

## **Reproduction: Be Fruitful and Multiply**

Multiplication is the new buzz word in church planting today and very relevant, since we have not seen it take place in Europe (yet). How do we understand multiplication from a biblical standpoint and how could it practically take hold in Europe to form a movement? This will be the essence of this teaching.

**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](http://www.mylifeworkshop.org)).

### **I. Four Themes of Multiplication in the Bible**

- A. Multiplication in Creation
- B. Multiplication in God’s Covenants
- C. Multiplication in and through the Gospel
- D. Multiplication and Church Planting

### **II. Biblical Principles that lead to Multiplication Growth**

- A. Multiplication begins with God, not with man
- B. Multiplication is fuelled by an astounding vision
- C. Multiplication presumes humility
- D. Multiplication is the activity of the Holy Spirit
- E. Multiplication is rooted in worship and prayer
- F. Multiplication flows from the fear of the Lord
- G. Multiplication involves dependent activity
- H. Multiplication feeds on the dissemination of the Gospel
- I. Multiplication varies in speed

### **III. Seven Characteristics of Church Planting Multiplication**

- A. Timed Release
- B. Generational Distance
- C. Discipleship Depth
- D. Intentional Mindset
- E. External Focus
- F. Multiplication Coordinator
- G. Reproducible Models

### **IV. Conclusion:**

Church planting multiplication is not a contemporary phenomenon in search of a biblical warrant. Rather it is seminally described in Jesus' growth parables, inherent in his command to disciple all nations, and operative in the church planting behaviour of the early church as reflected in the book of Acts. Previous to the New Testament we see multiplication as God's design in the creation motif as well as in the birth and development of the nation of Israel. It is an outgrowth of blessing and part of the covenantal relationship between God and His people. Having a clear understanding of what multiplication looks like biblically, we need to contextualize this understanding practically.