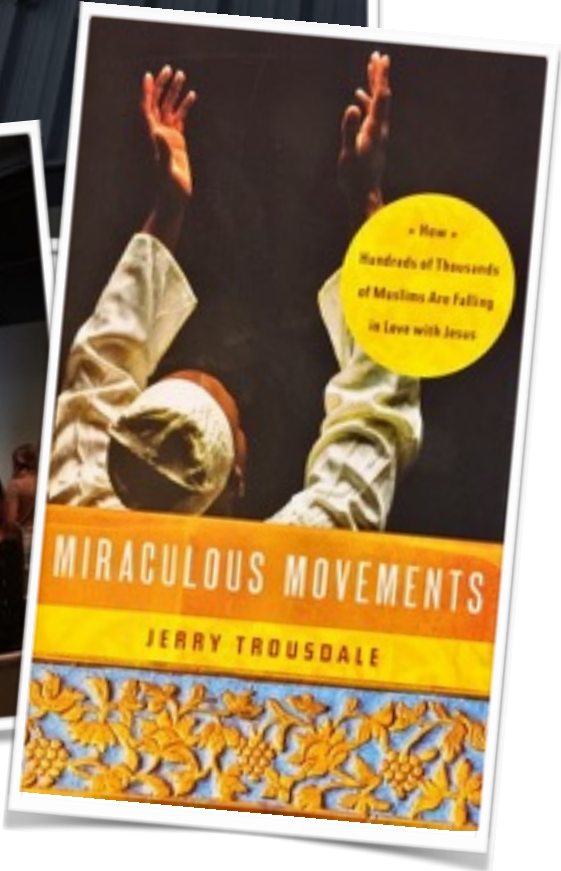


Disciple Making Movements

July 2015 Conference Report by Jim Egli



Disciple Making Movements Conference

Learning About an Amazing Move of God

Around the world, God is bringing millions of people to himself through an amazing phenomena called church planting movements or disciple making movements (DMMs). Vineyard Missions, Vineyard Multiply, and CityTeams collaborated to do a conference to explain this strategy at the Maryville (TN) Vineyard, July 23-25, 2015.

Although DMMs emerged in developing countries, in the past few years several churches in the United States have begun to apply their principles with some very powerful results.

I went to this DMM conference to learn principles that could be applied in Central Illinois, China, and Mexico.

The Meetings before the Meeting

The conference began Friday afternoon, July 24, but Mark Fields, the director of Vineyard Missions, invited me to come early to spend time with the key speakers and Vineyard missions people before the conference began. So I flew down on Thursday morning. On Friday morning my wife Vicki drove down in our mini-van with five others: Daniel Putman, Brittany Coleman, Nate Wells, and Fred & Oralia Collom.

Working in Africa

In a Friday morning pre-meeting session a group met to talk about African church planting strategy, particularly West Africa. The group

included a variety of Vineyard leaders like Bubba Justice, Jim Pool, and Mark Fields.

Josh Armstrong (from Maryville, TN): My wife and I worked in Haiti for three years and God put unreached people groups on our minds, particularly those in West Africa. So we began to explore this and we discovered that other Vineyards wanted to get involved in this.

We want to figure out who to work with and how to go about this. God is already doing an amazing work in Africa, so we want to tie into that.

We want to start in the Ivory Coast. We are connecting with people there. We want to go north reaching the Muslim populations in the Ivory Coast, Burkino Faso, and Mali, moving back toward the Middle East.

We are doing an exploratory trip in January that CityTeams is helping us with.

Jim Pool (Detroit, MI): Younoussa, could you tell us how you have launched these movements and how we might form a good partnership around starting a DMM?

Younoussa (CityTeams): Living in a community does not give access. Access does not come from just living there, access comes with relationship and trust. So things begin with compassion ministry that shows the love of God.

In Luke 10, Jesus says to speak shalom over a home. How do we speak peace, shalom. What if babies are dying in the community? Then there is no peace. If there is a lot of hunger, there is no peace.

So we look for ways to meet needs, ways to bring peace.

Then we ask, "How can we help the community to meet this need?" It does not work for us to just bring the solution. We must work together with them, we must find a solution that they own.

For example, in some places we just use prayer. In other places we use mobile kitchens.

What if people are traveling long distances to buy simple staple products? We might bring those staples to their communities using bicycles.

It is all about showing compassion to give us access. We must show the love of God. Love will always open people to us and to God.

As we do this, we are always looking for the person of peace. When we have the person of peace, then we begin the discovery Bible study.

We did not use to do it this way. In the past I would bring anyone to Christ that I could, but I would only get one person that way because they would be alienated from their Muslim friends and family.

But now we reach a person of peace, a person who is a doorway to the community. This is a person that is open and asking questions, and someone who has influence.

When we know we have found this person, we immediately have this person invite others to the Discovery Bible Study (DBS) even if it is just two or three others. Each of these people has their own network.

There is an emphasis right from the start on them sharing what they are learning with others. So immediately what people are learning is penetrating their networks.

Compassion also might mean digging wells or helping farmers or starting a mobile clinic or a school.

Jim Pool: The Vineyards in South Africa are using agriculture as a doorway. This is being done in Dar Es Salaam. The mosque has asked the Vineyard person to come and teach on farming methods.

Younoussa: Sometimes people and missions are very good at compassion but then they do not take the next step. But there must be more, there must be intentionality in offering Christ to people.

It is true that we offer compassion regardless of whether people respond to Christ, but we do not stop with compassion.

Sometimes people combine a medical clinic with preaching, but it goes no further because they do not build relationship and reach into the community.

Question: How do you find the person of peace? What if it is not the leader of the community?

Younoussa: In Africa, you always go to the chief first. The person of peace by definition, however, is someone that God is working in. There is a hunger in that person. They might be Muslim or animist.

You need to let people know who you are when you enter a community. What do you say when someone says, "How are you today?" You should thank God or tell them what God is doing. We train the church planters to let people know that they are a believer.

