

Preparing for Expansion and Planting: Raising, Training, Equipping and Sending

- Dave Richards

Raising, training, equipping and sending sons & daughters in planting new expressions of church.

It must be Holy Spirit inspired from beginning to end, not just a good idea or the latest strategy. Prayer and fasting must undergird everything.

Seven clear factors we need to put in place.

1. WE MUST BE INTENTIONAL.

- A clear VISION must be regularly proclaimed. A desire and faith to PIONEER not just settle, must be preached, but SETTLERS are also crucial and need honouring. TRUTH IN TENSION.
- You must have a REVELATION and CONVICTION that God is a God of EXPANSION and KINGDOM INCREASE. Isaiah 9
So must those you will train!
- You must have a revelation and conviction that your God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; MULTIGENERATIONAL
And that through sons and daughters, not nephews.
i.e. The Family ... The Earth shall be blessed.
So must those you are training. THIS IS RELATIONAL.
- You must have a revelation and clear conviction that The ABRAHAMIC Covenant is particularly outworked in Church planting.
So must those you are discipling.
This is not just an adventure in god ... It is deeply connected to his word, his will and his ways.

2. WE MUST BE PREPARED TO SELECT.

- Prayer and fasting, are important. Just like Jesus selected in Luke 6:12-16.
Don't be afraid to select... But through prayer not preference!
Be warned! This can be a tricky area!
- PEOPLE DRAWERS ON THE TEAM ARE ESSENTIAL.
IS THERE A MINIMAL NUMBER REQUIRED? AT LEAST TWO BY TWO.
- Meet regularly, with those you select and open both your heart, and home to them.
- DEMONSTRATE YOUR LIFESTYLE, not just your teaching and thinking. 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17.
- Draw them and call them to yourself (but do not own them!) and then give them your very self!
You must be available in the early stages both day and night!
1 Thessalonians 2.

Take them on adventures with you.....
Locally, Regionally, Nationally and Overseas.

3. WE MUST BE FOCUSED.

- Example... ANTIOCH Vision... Basingstoke in the Eighties and Nineties. Training sons and daughters to LIVE IN THAT MANDATE became my priority,
Chris and I did this together but with two distinct groups.
- JUST WHAT DID WE DO WITH THEM?
Bob Mumford " Teach them everything JESUS has taught you! "
- They become a main part of your work, time, energy, finance, purpose.
- You have to REPRODUCE yourself, in them, in terms of relational life, values and vision, and yet at the same time draw out their gifts and work on their character. And get that balance right, or it will prove costly.

- Too much emphasis on character. And they can get discouraged.
Not enough emphasis on character and too much on gift.
And they can get destroyed.

4. THEY MUST BE SUPPORTED NOT JUST SENT!

- Before... During... And after their sending.
These are high challenge people and initially need high support.
- You have to learn " different strokes for different folks. "
- After time you know who needs MORE SUPPORT and who needs LESS SUPPORT.
- Ensure they know the difference between being OWNERS and STEWARDS. If you don't then the consequences can be divisive. Example: Nairobi, Kenya.
- IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE RECOGNISE PEOPLE ARE VULNERABLE IN THIS PROCESS.
- Examples ... Milton Keynes... London.
During the planting....
After the planting ...
Building issues
finance issues.
Work and housing issues.
Family issues.
Warfare is a given... So they need warning beforehand.

5. WHATEVER YOU START MUST BE SEEN THROUGH

- Old Testament battles and disappointments... Whitchurches and Colebrooks..
"Every Breakthrough needs a Follow through. " or the Breakthrough runs the risk of becoming a Breakdown.
- The warfare is intense. " New Levels... new Devils.
We need to train the planters in Spiritual Warfare.
- There is nothing worse than initial excitement...
A blaze of public exposure and then two years into the new plant, it hits the wall and they are left feeling abandoned and unsupported.
That is fertile ground for the enemy to sow seeds of discouragement and division. And greater ministries than us have felt this!
Remember John the Baptist in prison!

6. WE MUST ENSURE THAT WE TRAIN THEM RELATIONALLY AND SUPERNATURALLY.

- Or there will be no breakthrough and no holding together, when pressure and opposition arise..... and both will!
- WE CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONAL LIFE.
- They need to know how to pray for the sick, cast out demons, baptize, people in water and get them filled with the Holy Spirit.
Don't make them too reliant upon you...as one day they will discover you are not there!

7. LAST OF ALL COMES.... METHODS!

- 8. Try to remember we work off "Fluid Mosaic." Not one rigid method.
TRY TO REMEMBER THAT DISCIPLESHIP IS NOT A METHOD, BUT IT IS A RELATIONSHIP.
- A good scribe works out of both old and new treasures.
Here are a few ways of training and planting that we have encountered.
Find a man.... Luke 10. Jeremiah 5:1. Munich Germany.
Worthy House. Matthew 10. Derby.
Building round a House Group. Corinth. Rome. Cirencester.
Accidents can happen and turn out well. Vernon, Canada.
- BE VERY AWARE THAT
 - Churches vary greatly in size.
 - City mega churches.
 - Rural micro Churches. Oxfordshire.
 - Mushroom churches.... Zimbabwe.
 - Maybe churches.
 - Missional communities.
 - Rebuilding Ancient Ruins.

- These can be emerging
 1. Locally
 2. Regionally
 3. Nationally
 4. Trans-nationally: Paris, Marseilles, Troyes in France. Language is critical here!
- DIASPORA PLANTING LIKE ANTIOCH. In the UK, Zambia, USA, all from Kenya and Botswana, South Africa, UK from Zimbabwe. These apostolic guys followed their sons and daughters in the Diaspora, like we see in the Book of Hebrews and in Peter.
- Check out the Book of Acts.
Sending a team to a new City, Paul, Barnabas and John Mark, from ANTIOCH to Cyprus, Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe.

Strawberry planting across a City. Like Jerusalem, Rome, Antioch.

Going First to the synagogue. The Lost sheep of the House of Israel. Acts 18:7-8. Corinth.

You may have a dream in which you encounter a man from Macedonia then on going there...Discover a Women's prayer group. Acts 16.

Or go to Jail! And out comes Philippi!

You may stumble upon a small group of 12 badly taught disciples like in Ephesus. Acts 18.

Or rebuild some ancient Ruins. Isaiah 61:4. Like we are in Finland.

Lastly because we are building a Family on a Mission, we must remember that Family should not produce orphans, but sons and daughters. Matthew 13: 38.

So they need training, equipping, sending and apostolic supporting not abandoning!
Nor should they commit UDI!