

THE KINGDOM & CHURCH PLANTING

WE ARE LIVING IN AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH. WE ARE ABLE TO CONNECT IN WAYS THAT ARE PECULIAR TO US IN THIS POST-MODERN GENERATION THROUGH THE INTERNET, TEXT MESSAGING, SATELLITE IMAGING AND EASE OF TRAVEL. The Body of Christ in America is now able to effectively relate to their communities from Northern Virginia to Singapore! Through these opportunities, God is reminding us that we all have the responsibility to give our whole lives to God and to reach more people for Christ than ever before.

Just as the early church in the book of Acts would radically transform its world, I believe that God has unleashed His power for the church of today to do the same. One of the greatest strategies that the Lord is using today is the power of PLANTING locally and globally as churches cling to their calling as agents of change. The Kingdom of God is not about a building, institution, or agreed upon methodology of ministry. It is about the manifesting of the GLORY of God. For the majority of Kingdom driven church plants, three distinctives are evident which cause them to have Kingdom impact.

The first is **Obedience to Christ!** Obedience to God is truly born out of love, passion and reverence for God. Jesus said, "Whoever has my commands and obeys them he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father and I too will love him and show myself to him." Jesus also said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." He knows how to impact our culture and is just waiting for us to ask Him, listen to Him and courageously follow Him! If we are not careful, we will spend more time visiting the latest church planting conference, researching the latest and hippest Sunday morning celebration service and transferring someone else's newest



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marketing scheme instead of spending more time with God and responding to Him in obedience!

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Secondly, these Kingdom driven church plants **Value Community!** The size of our churches has little or nothing to do with the level of our spirituality or intimacy with Christ or others. In western culture we tend to value large instead of lasting. We tend to love numbers instead of neighbors. We tend to long for comfort rather than community. *Community* is best established in the context of a church awakened to the needs around her and responding in small groups and out in the workplace through Spirit-led interactions. *Communi-*

ty says I love you because Christ loves me and I am committed to you because He is committed to me. It refuses to put people into a functional box of ministry service and longs to embrace them in a relational network of transparent and healthy intimacy.

The good news is that we all have a part to play in His Kingdom. You are not too large to plant a small seed of influence and neither are you too small to become largely impactful for Him.

Finally, these Kingdom driven church plants birth **Transformational Expansion!** There is a spirit of healthy *Multiplication* through discipleship! Disciples making disciples. Pastors birthing and mentoring Pastors. Churches planting churches that impact communities. Communities changing the culture of regions and regions impacting the culture of a nation. Nations changing the world for Christ. A sense of Kingdom collaboration is ignited which blows up the modern myth of religious territorialism and replaces it with Christ-like connection. Then the Spirit of God is free to be released powerfully in an environment of transparent intimacy. Life is begotten, love is transferred and the Kingdom is expanded.

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