

USA Operational Report

May/June 2006

Overview

A prophetic message was received in 1999 speaking of a spiritual impartation coming upon America from abroad. In a land that is filled with religious freedom churches on every street corner, and seemingly unlimited resources, it has proven difficult for pastors of US churches to fathom even the notion that God could view them as "junior partners" with international leaders from underdeveloped nations. Statistics from reliable sources such as Operation World, World Encyclopedia of Christianity, Barna Research Group, World Missions Center, and other Christian researchers, confirm the declining effectiveness of Western churches, particularly in the USA.

- ✚ Average size of churches worldwide is about 100; very small % is bigger than 200; most are 40-60 members.
- 1 in 100 who make decisions for Christ through evangelistic efforts actually ends up attending a church; the church loses 99 out of 100.
- Under 17% of members in churches of 100 or more are involved in a ministry corresponding to their spiritual gifts; 31% in smaller churches.
- The average number of people added to a local church in a 5-year period: churches 1-100 (avg. 51) = 32 (63%); 100-200 = 32 (23%); 200-300 = 39(17%); 300-400 = 25 (7%); 1000+ (avg. 2856) = 112 (4%). If you divided the large churches into smaller ones of 50 each they would win an average of 1792 or 16x more!
- 24 new churches started each week in the USA during the past 10 years; 72 closed their doors weekly = a loss of 48 per week, 2496 a year and a decline of 24,960 a decade. Over 80% of existing churches in USA have plateaued or are in decline.
- ✚ World Christian Encyclopedia divides global Christianity into 6 mega blocks: Roman Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox, Marginal, Protestant, Independent/Neo Apostolic. The Neo-Apostolic is the largest of the non-Catholic mega blocks and the only one growing faster than Islam.
- ✚ There is a mega-shift in the global concentration of Christians: in 1960 Western Evangelicals outnumbered non-Western Evangelicals by 2 to 1; by 2000 non-Westerners had gone ahead by 4 to 1; 2010 estimates it will be 7 to 1 with the major concentrations of Christians in Africa, Asia, & Latin America.

One of the primary purposes of this operation was to visit some churches in the Ohio region in hopes that God would give us an understanding of the status of His church. This would involve a 10-day journey to five churches with James Murunga of Kenya and 2 to 4 day operations with Sampson Dorkunor of Ghana and Santhosh Desabattula of India. This report is a summary of what was learned.

Highlights

April 29: A regional seminar was conducted for pastors and core leaders of 8-10 churches in Northwest Ohio with over 30 in attendance. The topic was "The Operation of the 5-Fold Ministry in the 21st Century." A strong case was presented for the 5-Fold Team Model in lieu of the traditional one-man pastoral system. In addition, James taught and prophesied "a removal of the stone that withholds and a rising up of true prophets and prophetic ministry out of the lion's den." We prayed for a number of pastors and wives. We discerned that there were strongholds and yet God was moving upon some of them for a new level of operation in ministry. We were beginning to see some divine connections with at least three of the leaders.

April 30 – May 2: Around 100 were in attendance on Sunday morning at New Harvest Church in Fremont, Ohio. Three young pastors and their wives were prayed for apostolically and prophetically prior to the preaching. There is an

apostolic calling, an apostolic anointing, and now an apostolic mandate upon the church. James preached a powerful message from Ezekiel 8 about the abominations in the inner court of the temple declaring that the world is the way it is because of these same abominations in the church today. Cleansing in the church will impact the city and region. Michael preached a message in the evening service on removing the spirit of religion from the church. We led the church in prayer for deliverance and freedom from religious spirits and released its hold over the city and region. Evening services continued for the next two days and involved around 35-40 people. God was speaking a "divine positioning" over the church based upon 2 Chronicles 20:17. On the final evening, three individuals were called forth, which resulted in two deliverances. One woman began to weep and break down when we laid hands upon her. She then fell to the floor with demonic manifestations. We cast out pain, woundedness, and fear in the name of Jesus and she was set free. A second woman whose daughter had been severely molested recently by a lesbian, was totally released from a spirit of anger, rage, and murder. She testified later it was the first time she was free of these things. We departed the city on the next day having prayed over the city with discussions of future strategies to impact the city for Christ.