For example, I was encouraging someone to start a DBS in their work place. I showed them how to follow Deuteronomy 6:6-9, talking to others about God in the midst of their daily life. He said he could not do it. But

later he did and he gathered a group. I said, "How did you gather a group?"

He said, "I started greeting everyone in my office. When they asked me how I was doing, I told them, 'I am grateful to God because... he healed my child.' or something else." After a bit a woman started to ask me questions. She was the doorway that led to a powerful ministry at his workplace.

Multisite Meeting

Later in the morning on Friday, at 10:00am, about twenty people met with Michael Gatlin and I to discuss multisite strategy. About half way through the meeting Dave Hunt the CityTeams leader who is working with DMM strategy in the U.S. joined the meeting.

The Most Important Characteristic of a Church Planter & Pastor, Michael Gatlin

The most important characteristic of a planter or pastor is to be passionately in love with Jesus. It's like Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Keep loving and growing in Jesus.

The second most important thing is to get healed and whole. You do that by confessing early and often. Learn to be honest and to face your broken areas head on.

People often want to ignore their problems and struggles and get onto the important tasks of ministry. But you must let God go deep and get healed or these things will sabotage your leadership later. Even recently God dealt with me on an issue to take me deeper in an area where I did not know he needed to work. He is taking me deeper into a realization of his love. I begin with emerging church planters and pastors by taking lots of time on 1 John 3:1:

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Leadership Development and Launching New Vineyards, Jim Egli

I want to share a bit of our story and learnings in church planting and launching new multisite campuses. Our strategy is very leader centric. When we have a leader who feels called to a community, we can begin targeting that place. If the person is energized by preaching their own messages and has a distinct vision that is somewhat different than our church, they would make a great church planter and we point them in that direction.

If they are a strong leader but don't desire to preach every week and they want to be part of our church, they would make a great campus pastor. We don't care which of these two paths they choose. The multisite strategy gives us another way to expand church planting. It has also proven to be more effective in starting strong because we have the full resources of our church (small groups, children, youth, worship, and tech) working with the emerging church.

We have a one year internship program that combines weekly leadership classes (schoolofkingdomleadership.org) with mentoring and working with a supervising pastor. Candidates take the Champion ministry readiness assessment at the onset of that year. Then we use the excellent church planting training modules available from Multiply Vineyard. This works well for preparing both church planters and campus pastors.

Penetrating a Community, by Dave Hunt (VP of North America Church Planting for CityTeams)

We have people start by prayer walking a community. They first get in touch with a community by praying for it.

Then they love the community by serving its needs.



Then we tell people to live out loud spiritually. Talk about God, express appreciation to him and tell people what he is doing. The person of peace will come and talk to you. They might say something like: "You are always talking about God. I have questions about God."

We have people reach the community through the people of peace.

In these Muslim communities, we actually don't have people tell others that they are wanting to plant a church. They live a spiritual lifestyle.

Even in North America we use this approach.

Aaron M.: Would you tell the person that they are key to what God is doing?

Dave Hunt: Once we took someone from here to a smoking lounge in Egypt. He said, "I'm here from America, God sent me here and I'm looking for a person that God is drawing to Jesus. Is that person in this room?" An older man said, "Yes, I have been reading the Injil (the New Testament) for many years. I may be that person."

We do not launch in the community until we have brought that person in, that person of peace. We might work with that person individually for six months, or it might be very quickly, just a couple of weeks.

Michael: Sometimes people ask: "How do you pick your strategy? The strategies tend to contradict each other. Do you use an attractional or an incarnational strategy?" But actually it is not helpful to think that way. These are different, useful tools that do not necessarily contradict each other. Sometimes I might begin with a more DMM approach. Other times we might draw a crowd and build things out from there.

Dave: Yes, we need a diversity of approaches to reach a variety of people.

Michael: Yes, there is not one way of planting a Vineyard church.

Dave: Part of this involves taking our hands out of it and letting God shape the community. We let the people within the community figure out what will work best for them.

Kingdom Movement

The conference itself began at 2:00pm on Friday.

The conference began with a 5-minute CityTeam video. Jesus told twelve ordinary people to make disciples. How could they do that?

Jesus said to make disciples who obey everything he commanded.

DMM's are built on personal discovery and immediate obedience.

They are based on ordinary disciples making disciples who make disciples.



Our objectives for this conference are:

- To do strategic planning for West Africa.
- To look at new ways of doing church planting no matter where you are working.

Workshop Time 1, Jerry Truesdale & Mark Fields

How can we help you? What questions do you have?

We are wondering about reaching out to Muslims in southern California. What advice do you have?

Jerry: Those having the most success in reaching Muslims in the U.S. are ones that are reaching out to them immediately after they arrive because that is when they are most open.

Compassion is very important no matter where you are working. So often we have Christian compassion ministry or Christian proclamation ministry, but too often they are not united.

In Africa had a team go into a Muslim community where Christians had been killed previously. At first, they could not find a need. Then they were told that the boys were not circumcised. So they brought a team and circumcised over 300 boys from the age of 15 on down. The response was, "Muslims never did this for us. Why did you do this?" We told them, "Because God loves you and we wanted to show you his love."



So they built a house for our team and asked them to do an agriculture project. Now there are many churches in that area.

Selling water is also an effective method if that is a felt need. Any method that allows you to spend time with people.

Do the same methods work with middle and upper class?

Jerry: One church in the US that is really doing this is Calvary Church in Los Gatos (Silicon Valley), CA. They are finding success with the poor and the very rich.

Another church with 1000 discovery bible study groups is Long Hollow Baptist Church in Henderson, TN. They are seeing great results. An older lady decided as an "I will" statement: "I will convince the missions pastor that we can do DBS groups." It began with only 15 Christians. But then it grew to 100 groups and they also started children's groups. They were using a program called Final Command. It frustrated them at first because it was all believers in the initial groups, but then it spilled over to other people, other states, and even other countries. They are now known as the discipleship church of the Southern Baptist Convention.

