

DEVELOPING &
MAINTAINING A

MULTI-ETHNIC

CHURCH MINISTRY

Getting started...

Stand to your feet if you can “yes” to one or more of the following questions:

- I speak at least one language besides English;
- In the church of which I am a member there are three or more distinct ethnic groups (WASPs, Hispanics, African Americans, etc.);
- I have a personal friend who comes from a country other than the USA;
- I come from a city or town with at least one rather distinct ethnic neighborhood;
- I have read a book in the last year about a country or people group outside the USA (Canada doesn't count!).

How do you think your answers relate to the theme of this seminar?

If you're standing...

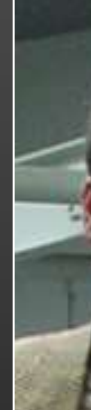
- You already have exposure to people who could become a part of a multi-ethnic church...all you need to do is prayerfully use the tools God has already put in your hand!

If you're still seated...

- You have the capacity to learn a language, read a book, or just seek out new people to help broaden the ethnic exposure of your church. Pray about learning a new tool!

Christian
Community
Church
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Can you identify the nations?



Morocco Uzbekistan
Australia
Romania Greece
South Africa Peru
Czech Republic Ireland
Philippines Italy
Korea
Taiwan Norway
United States
United Kingdom Netherlands
Spain Zimbabwe
Luxembourg



Christian Community Church

Luxembourg

- Australia
- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- India
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Luxembourg
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Peru
- Philippines
- Portugal
- Romania
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Taiwan
- Togo
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uzbekistan
- Venezuela
- Zimbabwe



Think it over...

- What kinds of special problems and challenges would you expect a multi-ethnic church like this to experience?

The Church at ANTIOCH: a NT Model

Acts 13.1-5 The leadership team at Antioch

- Barnabas, a Levite from Cyprus
- Simeon called Niger (an African perhaps from Cyrene?)
- Lucius from Cyrene
- Manean brought up with Herod Antipas in Rome
- Saul from Tarsus in Cilicia

Paul's TEAMMATES in ministry: another NT Model

Acts 15; 16; 18; 20 *et al*

- Barnabas from Cyprus
- Silas from Jerusalem
- Timothy from Derbe/Lystra in Galatia
- Aquila and Prisca from Pontus, Corinth, Rome, etc.
- Titus, an uncircumcised Greek
- Luke, a Gentile physician
- Demas (?)
- Apollos from Alexandria in Egypt
- Erastus (?)
- Sopater from Berea
- Aristarchus from Thessalonica
- Secundus from Thessalonica
- Gaius from Derbe in Galatia
- Tychicus from Asia Minor
- Trophimus from Asia Minor
- Epaphroditus (links to Philippi)
- Epaphras (links to Colossae)

Common problems in a multi-ethnic church



- Language
- Non-verbal communication issues
- Nationalism
- Prejudice
- Training and education styles
- Assumptions about leadership, gender roles and the family
- The role of emotion versus intellect

How do you actually go about developing a multi-ethnic church?

1. Develop an attitude
2. Get information
3. Make contact
4. Disciple others

1. Develop an attitude



- Philippians 2.3-11
- Do you think others are more important than you are?
- Do you have the mind of Christ in relation to people who are different from you?
- Are you eager to learn from other people?
- Or do you have the habit of doing things from “selfish ambition” and “empty conceit?”

2. Get information



- Choose a country.
- Read about it.
- Get news feeds.
- Find out who lives near you.
- Learn words and phrases.
- Discover local concerns of immigrants.

3. Make contact



- Try to meet people from the community.
- Take a genuine interest in their concerns.
- Ask lots of questions . . . and listen.
- Look for ways to serve . . . and realize you may be “taken for a ride.” The risk is worth it!
- Be creative and resourceful in making contacts and building relationships.

4. Disciple others



- Teach someone you are discipling in the Christian life to share this adventure.
- Get a younger believer to take a language class with you.
- Take along a disciple at each step of the process of getting information, making contact, and discipling others.
- This is the missionary enterprise in action!

Maintaining momentum and navigating turbulence

- Lead people to pray side by side.
- Keep the Bible central to all standards and conflicts.
- Teach different ethnic groups to understand and appreciate their differences (cf. Romans 14-15).
- Gain skill in listening carefully to what is said...and for what is *not* said!
- Urge church leaders to cross these barriers with you.

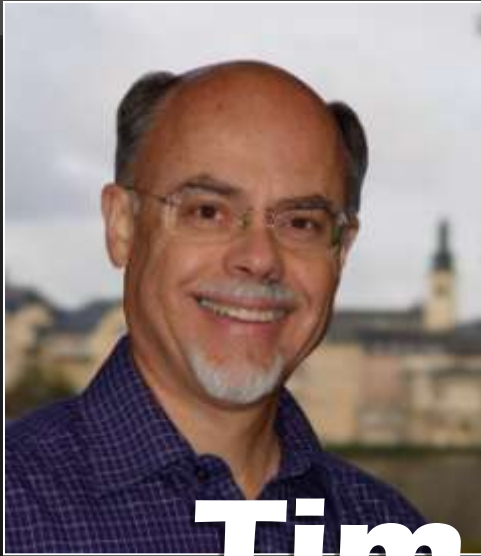
“ Should the Lord in his mercy ever pour out large-scale revival on any part of the world where I have influence, I shall devote all my energy to teaching the Word, to training a new generation of godly pastors, to channeling all of this God-given fervor toward doctrinal maturity, multiplication of Christian leaders, evangelistic zeal, maturity in Christ, genuine Christian fellowship.”

D. A. Carson

http://s3.amazonaws.com/tgc-documents/carson/2003_what_to_do_if_revival_comes.pdf

“There are only three kinds of people in relation to missions: Goers, Senders, and the Disobedient.”

John Piper, “The Legacy of Antioch,”
25 October 2009



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