursuing it first. This is not about whether you win or lose (which is so human and will entrap leaders into giving up what is right, just to win) but ... are you righteous, are you doing what is right?
Are you making things right?



This is not being legalistic (for that is not right).
This is not licentiousness, a wrong application of grace and mercy..
(for that is not right either.)
This is mercy and truth, this is love for truth, where love does not rejoice with evil - but rejoices when truth comes! (More ..)

“Proverbs for Church Planters”**[2] THE RULE**

This is ruling, tempered with godly compassion but also godly fear. It will involve punishing the wicked and rewarding the righteous. [ROM. 13]

This will involve resisting the proud, but giving grace to the humble. Is this not God's way?

In seeking FIRST the rule of God (kingdom of God) and His Righteousness (what's right according to the King), then He will take care of you. He will win, He never loses.



Moral Conviction: You love it when things are right; you hate it when things are wrong.- MSG.

Commitment to what is right will bless everyone, except the evil one and his agents. The wicked will twist what is right. He will humiliate it, he will belittle it, and he will hide it. The spiritual leader is wise. He will not compromise. He knows that eventually, God will set this kind of leadership above others.



Anointing..of JOY from God. *The rule that is righteous will result in joy.* The faithful will see it and be glad. The poor will see it and celebrate. The oil of Joy will be worth it all.

LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS

There are direct instructions in God's Word that are addressed to Leaders, particularly leaders in the church. Once in a while, you read some that are addressed to FOLLOWERS, like this one:

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. [ESV, HEB 13:17].

FOLLOWERS MUST:

- Obey your spiritual leaders, like you trust them.
- Submit to their authority, recognizing that they are over you.
- Understand that they are God-sent to keep watch over your souls.
- Take note that they will give an account of their job to God Himself.
- Make it easy for them to lead you with joy and not with grief.
- Be warned that if they are not happy anymore doing it, that they will still do it but to your own disadvantage. (too bad)

IF YOU ARE A SPIRITUAL LEADER:

- Provide humble and caring leadership that is worthy of trust.
- Always exercise authority in submission to God.
- Be faithful in watching over people's soul, for you will give an account of these to God.
- Endure the difficulty of leading some disobedient, disrespectful and un-submissive people
- Carry the burden of the work and stay there EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY ANYMORE!
- Discover how they would handle an unhappy leader!.

Hey, this verse implies that **GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE**. It does not suggest that you run away, and abandon your flock. It does suggest that it will not be good for these rebellious followers!

Take heart. God bless.

None-Day:



Because of the nature of our schedule in church and ministry, we have been for years, using MONDAY as Day-Off. Weekdays are just full of events all throughout, climaxing on Sundays.

But Day-Off/Monday could suddenly become Day-Ops.. (you know.. oops, oops..surprise, surprise). Then your resting day is gone. It becomes Day-Opts (options, haha).

Eventually, we started calling Monday as Noneday. It would signal to friends that it is our day of no-appointments whatsoever. In other words, only God can interfere, but no other.

Now, you can get your own Noneday. And unwind, rest before God.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN GIANT:



When I was starting out in the ministry, I was overwhelmed by the volume of work that demanded my attention: Follow-up visitations, Bible studies, Sermon Preparations, song translations, radio broadcast, janitorial work, family, church board meetings, etc. Then there's the Plans I have to implement to grow the church - that I impose on myself, because I do not want to be pulled here and there and pushed by all kinds of demands from outside. Add to that are the expectations of friends and other pastors who expect me to be like Cho Yonggi in a month's time!!

But I received this advise that helped my cope-ability in the face of mounting challenges: "You don't have to run to all the battlefronts. Choose the battle you will fight. Pick the giant you want to kill, and don't bother about killing them all at the same time." - This in fact, gave God a chance to do the rest for me.

So, Churchplanters, pick your own giant, and yield the rest to God!

WEEP WITH THOSE THAT WEEP

During a meeting of APAGF in Singapore, a question was asked: how do we take care of our soul. Among the leaders, 15 of whom were General Superintendents from Asia Pacific, the reference mostly was on our "emotional life".