What are some steps for churches like ours?

Jerry: The Final Command curriculum was designed to equip people in these methods.

Josh Armstrong (Maryville, TN): We are just starting to experiment with DBS groups in our community with people taking this into the work place and into other places.

Jerry: We have seen a lot of success in rural areas. But it takes a different approach with college students or other groups.

In Sierra Leone we have seen a whole nation being disciplined, at all levels.

How do you do training?

The biggest expense in DMMs is not church planting but training. Every leader needs teaching every three or four months. In time you get thousands and tens of thousands of leaders who all need teaching, training, and coaching.

The coaches point people to the Bible more than trying to give answers.

Is it hard to get your curriculum translated?

Jerry: There is very little to it because there is almost nothing to our "curriculum." It is one page of paper with a list of scriptures.

Actually, this makes the whole methodology very simple.

In 1994 I gave up on Matthew 24:14, on reaching the unreached nations. It was too overwhelming because it took about 15 years of training for a missionary to become effective, to learn the language, and culture, etc.

But when the role of the missionary is to be a catalyst instead of the church planter themselves, all of a sudden then, the person might be effective in a matter of weeks. It might take longer for a breakthrough to come, but it will much sooner as a catalyst working through people of peace rather than themselves being the church planter.

What can a North American be good at? What can a national be good at? There are different roles to be played.

When did DMMs start? How did this begin?

In the 1990's the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board was innovative and encouraging people in hard to reach places to try new things. David Watson was one person trying new things but then six people he was working with were killed in northern India. He was broken and God told him to pray and read the word and that he would learn how to reach the most difficult places in the world.

He became convinced that we needed to go back to Jesus' methods. He went back to the same place in northern India. But now he just had short-term visas. David Garrison, who was David Watson's boss, then wrote the book *Church Planting Movements*.

Reaching African Muslims, by Jerry Truesdale

I went to Africa to make converts. I was a bad missionary. I tried to learn two languages and didn't even learn one proficiently. I could not communicate but my mistakes could sure make others laugh!

Since I wasn't that good as a missionary, I went to get a Ph.D. so that I could teach missions. :-) But somewhere along the line I discovered that I really did love Africans and could help others do things that I could not do myself.

I was discouraged by the prospect of completing the task of world missions. The barriers and the training required seemed insurmountable. I took a break from doing missions. 15 years later I was taking a *Perspectives* course and David Watson showed up to teach one of the lessons. I was going to skip this week's session but I went because an African friend was there.

I had never heard of church planting movements or David Watson, but he answered every question I had about missions. We did not know if David was brilliant or a serial liar because the stories and numbers he was reporting were unbelievable! We started following him around. He perplexed us by continually pointing us back to the Bible. He would say, "How do you understand this passage and how would you obey it?"

We discovered that the answers to world mission were hidden in plain sight, they were right there in the Bible! We asked God what we should do, where we should aim. We thought God told us to ask God for 100 churches with several generations among the 18 largest Muslim people groups in East Africa. We didn't know if we could do this, but we knew we could ask God for it. It's amazing; now this task is over half done.

God is breathing on his church. He is calling us back to his word.

I want you to ask God, "Is there a group you are calling me to reach?" We have the amazing privilege of partnering with the creator of the universe.

Say, "God, what do you want me to ask you for?"

Muslims are so desperate today. What looks like a resurgence is actually emerging out of a crumbling of its core. In our culture too there is desperation that is creating an openness.

Let's look at Matthew 9 and 10 beginning in verse 35:

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Jesus is saying that there is an enormous harvest. It did not look like it. They were about to kill him. I think that there are no limits on what we can see in any culture. Big things can happen anywhere.

Then he told them to pray for harvesters. When we do this God gives us a heart for the harvest.

When we are on mission with God nothing is impossible. There is no place on earth where we cannot see amazing things.

Then in 10:1 & 8 we read:

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

This is doing Jesus' stuff with Jesus' power. God's kingdom is right here. Then he says, "Don't worry about money. I'll take care of you."

Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts – no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. (Verses 9 & 10)

Notice a few things.

1. **Jesus chose unlikely people.** Think of James and John. John the "apostle of love" did not start out as a loving person at all. He wanted a key position in the kingdom. He wanted to call down fire from heaven on a Samaritan village. Matthew was a crook who was thrown out of the synagogue. He was considered unforgivable. Simon the Zealot had probably taken an oath to kill people like Matthew. We have seen again and again, that the most ordinary people are the most amazing. I remember interviewing a donkey cart driver who started many churches. Another woman had an hour and half commute to Pretoria, South Africa, and started a DBS on her train. It filled her train car and spilled out to others. In Henderson, TN, a single mom was asked in her DBS training group, "What will you do this week?" She said, "I will convince my missions pastor to do DBSs to make disciples." That church now has thousands of DBS groups. We have terrorists planting churches. One said he was the devil himself.

2. **We are making disciples not converts.** In the garden of Eden, the issue, the temptation, was about choosing knowledge over obedience.

God asked Adam and Eve to be obedient. Satan invited them to knowledge. Jesus said that the difference between wisdom and foolishness is the differing between ignoring or obeying what was heard. (Matthew 7:24-27) In the closing moments of his ministry Jesus made 13 promises all contingent on loving and obeying him. The final command of Jesus was to teach people to *obey* him. There was an evangelist in East Africa who had seen 10,000 people healed and even more saved under his ministry. He had all the healing recorded in a book, but God told him to quit what he was doing. He burned the book and learned to make disciples and could show us 8 generations. In that town we interviewed the policeman who said his job had become boring because there is now almost no crime.

3. There is no transformation without obedience. And transformation leads to attraction. We have made a list of 8 things that happen in Muslim communities when they are penetrated by the Gospel. In one place, we had 35 different villages come and ask to be presented with the Gospel because of the transformative changes that they saw in other communities—fighting ending, marital harmony, etc.

