



WINNING SOULS FOR CHRIST THROUGH CHURCH PLANTING

INTRODUCTION

The church in the West has never known more about what it takes to succeed in church planting than it does today. This should cause our national movements to update our knowledge, practice and strategies in order to plant the amount of churches that we find necessary in order to saturate our nations with the gospel.

PENTECOSTAL HISTORY

Church planting comes in waves, especially in grassroot movements like the Pentecostal movements. Rapid expansion driven by strong vision and pioneering leadership are key factors. Barratt and Petrus are both quoted saying, “not more than one Pentecostal church in each place.” This was said in order to increase expansion, not defending turf or limit church planting, as some have erroneously claimed. Today we need to aim at many groups for church planting, it is not only a geographical question today. We need many new Pentecostal churches.

THE ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL

The call to Christian ministry, and more specifically to church planting, is a work of God. The number of people that claim a call to ministry, and church planting, determines our success in church planting. Raising awareness about this ministry pathway is important. Being a church planter is a lifelong commitment, we cannot have hirelings as church planters. As nordic pentecostal movements we want to raise the awareness of church planting and call for individuals to be cautious of their calling. We believe God is calling a new generation of church planters.

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH AND MOVEMENTS

Churches that plant churches have a higher success rate than individuals that plant churches. If ten percent of the churches in a movement starts to plant churches it will mean a new momentum in that movement. We need this in all our Nordic countries. By training our established churches to be strategic in church planting, we can plant more and healthier churches. The national movements need to take a supportive role giving space for new plants, supporting them and praying for them. The new plants should show respect to existing churches and the established churches should show generosity to the new ones. When a church is closing its heritage can be furthered in a new plant by blessing them with resources and that way we as movements keep a healthy ecosystem ongoing for the unity of the church.

We also need a common language to bring clarity in church planting. For us church planting is both new independent churches and plants within a multi-site church. Church planting efforts are not something new within our movements but we need a new breed of plants for the cause of reaching more people for Christ.

The key factors for church planting in every national movement should have the content of good forming systems for candidates, a clear pathway to church-planting, training programs, funding and hands on programs to help the new plants thrive.

CALL TO ACTION

During the coming ten years we align with the broader Pentecostal movements in the world of reaching more souls for Christ through church planting. Join in prayer and action to bring in a great harvest!

REYKJAVIK, 1 DECEMBER 2022

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