May 3-5: We arrived at Bible Temple in Toledo, Ohio, in the afternoon for a series of three evening meetings. James taught on divine assignments given to us beginning with Esther 5 declaring that the church must put on her royal robes. "Watch out what is going to happen in many churches over the next six months. Foundations are being tested. Turn from traditions and be a spiritual father to the city. It's time for change. God will bless obedience. God wants us back in purity and holiness." We prayed for a number of people and some began to experience a breaking in their hearts; however, there were many traditional strongholds in the church. The next evening Michael preached on the teaching mandate (1 Timothy 4). James prophesied an awakening to righteousness, a new day, and a transformation by the knowledge of Christ. We prayed over the leadership of the church pouring much oil upon their heads. A young man named, Jason, with a spirit of rage whom we had encountered before came repenting and was set free to now walk in the spirit of grace and peace. The final meeting followed the traditional pattern for revival services. Typically, about 40 attend and we were informed that at least a third of these were new converts of the past year. James presented a final teaching on the restoration of true prophets and prophetic ministry. "We need the prophetic word that will bring life in the church again!" We prayed and released healing as a prophetic decree upon all who were sick.

May 6: The team proceeded to Dominion Church of Willard, Ohio, where James preached on Exodus 31 and Ephesians 4. "God gives Moses the vision of how He wants to build His house. God is changing the current pastoral system. Even Moses had partners." This young church of the next generation is being divinely positioned to take the city for Christ.

May 7: We arrived at Pillars of Fire Church in Adrian, Michigan, for their Sunday morning service. This is a struggling church with around 15 adults in attendance. A word of "rebirth" was received and delivered to the church. "The church in America will be reborn in apostolic power." James proceeded to teach on prophetic ministry dealing with authority issues of prophetic messengers.

May 8: We traveled to The Remnant Fellowship Church of Van Wert, Ohio. James preached on the kingly anointing from 1 Peter 2:9-10. "There is a priestly anointing, a servant anointing, and also a kingly anointing. God is bringing us into a new level of a kingly anointing. The 5-Fold ministers will walk in the kingly anointing. This is the anointing required for governmental warfare." We prayed over the people and one young man gave his life to Christ.

May 10-12: We returned to Canton, Ohio, in order to rest prior to attending an Ephesians 4 Network Conference in Middletown. We met with a small group while in Canton to discuss beginning house churches in the city. The next day we departed for the Conference where we heard teaching on transitioning to apostolic structure in the church. The session concluded with the presentation of a church format favorable for apostolic leadership.

May 14: James preached at High Mill Church of the Resurrection in Canton, Ohio, on the kingly anointing from 1 Samuel 10. "Only the kingly anointing can address and confront the strongholds over our lives, our communities, cities, and nations. Saul violated his sphere of ministry whereas David raised up a strong army and restored the presence of God under the kingly anointing. We need to come into this anointing. The headship of Jesus Christ is demonstrated in the 5-Fold ministry." We prayed for many well in to the afternoon.

June 13-18: Santhosh (India) and Sampson (Ghana) arrived in Canton within a day of each other. Santhosh shared his testimony at Christ Church of More (CCOM), an outside gathering of over 50 people, mostly of the next generation. Sampson prayed over the young leaders of this emerging house church two days later. Their ministry to this group set the stage for the next level of operation. This emerging group (CCOM) is a dynamic example of the spiritual revolution Jesus is leading today. Sampson and Michael traveled to Dominion Church in Willard to meet with a core group of leaders and to preach at their Saturday night service. We discussed a plan to establish house churches in cities and had intensive prayer in the morning at the Grange Hall where the young church is temporarily meeting. The Holy Spirit fell upon the church in the evening and Sampson preached on the spirit of Babylon (Genesis 11) and the spirit of Pentecost (Acts 2) encouraging the church to choose the spirit of Pentecost. A man with no feeling in his foot due to an accident years earlier testified of feeling for the first time. We returned to Canton where Sampson preached at River of Life Christian Fellowship before flying to Minnesota .