I was on a flight and I wanted to rest but the lady next to me immediately started talking to me. She said, "I'm a Harvard graduate and I own a marketing company. I am Jewish and I hate Bible thumpers." When she said, "What do you do?" I said, "I help people discover God in the Bible." She said, "What is up with that?"

And I said, "You're Jewish. What is your favorite Bible passage?" She struggled to think of one but then said, "The Shema." But she could not remember it, so we worked together to construct it. I asked, "What does this teach you about God?" And she had some great answers after thinking. I then said, "What does this teach you about yourself?" She was very vulnerable in her responses. Then I said, "What would you do to obey

this?" She said, "I don't do obedience." So I thought together with her and we reworded the question to: "How could you try to align your life to this passage?" She later said, "This was wonderful!" This was same person that told me she hated Bible thumpers.

There is something that is much more powerful when someone discovers something rather than being told something.

I was talking to someone who just was getting a book published by Thomas Nelson. He told me, "We need a new reformation, we don't need people or organizations to mediate God's word to us."

DBS in a non-confrontational way that helps people encounter and apply the Bible. The power of self-discovery is amazing.

Let's turn together to Luke 10:17-24. I will read it from *The Voice* translation. This passage is the JV team, Jesus' second tier leaders. They are not named. This is the second generation people.

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

Setting the Stage, by Harry Brown

I want to explain how a disciple making movement works so that you can better assess what might work for you.

I have been a missionary for 25 years but only working with disciple making movements for 10 years. So we have learned a lot but there is a lot yet to be learned. This is a very young movement.

We will share some large numbers but this is not about us. We are not that smart or gifted, but we have had the privilege of being part of an amazing work of God, so this all points to his glory.

My Background

I have been with CityTeams for 41 years.

My story begins many years ago with Yingongan in Irian Jaya, an extremely remote part of the world. I interviewed him in a pig pen about how he came to Christ. He said, “There was a story I heard as a child that some day people whose faces were like the clouds would bring us the words of life. When I was a teen missionaries came. One day I went with my friends to the mountains to discuss these words of life. A mighty wind blew and we all spoke in tongues. We all burned our weapons.”

I looked him up many years later. He said, "The young people do not follow Jesus anymore, they turned back to witchcraft and warfare." I said, "What happened?" He said, "We did not disciple our children."

It's Working

DMMs are working in both rural and urban settings, among literate and illiterate.

DMM Results to Date:

- Churches: 38,613
- Disciples: 1,048,408
- Muslim Background: 324,321
- Movements: 82
- Number of Countries: 57

I share this because I want to build your faith.

Let me tell you a moving story. Hasan was captured by Muslim terrorists. Deny Jesus or we will cut off a finger. They did this ten times, cutting off all his fingers.

Can a disciple making movement happen here? Yes, if you are willing to do what they did, to pray, to sacrifice.

What is the Problem?

This is what Isaiah 9:6-7 says:

A Son will be given to us...

There will be no end to the increase of His government...

On the throne of David and over His Kingdom to establish it...
The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will accomplish this.

This is how we are doing in terms of % of believers in our world:

- 1900-33%
- 1970-32%
- 2000-32%
- 2013-33%

You can see the problems with our old approach:

1. It takes too long.
2. It costs too much to make disciples.
3. It does not reproduce.
4. We are producing believers not followers. A gospel of salvation presents Jesus as a savior to be believed in, not a king to follow.
5. Requires too many leaders.
6. Offers a "One Size Fits All" approach to missions. Does church look the same in every culture?
7. We have been restraining not releasing.
8. We have been training instead of mentoring.
9. Doing good is not good enough. Jesus said to "make disciples who obey." Isaiah 30:1 says, "Woe to you rebellious people who execute a plan but it is not my plan." If what we are doing is not getting

the job done perhaps we should cast our net on the other side of the boat.

Obedience based reproductive discipleship provides the solution to long-standing barriers:

- Lack of witness: Every disciple proclaiming
- Lack of power: Every disciple praying

Mission Eras

William Carey and his generation reached the coastlands.

Hudson Taylor and others went inland.

