

1999 National DAWN Congress

November 15-17, 1999: Featured speakers included Dr. David Yonggi Cho and Dr. Bob Logan. Venue: Mississauga Gospel Temple, 1814 Barbertown Road, Mississauga ON.

Photo of plenary session
of Dr Yongi Cho



Luncheon with Dr Cho



Church Planting Canada:

CONCERT OF PRAYER

by T.V. Thomas

INTRODUCTION

- My church planting experience
- My role as consultant to students who have church planted here and overseas
- Every Home is a church planting servant mission ® Christ Groups
- Through this Concert of Prayer, we desire God to do a mighty work.
D.L. Moody: "Every work of God can be traced to some kneeling form"
Hudson Taylor: "It is not wasted time to wait upon God."

I. CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENT IN CANADA

Purpose

[OVERHEAD]

"To mobilize the whole church to disciple the whole nation through multiplying cells of the Body of Christ, penetrating every neighborhood with the transforming love, care, truth and power of Jesus Christ."

Goal: 10,000 new congregations, nationally by 2015.

[OVERHEAD]

"The minimal prayer accompanying many projects in the church may indicate that what is being undertaken is simply what human beings can accomplish pretty well by themselves." -- Richard Lovelace

The acid test of any goal is action that produces results.

- It's action-oriented
- It's result-focused
- It's ambitious
- It's comprehensive
- It's God-sized

[OVERHEAD]

Since Church Planting Congress 97, praise God!

[OVERHEAD]

- More ministry agencies involved in church planting
 - denominations
 - mission agencies
 - local churches
- More networking has happened
 - Vision Canada of EFC, DAWN Movement, Outreach Canada, Chair Murray Moerman
 - Church Planting Conferences/Symposia
 - Regional Coordinators and Leadership Team
- More helpful resources available
 - Church Planting Canada Newsletter
 - Book: Transforming Our Nation
- More training opportunities available

- Church Planters Boot Camp
- Courses at theological institutions
- Church Planting Internships

Pray for the Holy Spirit who is the energizer, empower-er and comforter for His presence, power and directions.

Let's embrace this!

Write: "I embrace the Purpose and the Goal. May God help us achieve them."

Sign it at the bottom and date it.

II. CHURCH PLANTER: THE PERSON

Introduction

- Some of you are rookie church planters others frontline church planters while others are seasoned or veteran church planters.
- Church planting is endless, tiresome, demanding hard work and requires emotional output.

In three sections of Scripture 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4 we see character and personal relationships are key for church leaders in ministry.

Personal Life

[OVERHEAD]

- Battle fatigue ® physical and/or emotional
- Mired in self-pity ® brooding over your imperfections (focus on your strengths and spiritual gifts as a way of glorifying God and acknowledge His activity in your life.)
- Fear of failure
 - ® success syndrome
 - ® experienced rejection
 - ® The apostle Paul was not readily accepted in every community. In Thessalonica, he received immediate response (Acts 17:4). The story was similarly positive in Berea (Acts 17:1-12). However, when he came to Athens, he was greeted with sneers and ridicule (Act 17:15-32). At Lystra, Paul was mistaken for a pagan god and, when he refused their accolades, he was stoned (Acts 14:8-19).

Hebrews 13:5-6

v.5 Let your way of life be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

v.6 so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.

What shall man do to me?"

- Dignity of one's calling
- Personal priorities

In Acts 6:4, the Apostles devoted themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.

- Inner Life
 - Ask God to take your dreams and shape them to conform to His dreams.
 - Ask God to purify your motives ® if God uncovers some impurity, like a laser, God's gaze can burn that tumor off your soul while leaving your desire/passion in tact.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Intercessory prayer is the purifying bath into which the individual and the fellowship must enter every day."

-- Christ-likeness

Hebrews 13:20-21

v.20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,

v.21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Passion for the lost -- seeking, evangelizing, discipling the lost.

Relationships

[OVERHEAD]

- Family -- support and role of spouse and children

- Parent Church/Denomination -- communication
- Core group, lay leaders and families
- Community -- other churches, civic groups, city officials, media

Personal

Ministry

[OVERHEAD]

- Visionary
 - vision is one of the most intangible elements of ministry
 - it must be God-given; then the vision will sustain you in difficult times as well as victorious moments
 - Where there is no vision, the Church Planter perishes!
 - Vision to see, to feel the people and their needs

- Optimistic Spirit

-- obstacles ® roadblocks, detours, delays, landmines

This is Caleb Spirit ® while others are finding "giants in the land" church planters keep saying "let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it" (Numbers 13:30).

