**Executive Summary of Church Multiplication Forum**

**April 9-10, 2018**

**Trevecca University Campus**

Persons present:Eduardo Lelli-Nazarene; Bill and Sharon Wiesman-Nazarene; Mark Bane-Nazarene; David Lauffer-Christian Missionary Alliance; Dustin Webber-Free Methodist; Michael Forney-Free Methodist; Gary Thornton-Association of Independent Methodist; Hal Daigre-Association of Independent Methodist; Scott Kirk-VP of DCPI; and, Ron Duncan-GWA Executive Director.

Purpose of the Forum was to train the participants in the Dynamic Church Planting International’s Churches Planting Churches process and continue work on developing a Wesleyan ethos for church planting. The training is normally a three day training and we compacted it into two days. The twelve Biblical principles of Church Planting for a Daughter context is at the core of the training. These twelve principles form the foundation and motivation for church multiplication.

Planting new churches is “the single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven.”(Dr. Peter Wagner)

Dynamic Church Planting International’s goal is to train leaders to plant five million churches throughout the world(“a church is a group of believers in Christ who meet for biblical worship, learning and mission” DCPI definition). The approach is to train leaders to train pastors and laity in the concepts of church planting. The results for 2017, 41,000 persons have been trained in 120 countries around the world. The persons being trained are associated with their own denominations or tribes and the churches being planted are generally from their tribe. In the follow up research on how they are doing in reaching their goal, in the selected areas that have had five years since the time of training, they have found for each person trained, they have planted 2.73 churches in five years. Using this metric then within the five period for the 41,000 persons trained in 2017, you would have 111,930 churches planted toward the goal.

Since the inception of DCPI in 1994, 191,000 church planting leaders have been trained. This would result in 522,000 church plants.(Information from DCPI web site).

DCPI has seven modules they are training: Churches Planting Churches; Church Planting Essentials(how to plant);Mentoring Church Planters; New Church Dynamics; Church Planting Movements; NexGen Challenge. All of these modules can be reviewed on their website DCPI.

DCPI has been used by Church of the Nazarene over the last five years and have seen their number of church planting reaching all time highs(2011-72 church plants;2012-110;2013-105;2014-136;2015-144;2016-159;”of the 651 churches planted since 2012, 595 reported in 2016 which is a 91% survival rate. The actual numbers of conversions for the five year period was 7,144- with 2,796 occurring in 2016. Worship attendance and giving in 2016 was 5,085 with giving reaching $1,478,155.00

The overwhelming take aways from the training were:

1. Prayer is central and essential for gaining a vision of what God desires for us in church multiplication.
2. The church must return to daughtering new churches and this concept of church multiplication must get in our DNA as leaders and churches.
3. Every church regardless of size, resources, personnel will benefit from planting a daughter church.
4. The American church has become self centered to the extent that America is one of the largest mission fields in the world outside of China and India(page 14, DCPI,ChurchesPlantingChurches). Reaching lost people for Christ from the results seen in our culture has been placed on the back burner of most churches and leaders.

As part of the training, each participant was asked to develop their own plan for their situation concerning Church Multiplication. Just as the twelve Biblical principles are at the core of the training so is each participant developing a VIP(vision-involvement-plan). “Knowledge without wisdom is insufficient and learning without application is incomplete.” Each one of us presented to the group what we plan to do within the next twelve months with the knowledge we have gained. Since this was a unique group, our visions were somewhat different from that of a local pastor of a congregation, yet each vision was centered around church multiplication.

Dr. Wiesman and I decided to change the course of action on developing the ethos position. We are going to solicit the help of several Wesleyan theologians along with Church Multiplication personnel as we move forward. Dr. Tom Noble at Nazarene Theological Seminary has written a paper entitled “Celebrating Our Wesleyan Theological Heritage we want to use to build our base. Dr. Wiesman has written a paper entitled, “Making Disciples-A Biblical Theology of Mission” which emphasizes “making Christlike disciples in the nations.” These two submissions will be reviewed by at least one other Wesleyan theologian and several church multiplication personnel as we work on developing the Wesleyan ethos for Church Multiplication.

Some of the questions to explore in future study are: How does our view of the grace of God to all people influence what we do?; Is there a mandate to all churches for church multiplication within Scripture?; How does our concern for the lost connect with churches multiplying churches?; What methodology(ies) fits with our Biblical understanding of establishing a local church?; and, What sociological and demographic principles are consistent with our theology? We are sure other questions will emerge for consideration and invite all who read this to make suggestions.

Resources for where to find information were shared to all the group and additional contact points will be emailed within the next few weeks. If Church Multiplication is to get to the front burner, then we who control the conversation, must make it part of our everyday interactions with those we mentor and lead.

[Here are the things mentioned by Michael Forney as well:

Resources related to my book - http://gravityleadershipbook.com/resources/

Resources related to the Dinner Church model - http://www.dinnerchurchcollective.net/

And our new church incubator website that is still being built https://www.missionigniter.org/]

Respectfully submitted by

Ronald V. Duncan

Executive Director

Global Wesleyan Alliance