

Gaining by Losing

Why the Future Belongs to
Churches That Send

(Greear)

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Gaining by Losing:

Why the Future Belongs to Churches That Send

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If we're focused on building His Kingdom instead of our own, we will focus on sending capacity more than seating capacity.

Every believer is sent ([John 20:21](#)).

If God called you to be a leader, you are obligated to train up and send out Christ-followers to share the gospel.

Untapped Greatness

Aircraft Carriers, Cruise Liners, Battleships

Don't miss the boat:

- The church is **not** meant to be a **cruise liner**, a place to cater to your luxuries: sports, entertainment, child care, business networking.
- The church is **not** meant to be a **battleship**, where we hire the pastors to find the targets and fire the guns as you watch.
- The church is meant to be an **aircraft carrier** which equips planes to take the battle to the enemy. A believer's role is to become a fully equipped plane. A leader's role is to load up the planes with what they need to succeed.

The future belongs to churches that send:

- Multiplication beats addition. Sending out disciples should be a priority.
- If we want our people to really know Jesus, we will teach them to live "sent" (**John 20:21**). For each of us, the question is not IF we are sent, it is where and how.
- God's primary purpose for leaders is to develop other believers to do ministry (**Eph 4:11-12**).

Ten Sending Plumb Lines

1-Swimming in the Gospel

Plumb Line: The Gospel is not just the diving board, it is the pool.

What your organization does best grows out of what it loves most. Motivation for mission grows out of deep personal experience with the gospel (**2Cor 5:14-15**).

From selfishness to generosity:

- Guilt never produces sustained generosity.
- When you fully appreciate what Christ has already done for you at the cross, your **gratitude** will motivate your generosity toward others (**2Cor 8:9**).

Painful Journey Toward Sending

To build His Kingdom, God has to take our eyes off our kingdom. He must increase. We must decrease (**John 3:30**).

| <i>WILL</i> | <i>PLAN</i> |
|---|---|
| If you are a Christ-follower, you don't have to find God's will for your life because it was never lost (2Pet 3:9). His will for each one of us is that we GO (Mat 28:19-20). | What you do need to discover is God's plan for your life. Ask Him where and how He wants you to go. |

Apart from genuine, gospel-rooted heart change, sending will never take root in our churches (**John 15:5**).

2-The Myth of Calling

Plumb Line: Everyone is called.

Through faith in Christ, we are all priests and ambassadors for Christ (**1Pet 2:9-11**)

Whatever you're good at, do it well for the glory of God and use it as a bridge over which you can share the gospel (**Mat 6:33**). Becoming a disciple of Jesus means evaluating your passions and talents in terms of how you can best use them to further His kingdom.

3-Missional or Attractional? Yes.

Plumb Line: The week is as important as the weekend.

We should do all we can to make the gospel accessible to unbelievers. This includes eliminating things that unnecessarily confuse them [**1Cor 9:22**].

Our mission is not to gather audiences, but to grow disciples. What happens during the week establishes the difference between a disciple and an attendee. Peter challenges us to live in such a way that others come to us and ask for the reason for the hope inside us [**1Pet 3:15**].

We do the real work outside the camp, outside the walls of the church building [**Heb 13:12-13**].

Faithful churches are both attractional and missional. They seek to grow both deep and wide.

4-Transforming an Audience into an Army

Plumb Line: A church is not a group of people gathered around a leader, but a leadership factory.

It's not about our ability to do things for God, it is about His ability to work through us.

The church should be a leadership factory that stirs up the gifts of God in people. Weekend services should be a time to build each other up so we can be more effective throughout the week. They should fan into flame the gift of God [**2Tim 1:6**].

Leaders should help their people discover and unleash the ministry potential God has placed inside of them. If you want to be a sending church, you have to develop a process for producing leaders. Faith-based generosity is having an open hand with **every** good thing God puts in our life [**2Cor 9:10-11**]. This includes sending our leaders.

5-Painting the Invisible Man

Plumb Line: The church makes visible the invisible Christ.

The church's primary objective is to preach the gospel. Our works can demonstrate the love and grace that we proclaim. Where can we bring great joy to our city as a demonstration of the gospel [**Acts 8:8**]?

Gospel ministry is truth wrapped in grace. When truth and grace are divorced, we impede the progress of the gospel.

6-Without This, You Fail

Plumb Line: The point in everything is to make disciples.

When you look around our church, can you point to people leading ministries who, ten years ago, were not even believers? Are every one of our ministries producing reproducing disciples?

Success = Disciples Who Reproduce

To make disciples, take people on your spiritual journey. Teach them to read the Bible the way you read it, to pray the way you pray, and to tell people about Jesus the way you do.

