

PART ONE: What Started Us Moving from Maintenance to Missional Movement

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What we have come to learn or re-learn about God's nature

- He is a missionary God constantly at work in our world.
- He has created us in HIS image to bring goodness to the world.
- He is a God of presence, who chose to dwell among his people.
- His Kingdom is here - and while not fully realized, it is among us and available to us.

David Fitch Notes three significant “posts”

—Post-Attraction: come and see

—Post-Positional: pastor has authority and is important

—Post-Universal language: Even if everyone isn't a Christian they all know they should and speak the language.

Karen Wilk Adds

—Post-Commuter: people no longer love the idea of life and work in separate communities.

“Hans Urs von Balthasar said that the only true theologians are the saints – Those who have practiced the life of Jesus.

Christianity – like baseball, painting, and philosophy – is a world, a form of life. And like those other worlds, it is first approached because it is perceived as beautiful. A youngster walks onto the baseball diamond because he finds the game splendid, and a young artist begins to draw because she finds the artistic universe enchanting. Once the beauty of Christianity has seized a devotee, she will long to submit herself to it, entering into its rhythms, its institutions, its history, its drama, its visions and activities. And then, having practiced it, having worked in into her soul and flesh, she will know it. The movement, in short, is from the beautiful (it is splendid!) to the good (I must play it!) to the true (it is right!). One of the mistakes both liberals and conservatives make is to get this process precisely backward, arguing first about right and wrong. No kid will ever be drawn into the universe of baseball by hearing arguments over the infield-fly rule or disputes about the quality of umpiring in the national league...Christianity is a captivating and intellectually satisfying game, but the point is to play it. It is a beautiful and truthful way, but the point is to walk it.”

-The Strangest Way: Walking the Christian Path, Robert Barron – pg. 29

Five Signposts along the Missional/Formational Journey

1. *We are ‘taking fewer mountains,’ and joining God more.*

2. *Our leadership is firstly defined by hearing and obeying the voice of God.*

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

John 10:27-30 English Standard Version (ESV)

3. *The wrestling to recapture our place in the center of culture is dead and buried.*

“Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! **7** And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:5-7 New Living Translation (NLT)

4. *The Gospel’s robust nature is always central.*

“Contrary to how some Christians choose to tell the story, Jesus did not come into the brokenness of this world to secure for us just salvation beyond it. He also offers a profound model for how he longs for people to live in the midst of this world’s brokenness. He presents a model of how to dwell with God in and for the world.”

-Dr. Barry Jones, *Dwell*, pg. 15

“Jesus is saying, “Taste and see that the Lord is good!” The new creation has already begun in Jesus and has begun in us, and one day he will bring it to full completion. Until then, we live as the redeemed people of God, becoming more and more like Jesus every day so that more and more people come to him through our visible and verbal testimony. This is our story. This is the story.”

Jeff Vanderstelt, *Gospel Fluency*, pg. 64

5. We know, understand, and see our false self-motivations coming.

“Most pastor work takes place in obscurity: deciphering grace in the shadows, searching out meaning in a difficult text, blowing on the embers of a hard-used life. This is hard work and not conspicuously glamorous.”

–Eugene Peterson, *Under the Unpredictable Plant*

PART TWO: How do we continue our Missional/Formational Movement to Multiplication?

“Multiplication is about spiritual maturity.”

–Jon Ferguson, Exponential Conference, October 2018

“When our deep commitment to Gospel Advancement intersects with a growing love for lost people, the outcome will be the church multiplied.”

“The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for 1) the numerical growth of the body of Christ in any city, and 2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city. Nothing else--not crusades, outreach programs, para-church ministries, growing mega churches, congregational consulting nor church renewal processes--will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow raising statement. But to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial.”

–Tim Keller, “Why Plant Churches?”

How we start to move toward Church Multiplication:

1. We start with the *'MULTI'* before we worry about the *'PLICATION.'*

2. We start fasting & praying together.

In SPIRITUALITY FOR THE SENT, The contributors write,
“When the church at Antioch set aside Barnabas and Saul, they heard the Spirit speak in the context of corporate prayer and fasting. In order to lead the church to hear from God, those in leadership must be first and foremost disciples of Jesus.”

3. We start being very attentive to the voice of Holy Spirit.

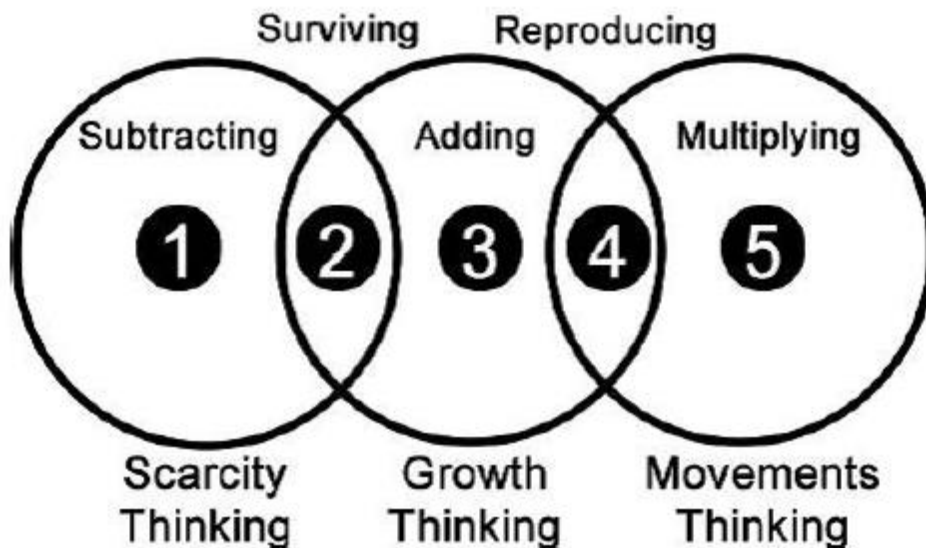
4. We start sending out our best people.

5. We start everything with an apprentice.

So you ask, what kinds of church planters are we looking for in the NAB?

- Planters committed to this missional/formational movement with us.
- Planters committed to a Robust Gospel.
- Planters committed to level 5 multiplication.

Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5



Our System:



Forming leaders and sending missionaries across North America and around the world who are a sign, servant, and foretaste of God's Kingdom.