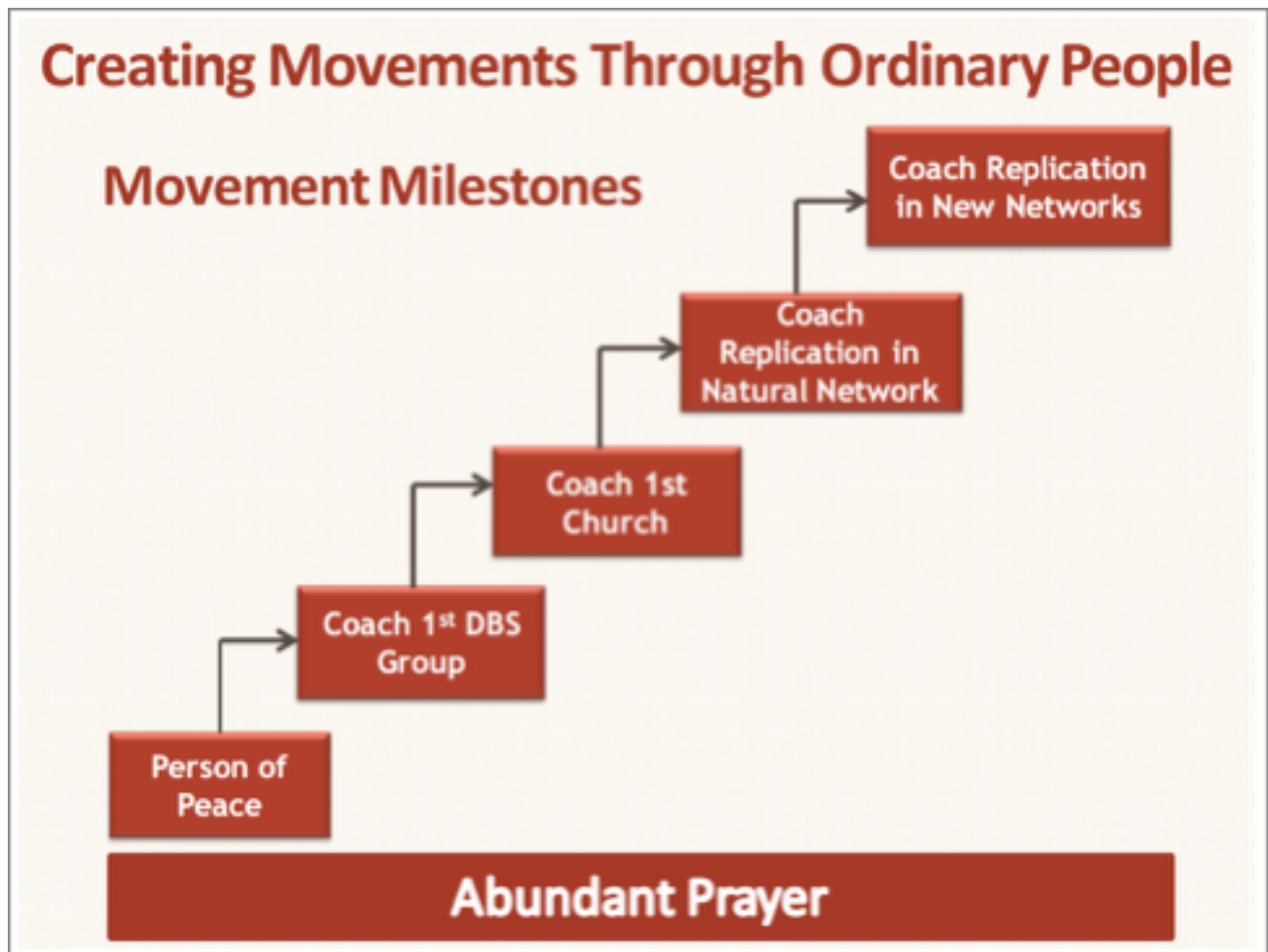
Donald McGavran focused on people groups.

In the 21st century it will be ordinary people reaching networks.

Strategic Shifts

- Professional to Ordinary
- Expensive to Cheap
- Slow to Fast
- One Generation to Many Generations
- Knowledge to Obedience

It Looks like This



The DBS Process

- Find the 'inside leader' to a group with natural affinity.
- Launch the Discovery process around 4 basic questions.
 1. What does the Scripture say?
 2. What does it mean?
 3. What will you do to obey?
 4. Who can you tell?

In a Muslim community called Kibara, the Muslims slaughtered 200 Christians. A believer cried out to God and he told them: "Do with a few what you were taught." Eventually 125 churches were started there.

Penetrating Every Culture

This strategy can penetrate every culture and people. Every segment is a movement waiting to happen. Paul says: "My imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known through the praetorian guard and to everyone else." (Philippians 1:13) How could Paul spread the Gospel to everyone when imprisoned? Paul is telling a few soldiers who are telling their friends and families.

The untapped power of the Great Commission is for the Gospel to move through interconnected relationships and segments of society.

Missions doesn't understand "niche marketing." We tend to offer a "one size fits all" approach instead of segmentation.

Old Testament: Come to me and be like me. (Jewish)

New Testament: Go to them and be like them.

People reject the Gospel because they think it represents control and joining our culture.

To Complete the Great Commission

To complete the great commission, you need something that works in any culture and language. It must be unlimited in scope and need no centralized control. It cannot be dependent on a structure to support it or a budget to fund it. It must not require specialized training or high levels of education. It must deal with all Jesus taught and must be completely transferable and reproducible.

You need disciple making movements!

Core DMM Principles

1. Focus on the receptive.
2. Start where you want to finish. What you win them with is what you keep them with.
3. Nothing artificial. Keep things appropriate to the local culture.
4. No spectators.
5. Multiply leaders.
6. Think in 3 dimensions: We need growth, maturity and sustainability.
7. The redeemed will restore. The enemy has broken everything. “(God,) Turn your steps toward these everlasting ruins, all this destruction the enemy has brought on the sanctuary.” (Psalm 74:3) Isaiah 61:4 says: “They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.” What is your role? To do good things or to train, equip and release others.
8. Stay engaged, but don’t take over. Don’t control. Don’t abandon. Encourage, upgrade, course correct, reinforce essential DNA (remind), connect them to what God is doing worldwide. Mobile equippers and keep movements on track and multiplying. New Testament apostles were mobile equippers.
9. Let it go! For the Gospel to go viral, you have to let it go! **Un-brand it** - Remove the barriers of logos and egos. **Un-tether it** - Remove centralized control to let it ripple through natural networks.

DMM Success Dynamics

- It will need to be simple, sustainable, scalable.
- It needs low operating costs to go far.
- No professionals.
- It must multiply leaders.
- Self-correcting - Accountability must be built in.
- It must be resilient.
- You cannot extract people from their culture or networks or they will not impact others.
- It must be transformational. What happened in Muslim cultures? Men stopped beating their wives and abusing their children. People started going to work. People quit fighting.
- Things must be adaptable: rich or poor, educated or uneducated.
- It must be motivated by love not fear. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Jesus (John 14:15)

Disciple Making Movements, by Dave Hunt, CityTeam Vice President of North American Church Planting

Beginning Disciple Making Movements in North America

You might be feeling very overwhelmed after everything that was presented so far. That is how I felt about 10 years ago when I started to learn about this.

At that time, the missions pastor at our church felt like we should start 10,000 churches, but I could not believe or see this.

But since then I have become an observer of what God is doing. In Africa we often would baptize over 300 people at a time. Many of them had been Muslims who had fallen in love with Jesus.

This is all about what God is doing, not what we are doing.