They shared how their sports relieve them of the tension from their job.

Others, especially the more elderly, spoke about their "grand-children" and the relief they all bring.

Some shared about resting and sleeping to feel reinvigorated; about Jesus who gives rest while under His yoke.

Among others, I drew attention to the power of shared sorrow - yes sorrows that your friends share with you. The pathos of others has the power to make you "feel" again, to cry again and to be emotional again.



“Proverbs for Church Planters”

SORROW is better than laughter; for by the sadness of the face the heart is made good. -World English Bible.

As a pastor and leader, I can attest that EMOTION is the thing that is easily depleted inside, that easily dries up and reaches a crisis within our soul. Reasoning cannot replace the emptiness of an unfeeling soul - it masks it. Nor can you just "will" to be sharp and sensitive again - pretence from thinking positively cannot solve it. "Memory" will emphasize the state and the fact that the consequence of pastoral involvement in this ministry is killing your "emotion" and ability to feel.

BUT in getting involved with another's pain - to weep when they weep, or laugh when they laugh and to overcome - this cultivates the emotional life, and resharpen your sensitivity for others.

I notice this when I visit funerals or just listen to the sad stories of friends. It fires my desire to intercede, and to pray. Maybe this is God's remedy for leaders who may have lost sensitivity for others. They have hardened their personality - almost unfeeling, almost cold like the refrigerator! They cannot empathize or sympathize. They are distant; they become unemotional, even harsh. They are unable to shed a tear! They are abrasive, unfit as a friend, unfit as a leader, or as partner or parent!

O my God, keep me alive in my soul. Let it not be dead within me. Make me feel; make me cry for others, for the lost, for the grieving. LORD you are a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief. Thank you for crying, and interceding for us. Equip me too, to connect with others, to pray for them, to intercede for them.



And thank you for the simple things that give me joy, things that make me laugh again. O LORD, make my soul fat with rejoicing, make my joy complete!

“Proverbs for Church Planters”

REMEMBER THE 4 ACES OF A CHURCH PLANTER?

1 Aggressive, 2 Adaptable, 3 Abiding, 4 Astute

You carry these "Apat na Alas" with you, which spells not only your survival but also your success in Church Planting.

But once in awhile you would want to share your insights with your fellows, and also learn from their rich experience.

I wish we can have a whole conference just for Church Planters.. What say ye?? Anyway, enjoy this piece from Brady Boyd.



MAKE IT TO GIVE IT:

Pioneering work is such a money-intensive work, especially in the urban centers where everything has a price tag.

We need to pray for the financial support of our new churchplants.

We need to participate in the giving. Our family always give above (besides) our tithes and offerings for missions.

We need to make money in order to give it away. Because God gives us power to produce wealth, He gives us also the passion to contribute to others and be a blessing.

We need to give thanks to God for those who are really active in the support of missions. God bless you all.

PLANTING TO GROW

(a response to a Pastor):



Church planting is not entirely separate from church growth!

Can you focus on one to set aside another?

These aspects of church life are a continuum of one thing.

If the birth is healthy, it will grow healthily - even if it has troubles along the way. It is like your own birth.

Then the process of growing takes place with pains and pleasures. Time then comes when you reproduce in fruitfulness... and then on and on.

Thank you so much for your thoughts on this. I value them so much because I had the same concerns for a long, long time - the meagre results, the backslidings, the church splits, the lack of spiritual growth, the lack of fruitfulness among believers. And - if I may add without offense - among pastors too. People are still human beings.. But I try to work on my faithfulness issue, to the Lord and ministry. Then I know that God gives the increase, He causes things to grow! Sometimes after your lifetime, it happens.

“Proverbs for Church Planters”



THE LESSONS OF BIRTHING:

John 16:21 (NIV) A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.