Excuses:

- I don't have what it takes: Yes you do. You have the Spirit of God The crucial factor is not your ability. It is your availability for His use [**Luke 12:12**].
- Evangelism is just not my spiritual gift: Although some are specially gifted as evangelists, we are all assigned to evangelize [**Acts 2:17**].
- I witness with my life: A generous lifestyle is great; however, the gospel is an **announcement** about what Jesus did to save people, not a presentation of what a good person you are.
- I don't have time: The Great Commission is not an addition to your life. It is an essential component of every other part of it. Do life with gospel intentionality.

- Talking to other people about Jesus makes me feel weird: It might, but isn't the message important enough for a little awkwardness?

7-Your Church Doesn't Need a Missions Pastor

Plumb Line: Every pastor is our missions pastor.

Missions education should saturate every facet of every ministry. Being a disciple means being sent. Sending should pervade every aspect of discipleship development.

8-Racial Reconciliation as a Fruit of the Sending Culture

Plumb Line: We seek to live multicultural lives, not just host multicultural events.

- The first time the Holy Spirit preached, He did so in multiple languages simultaneously (**Acts 2:1-11**).
- In Revelation, John saw that Jesus redeemed believers from every tribe, language, people, and nation to be kings and priests to God (**Rev 5:8-10**).
- Paul explained that unity in the church between people of diverse cultures shows the world a picture of the multifaceted wisdom and power of God (**Eph 3:6-11**).
- Luke listed the nationalities of church leaders in Antioch which clearly showed that leadership was multicultural (**Acts 13:1-2**).
- Whatever race and culture we have physically, when we accept Christ, we become one spiritual race which supersedes anything about us physically (**Gal 3:26-29**).
- This side of heaven, diversification does have limits. We must be able to reach the unsaved where we are located. This is easier if we are similar in expression and style (**1Cor 9:19-23**).

9-There's More Than One Way to Be Wicked

Plumb Line: Risk is right.

- In the parable of the talents, Jesus showed that He expects us to do the right things with the good things He gives us (**Mat 25:16-30**).
- If we hold onto our resources, our leaders, our power, we will surely lose them (**John 12:24-26**).
- It is important to know what specific risk God wants you to take (**Acts 20:22-24**). You aren't called to all risk. You are called to risk within the ministry He appoints for you.

10-Never Give Up

Plumb Line: When you're sick of saying it, they've just heard it.

The only thing that enables members to push through the weariness of the inconvenience required for change is glimpsing the vision of what God wants to give.

One "God idea" in ministry is better than a thousand good ideas. When the Holy Spirit reveals an idea in a congregation through corporate **prayer**, the whole congregation takes ownership for that vision (**Acts 13:1-3**).

Once you have articulated your vision well, meet face-to-face with key leaders to patiently answer their concerns. When they embrace the vision, challenge them to take the vision to those around them and do the same thing.

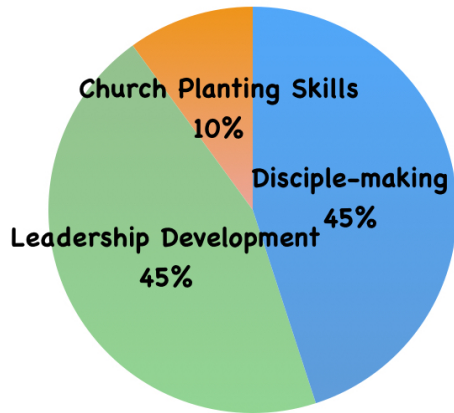
Nothing motivates a believer to go to great extremes like seeing someone's life changed by the gospel. Tell stories of the harvest as often as possible.

With the Spirit of God in our hearts and the promises of Jesus at our backs, even the gates of hell will not prevail against us.

Church Planting

What It Takes to Do Church Planting

Planting churches is really about developing leaders who make disciples. Proportionally, here's what it takes to plant a new church.



Churches that want to make an exponential impact plant churches that plant churches.

Five Elements of Successful Church Planting

1. The lead pastor must champion a clear and compelling vision for church planting.
2. The church must assess prospective church planters and be sure they are sending their best. Evaluate them in areas such as the following:
 - ▶ Track record of making disciples
 - ▶ Faithfulness to the church
 - ▶ Good relationships
 - ▶ Seeing things through to completion
 - ▶ Leader who develops other leaders
3. You must ask God who He wants you to send and then recruit those people.
4. You must continue to develop existing leaders fully.
5. Keep communication lines open with the church plants so you know how best to support them as a sending church. This does not mean you simply give them funds. At times, it is to their benefit that you don't provide all the funds they request. Other needs may be more important (prayer, ongoing relationship, coaching, encouragement, visits).