After seeing everything that God did in Africa, we thought, "What about America?"

The stats were challenging. Only 4% of churches in America reproduce. It takes 85 believers to make a new convert each year. Many churches are dying. Only 15% of people in our nation are actively involved in church.

Most people will not come to church. How can we take church to them? This is the key, taking the church back into the community.

Here is how Millennials see the church:

- 91% say we are anti-homosexual
- 87% consider us judgmental
- 85% think we are hypocritical

It does take longer in the US but we are seeing great results.

How Do I Get Started?

You might be asking: "How can I get started?" The process is not easy but it is simple. I am asking you to act on this in the next 48 hours. Here are some simple steps:

1. **Pray intensely before and while engaging in a DMM. Do prayer walks.** One of our most successful church planters is a woman in CA. I ask her how she does it? She says she prays a lot, sometimes months, before entering a community. She prays until God releases her to begin her work. There is *always* significant prayer before and after a DMM.

2. **Expect ordinary people to be the best disciple makers and church planters.** The real work is not done by professionals. We must release and empower others. Rosa was a Nicaraguan living in San Francisco. Her story starts with Pedro. He was an addict who came to our recovery ministry. He came to Christ and started to reach out in a community of immigrants and wanted to start a DBS. He met a person of peace named Angela. Soon we had 9 DBSs in that apartment complex. Angela returned to Nicaragua to visit and she started a DBS that included Martha. Martha led a group that included Rosa who did not read or write. Martha encouraged Rosa to start a group and they had her grandson who was 13 be the Bible reader. Thirteen groups emerged from this. Now there are about 400 DBS groups in Nicaragua and many of them have formed churches.

3. **Engage in the community and live "out loud" spiritually.** Too often as Christians we have little contact with our community. There are many ways to connect with the community: sports, classes, clubs, community centers. We need to do this wisely: ways that don't create dependency, ways that allow us to meet many people and build relationships. Living out loud spiritually involves "Shema" living where

we talk about God naturally and consistently. How do we open up our lives and live as kingdom citizens?

4. **Find a person of peace (POP).** These are “God’s pre-positioned agents to bridge the Gospel to their family and friends.” Learning this principle took a heavy load off of me. I did not have to be the evangelist anymore. I just needed to reach these people who God was already drawing. What do you do when you find this person? Jesus said to “stay with them,” sharing your life with them. Disciple them and encourage them to share immediately with their family and network. Model a DBS and encourage them to start their own.

5. **Use “Discovery” to help people hear from and obey God.** DBS is the core of the DMM strategy. This is all about obedience. Imagine that I told my daughter to clean her room, to fold her clothes and close her dresser drawers but she did not do it. Instead she memorized what I said and studied it and discussed it with others. That is what we have tended to do in the past. Here is how a DBS works:

- A. What are you thankful for this week?
- B. What are your challenges this week?
- C. Is there some way that the group can help?
- D. With whom did you share last week?
- E. How did it go with your “I will’s”?
- F. What did you learn about God?
- G. What did you learn about mankind?
- H. With whom will you share what you learned this week?

This is the fundamental process. Let's practice this now with John 6:24-25. (We moved into groups of 4 or 5 people and did a DBS on these two verses.)

Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" (John 6:24-25)

Jim E.: This was an interesting and powerful experience, doing a DBS on this passage but after our break, they explained that they had intended to have us study John 6:**44-45**, not 24-25! I guess one thing that the exercise showed us is that the DBS passage works with *any* passage.

6. Help the Person of Peace (POP) to launch a discovery group.

Encourage the POP to do with others what you are doing with them.

7. Plot a course for multiplication. Cast vision for multiplication.

This whole process is simple. You can start with your family, co-workers or friends.

Church Planting in the Vineyard, by Michael Gatlin

Why Do We Do This?

Why do we plant churches? It all goes back to what is expressed in 1 John 3:1a:

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

I grew up in a non-Christian home. I had never been to church but as a teen, friends introduced me to Christ. I was overwhelmed by the reality that God loves me. More recently God has been sinking this truth even deeper in my life.

The love God has for me and all of us is true for the over 200,000 people in the Duluth-Superior area and in all the towns where you live. That is why we do this.

Who Plants Churches?

The national Vineyard does not plant churches. Churches plant churches, believers start churches. That is one thing I like about the DMM methodology is that it empowers everyone to do this.

What makes the Gospel go viral is that people experience God in profound ways. So we need to make it our goal to help people experience God deeply and personally.

As Mark Fields said last night, learning these things is a back to the future experience.

If we take these principles and strategies seriously, we will be surprised by who does it.

Resources for Church Planting

We have tools to help you. This is really a continuum beginning with evangelism and discipleship, all the way up to leaders and pastors.

Some of the new tools are discipleship resources that we developed with Bob Logan.

Real training and discipleship is life-on-life. It does not take place in a classroom. Homero Garcia



also does discipleship exceptionally well at his church, La Viña in Mundelein, IL.

We have an acronym that we use at our church that came from what John Wimber taught us: IRTDMN—Identify, Recruit, Train, Deploy, Monitor, and Nurture. You can get a free copy of this at the Multiply Vineyard webpage (<http://multiplyvineyard.org>). We have a lot of different resources there and there is also a forum there to facilitate interaction. You can sign up for our email newsletter there and there is also a Facebook page.



This church, the Maryville Vineyard, is launching a new Vineyard in October.

We have a discernment process for this. We want to help people do this in the best way in their context. We offer lots of training to help you.

Our goal as Multiply Vineyard is to help as many churches as possible multiply. It is the nature of the kingdom to multiply.

Let's do some ministry. I want people to profoundly experience God's love, including us today!

Disciple Making Movements in Islamic Africa, by Younoussa Djao (CityTeam International)

I am a Fulani. I was a Muslim. We Fulani brought Islam to Northern Africa. The Fulani are proud of that. I was a leader of the Islamic student movement at my high school. I wanted to see all of Africa become Islamic. There are Fulani in 21 countries of Africa. We think all the cows in the world belong to us. I don't see any here in Tennessee. Are you hiding them from me?

