

The Leadership Challenge – Finding, Training, Empowering Church Planting Movement Leaders

Followers of Jesus, who learn from Him to live like he lived are the basis for good church planting leadership. We will learn to be intentional about thinking outside of the box to find proven disciples of Jesus who in turn have made other disciples. We will develop on the job training, wedded to outcome based coaching, that will train new church planters. And then, because the going gets extremely tough when underway, we will constantly empower church planting leaders when in the fray.

Dietrich Schindler is a German-American missionary church planter who is currently the executive director of church planting for the Evangelical Free Church of Germany (Bund Freier evangelischer Gemeinden). Under his leadership the denomination is striving to plant 100 new churches in Germany in ten years. After five years 54 churches have been planted. He has himself planted five churches in Germany and has written and lectured on what it would take to see a church planting multiplication movement to take root in Germany and in Europe. Dietrich has been married to Jan Carla for thirty years, and they have three adult children

What are we looking for? Not just church planters, but leaders of church planting movements.

I. Finding church planting movement leaders (Apostolic leaders)

A. Likely places to find church planting leaders

1. Proven church planters
2. Proven leaders from other networks
3. Entrepreneurial leaders in business, in non-profit, and in education

B. Unlikely places to find church planting leaders

1. Teenagers – those that already have a following among their peers
2. The Lost – who is behaving as a movement leader, but isn't yet a Christ-follower?
3. Retirees – those that have proven themselves as leaders in their profession (and are tired of doing Sudoku all day)

II. Training church planting movement leaders

A. Rub salt into them

1. Bring them into contact with dynamic church planting leaders
2. Have them read the most inspiring literature on movements
3. Network them with a learning community of like-minded movement leaders

B. Build a bridge while on it (the training that they need is not yet available)

1. Cohorts (learning communities) travel together to observe movements (of any kind)
2. In debriefing and reflecting curriculum arises
3. Allow much freedom for experimentation

III. Empowering church planting movement leaders

A. The need for empowerment

1. This is a lonely breed of leader – he/she will need encouragement
2. This will be a frustrated leader – he/she will need people who believe in them
3. This will be a misunderstood leader – he/she will need someone to listen and understand

B. The path to empowerment

1. Let them create – releases joy
2. Let them see success – this breeds more success
3. Let them fail – this is normal
4. Let them talk – this clears thinking
5. Let them rest – this restores

Challenge:

“I would rather be a king-maker than a king.” (Lloyd Perry)

Who are you making into a king of a church planting movement in your country?