



MentorNet #78

## COULD CHURCH MULTIPLICATION HAPPEN IN THE WEST?

Copyright © 2010 by Galen Currah, George Patterson and Edward Aw  
 Permission is granted to copy, translate, distribute, post or sell in any medium

We in the West often ask ourselves this question, and we who write and teach about reproductive, group disciple-making hear this question everywhere we go. Given the invisibility of church multiplication within Western societies, we tend to answer the question in two ways, no and yes. No, because of how things are, and yes, if we can agree to change a few things. The phrases below are given “tongue-in-cheek”, so, please, do not cringe with pain.

Could Church Multiplication Happen in the West?		
	No, because...	Yes, if...
Audience	families have disintegrated	church happens within existing networks
Authority	questioned and resisted	visionary, passionate and complied with
Baptism	public profession of faith	induction into the Body of Christ
Bible	fodder for sermons and lessons	handbook for group action in the world
Christ	far away in heaven	active in our midst
Church	bodies, building & budget	experiencing together the Presence of Christ
Church planting	start a congregation some day	multiply gatherings continually
Clergy	rule over churches	leaders empower their equals
Discipleship	learning right doctrine	learning how to obey Christ
Eucharist	administered by the ordained	breaking bread together
Evangelism	occasional, ineffective effort	normal conversation with willing hearers
Expansion	violation of others' choices	reclaiming Satan's captives
Faith	historical doctrine	obedience to Christ's commandments
Gifts of the Spirit	platform talent	everyone ministering with God's help
God	basis of a theistic worldview	The King who is conquering his enemies
Healing	medical assurance policy	praying the mercy of God into others
Holy Spirit	my engagement ring	God working powerfully in his disciples
Hope	material comfort	eternal reward
Jesus	He loves me and hates legalism	I love him and obey his commandments
Love	carnal knowledge	seeking others' eternal benefit
Mentoring	advice and counseling	making disciples of leaders
Miracles	happened a long time ago	normal outcomes of Christian spirituality
Mission	salaried theologians go overseas	taking Christ into households and markets
Prayer	wishing for more ease & comfort	pleading with God for souls and churches
Religion	private, individual preferences	public identity and convictions
Spirituality	self-gratification	power to bless others
Stewardship	others supporting my budget	sharing with those in need
Theology	abstract ideas about God	explaining how to experience God's power
Training	educating scholars in classrooms	passing on everything to the faithful anywhere
Warfare	political lobbying	despoiling demons
Wealth	personal possessions & prestige	meeting needs and financing mission
Word of God	biblical exegesis	hearing from God via the Bible & prophecy

To view or download other “MentorNet” articles, visit [www.MentorNet.ws](http://www.MentorNet.ws).