Now my vision is the same to see all of Africa come to Christ. I thought I would be very happy to see four or five churches begin. I had a team and we started two but they did not do well so we closed them and sent the believers to other churches. I was training people how to reach out to Muslims. But time after time



nothing we tried worked.

Jerry Truesdale invited me to organize a training in 2003 in Abidjan with David Watson. I didn't know what to think about what he taught. I had tried all kinds of methods and combinations of methods.

The day that the training took place was the day after my third child was born. So I thought maybe I should relax and not attempt these things.

Jerry kept calling me and asking me if I had tried these new methods. I did not want to try them so I went through the notebook to refute it, to say it was unbiblical. But I could find anything unbiblical. So I decided to try it so I could tell Jerry it did not work in Abidjan.

I told my pastor I was going to try to start a new church. He said "okay" and he gave me ten helpers. In five weeks we got six families. They were baptized and we started a church. I thought maybe this was an unusual fluke.

We had David come again and do another training and we invited more leaders from different countries.

One of the people who got trained, went back to an area where missionaries had repeatedly been unsuccessful. We knew of only seven Christians from this people group—four of them in the US, two in Abidjan and one in that area. But using the new methods this guy planted 3 churches in six months. Today there are more than 100 churches in that area.

So I am giving my life to this.

A man fell in love with a woman and wanted to marry her. He was told he had to convert to her religion, Islam. So he went through the ceremonies and married her. After the wedding he was told that he had to be circumcised. He refused. They said if you are not circumcised, you be killed. He said, "What kind of religion is this?"

West Africa is the fault line between the Muslim north and the Christian south. Much of the fighting and tension in the region revolves around this—Muslims trying to take Christian regions by force. It is also a spiritual battle ground.

In 1974 the World Islamic Organization determined that:

- Muslim organizations should be set to resist Christian mission activities.
- Islamic TV and radio stations should be established.
- All Christian literature should be banned in Muslim countries.
- Christian orphanages and schools should be closed.

This agenda has been furthered by the Africa Islamic organizations. This includes the creation of Islamic economic ties.

Why is Islam so rooted in Africa?

1. The adaption of Islam to African context.
2. Islam is an oral religion. It was not intentional but what was communicated when Christianity came to Africa was that it was for people that read and write. We must figure out how to help illiterate (but sometimes very intelligent) people experience God.
3. Propagation by Africans.
4. It is a religion of transcendent power
5. It is a religion of social prestige. Wealthy people in West Africa tend to be Islamic.
6. It is communal in nature. Family is very important.

Challenges

Here are some challenges to reaching Muslims:

- It is a missionary religion.

- It is a militant religion. People may say it is a peaceful religion. But Muslims are not and have not been peaceful unless they are in the minority.

Responses of the Church

There are just four responses, three bad and one good:

1. Cooperation. This approach says, "There is no or little difference between Christian faith and Islam."

2. Crusade. This attitude is to focus on differences and react against Islam. I used to do this because I love to debate. I was winning debates but losing people! This was counter productive. I went and burnt my debate notes.

3. Negligence and Indifference: "They are difficult to reach, let's just ignore them."

4. Sincere Compassion: We can hate the religion of Islam but we must love Muslims. It is like AIDS. We hate AIDS but we must love people with AIDS. This is the biblical approach:

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

DMMs Among Islamic People

The DMM approach is making a breakthrough among many Muslims. DMM addresses each of these issues:

- Closed doors
- Community nature of Islam

- Supernatural power
- Cultural issues

In one village that people went to to start making disciples, they could tell something was wrong when they arrived and they learned that the chief's wife had just died. They thought that they had come on a bad day, but then they sensed God say to go and pray for her and God raised her from the dead! Miracles open doors for the Gospel.

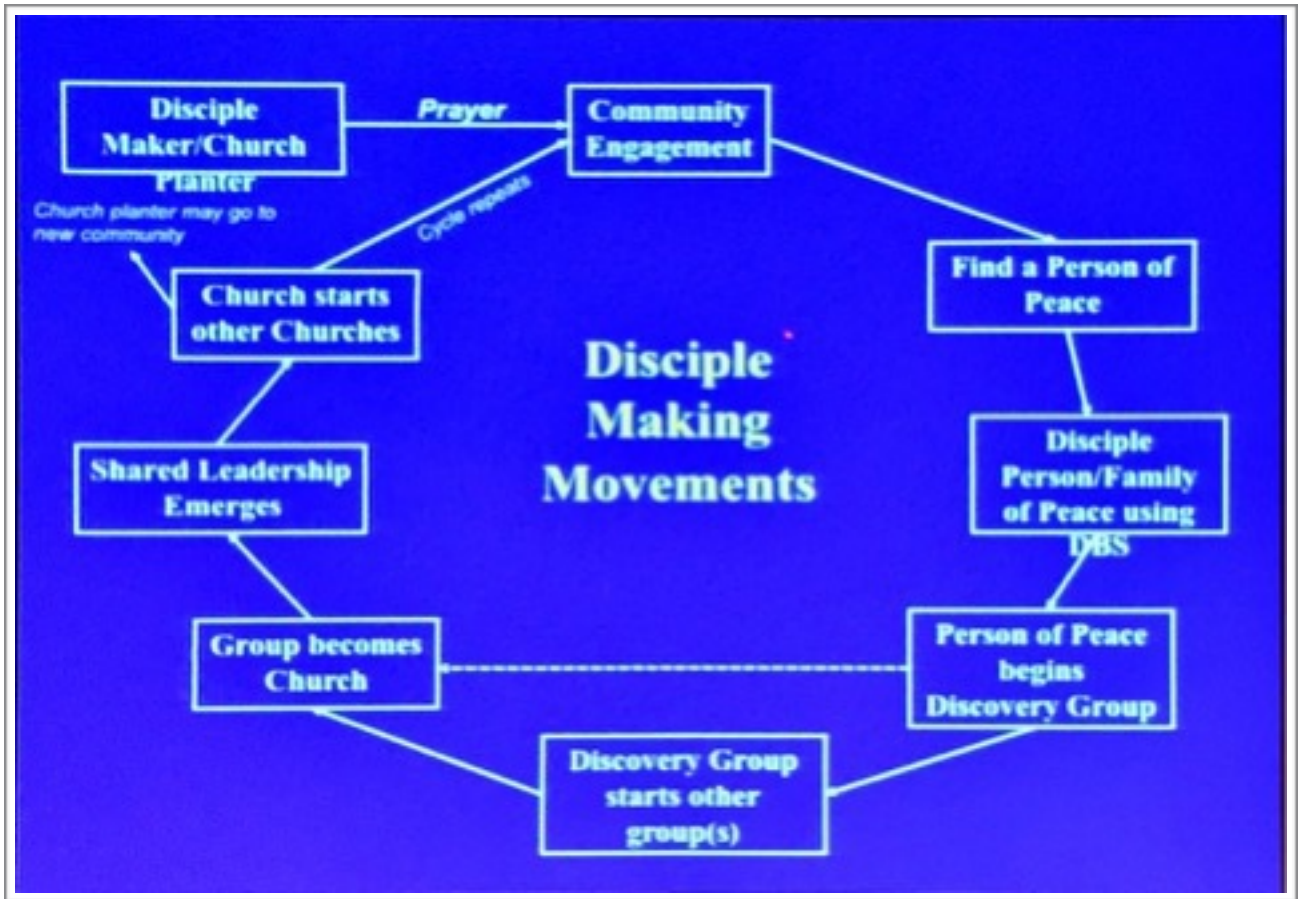
DMM allows the seed of the Gospel to be planted and to take a unique shape in each place, in each culture.

