

Micro to Macro:
The Call for Churches to Plant Churches
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Reproduction of all kinds begins at the molecular level.

That humbles me somewhat, as I reflect upon the reality that God, the Author of Life, enabled me to begin my life as a zygote, a single cell formed by the union of a male seed and a female egg. And at an even deeper molecular level, chromosomes in the DNA strands define unique personal characteristics. It is a pattern of development that the Lord Himself wove into the fabric of creation. All reproduction begins at the molecular level and develops from the micro to the macro, from the simple to the complex.

It is the same with the advance of the Kingdom of God.

According to a study conducted by a prominent Christian denomination in the United States, only 4% of Christian churches in the United States will sponsor the planting of a new (“daughter”) congregation. If those figures are accurate, this means that 96% of the conventional Christian churches in America will *never give birth*.

Many saints in the Body of Christ see no problems or contradictions with that assessment. In fact, one can hear comments from some of them such as:

*We already have plenty of churches for our population.
Too many churches are sitting empty, so why start new ones?
We need healthier congregations, not more congregations.*

Such comments are well-intentioned, but they clash with the principle of Kingdom Advance. They focus on the “here and now,” but fail to embrace the long-term consequences of failing to generate a new audience for the Gospel. Can we imagine making similar comments in a discussion about people? *We have plenty of people. We don't need more people, just healthier ones. Why have more babies?*

What if it were suddenly discovered that 96% of American women were no longer fertile and could not have babies? Most people would conclude two things: first, that this is *not natural*, so there must be something wrong with their body's health; and second, that the future is in serious jeopardy.

Do you believe God is calling forth a church that can be fruitful and multiply through new church reproduction (church planting)?

We recognize that, for many church leaders and followers, church planting is a scary term. It calls up images of pain, hardship and loss, and even threatens the viability of existing church operations. But actually, reproduction is not hard. In fact, it is natural and even spiritually “pleasurable.” Reproduction comes from a natural desire inherent in all living things, and it is stirred by *intimacy* with God, His worship, His mission, His body of believers, *and the lost world*.

I would challenge you, dear pastor and ministry leader, to engage your church leadership team in a serious, prayerful discussion about the call of God to sponsor the planting of a new church or churches.