THERE'S A TIME OF PAIN. It is a scheduled time for a woman to give birth. It is inescapable. It is painful. *(Long rides, spending a lot, walking under the summer sun, not enough water, sleepless nights, fasting, praying, mosquitoes, sleeping on concrete, knocking on doors).*



THERE'S A TIME OF JOY. It announces that a child is born into the world. It ends the anguish, forgets the pain.

It overshadows anything bad, sad or mad. *(Bible Study classes opened, good contact, converts, healing, baptisms, Holy Spirit, miracles, Answered Prayers, Core Group, a new church plant).*

THERE'S GREAT JOY IN HEAVEN among the angels for even one sinner that repents! - The reaper and the sower will rejoice together.

Taking Soul-winning Outside the Church [1]: Possible Reasons Why

- 1. Sinners don't go to church, because** they operate on a default system of staying out of church.
- 2. Church people do not know**, and are not trained how to effectively invite people to church. No tools and no good words to say.
- 3. The Church service was not designed to be meaningful** for the invited guests: the style, the songs, and the vocabulary -- totally strange to them.
- 4. Pastor's Sunday Message is not tailored for the unsaved**, and does not really target the unsaved. He also needs to learn how to do altar calls.
- 5. There are always more people outside** the church than we could pack inside our church buildings. That's a fact!



Taking Soul-winning Outside the Church [2]:

6. Church Service is confined to a Sunday schedule, and limits the opportunity for evangelism. Soul-winning schedule takes any day of the whole week - more flexible and dynamic with many options and variety of aspects; and the chance of many events happening simultaneously.

7. Soul-winning out there in the community will get more church people to be involved and to have a chance to stand and lead, breaking the monopoly of few over-involved people in a given Sunday.

8. Unlike the formal and limited time in Sunday Service, there is more inter-action, and friendship development that take place outside the church, conducive to evangelism and soul-winning.

Well, I believe there are more reasons than these.

Let's get out where the sinners are.

And while we are still at it, why not plan to join SOS to experience more of what we are talking about??

“Proverbs for Church Planters”

EVANGELISM PHASE:

In churchplanting cycle, this is 1st Stage.

- Your message in preaching is cutting-edge evangel, (good news) that gives life.
- You empower the Spirit-filled church to enter the supernatural works of God and to minister to others.
- You equip your new church to evangelize through their network of friends (don't tell them to cut their connection with friends, rather use this for evangelistic appointments)
- You tag-along your new church and spend time with unbelievers, showing how to be a witness and a servant of the LORD.
- You give time (about 15 Minutes) for Question and Answer in the early part of your regular Sunday Service. (not a debate. You can stage a question uppermost in the mind of new converts and answer them from the Book)
- You protect your new church from persecution by preparing their heart and mind for the inevitable as Jesus did, and teaching them how to answer back with respect, as Jesus did.
- As much as possible, have regular fellowship with new converts during the week in the atmosphere of encouragement, affirmation, testimonies, prayer, and FOOD. Mabuhay ang Bagong Church!



*“Proverbs for Church Planters”***THE SEED IS NOT THE PROBLEM**

Matthew 13:-19 (ESV) [19] *When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.*

Luke 8:5,11-12 (ESV) *A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. [11] Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. [12] The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.*

Nothing is wrong with the seed, it is the Word of God. Nothing is wrong with the sowing, The seed was sown in the heart.

Situational Problem 1: The hearer does not understand it. (not clear? Not acceptable? Not convincing?)

Situational Problem 2: The hearer stands in the "pathway and the traffic of evil".

Root Problem: The Devil, the evil. Takes away the word from their hearts.

Results: The devil's intent. The hearer does not believe. The hearer is not saved.

PREACH THE WORD:

How do I sense that “the preaching” is God’s Word
(apart from the fact that it’s from the Holy Bible)

?