Five Key Elements of Focus for Us

1. Train local, national, and regional leaders who train other leaders.
2. Focus on pioneer areas
3. Focus on multiple generations leading to movements
4. Bringing transformation
5. Coaching

Specific Strategies

1. Pray, pray, pray. I do not let people go if they do not have at least 20 prayer warriors.
2. Train, train, train.
3. Support for a season those who go.
4. Empower the process.
5. Coach and mentor the grass root leaders.



This is what it all looks like.

It is not a movement until it has multiple generations.

Conclusion

The promise of God for the posterity of Ishmael shall be fulfilled. This is what Isaiah 42:11-12 and 60:7 says of Kedar (Genesis 25:13):

Let the wilderness and its towns raise their voices; let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice. Let the people of Sela sing for joy; let them shout from the mountaintops. Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim his praise in the islands. (42:11-12)

All Kedar's flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve you; they will be accepted as offerings on my altar, and I will adorn my glorious temple. (60:7)

Breakout with Harry Brown

Early Ministry Mistakes (Pre-DMM)

My first ministry assignment many years ago was in East Palo Alto, CA. This was at one time the murder capital of the United States, because of drug violence. The phone company employees and firemen wanted police escorts. Our house was burglarized five times and our car six times. Our garden produce also was stolen.

We were very sincere and committed, but we did not have the strategy. It was all about me. Black pastors encouraged me not to start a church. And I did that, which was a mistake.

We made a couple key mistakes.

1. One of the mistakes I made was doing everything myself.
2. Another was with working primarily with kids but not using them as doorways to their families. They are not the influencers and they grow up and move away.

We were just flailing. We did not understand that you have to nurture leadership that nurtures leadership that nurtures leadership.

We also did not realize that the all black community that we lived in was very diverse.

Developing Your Strategy

If everything goes perfectly, what will the results be?

Here are the six questions that I ask people:

1. What is the purpose of what you are doing? This makes all the difference.

2. How will you define success?
3. How will you measure it?
4. By your own definition, do you feel like you are being successful?
Are you making progress?
5. Are you satisfied? This is a trick question. People must be dissatisfied to make changes.

DMM Mistakes and Learnings

Jim Egli: What are some important things you wished you had known when you started DMM?

One thing that took us a while to figure out is who the person of peace really is. Some people are “false positives.” They are friendly and helpful, but not the key person.

Another thing we did not realize right away was when to walk away.

It also took us a while to put in monitoring system. When we monitor things and gather information on what is going on, we are looking for actionable intelligence. Jerry is responsible for this. We look at 14 different things. Things like new believers, churches, etc. The key things is: What is needed to make it work? And, are you monitoring it? Are you celebrating these things?

It is better to focus on a few key things than too many details.

We also did not understand the nature of persecution.

We did not realize at first how supernatural miracles could accelerate things. Miracles are pivotal and very important. Five times we seen people raised from the dead. We have seen many, many powerful miracles.

In the beginning we did not remove ineffective leaders soon enough. Part of this is failure to monitor and part of it is failure of nerve. I am talking about good people, but they do not represent the DNA. This takes research. Why is this person ineffective? Can they be helped? We were too slow on this initially. You have to keep the Peter principle in mind. Maybe someone needs to be freed from higher leadership to go back to the level where they are effective. Every person has capacity but the question is: What is their level of capacity?

The Key Questions

Our team from Urbana missed the very last session of the conference led by Jim Pool, Vineyard's coordinator for African mission partnerships because we had to hit the road and begin the long drive back to Illinois.

The key thing that stands out to me from the conference, that I want to present to you the reader of this report, are these words of Jerry Truesdale:

I want you to ask God, "Is there a group you are calling me to reach?" We have the amazing privilege of partnering with the creator of the universe.

Say, "God, what do you want me to ask you for?"

If you want to learn more about how God is using DMM's around the world. The two key books are *Miraculous Movements*, by Jerry Truesdale, and *Contagious Disciple Making*, by David & Paul Watson. (The former is also available in Spanish.)