

REPORT TO THE FGBC FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL  
January 27, 2011

The *EVLC – Church Planting Task Force* convened for the first time in Columbus (October 2010), with the participation of the following North American ministry leaders: Tim Boal (GO2), Nathan Bryant (GBC Canada), Neil Cole (Church Multiplication Associates), Dave Guiles (GBIM) and Tony Webb (Vision Ohio). Out of that initial encounter we developed the following set of priorities:

A Vision for the Network of Churches identified with the FGBC-USA  
October 12, 2010

***Our dream is that by 2020, our network of churches is known primarily by the quantity, fruitfulness and diversity of the churches we are planting.***

**Next Steps to making our dream a reality (2010-2013):**

1. Tell stories that celebrate and affirm the full spectrum of gifts/ministries that Jesus is giving to his church (Eph 4:11-12), thus establishing new, biblical standards of faithfulness and success. (Challenge the damaging lies of the enemy concerning worldly paradigms of leadership and success.)
2. Channel our current Statement of Faith away from its current role of building walls into a primary role of building bridges. (See it employed as an affirmation of what we have in common with the greater body of Christ as opposed to defining what makes us different.)
3. Encourage the creation of XX church-based learning communities across North America (and the globe) dedicated to identifying, equipping and deploying a new generation of leaders. (Stress training in the context of ministry, sharing of resources and valuing of APEST.) Empower the current *EVLC – Leadership Training Team* to aggressively pursue this initiative.
4. Develop a practical theology of presence and proclamation (Gospel in word and deed) that leads us to constructive engagement with our world. Empower the current *EVLC – Integrated Ministries Team* to aggressively pursue this initiative.
5. Create a totally new, by-invitation-only encounter to visionize, network and equip a new generation of leaders who share our vision of church planting, including those committed to the goals as outlined above.

**Internal Goal/Commitment of the EVLC – Church Planting Team:** Form a covenant group of leaders committed to be champions of church-planting in North America, being intentional in our commitment to biblical relationships with one another as evidenced by a) regular connection, b) prayer for one another, c) speaking well of one another, and d) enjoying time with one another.

We pursued these priorities during subsequent meetings in November and December (by

Skype) and during January 24-25 (at the CMA headquarters in Signal Hill). At our last meeting we unanimously agreed to the following course of action:

1. To affirm our relationship to one another – a type of "band of brothers" - with the dual commitment to 1) work and pray for one another's success, and 2) to cooperate in areas of common good for our ministries and the FGBC-USA.
2. To recommend that the FGBC refrain from endorsing any single church planting strategy, choosing instead to celebrate and promote the diverse strategies represented by our different organizations (and others that God may bring into our orbit). We believe that the days of a single, unified denominational strategy are likely gone forever, to be replaced instead with innovative and diverse strategies that reflect the leading of the Spirit and that adapt quickly to our rapidly changing society.
3. To request the immediate support of the Fellowship Council in three areas:
  - a. To release adequate funds to facilitate the cooperative work of this EVLC Task Force.
  - b. To address the need to reformulate the current Statement of Faith so that it aligns more closely with the historic non-creedal position of the Brethren movement and expresses itself in ways that build bridges as opposed to walls in the pursuit of cooperative relationships within the greater Body of Christ.
  - c. To encourage and facilitate access to those members of our churches whom the Spirit of Christ is moving beyond the walls of their local churches to engage in discipling the nations and starting new churches.

End of report.