

ACC Vision for Church Planting Meeting -- Oct 4, 2018

Why church planting?

The mission field next door - North America - 200 million unreached, making it the 3rd largest mission field

OBEDIENCE - It is a response to the Great Commission

- If you follow the history in the book of ACTS, their methodology was (1) evangelism, then (2) gathering the people into communities of faith, (3) establishing elders (4) committing them to the LORD...and in Paul's journeys it seemed to be a sequential city to city move for the most part.
 - Act 14:19-23 ESV But Jews came from **Antioch** and **Iconium**, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. 20 But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to **Derbe**. 21 When they had **preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples**, they **returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch**, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. 23 And when **they had appointed elders for them in every church**, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

CALLING - It is a response to God's calling upon ACC

- It is a rediscovery of our spiritual roots, church planting is our spiritual DNA so to speak
- Prophetic words spoken during ordination indicated that we would plant numerous churches
 - 1Ti 1:18 ESV This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

OBSERVATION - It is a response to how we see the LORD working at ACC

Act 8:14-15 ESV Now when the apostles at Jerusalem **heard** that Samaria had received the word of God, **they sent** to them Peter and John, 15 **who came** down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

- We see numerous people coming from Canton - so it is a natural "organic" expansion
- We see a number of seasoned Christians becoming part of ACC -- All this begs the question, "What is God up to?"

Our Plan - to create a "family" or "network" of churches

What do we mean by a "family of churches"

- We expect other churches will be planted - Canton is just a beginning
- We are NOT creating a campus model (i.e. "one church with multiple locations") -- each local church will be independent and governed by local elders
- This is ALSO NOT a model where a church is sent then left to fend for themselves or forgotten
- It is establishing a local church with local leadership, yet existing as part of a group of churches or a **family of churches** with a **common history**, a **common geography** and a **relational bond to a team** that is nurturing them and continuing to build upon the foundation that has been laid

COOPERATIVE

- The churches could share resources as needed [personnel and finances]
- Each church would be locally governed etc, but as the Lord directs we could do things together. For example:
 - We could all support a certain mission project, or missionary
 - We could host a marriage seminar and the entire family of churches could participate
 - We could develop training opportunities where all churches could benefit
 - A youth group could be made up of kids from several churches
- Each church could contribute to a church planting fund to help new churches get started

What do we mean by “REGIONAL”? And Why is this a good strategy?

- An initial focus on NE Ohio but open to the Lord sending people anywhere (i.e. Ecuador)
- **New churches can be birthed organically**, as people from outlying areas come to the new church plant (example, we are in Alliance, but now have families coming from Canton, it is a natural extension). A church in Canton may draw people from New Philly, or Uniontown, or Massillon. These locations would become natural areas of focus for planting a new church (consider launches small groups or bible studies in those areas to gather people)
- **From the standpoint of geography:** People from the “sending church” could be involved in a new church as a “temporary measure” (assisting, training and developing new people to take over ministries and responsibilities) even if they plan to remain in their current (job / home / or proximity to family). This could allow for more people to be engaged with less disruption (moving, leaving jobs, selling homes etc)
- **From the standpoint of personnel resource:** Plan to utilize men with 5-fold gifting as “trans-local” ministry. Perhaps one week helping in Canton, another week preaching in another church. Young churches can receive the benefit and accountability, expertise, and coaching provided by seasoned veterans in the ministry
- **From the standpoint of financial resource:** A family of churches can share a common commitment to contribute funding toward church planting as a group. As the number of churches increases, the amount of funds available to extend to new places will increase

Biblical basis for regional churches

Sometimes Paul addressed a singular church

- 1Co 1:2 ESV To the church of God that is in Corinth
- Col 1:2 ESV To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae

At other times he addressed a group of churches in a region as a single entity

- 1Co 16:1 ESV as I directed the churches of Galatia
- 1Co 16:19 ESV The churches of Asia send you greetings
- 2Co 8:1 ESV the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia
- Gal 1:22 ESV And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ.

What do we mean by “RELATIONAL”?

Plant a family of churches vs calving off people to be group of independent churches

- This is not a multi-campus model
- This is not a model where a church is sent, then left to fend for themselves

- It is establishing a local church with local leadership, yet existing as part of a group of churches or a **family of churches** with a **common history**, and a **relational bond to a team** that is nurturing them and continuing to build upon the foundation that has been laid. And while we will begin with a **common geography** (the LORD may send us beyond NE Ohio).

Biblical Basis for Relational Churches

Sharing of personnel to various churches as needed

- Php 2:19-20 ESV I hope in the Lord Jesus **to send Timothy to you soon**, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.
- 2Ti 4:10-13 ESV **Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.** 11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and **bring him with you**, for he is very useful to me for ministry. 12 **Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.** 13 **When you come**, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.
- Tit 3:12-13 ESV When I **send Artemas or Tychicus to you**, do your best to **come to me at Nicopolis**, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Do your best to **speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way**; see that they lack nothing.

Sharing of resources

- Col 4:15-16 ESV Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16 And **when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.**
- 1Co 16:1 ESV Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.

Some specifics about the Canton church plant

Paul Dykshoorn will be the pastor of the church at the start

- There is the thought that he will move on to plant a church in New Philadelphia within two years

First Public Service

- We are thinking to hold the first public church service on Easter Sunday April 21, 2019
- We are looking for a building now
 - Would like to make building available for **Hispanic congregation as well**

Small Groups

- We will use the Canton small groups as a way to start building relationship, teamwork, evangelism, reaching our neighbors and inviting them... in essence these could be the seeds of a new church

Is God “sending” you?

- **When you go to “The Canton Church”** - don’t go JUST because it is more convenient.
 - Go because you want to be a team player to help the new church succeed
 - Support the church financially

- Support the church with serving
- Support the church with outreach
- Just because you live in Canton, doesn't mean you have to go to the Canton Church, and just because you live in Alliance doesn't mean you can't.
- Go where the LORD wants you to go, but go with the expectation of working
 - Act 15:36-38 NIV Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." 37 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38 but **Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.**
- We will hold some training events along the way to help prepare the team
- Get involved in a Canton small group to start building relationship and outreach - it is the seed of a new church

I would like to set the tone for every person in every church to be engaged

- You can pray
- You could be on a church planting team
- You could lead a church plant
- You can give financially
- You can be part of a church planting training team
- You can be a temporary worker or volunteer at a new church plant until a new person shows up and begins to do the ministry

What of Our Plans?

Pro 16:9 NIV In their hearts ***humans plan*** their course, but ***the LORD establishes*** their steps.

As the NT church spread, the intervention of the Holy Spirit was unmistakable. We want this as well.

- **Spirit directed sending** - ACTS 13:1
- **Spirit directed guidance even in the midst of what seemed a logical sequential process** - Act 16:6-9
- **They responded to what *they heard* God was doing** - ACTS 8:14-17
- **The Holy Spirit directed (totally outside their plan or understanding -ie going to the Gentiles)** - ACTS 11:1-3

In each of the scenarios above, there was the **unmistakable intervention of the Holy Spirit**. While it is good to plan, there will be times the Holy Spirit will invade our plans, change our plans, or toss our plans out the window in order to help us see His plan more clearly. We must always allow for the intervention of the Holy Spirit to invade, interrupt or invalidate our plans. Jesus said, "***I will build my church***" - we just need to find out what part we play.

1Co 13:9 NIV For we know in part and we prophesy in part,