-- enjoy the challenge of creating a church out of almost nothing.

- Winning Attitude

1 Corinthians 9:24

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

- Evangelistic Passion

-- Winning the lost, building believers and equipping workers

- Self-disciplined ® wisdom and courage to handle time, resources and energy wisely.
- Paul Tournier: "God has given each of us enough time to do what God wants us to do."

Personal

III. CHURCH PLANTING: TARGET POPULATION

Communities/Canadians

[OVERHEAD - 1]

- Spiritual Index

SH = Spiritually Hostile (very few ® Muslim students; had bad experience with Christians)

- Very few Canadians are hostile (less than 4% atheists)
- Some Muslims may be offended
- Some who have been religiously wounded in the church
 - Hostile
 - Indifferent
 - Open

SI = Spiritually Indifferent

- Seeking
- Committed
- Larger number of Canadians in the category
- May be an agnostic or a drop-out
- They are not anti-God but see God as irrelevant to their life

SO = Spiritually Open

- Open to dialogue
- Willing to receive more information
- More are in this category than most Christians are aware

SS = Spiritually Seeking

- Diligently asking questions about faith
- Reading religious books and magazines.
- Watching religious programs on TV

- SC = Spiritually Committed
 - Has received Christ
 - Is growing in his/her faith
- Geographical Area
 - Rural
 - Urban
 - Downtown
- First Nations Peoples
- Ethnic People Groups

[OVERHEAD -

2]

Understand Community

- Community history and stories
- Community demographics and psychographics
- Community needs and interests
- Community influencers

Understand Cultures

- Ethnicity
- Customs/Practices
- Religions

1 Corinthians 9:19, 22-23

v.19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more.

v.22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.

v.23 And I do all things for the sake of the gospel, that I may become a fellow-partaker of it.

STRATEGY/METHODS

[OVERHEAD]

- Contextualization
 - Each congregation incarnate the gospel in its own particular context
- Creativity and flexibility
- Courage for innovation
 - "Do not follow where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."
- Freedom to birth new models
 - Church planting rather than church cloning
 - Freedom given to the new church to develop its unique life and style

IV. RESOURCES

SPIRITUAL POWER

[OVERHEAD]

- Spiritual opposition
 - It is a universal truth that where the church advances, opposition intensifies
 - Effective evangelism and church planting are impossible without taking into account spiritual warfare.
- Ephesians 6:10-12
- v.10 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.
- v.11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
- v.12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world-forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- In our prayer times (vigils, walking, etc.)
 - ® Recognize and defeat the forces that hate the gospel of light
 - ® Pray for protection as well as advance

® Pray for frustration, of the Evil one and all his deceptive tricks

Evelyn Christenson: "Prayer is our means of involving the onimoptent God of the universe in our personal battle with Satan."

S.D. Gordon: "Prayer is striking the winning blow at the concealed enemy. Service is gathering up the results of that blow among the people."

- Human Opposition

Historically the most strident opposition to evangelism, growth and advance of the Kingdom have been voiced by established church leaders. i.e. the Sanballats of our life. We must not be disappointed or distracted. Pray for encouragers -- the Barnabuses.

Hebrews 3:13

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

PERSONNEL

- Army of effective church planters
- Core group of passionate lay workers
- Second-career workers
- Church planting teams
- Tentmakers

FINANCIAL

- Faith budgeting by ministry agencies
- Endowment Funds for church planting
- Christian business community partnership

V. THANKSGIVING FAITH HOPE

Luke 18

v.1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,

v.7 now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?

E.M. Bounds: "Units of prayer combined like drops of water can make an ocean that defies resistance."

Daniel 2:20-23 (Prayer of Thanksgiving)

v.20 Daniel answered and said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him.

v.21 "And it is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; and knowledge to men of understanding.

v.22 "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

v.23 "To Thee, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for Thou hast given me wisdom and power; even now Thou hast made known to me what we requested of Thee, for Thou hast made known to us the king's matter."