- 1) It discloses God’s thoughts and God’s ways – and **NOT** mans’. *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.” [Isa. 55:8]*
- 2) It distances God’s thoughts and God’s ways **FROM** mans’, *“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” [Isa. 55:9]*
- 3) It desires the flourishing and fruitfulness of **LIFE**. As: *“watering the earth, making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater.” [Isa. 55:10]*
- 4) It does God’s desire and purpose, *“so is my word It ...will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” [Isa 55:11]*

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THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD:

The Church Planter needs to have a strong Ministry of the Word. He must develop this “feeding” job as major-major priority. When to give milk and when to serve meat is both a science and an art. The new church is very dependent on this.



Early on, the leaders of the Church set this as more important than other ministries. [Act. 6:4]

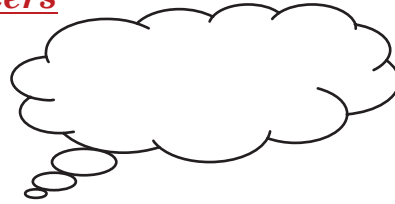
Paul mentioned about the ministry of life and the ministry of death. If we are not careful, our ministry can produce death. But with the Spirit in us, we produce life. [2Co. 3:6]



I noticed lately by listening to preachers (newbies and oldies) that there is an urgent need to improve our “Ministry of the Word”.

I am praying that our preachers will give prime value in improving their Ministry of the Word.

“Proverbs for Church Planters”



Effective church planting is the direct result of effective ministry of the WORD. God must speak and be heard. People must believe and live.

It is when the choice word, God's Word, is preached to people and when people accept it as the actual word of God that faith is validated, and vitalized

I pray that our churches will become "great commission churches". Let us revive the work of soul-winning, it will make us wise. It will cause growth in the kingdom.

Psa. 84:1,4-5 (NIV) How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! [4] Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. Selah [5] Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

THE MOST EXPENSIVE ITEM IN THE WORLD: (1)

*"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?" Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" –
Matt.16:26 (ESV)*

Here's a statement on profit and loss. Here's the tendency of man to value the world and aspire for it, and on the other hand, devalue his soul and neglect it.

Here's the willingness of man to forfeit his soul to gain the world. and the question is - how much investment will he put up in case he wants his soul back? Could we really estimate the price tag of souls? How do you trade in these things?

When we give money to missions, when we invest valuable resources in soul-winning or church planting, we count it as sooo expensive! I meet pastors who love God, no doubt, but do not agree with God that souls are worth the expense! They have no mission budget, and avoid the challenge of giving for missions, altogether.

THE MOST EXPENSIVE ITEM IN THE WORLD: (2)

I believe that the most expensive part of Church life is not missions involvement, like supporting missionaries and church planters.

The most expensive part is the non-involvement, when we withhold support, and resource. It is when we let souls perish that we lose them - the most expensive items in the world. It is when we save money for self and for vain things that we value - that we squander heaven's wealth - SOULS!

"The LORD will work for us, for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few." - 1Sm.14:6b

“Proverbs for Church Planters”



WORTHY OF SUPPORT (1)

1Co. 9:9-11 (ESV) For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? [10] Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It

was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. [11] If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?

SENT AND SUPPORTED: ChurchPlanters are worthy of support. Now, some of you are supported by sponsoring church, friends or districts - the Senders; But in fact later and sooner, your new churchplant - the Receivers (of your ministry) should grow in stewardship to start sharing with you.

THE HOPE FACTOR: The Plowman, the Thresher - they work in the hope of sharing in the crop. Hope is not about how clever we are in manipulating the converts to start giving to us. It is not begging, or burdening others. Hope is about faith in God working in people's hearts - in spontaneous gratitude of sharing their good things with God's worker.

WORTHY OF SUPPORT (2)

SOWING AND REAPING: which is more valuable, the material or the spiritual? Answer: the Spiritual. Paul then asks, is it too much then, if we reap material things from you? Let's sow faithfully God's spiritual seeds in people. Just focus on that. Gal. 6:6 (ESV) One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. GRACE IN THE CHURCH. May the grace of God (2CO 8 and 9) work in all your converts. May you share faithfully. And may they share generously. GOD BLESS YOU ALL. Please pray, as we face the Challenge of financial support for churchplanters.

