Some issues for foreigners…

Much of what we’ve done this week has been designed/aimed at non-foreigners, the insiders… It’s not even aimed at the head pastor type of person – more of “normal, lay” Christians. There’s been a lot of Unlearning that had to take place. With new believers that’s not usually the case.

Normally you wouldn’t spend so much time on the “WHY” question…

* The difficulty of working within an existing local church …
  + RESPECT the pastor! Theirs is a God-given responsibility and role.
  + Our goal is NOT to change the existing church – it’s probably working outside of the local church…
  + However, you MAY be able to work with existing believers.
  + You can be part of and active in a local existing church while still involved in other CPs outside
* Music
  + There’s a sliver of youth culture that worship effectively with foreign, translated music
  + Walk around a neighborhood 6-9pm. Whatever you hear coming should also be the type of worship style.
  + NOTE: There’s a church in Tepelena that makes a real effort to worship in Albania style
  + What music is in the heart of the people you are targeting? It will vary greatly even within the same people/culture.
  + LITERATURE: Use the same $$$ that you would have used to translate – use that to encourage locals to write something that will touch the heart more directly…
* Money – does foreign $$$ crush/douse CPM?
  + The life-cycle of a CPM often continues until outside $$$ comes in at which point it plateaus
  + While it continues in a self-sustaining way it keeps multiplying and then it hits a brick wall when someone tries to fund it. Example after example.
  + There can be correct application of funding.
    - Providing tools or literature (bible recorders, evangicubes, etc.)
    - Bible translation
    - There are levels (later on) of education that probably need foreign funding. NOTE: Usually we go to this WAY to early and it becomes a choker/douser
      * Usually when we go to train we should take a Bible and a notebook
      * LIMIT YOURSELF
* Is there a life-cycle and an expected demise of a CPM
  + It’s not a size or time issue, but there is definitely a life-cycle of a CPM
  + The first CPM lasted about 300 years (1st century)
  + Patrick in Ireland – continued for about 500 years
  + In India there are a bunch that have been going about 35 years
  + Victor Chadri has about 15 years and is still seeing massive growth
  + Cambodia – 5 year run and then was quashed (foreign $$$ contributed greatly to the demise) – there are still a few in S. Vietnam
  + HOW ABOUT AN INDIVIDUAL CELL – life cycle?
    - Beware terminology – it’s not a cell, it’s a church
    - If population is relatively stable then the church will continue for a long time
    - If population is transitory (students, migratory, urban factory worker, etc.) there can still be stability, but there will be more turnover and sometimes will die
  + Is there much migration from one church to another?
    - Generally not
    - There is always the urbanization effect – rural people move to the city and often it is those who were most creative and innovative
    - There’s usually a strong perception that “WE ARE A BODY” and people don’t like to move so much – there’s much tighter bonding than in a traditional model of church (body life)
  + What is the lifecycle of a church in terms of their reproductive cycle
    - It is a limited number of times that you will get reproduction in any single stream
    - As time goes on you tend to get people who are less committed, less infected with the reproductive DNA, etc.
    - A given church only has a limited oikos and so probably has a limited potential to plant multiple churches from that one church
    - Note that there are 2 ways to measure – one is generations and one is branches from the same church. (How many Children vs how many generations…)

Characteristics of church (what you read typically):

* Worship
* Fellowship
* Ministry
* Mission
* Disciple

It’s better to MODEL DOING church rather than trying to TALK ABOUT or EXPLAIN what a church is…

For instance, people insist on appointing formal elders/deacons. The fact is there will be natural leaders within the church long before we put a name on them. At some point we can put a name on them and then we will have elders. Maybe this is what Paul was telling Titus to do when he said to go back and appoint elders – maybe he was telling them to go and put a label on what was already there…

How do you go about BECOMING a church? You are going to DO it, but what?

WORSHIP:

* start talking about things we’re thankful for, etc. that later can become worship.
* Read a passage and ask them what we can say “WOW” about…
* Singing can be included as long as some of them have that tendency and appreciation.
  + (Maybe as they read Psalms and want to sing them we will get some of this cultural music.)
* 1Cor 14:26 – people brought their gift (psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, etc.)
* YOU CAN’T FAKE THIS KIND OF INTERACTION – how better to define “healthy church”
* Big church introduces LARGE challenges to this type of worship – there’s just not enough time for many people to share. Maybe you can divvy up in small groups or something. Small groups can simply share what’s going on that week – prayer requests, praises, etc. The point is that it is participatory rather than spectatorship…
  + Note that the first time it’s not going to work… There’s a real change of culture that will be necessary and it will take time… At first people will not be comfortable, won’t want to be vulnerable, etc. If you persist there is great potential for something real
  + I’ve always grown up thinking it’s the duty of the “great high leaders” to bring worship to me. 1Cor 14:26 says it’s my duty to bring worship to the group.
* QUESTION: what do tongues & prophecies look like in this context?
  + Do it biblically – wait and take your turn, make sure there is interp if needed, etc.

FELLOWSHIP (koinonia):

* Eat together!
* Communion (probably more biblical to do this with the leftovers of a meal as opposed to other models)
* Pray for one another
  + Model by asking others to pray for you, be vulnerable and transparent
* Spend informal time together – sports, watch sports, visit park, etc. – do fun stuff together
  + Jesus was probably a party animal – if there was something fun going on Jesus was there…
* SOT
* 2x2 going out
* We are bro/sis 7 days per week
* “sharing life together” – not a planned meeting…

MINISTRY

* Helping the poor
* Spreading the Word
* Looking for giftings, looking for opportunities, training trainers, etc.
* Say/Obey/Tell as Bible study
  + Out of this passage, is there something God is calling our GROUP to do? (This is different than asking what my personal application is…)
    - Start a church
    - Meet a need
      * Ask God what He wants us to do about it
      * Maybe praying is all God wants us to do…
      * Maybe do something, maybe give something
    - Model methods of ministry that are reproducible
      * KEEP THIS FRONT-AND-CENTER IN EVERYTHING!!!

MISSION

* Wherever they go, work, etc. how can you live out the Gospel
* Father’s will… (Noah, Lot, Rahab, Demoniac, Cornelius, Lydia, Philippian jailor)
* Be wary of pushing too much for a global world view when they are still struggling with understanding reaching their family/friends/oikos
* Look for those who are modeling missions & discipleship, look for those who can give some ideas how to do/be missions, etc.

DISCIPLESHIP

* We grow, we help others grow

RESPONSE – get together with guys from this seminar, have a coffee, talk about what we’re doing, encourage one another, run through problem solving if it comes up, etc.

Start a yahoogroup: [albania-cpm@yahoogroups.com](mailto:albania-cpm@yahoogroups.com)

IF YOU KEEP DOING WHAT YOU’VE BEEN DOING YOU WILL KEEP GETTING WHAT YOU’VE BEEN GETTING (def of insanity)

FAITH / HOPE

Pastoring a church plant or planting a church? There’s a big difference…