

## Looking into the Future: Church Planting Issues that We Will Face in the Next Ten Years

To paraphrase Robert Quinn, generating a church planting movement is like "building a bridge while on it." We will listen to one another regarding the issues that will face us in the next ten years, and we will get input from leading authors on church planting to hear their perspective. If we can better perceive what is coming we can attempt to be proactive and not just reactive as the future unfolds.

**Dietrich Schindler** (D.Min) is a German-American missionary church planter who is currently the Europe-wide Church Planting consultant 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 seven years 65 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. He is the author of *The Jesus Model: Planting Churches like Jesus*. Dietrich has been married to Jan Carla for thirty-two years, and they have three adult children. He has also generated a new life-based course for secular post-modern Europeans entitled "MyLife-Workshop" ([www.mylifeworkshop.org](http://www.mylifeworkshop.org))

### I. Issues that will face us that from outside of Europe

#### A. Migration from other countries

##### 1. Statistics

##### 2. Immigrant Christians

##### 3. Implications

a. Partnering with brothers and sisters to plant new churches

b. Take on a learning posture

c. Put them into leadership (the ultimate sign of trust and equality)

#### B. Pentecostal Phenomenon

#### C. Global Poverty

### II. Issues that will face us from within Europe

- A. Postmodernism will challenge us to show how the Lordship of Christ is freedom – a new non-rational apologetic will be needed.
- B. Isolation of the individual, locking into his prison of the internet – we will find ways of reaching the isolated via the medium of the internet.
- C. Non religious, but very spiritual – we will learn to tap into people’s non-Christian spiritual experiences and lead them into a full expression of spirituality which is experiencing Christ.
- D. The dominance of Islam (Huntington) – we have yet to find ways of effectively evangelizing Muslims in Europe.
- E. Gender identity – How will we reach the GLTG Communities?

### III. Issues of the heart

- A. Anhedonia – despite wealth and prosperity, people will not experience joy
- B. Emotionally absent parents (often occupied with themselves at the expense of their children – Will the church create a home for the emotionally homeless generation?
- C. Having it all and enjoying it less – Suffering under material prosperity

### IV. Issues pertaining to Church Planting

- A. Tackling the Milieus in our countries
- B. New Evangelistic Tools sympathetic to postmoderns
- C. Going from Addition to Multiplication in church planting