SEED ON FERTILE GROUND: I heard this quote this week: "Bet on those who are doing it best." If I want to contribute to something that will deliver greater impact, like, on missions, then I will bet on those who are doing it best. If I have a resource and I want it to bring about a greater good, then I will bet on those who are doing it best.



And if it is my last seed, and if given a chance to sow it where it will grow and bear fruit to benefit others beyond my life time, then I will bet on those who are doing it best.

And I won't forget those who are trying out, and are just starting, but trying hard to the utmost, then I will bet on these who are doing it best. SO HELP ME GOD!

THREE MAJOR NEEDS *for new Church Plants: In any order.*

- 1. To find a place for the workers to stay, and the Rent.***
- 2. To find a place to hold Church Ministries and
Worship Services, and the Rent.***
- 3. To support the workers regularly for the next 2 Years
(maximum time of support when there is a monthly
monitoring, following a Two-Year Scheme).***

What to Do:

Pray, Ask God for these needs.

Pray for Missions Sponsors among us who will get involved in a practical and generous way, and support these projects.

Pray if you can pledge an amount to support these needs for 2 Years. If you find it in your heart to support, contact your Local Church Pastor; or Your District; or us in the Home Missions Department. (What are we Assemblies of God for, if not to synergize as partners for the furtherance of the gospel?)

Remember, God says, "Ask."

AMEN!

OUR ACTIONS

- ❖ **Holistic Approach** of meeting the need to the Total Man by serving in Christ’s Name towards Total Transformation of the man. Prosper the soul, prosper the man. Holistic Message.

- ❖ Strategy of applying the Inclusive Policy of reaching the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned and in the “principle of equality” **let the “Haves” help the “Have-Nots”**. *To whom much is given, much is required. “From the least of them to the greatest of them will know the Lord.”*

- ❖ **Social Action** – (New amendment in AOG-US Constitution, on the Purpose of the Movement). Church Involvement in Community Service.
[Mic.6:8] Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly.

- ❖ **Pentecostal Empowerment** - Baptism of the Holy Spirit; Walking in the Spirit.

On the functions of anointing: Preach the Good News to the Poor; Heal the Sick and Broken; Set Captives Free; Comfort those who mourn; Build God’s People; Proclaim God’s Time.

THE CASE OF THE POOR

**Proverbs 13:23. Abundant food is in the fallow
ground of the poor,
but it is swept away by injustice.**

1. **Abundance** – It is a given. The potential is there. to “mine” or to “crop”. There is much wealth in the uncultivated fields of the poor.
2. **Fallow Ground** – Fallow ground is a farming term describing fields unploughed and uncultivated. Why is it uncultivated? Simplest answer is: **hopelessness**. No access to good education, no job opportunities, no startups,
3. **Injustice (Absence of Justice; Lack of fairness; Inequalities.)** The lack of justice is what keeps the poor from realizing the abundance that God has given them. The lack of fairness keeps the poor from experiencing the opportunities that you and I take for granted. God’s Word says, that there is abundance there for them, but something is keeping them from it. God has exhorted his people to take up the cause of the widow, orphan and stranger because these are the ones who get taken advantage of by the powerful.

URBAN SITUATIONS: PROBLEMS OR OPPORTUNITIES?

(1)

How did the Church grow from 70+ at the day of Pentecost to the point that 300 years later Constantine made Christianity the religion of the Roman Empire?

The historians that have studied this say it was accomplished by a 3% annual growth. It was not a result of a massive revival but rather by Christians engaging their world as salt and light.

For example, one of the activities discovered by historians was the practice of Christians rescuing abandoned babies and raising them. Another practice was Christians going to the garbage heaps and taking the dead bodies and burying them.

Jesus touched the untouchable of his society and this screamed to the world that there is something different about the gospel.

How could we likewise take on some of the crises in our country and bring about change with the impact of the gospel? There are opportunities like these in the urban neighbour-hoods of our country.

