

Multiply Churches | Acts 1:8 | 9/15/24 | Geldart | Tru Community Church

1. Welcome

- a. Connect Cards
- b. Giving

2. Announcements

- a. **Women's Event** -> Moes at 7p this Fri
- b. **GET CONNECTED (WOTY 2024) Throughout the Week--**
 - i. **Guys Group** Weds 6am – Usually at Jason Wainwright's. info@tru.church for deets.
 - ii. **LG** → wed evenings 630 at the Swansons starting new focus on loving God's way and the one another
 - iii. **Women's monthly lunch** (3rd weds) – Donna
 - iv. **Moms in Prayer** Fri 9am at Tru
 - v. **Youth Group** here as well Sunday nights 630 for 5th-12th
- c. **Youth is Tailgate** this afternoon – 3pm at Oglesbys (5th-12th Graders)
 - i. Bring snack to share & a chair
 - ii. Activities plus Chiefs game
 - iii. Water balloon fight at halftime so also bring towel and change of clothes.
- d. **Kayla** → Love Offering
- e. **Kayla** → Pray for our teaching time

3. Intro

- a. [1] New series → MULTIPLY – go and make disciples...
 - i. **Image: seed producing a harvest of wheat**, each with the potential to create crops of new plants who do the same.
 - ii. New growth → Ripple effect
- b. **So it is with the church.** Designed by God Himself and intended to multiply
 - i. **Revisit Great Commission**
 - 1. Start with Verse attempt (have candy)
 - 2. [2] Read Mat 28:19-20 together
- c. **Jesus didn't just want multiplication** of the Kingdom through **individual converts**, but also to baptize them → put them INTO THE CHURCH – together in families.
 - i. Multiplication of disciples and local expressions of the church, local church communities/families – HIS BODY
 - ii. **With this series, we're going to build outward in.** The call to plant churches is built upon the call for disciples to multiply disciples. Which is founded on the call for the spirit to be planted and grow in our hearts.

d. TODAY we're going to start on the outside → the call to MULTIPLY CHURCHES

4. Recognize the heat in the room:

- a. We're starting this series off with a little bit of elevated temperature around the call to multiply ... whether it be disciples or churches
- b. Sensed a little bit of heat - discomfort
- c. **Hopefully you can see that it's coming from God's Word and from Jesus himself**
- d. And that it's just the right amount to help us move with him
 - i. Too much heat and ppl jump out! (TOO HOT!)
 - ii. Too little and we get comfortable, stuck, bored, and nothing happens
 - iii. **But the goldilocks zone???** Oh yah
 - iv. **That's my prayer** that we'd be able to sit in the heat on this series
 - 1. In the warmth – even if it's sometimes uncomfortable
 - 2. So that we can follow Jesus into what he's got next for us as a church and our community at large!
 - 3. Even if it's different from our experience or expectations
- e. Otherwise, at the end of the day, what are we doing? We're here to be CHRIST's body here in this world. Walking in the Good Works HE'S prepared in advance for us to walk in
 - i. Spreading the Good News and Growing his Kingdom
 - ii. Until the right time for him to return and take everything to the next level

5. Today: focus in on Acts 1:8

- a. **[3] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**
- b. **Principle:** Jesus wanted his disciples (and as we saw in Matthew 28 Great commission – ALL believers) to fulfill the great commission starting where they were, moving out a little further, and then even further to the entire earth!
- c. This is what happened
 - i. **1st Church planted right there in Jerusalem.** Then out a little to the region of all Judea, then out further to samaria (their regional enemies), and out to all the nations of the earth.
- d. Church history: Gathered, scattered.
 - i. Persecution
- e. Ripple effect outward

