

# GOD'S ANSWER TO BIG CHURCH DILEMMA

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## INTRODUCTION

- **FROM NOW ON**, WE WILL REFER TO YOU (LOF STUDENTS) AS "LEADERS".
  - WHY? BECAUSE YOU ARE NO LONGER BABIES IN JESUS.
  - YOU'RE NO LONGER IN NEED OF SOFT MILK.
  - GOD HAS SAVED YOU FOR A PURPOSE.
  - GOD HAS CALLED US TO PARTAKE IN HIS MISSION // THE GREAT CO-MISSION.
  - WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE BIG CHURCH / BODY OF CHRIST?

## 1. "HOW CAN A LARGE GROWING CHURCH MAINTAIN SMALL FELLOWSHIP?"

- **WHAT HAPPEN TO MOST CHURCHES WHEN THEY GROW PAST 300**
  - PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER PASTORED
    - THEY WANT TO JOIN CONNECT GROUP, BUT NO BODY IS RESPONDING OF THEIR CALL.
  - PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER GROWING AND SERVING
    - THEY WANT TO SERVE, BUT NO BODY IS RESPONDING OF THEIR CALL.
- WHEN THEY ARE SMALL - THEY ARE VERY FAMILY ORIENTED, SO PASTORAL, PEOPLES NEEDS ARE BEING MET.
  - BUT THE MOMENT THEY GROW PAST 250-300
  - PEOPLE GOT LOST IN NUMBERS
- WHY? IT'S BECAUSE MOST OF OUR CHURCHES ARE STRUCTURED TO DISCOURAGE RELATIONSHIPS RATHER THAN PROMOTE THEM.
  - YOU CAN COME TO CHURCH, SIT DOWN FOR 1-2 HOURS GET UP, WALK OUT AND THAT'S IT!
- **"Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.**  
They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved."  
**Acts of the Apostles 2:41,46-47 NLT**
- **HOW DID THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS ABLE TO GROW BIG IN NUMBERS, YET DEEP SPIRITUALLY, STRONG RELATIONALLY?**
  - NO BUILDINGS, NO PASTORS TRAINED IN THE SEMINARY, NO HIGH TECH EQUIPMENT, AND NO MARKETING. NO SOCIAL MEDIAS
  - NOTE: THE JERUSALEM CHURCH WAS THE FIRST LOCAL CHURCH IN THE HISTORY - IT'S THE PROTOTYPE FOR ALL OTHER CHURCHES IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.
  - IN 25 YEARS, HISTORIANS SAY IT GREW TO 100,000 MEMBERS.
  - THAT WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE CONSIDERING BACK THEN, THERE WERE ONLY 200,000 PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM.
  - 1/2 OF THE POPULATION IN THAT CITY WERE MEMBERS OF ONE CHURCH!

## 2. SOME PROBLEMS A GROWING CHURCH WILL FACE

### 1. PEOPLE'S NEEDS ARE NOT BEING MET

- **ACTS 6:1 (TLB) BUT WITH THE BELIEVERS MULTIPLYING RAPIDLY, THERE WERE RUMBLINGS OF DISCONTENT. THOSE WHO SPOKE ONLY GREEK COMPLAINED THAT THEIR WIDOWS WERE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, THAT THEY WERE NOT GIVEN AS MUCH FOOD IN THE DAILY DISTRIBUTION AS THE WIDOWS WHO SPOKE HEBREW."**
- WHEN THERE IS NO PROPER STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP IN PLACE, PEOPLE'S NEEDS WILL BE UNMET

### 2. PEOPLE WILL NOT GROW SPIRITUALLY

- **ACTS 6:1 (TLB) BUT WITH THE BELIEVERS MULTIPLYING RAPIDLY, THERE WERE RUMBLINGS OF DISCONTENT. THOSE WHO SPOKE ONLY GREEK COMPLAINED THAT THEIR WIDOWS WERE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, THAT THEY WERE NOT GIVEN AS MUCH FOOD IN THE DAILY DISTRIBUTION AS THE WIDOWS WHO SPOKE HEBREW."**
- WHEN THERE IS NO PROPER/INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY IN PLACE, **PEOPLE WILL STAY AS BABIES.**
  - "WHAT ABOUT MY NEEDS?"
  - "WHAT ABOUT MY FEELINGS?"
  - WHY? BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT DISCIPLED.
  - BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT FEED THE RIGHT FOODS.

