

Faith and Church Planting Movements

“Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6). Without faith it is impossible to see a church planting movement raised up. What is this faith? How do we exercise it? What characteristics need to take shape in the life of the church planting leader?

Dietrich Schindler is a German-American church planting leader in Germany and beyond. In twenty-three years of ministry, he and his wife Jan have planted five churches in Germany. They have three adult children and one wonderful grandson, Max – born to his church planting parents in Taiwan. The past six years Dietrich was the executive director of church planting for the German Evangelical Free Church denomination, pursuing the goal of planting 100 churches in ten years. As of 2006 63 churches have been started. Dietrich is currently a church planting consultant and speaker with the German Evangelical Free Church. He is the author of the book, “The Jesus Model: Planting Churches the Jesus Way.” He has also generated a new life-based course for secular post-modern Europeans entitled “MyLife-Workshop” (www.mylifeworkshop.org).

I. The Leader must be moved, before he/she can be a part of a movement

A. Moved into isolation (shut up unto God)

B. Moved to behold the Lord in his glory

C. Moved to absolute surrender to God

II. Faith: Seeing what is yet to come

A. A gift from God: Lord, what does your CPM look like?

B. A posture of thanksgiving: We thank the Lord for what will be as if it had come (Col 4:2)

C. A spotting of potential leaders

D. A premonition of where God will work (mapping a movement)

III. Questions to ponder:

A. How has God gotten hold of my heart?

B. What can I do to strengthen my faith muscles?

C. Where do I see a church planting movement rising up?