

## **Revisiting Our Manner of Ministry (Church Planting): Of Strategic Leaders and Strategic Churches (US Version)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We are now in several countries and in several continents and it is a good that we revisit the way we did ministry that caused all of these works so we can assess or evaluate our present condition. What motivated us before was to find the lost wherever God led us and to establish a community for them with the intention of multiplying our presence in still many unreached places with the planting of more churches. We were never contented of establishing one church but multiple churches because it made us reached more souls and that portion of the Kingdom of God has allotted to us has expanded that way. This process or this cycle cannot stop because if it is not remembered and it stops then our ability to realize God's purpose is compromised, minimized and even neutralized ...and that is the ability to reach the lost and to disciple the lost. We have countries that exploded in membership and in the number churches but there are also those that have remained stagnant, where growth is not felt or even noticed. As an organization we must continue to expand on what is working correctly and assist areas where growth is not being achieved.

### **I. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT**

The start of any of our ministry has been the presence of members desiring to group themselves so they can continue to study the word, worship and draw strength and healing from one another through fellowship. The goal is to achieve growth so a pastor can be sent or a pastor is identified from the group to lead the people towards growth, to become a strong church with the ability to multiply itself beyond its address and to access more people in other areas limited or constrained by distance. The key to growth has been the sending or the presence of a Strategic Leader that caused growth. We have seen this in UAE, with Dubai causing the explosion in the entire UAE so that churches are now in every emirate, in Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg. We saw this in British Columbia, a church from New Westminster

that planted churches in the cities of Surrey, Richmond and now Vancouver. The same goes to WIN LA that led to the planting of churches in Anaheim, Artesia, Inland Empire and the amalgamation of churches in Myanmar and Hong Kong. WIN Singapore as a central church has multiple services, home bible study groups located all over Singapore and was able to plant churches in Dallas, San Diego and koinonias in Canada, Australia and Norway. WIN East Toronto from North York has planted in the cities of Ajax and Brampton. The list can go on and I may have neglected other notable examples as this is not exhaustive but the point of the matter is these were caused by a Strategic Leader who led the church to become a Strategic Church to cause the reaching of more souls and the planting of churches (in its various stages). All the strong churches that we have now all over the world are pastored by a Strategic Leader.

## **II. DEFINITIONS**

□

### **1. □ STRATEGIC LEADER**

The Strategic Leader is one who can disciple and train people to become workers who can lead ministries and to train those with pastoral gifts. The process must result in developing several Strategic Leaders. This will insure that when a church is planted another pastor can be sent.

### **2. THE STRATEGIC CHURCH**

The Strategic Church is composed of disciplined members trained to support and start a new ministry(s). It is self governing, self propagating and self funding.

### **III. THREATS TO GROWTH**

We now have several countries whose churches remain dependent and simply because we have not sent, developed or found a Strategic Leader. We cannot allow churches to remain in its dependent stage for a long period of time unless there are limitations due to visas or other matters beyond our control. But the object is to place a Strategic Leader as soon as we can so the church can be led to its Strategic stage. Because true growth, worthy of God's approval, can only happen when that stage is reached. Growth once again is the ability to reach the most number of souls allowable and the planting of churches that are physically beyond the effective reach and influence of the planting church.

All of our travels, visits, conference and seminars are to realize the development and placement of Strategic Leaders. It is understandable that other countries may lag behind and would need attention and frequent visits but the ability to place a Strategic Leader must be prioritized, hastened and not delayed.

### **IV. To Summarize the Stages of Ministry:**

1. Plant a Congregation through members from WIN coming from a single church or coming from several WIN churches.
  - a. Start with a bible study that invites neighbors and friends.
  - b. Send materials or recommend materials to be used in the bible studies.
  - c. Identify a coordinator or a potential pastor

d. Encourage setting up of more bible study groups

2. Organize the group by training in conducting bible studies, witnessing, counseling and church administration.

a. Tithes are collected and saved at this time for purchase of equipment and church discipleship materials.

b. Local leaders are trained so they can address the day to day needs of the ministry. These are done through visits, video and Skype (or similar technology).

c. Visits are to train the leaders to take care of their people. Self sufficiency must be the goal in the training (that they can do ministry eventually). Visits will decrease eventually so the resources are saved for another country or place or other expenses/projects of WIN. (My visit to the ME and EU were less and only confined to strategic/necessary and relational/bonding)

3. Consolidate the strength of a church through a placement of resident pastor.

a. The pastor will resume the training of the leaders and the discipling of members and new converts.

b. Only a resident pastor/strategic leader can cause the stability and growth capability of the church.

4. Expand the reach of the ministry through church planting or the formation of several bible study groups.

- a. The church can be developed into a multi-service church, a multi-sites church or a central church that trains Strategic Leaders and births churches that can become Strategic Churches because of the placement of locally bred Strategic Leaders.