### 3. BURN OUT WILL HAPPEN EVERYWHERE!

- **EXOCUS 18:17-18 (TLB) 'IT'S NOT RIGHT!' (JETHRO) EXCLAIMED. 'YOU'RE GOING TO WEAR YOURSELF OUT -- AND IF YOU DO, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE PEOPLE? MOSES, THIS JOB IS TOO HEAVY A BURDEN FOR YOU TO TRY TO HANDLE ALL BY YOURSELF.'**
- YOUR PASTORS WILL GET BURNT OUT.
- THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH A PASTOR CAN DO!
- MOSES WAS LEADING A CONGREGATION OF 3 MILLION PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT INTO THE PROMISED LAND.
- AS A LEADER, MOSES WAS SO COMMITTED HE DID EVERYTHING: AGRICULTURE, BANKING, BARTERING, CLOTHING, COMPLAINTS, COMMUNICATION, TEACHING, CONSTRUCTION, IMMIGRATION, JUSTICE, LIVESTOCK, MAINTENANCE.
- HE DID ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING!

### 4. THE MESSAGE WILL BECOME DULL

- WHEN PASTORS ARE TOO BUSY.
- PASTORS NEGLECT THE MORE IMPORTANT DUTIES — EVERY SENIOR PASTOR OF A GROWING CHURCH NEED TO PLAY ONLY 2 ROLES — THE CHIEF LEADER AND THE CHIEF FEEDER.
- **TO BE THE CHIEF LEADER -**
  - THE VISION AND THE DIRECTION FROM THE LORD
  - THE ORGANISATION
  - THE EXPANSION
  - THE BUDGET
  - STAFFING, THE PEOPLE MANAGEMENT.
- **TO BE THE CHIEF FEEDER**
  - TO STUDY, TO PRAY, TO LISTEN FROM GOD.
  - TO TEACH, TO PREACH.
- IF THE PASTOR HIMSELF DOES'T GROW IN THE WORD AND IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, HOW CAN THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION GROW? EVERYTHING WILL RISE AND FALL ON LEADERSHIP.

### 5. THE CHURCH WILL BE AN EVENT CENTRE

- BECAUSE THEY WILL JUST FOCUS ON EVENTS EVENTS AND EVENTS.
  - WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.
  - YOUTH SERVICES
  - PRAYER MEETING
  - GET THE NUMBERS
  - CALL CENTRE.
- THE CHURCH WILL LOSE ITS **CORE CALLING** TO SAVE SOULS AND MAKE DISCIPLES.

## 3. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

- In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews<sup>[a]</sup> among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. **2** So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. **3** **Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them** **4** **and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."** ACTS 6:1-4

- THE SAME THING HAPPENS WITH MOSES' LEADERSHIP.

- **EX: 18:21-23 (TIB) 21** But select capable men from all the people—**men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. 22** Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. **23** **If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."**

- JETHRO ADVISED **A RADICAL CHANGE OF STRUCTURE!!**

- JETHRO CONCERNED OF MOSES HEALTH AND THE WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD -- BECAUSE THEY WERE STANDING IN THE LINE ALL DAY WAITING FOR MOSES!

- THIS STRUCTURE IS WHAT I CALLED **"THE X-FACTOR CHURCHES"**
- WHERE EVERYTHING REVOLVES AROUND THE SENIOR PASTOR.
- THE SENIOR PASTOR IS THE ONE WITH THE X- FACTOR.
- THE SENIOR PASTORS EVERYBODY, DO COUNSELLING FOR EVERYBODY.
- THE BRANDING REVOLVES AROUND HIM.
- HE BECOMES THE ONLY DECISION MAKERS.

- WHAT HAPPEN IS THE MOVEMENT WILL NEVER GO BEYOND GENERATIONS - WHAT HAPPEN IF THAT GUY DIES? THE MOVEMENT DIES WITH HIM.
- WHAT HAPPEN IF THAT GUY IS SICK? THE MOVEMENT IS SICK WITH HIM!!!
- WHOSE KINGDOM ARE WE BUILDING ANYWAY?
- THIS CHURCH SHOULDN'T REVOLVE AROUND PS ROY AND PS JES.
- THIS CHURCH SHOULDN'T REVOLVE AROUND A MAN'S VISION.
- THIS CHURCH SHOULD HONOUR THE PASTORS AND HOW GOD USES HIM AS A VESSEL.
- BUT HE IS ONLY A VESSEL OF GOD.