6. The book of Acts is all about this – the ripple effect growth of the church as it spread throughout the known world.

7. We see in **Acts 2** that on the first day of **Pentecost 3,000 people** came to faith, and they began to gather as the church (Acts 2:42-46) **in Jerusalem**.
8. By the time we get to **Acts 13**, we see the church has expanded to the **city of Antioch**
 - a. Modern day Turkey, just north of the Syrian border. The city is now known as Antakya
 - i. About 300 mi north of Jerusalem
 - ii. ~2-3wk journey on foot
 - b. **They are sending Paul and Barnabas to the cities in the Mediterranean region** for the purpose of evangelistic church planting.
 - i. **In Acts 14:21-23, when Paul and Barnabas went into a particular city**, they preached the gospel and people would respond. And a new church was born/planted there. Then they appointed pastors over the churches for the continued spiritual growth and edification of the people, and then they moved on.
 - c. And thus scores of new churches were planted throughout the known world.
9. **Early churches followed acts 1:8** and great commission model → call to multiply by making disciples who make disciples, churches that plant churches, rippling farther and farther out, witnessing to the Gospel throughout the world.
 - a. **WITNESS** → comes from the Greek word *martys*
 - i. Root word of MARTYR!
 - ii. Meaning not just someone who sees something but someone who **testifies of it** (like in a court), even at great personal cost.
10. **Acts 1:8 is near and dear to our church's heart**. It was the planting theme verse for our church back in 2014 when we first planted out of Westview Community Church.
 - a. Longing to see God's Spirit empower us as witnesses and move in and through us to **plant a new beachhead of His Kingdom here in St. George** and then continue to multiply and help plant churches throughout our broader area
 - i. **Starting in Jerusalem: St George**
 - ii. **More broadly, Judea: MHK, Wamego**
 - iii. Then a little further out → **Samaria: Westmoreland, Riley, St Marys, JC**
 - iv. And farther and farther into our whole state and nation, and across the whole world.
11. **This is the call from Jesus from the beginning**.
 - a. It's the foundational call we were planted from
 - b. The foundational vision we were planted WITH
 - c. And it continues to be the call of Jesus on our church heading into the future

12. [4] Why plant Churches?

a. [5] Jesus commanded it

b. [6] The early church practiced it – very effectively

- i. In only a few short decades, had planted churches across the known world!
- ii. It's the story of the book of Acts, and the background/foundation for the rest of the NT

c. [7] It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.

- i. Better than advertising, social media
- ii. Conferences, events
- iii. Service projects
- iv. Door to door evangelism
- v. Even More effective than the ministry of existing churches
- vi. *"The single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting new churches" (Peter Wagner)*

vii. Period.

viii. [8] CPs reach younger/next generation more effectively (Lifeway)

- ix. [9] CPs primarily reach and draw in ppl who are not Christians or are disconnected from church, dechurched.

- 1. 60-80% new CP members were not attending any worshipping body (stadia)

d. [8] It's one of the most healthy things churches can do – for themselves. It's best for existing churches!

1. [11] CPCs grow faster themselves (lifeway)

2. [12] Churches who plant other churches tend to have more stable income themselves.

3. Even after they plant!

4. [13] CPCs baptize 3x more new believers than those churches who don't CP (stadia)

a. [14] New churches reach 10ppl for every 100 members

b. 3-15yr old churches 5 ppl for every 100 members

c. 15+ yo churches reach 3 ppl/100 members

5. [15] CPCs are far more likely to engage in local and global missions and outreach efforts (lifeway)

e. [16] We need more churches

- i. Common misconception that we don't need more churches

- ii. It's actually not true! Not only are many existing churches largely ineffective in fulfilling the Great Commission, from a sheer numbers perspective, we still need MORE CHURCHES!
- iii. [17] As of a few years ago: the US alone needs to plant 3,000 new churches EACH YEAR just to keep up with population growth (stadia)
- iv. [18] What's more, 4,500 churches close each year.
 - 1. [19] Meaning we are LOSING churches 1,500/yr
 - 2. WE NEED MORE CHURCHES just to keep stable
- v. And we know that **people are open**, in many ways more than in a long time, to the Gospel and visiting churches.
 - 1. [20] 77% of ppl in the US believe in a higher power (stadia)
 - 2. [21] And 74% report wanting to grow spiritually
- vi. [22] **Mat 9:37-28: THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW. Ask the Lord of the Harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.**

13. **Of course, we don't have to do it all alone** – by ourselves

- a. The Lord commands his followers to pray for him to send out workers to plant and harvest. To plant new churches, reach the lost, and disciple them to do the same.
- b. And as often happens, Jesus sends US!
- c. **What does Jesus do right after this? He sends his DISCIPLES OUT.**
 - i. Not alone, but together. To do this work. Together.

