

## Innovation Conference Sponsored by Leadership Network

### Missional Networks Team Report

#### Things that made us go Hmmm...

- **Stacy Spencer (New Direction Community Church; Memphis):**  
Success brings failure, The more you have the less you do, the more you have the more withdrawn you are, the bigger you are the harder it is to keep people on the same page
- **Craig Groeschel:**  
Failing is an important part of success; what works flows out of what didn't work
  - Create a culture that allows failure – call new ventures an experiment.
  - Tell people we are going to fail, but fail aggressively not passively. Fail forward.
  - Learn not to internalize failures. Failure is separate from who you are.
  - Debrief after any attempt. Why did it or did it not work?
  - Don't give up.
- **Gary Gaddini (Peninsula Covenant Church):**
  - Biggest need in our churches is people development
  - Our church gives money, supports the causes, only where our people are involved.
  - We teach that you do not “give to” but “give through” our church
- **Brian Mills**, pastor of Meadow Heights Church in Fredericktown Missouri is an SBC rural, multi-site church! Town of 3,900
- **Mark Deymaz (Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas):**
  - Evangelism is effective when the homogenous unit principle is followed, church, and church planting is not.
  - The single greatest movement of God today is His creating a multi-cultural/ethnic society and therefore churches that match society.
  - Recommended reading: “Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church” by Mark Deymaz
  - “Divided by Faith”
  - “United by Faith”
  - “One God, One Spirit”
  - 1/3 of all Hispanics for the next fifty years will be first generation immigrants
- **John Jenkins (FBC Glenarden):**  
The greatest hindrance to the newest movement of God is the last movement of God
- **Ed Stetzer (Lifeway):** A dangerous church in 2020
  - Will have seized and taken advantage of economic opportunities
  - Addressed sexual brokenness

- Wrestled with gender inclusion
  - Faced increasing intolerance toward their intolerance
  - Founded networking strategies
  - Implemented new innovations
  - Navigated the post-seeker world in which we live
  - Regained confidence in the gospel
  - Addressed what it means to be evangelical
  - Rethought discipleship
  - Worked through denominational catharsis
  - Found/developed greater networking strategies
  - Implemented new innovations
- **Nancy Ortberg (TeamworX2):**
    - Sustainable innovation is critical to the advancement of the gospel
    - Innovation happens best in teams. Must include more next generation types.
    - Behavioral values that create a culture that favors innovation
      - Questions are critical (Tell us what you think)
      - Risk comes with failure (value both)
      - collaboration allows differences to be expressed
      - Trust implies everyone is needed
- **Bob Roberts (Northwood Church):**
    - The church is exploding – just not here in North America
    - There is a Pentecost in the world going on every hour. South Africa, Indonesia...
    - We are to make disciples in the confines of life
    - A dangerous church in 2020
      - Focuses on the Holy Spirit and not pragmatics
      - Obedience to the word of God over theology
      - Gratitude toward Abraham, focus on winning Ishmael
      - Don't focus on models
      - Integrate faith and life deeper
      - Trusting God for, in, everything
      - Driven by living saints, not dead heroes
- **John Bishop (Living Hope Church):** A dangerous church in 2020
    - It's about simplification
    - We tend to minimize/eliminate the role of the Holy Spirit. Must be strengthened
    - It's about your heart being broken before God
- **Russell Rainey (Fellowship Bible Church):**
    - We need to learn how to intentionally release people, moving them from the pews to the playing field

- Move from high control to high trust
- Many people feel minimized by the local church's attitude toward the laity
- **Things not talked about at the conference (a discussion they had)**
  - Student ministry
  - Tribalization of North America
  - How innovation impacts sanctification & growth of new followers
  - The succession of leaders serving in mega churches
  - Mentoring young leaders
  - Lack of conversion growth in our churches
  - How will the attractional church survive in a resource poor economy?
  - Leaders who are healthy and connect with other leaders in healthy ways
  - Making Christ central
  - Emotional, spiritual, and relational health of church members
  - Innovative staffing
  - Care for widows, orphans, & children beyond programs
  - Diversity
- **Reggie McNeal (Leadership Network):**
  - There have been 80 million new believers in India in the past 18 months
  - What happens when we see the church through Kingdom eyes?
    - We move church from a "what" to a "who"
    - We stop thinking of church as a destination and see it as a connector
    - We help people see what God is doing
    - We see the rise of missional communities

The scorecard changes
- **Dino Rizzo (Healing Place Church):**
  - If I do not understand the value and power of diversity, I will not reach people effectively.
  - God must help us not to minister to the masses but to the one – someone different than ourselves
- **Neal Cole (Church Multiplication Associates):**
  - A church is only as good as her disciples
  - Need to realize that we are the church, then we're able to celebrate, release, launch different expressions of church. The mission is the point, not us.
- **Matt Carter (Austin Stone Community Church):**
  - Jesus built community through mission – working together builds community
  - When you aim for community you seldom achieve mission

- When you engage mission you get community and mission
- Sometimes we promise what we do not deliver on. Know who you are and be it. Do what you do better than anybody else.
- Leaders have to face the fact that people don't like change.
- If we continue to do what we've always done, we'll never get what we never had.
- The church needs to be less about competing with each other and more about celebrating each other's wins.
- You are as wrong as the worst sinner, but you are as right as Jesus.
- Keys to collaboration are trust, compassion, consistency, and hope.
- Groups are more willing to commit when a common mission is embraced.

### **Observations or Impressions**

- There is a growing interest in, passion for, social justice initiatives. This may be one of the great connecting points for denominations with innovative/missional churches. We may need to help some of those passionate about this topic to see that social justice initiatives need an evangelism component.
- There is need for an initiative that will train churches in a community to join in collaborative efforts with secular institutions – schools, businesses, non-profits, to impact and reach their city.
- Since the church is thriving outside of the US, we need to listen and learn more from international churches and leaders.
- There is a growing demand for ways to move a church's small group ministry from Bible study and fellowship to become groups that are missional.
- There was a fair amount of discussion on multiethnic churches, but the vast majority of the attendees (and speakers) are white males.
- John Bailey's word "collaboration" came up a few times during the main sessions. Innovative leaders see the need for collaboration and appear to be very interested in partnering with others to advance the Kingdom of God. They see no problem in partnering with like-minded individuals outside of their denomination.
- **The main topics were:**
  - Risk & Failure
  - Shaping the culture
  - The dangerous church in 2020
  - Missional Community
- **Breakouts centered upon the following topics:**
  - Multi-site Churches
  - Externally focused ministries
  - Generation Ministries
  - Women's Leadership
  - Recovery Ministries

- Missional Renaissance Ministries
- Generous Churches
- Church Planting
- Global Ministries
- Church Multiplication
- Multi-ethnic, Multi-Cultural Church
- Beyond Typical: Creating externally focused women's ministries
- Unleashing and Releasing the laity
- The church in the city, for the city
- Technology
- European church planting
- Why being missional matters
- Missional Community Transformation

**Books Given to each participant**

- *The Monkey and The Fish* by Dave Gibbons
- *Deliberate Simplicity* by Dave Browning
- *Beyond Megachurch Myths* by Scott Thumma and Dave Travis