- THE CHURCH SHOULD REVOLVE AROUND **THE VISION OF GOD** TO SAVE SOULS AND MAKING DISCIPLES
- THAT'S THE ONLY WAY HIS MOVEMENT CAN CARRY THROUGH MANY GENERATIONS AND MANY NATIONS.
- WHEN NO ONE CAN BE THE STUMBLING BLOCK OR THE CEILING.
- WHEN THE VISION OF THE CHURCH, THE 'WHY' THE CHURCH IS CREATED IS REVOLVES AROUND THE VISION OF THE GENERAL OF FAITH JESUS CHRIST

- THAT'S WHY I THANK GOD FOR THE MOVEMENT CHURCH..
- WE ARE NOT A MOVEMENT LED BY ONE PASTOR, BUT WE ARE A MOVEMENT WHO ARE LED BY HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF CONNECT PASTORS.
- WE MAYBE DIFFERENT IN OUR ACCENTS.
- WE MAYBE DIFFERENT IN OUR FOOD SELECTIONS.
- BUT ALL OF US ARE UNITED BY ONE VISION.
- AND THAT VISION IS TO SAVE SOULS AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS!

- **JETHRO'S ADVICE TO MOSES:**

- **SELECT FROM THE PEOPLE ABLE MEN, SUCH AS FEAR GOD, MEN OF TRUTH, MEN WHO HATE COVETOUSNESS.**
- **PLACE SUCH MEN OVER THE PEOPLE AS RULERS OF THOUSANDS, RULERS OF HUNDREDS, RULERS OF FIFTIES, RULERS OF TENS. TEN PEOPLE BECAME THE CORE OF THAT CHURCH.**

- THAT'S WHY I LOVE THE WAY OUR CHURCH IS BUILT.
  - **THAT THESE NEW BELIEVERS ARE NOT PASTORED BY THE SENIOR PASTORS.**
    - ◆ BUT THESE NEW BELIEVERS ARE PASTORED BY THEIR CONNECT LEADERS.
    - ◆ THESE NEW BELIEVERS ARE LOVED BY THEIR LIFESTYLE OF FREEDOM COACHES.
    - ◆ THEIR NEEDS ARE MET.
    - ◆ THEIR QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED.
    - ◆ THEY ARE LOVED, PRAYED FOR, CARED FOR.
    - ◆ TO THEM, **YOU ARE THEIR PASTORS!**
  - **NOW WHO PASTOR YOUR CONNECT PASTORS?**
    - ◆ RIGHT NOW, HERE AT THE MOVEMENT CHURCH, WE HAVE **AMAZING ZONE PASTORS** THAT PASTORS EVERY CONNECT PASTORS.
    - ◆ THEY PASTOR THE MULTIPLE CONNECT LEADERS UNDER THEM.
  - **AND MY JOB AND PS JES' JOB IS TO LOVE AND CARE FOR THESE AMAZING ZONE / CLUSTER PASTORS.**

## DISCUSSION GUIDELINE:

- **THE ANSWER TO BIG CHURCHES DILEMMA IS DISCIPLESHIP.**
  - **BIG SUSTAINABLE REVIVAL HAPPENS IN SMALL GROUPS.**
  - **FOR PEOPLE NEEDS TO BE MET, THEY NEED TO BE DISCIPLED IN SMALL GROUPS.**
- **WE (THE MOVEMENT CHURCH) IS A STRONG DISCIPLESHIP CHURCH.**
  - **IT IS NOT BUILT BY 2 SENIOR PASTORS, BUT IT IS BUILT AND CARRIED BY HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF PASTORS**
  - **THIS IS WHERE ALL OF US COME IN.**
  - **GOD HAS PREPARED AND CALLED US TO BE LEADER OF 10, 50, 100, 1000**
- **WHAT PRACTICAL STEPS ARE YOU TAKING IN ANSWERING THIS CALL THIS YEAR?**

## CLOSING:

- **THE NEEDS ARE OUT THERE.**
  - **Matthew 9:37-38** English Standard Version 2016 (ESV) Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
  - **35** Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

- The problem is not on the HARVEST — but on the lack of LABOURERS.
- The Harvest is already here!

### HOW CAN I LEAD? I AM NOT A BIBLE SCHOLAR?

- **YOU'VE GOT A TESTIMONY.**
- Start where?
- Don't do it alone. Lead & build through your Connect group.
- Start where you are — lead from your seats, from the mosh pit.
- Start with what's in your hands.

- Start by DISCIPLE ONE.
- Start thinking and working on the ONE you will reach out and invest your life into.