Lessons Learned

- The one-man pastoral system of American churches is ineffective for the most part when it comes to reaching a city for Christ. A transition/paradigm shift is needed. Pastors are making tactical errors in attempts to reclaim past successes within the traditional context of the institutional and contemporary understanding of "church." Many pastors are ignoring the value of the house church strategy while confusing it with former small group methods.
- Church tends to be viewed more in the context of a building rather than a living force within the community. (Note: Goal appears to be to build the church within the four walls rather than shepherd the city)
- Pastors tend to overstate the size and spiritual condition of the church. There is considerable denial, self-preservation, and patronization in the traditional pastoral system.
- ✚ Systematic and comprehensive teaching ministry is lacking across the board.
- Generally speaking, younger pastors are more open to change and pursuing new strategies.
- House churches are needed to overcome stagnation in the churches, penetrate neighborhoods, and to overcome the "spectator" syndrome.
- Pastors are having much difficulty with mobilizing, training and releasing the next generation.
- Apostolic operations must be conducted in the USA as well as overseas.

Conclusion

This operation confirmed an apostolic mandate upon the church to restore Christ's headship, God's operational purposes, and release the genuine prophetic ministry. There are several phases for this. First, an **apostolic anointing** descends upon leadership like a fire. The hearts and minds of leaders are dealt with by God. Those who resist enact a process of decrease in ministry effectiveness and in spiritual life. Those who embrace begin to rise up. Secondly, there is a **divine positioning**. 5-Fold ministries and congregational ministries are set in order by God in the church. This is a divine placement. Thirdly, an **apostolic flow** begins and enlarges, embarking upon the entire body of Christ. There is a rising up in the hearts of the people. There is the discovery, release, and full operation of the gifts. Fourthly, the **apostolic movement** stirs a universal passion, urge, and enthusiasm to move forward, to go out, to grow and expand, to send, and to do what it takes to reach the city and beyond. The observations of James Murunga clarify a number of changes that need to take place in our American churches.

Our journey through the churches in Ohio gives us an understanding on the spiritual status of the church of Christ . As much as we appreciate the term "diversity", there are biblical standards that have to be established in the body of Christ everywhere. There is need for man to step away from what solely belongs to Christ as the head of the church. When there is a "senior leader" in a position that he actually decides from his "executive position" what should go on in the church instead of Christ Himself doing it, then there is a problem. Leaders have to return to the kingdom understanding that:

1. We MUST live in ABSOLUTE faith, trust, focus and dependency on God's will rather than ideas that keep changing at the convenience of mortal beings.
2. Pastors and leaders should present themselves to Christ and the Holy Spirit and simply say, " Lord, please teach us once again to pray according to the Father's will."
3. House church, Citywide, regional and global church are four levels of church life that need be taught, taught, and taught.
4. There needs to be an aggressive yet wise approach in soul winning, discipleship and releasing or sending forth of the saints into the work of ministry.
5. House church will fuel the citywide church and the citywide church fuels the global church and the global church standing in unity and singleness of purpose and mission will cause the heavens to work on our behalf.

Sampson Dorkunor concludes: "The Lord is definitely bringing us here for a purpose and I pray that purpose shall be realized so that it shouldn't be that we are looking for 'money' and so we jump around in the US for a while. My heart yearns for the revival fires to be lit up especially in the hearts of leaders." Christian scholar, James Rutz, says, "The U.S. has about 23 million full-fledged, born-again believers who are church dropouts. In military terminology, they would be the reserves, a whole army ready and eager to jump into the fray if they could find a type of fellowship that offers them more than a place in a pew." For this reason and as a result of this operation, 5-Fold Global Ministries is submitting to selected churches strategic proposals with detailed action plans for leader training, the establishment of house churches, and citywide evangelism initiatives as well as making plans with our global partners for a 3-City USA Apostolic Operation for the Summer of 2007.