

How did you get into Movements?

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(transcription of interview)

So I came to a place where the Lord spoke to me and my wife, and we moved to a big city. We'd planted several churches, done crusades, done all sorts of things, but I had this desire to see movements of the gospel. So we moved to the center of a big city in South Africa - it was me, my wife and my family - and we wanted to see a movement of the gospel.

Well, pretty soon we had started a church like every other church, and we'd pretty much done what we knew to do. And I was pastoring the church for the first couple of years, and the church started to grow and people started to join... but I was increasingly dissatisfied. I was dissatisfied with the outcomes; the amount of energy that was going into it and the amount of things that were happening just didn't seem to match. It seemed like I was the only one who had a passion for the kingdom. It seemed like I was the only one who was pushing with all of his energy. And we had a growing base of members. We had a growing base of people that were coming to church, but that wasn't enough for me.

So, I remember the one day I was preaching a sermon and I'm talking to a group of people of this growing church, and while I'm talking, in my mind I go up outside the building and I start to look down on where we are (and at that stage we were in the center of a city that's 10 million people at that point in time - today it's 14 million people) and I looked down on the city and I ask myself a question I never asked myself before. I asked myself *what would it take to reach the city?* Now as a good pastor up until that point, I'd been asking *what will it take to grow my church?* But this I realized was fundamentally a totally different question. I realized that *what will it take to reach your city?* and *what will it take to grow your church?* are two completely different questions.

Today I say to pastors that if you want to grow your church you probably will never reach your city. But if you focus on reaching your city, your church will probably grow.

And so we began to change everything that we did. We actually closed the church down - and I don't recommend closing down churches - but we closed the church down, we were so desperate to see movements of the gospel - and we began to travel around the city and around the country making disciples, but more importantly not just making disciples but *making disciple makers*.

We began to show people how to make disciples and we began to multiply disciples. And pretty soon after a couple of years, a few short years, we began to see disciple making groups and churches multiply across the country, across the nation and across probably about ten different countries (and I say "probably" because it's very hard to track, but about ten different countries around South Africa). We began to see movements of the gospel multiply!

And so I think movements are critical because it's the only way that we will fulfill the Great Commission. We *have* to think in terms of multiplication. We *have* to think in terms of movements. We *have* to think about everything multiplying. We *have* to think in a way that's completely different from some of the sterile methods that we use today if we want to be relevant to the population growth worldwide. We need to learn how to multiply disciple makers that start new churches, train new leaders, and continue to multiply to reach entire new nations.