14. **We're a part of a network of churches in the Wesleyan Denomination** that coordinate and work together in large part for this very purpose:

- a. To plant churches according to the Acts 1:8 call and vision.

15.[23] CODY TUPPS INTERVIEW

- a. **Welcome & Introduce CODY TUPPS.** (Leadership Pastor at WV, KDWC Church Planting?)
 - i. Tell us a little about yourself:
 - 1. Family
 - 2. Brief history
 - 3. Role in KDWC
- b. In your own words, **why is church planting important?** / Why do churches need to plant other churches? Why are you convinced/passionate about this?
- c. **What are some common points of resistance you've seen as churches consider CPing?**
 - i. What about if we're struggling to giving and attendance?
 - ii. Why wouldn't we want to just keep trying to grow bigger?
 - iii. Won't planting another church be a threat to our health?
- d. **When is a church READY to think about planting another church?**

i. What could this process look like?

e. How can churches cooperate to help plant churches in our area?

i. How does the KDWC think about church planting? How can it help?

ii. How does the CP portion of our denom giving work?

f. How would you encourage Tru be thinking about fulfilling acts 1:8 in our context?

i. What do you see as our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth?

g. How could Tru take steps now toward planting churches?

i. Ex: Get in a CPN → Riley? (use our 1% that already is sitting there, pray, support and empower a staffer to help with the Riley CPN board)

ii. Ex: Multiply small groups/house churches in our area/neighborhoods.

16. [24] John 12:24 -- ²⁴ **Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.**

17. **Me: When I became a pastor**, one thing I honestly told myself and God I'd never do is plant a new church.

i. Too hard!, Uncomfortable, Uncertain.

ii. Not my personality.

iii. I'll work in existing churches. What I know.

iv. God will use me to care for the flock and send others to plant new churches.

v. It's dangerous to tell God what you will and won't do...

b. Then in 2018 I found myself planting a new church

i. Death to my plan for how I thought my Christian life would go

ii. How my experience of church would go.

iii. But God is all about raising the dead.

1. And bringing about new life and Kingdom growth you'd never have expected.

2. Not boring!

18. Applications:

a. [25] See yourself as part of this multiplying movement.

b. [26] See the need for more new churches.

c. [27] Identify points of resistance.

d. [28] Pray for God to use us to help plant new churches.

19. [28] PRAY → CODY



multiply

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

matthew 28: 19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey
everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with
you always, to the very end of the age.”



acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses **in Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **ends of the earth**.



why plant churches?



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.

CPs **reach younger generations** more effectively than established churches.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.

**CPs reach nonbelievers and dechurched
better than existing churches.**

→ 60-80% growth from unchurched.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.

CPCs grow faster.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.

CPCs have **more stable incomes.**



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.

CPCs **baptize more** new believers.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.

CPCs baptize more new believers:

New Churches reach 10 ppl / 100 members

3-15yo churches reach 5 ppl / 100 members

15+yo churches reach 3ppl / 100 members



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.

**CPCs more likely to engage in missions
and outreach locally and globally.**



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.
5. We need more churches.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.
5. We need more churches.

The US needs 3,000 new churches / year
just to keep up with population growth.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.
5. We need more churches.

The US is closing 4,500 churches each year.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.
5. We need more churches.

The US has a net loss of 1,500 churches / year.
(3,000 new – 4,500 closed)



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.
5. We need more churches.

77% of Americans believe in a higher power.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.
5. We need more churches.

74% of Americans report wanting to grow spiritually.



why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.
5. We need more churches.

Matthew 9:37-38: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

why plant churches?

1. Jesus commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it.
3. It's the most effective method of spreading the Gospel.
4. It's best for existing churches.
5. We need more churches.

Interview with **Cody Tupps**



john 12:24

²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But **if it dies**, it produces **many seeds**.



applications

1. **See yourself** as part of this multiplying movement.



applications

1. **See yourself** as part of this multiplying movement.
2. **See the need** for more new churches.
3. **Identify** points of resistance.



applications

1. **See yourself** as part of this multiplying movement.
2. **See the need** for more new churches.
3. **Identify** points of resistance.
4. **Pray** for God to use us to help plant new churches.





multiply

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES



communion