URBAN SITUATIONS: PROBLEMS OR OPPORTUNITIES? (2)

1. **People Congestion** – transporting and traffic problem, housing problem, commodity problem; environmental services, garbage and sewerage, education and health systems; power and water systems, employment problems,
2. **Social Evils** – night life, drug-sex trafficking, crimes, break-down of traditional family structure, child-women abuse, organized crimes (gambling, prostitution, kidnap for ransom, robberies, etc), Sodom and Gomorrah!
3. **Newness**: technology, cyberspace world, anti-social neighborhood, secularism, media, communication,

THE END IS BETTER THAN THE BEGINNING: [Ecc.7:8a]

It is not fair. It is not right to evaluate your missions work while you are still starting. Like a building construction, the starting of the project is messy, and chaotic. Nobody can appreciate the diggings for foundation and footing. And they cannot see the building yet, as finished product. The pioneering pastor, if he/she holds a vision of the new church plant, could be the only one who can have a germinal idea of what it will become. is a good example of that picture.

A beginning, like church planting always carries a promise - that the "end" would be better.



Work hard on it. Endure with it.

As it says, ‘patience is better than pride’. You do not need to impress others of your great beginning. It will only feed your pride. Believe it or not, pride comes before a fall. Dangerous!

What you need is the simple patience of a hard-worker. Paul says of the church he was working on, "you are God's field.

SOME INSIGHTS GLEANED

"Credentials and endorsements are big deals. We endorse the people we know. We are not omniscient, like Jesus. He knew all men, and did not need testimony about man, for He knew what was in man. Jn.24-25.

"Flattery feeds the insecurity of people and their desire for praise even if it is insincere and overdone. Mask is effective too, to lure others, because it hides the real and what could have been obvious - and projects what is acceptable and nice.

"How much "spiritual warfare" is in our Church planting work? Sometimes we do not know how to account for the falling away of our new converts, because we do not engage the enemy. "Submit yourself to God and resist the devil, and he will flee from you."



We seek the approval of God.
He is the one who hires us and fires us up!
He empowers, equips and evaluates. I hope that is clear.



“Proverbs for Church Planters”



Pray With Me:

Dear Lord, we praise you for opening doors that nobody can shut. The target towns experienced your presence and the preaching of Your Word. The sowing was done in tears.. Now Lord let there be a reaping with joy.

We pray that at the Grand Opening of new church plants Your presence will be the centre of these meetings. That they will know You, and love You and be devoted to you. Give these new believers the faith to obey the gospel, thus making them strong when waves and winds of persecution come. Make these new church plants unshakeable and unstoppable.

We lift to you these young pastors who are called to bring these churches to health and fruitfulness. Favour them as godly leaders. Deliver them from the traps of pride, greed, and carnal passions, building them up in godliness, in grace and humble service. Let them see visions and let them dream dreams. Build them strong, stronger than their fears. Increase their faith for provisions and protection. We believe that your eyes are on them.

Your fame will spread, O Lord, as your glory, over this nation. We love you and will serve you until your return. In Jesus' Name. AMEN.

“Proverbs for Church Planters”



They are brand new; they will

be groping into a new world of adventure. They need to be passionate and wise; and daring - unafraid to explore and expand.

They are builders. They will do the apostolic work of setting the foundation of the new church, a foundation that will determine shape, size, and strength. This Rock foundation is Jesus, of course. They will assume both the fathering and mothering role for the new church plant. They are just learning to be responsible for other people's growth with God. Pray that they will trust the Chief Shepherd for whatever.

They are brave. They went out without receiving

help from the pagans. They will have to trust God for their support, believing that the worker is worthy of his hire; that they will not be tempted to beg or become hireling shepherds. But they will learn godliness and contentment, which is great gain. They will find favour and will be surrounded by favour from God. As they minister to others, these "others" will minister back to them as well in a god-honouring way.

They are bold. They will be the ones who will usher

the church into the future - to become the kind of church that Jesus wants it to be. They will be evangelistic and empowering. They will lead the forceful advance of the church. They will not fear, falter or fail. They will be faithful, humble leaders at all times.

SO HELP THEM GOD!

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