



EQUIPPER

The monthly Ministry Development newsletter from Grace Communion International in the United States

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Dear minister on mission with God:

At the recent GCI International Conference in Orlando, FL, I mentioned that I see GCI *on the cusp of something big*. That “something big” is **a movement of multiplication**. It gains momentum as more and more of our churches focus on what Jesus is doing in the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the Father’s mission in their nearby communities.



Ministering with Jesus
GCI Ft Myers, FL church

For examples, see **IT LOOKS LIKE THIS...** at <http://gci-usa.blogspot.com/>. There you will find videos and pictures of our US congregations participating with Jesus in multiplying disciples, ministries, leaders and churches.

This movement of multiplication will be our focus at the **US Regional Conferences** in 2011—each with the title, **On Mission with God**. Pastors, please inform your members about the conference in your region, and bring with you elders, ministry leaders, members (including young ones) and friends. Additional detail is provided on page 2 and in next month’s *Equipper*.

As we grow in understanding and responding to our triune God, we are drawn into God’s mission to the world. As this occurs, existing churches are transformed and new ones started. In CAD, we continue to devote ourselves to this vital missional work. And as I mentioned in Orlando, *church planting is our highest mission priority*.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 A movement of multiplication
- 2 A passion for church planting
2011 Regional Conferences:
On Mission with God

God reconfirmed this priority as district pastors and other CAD leaders gathered last month in Memphis, TN (see group picture at right). In prayer and discussion facilitated by church development consultant Steve Elliott, we heard clearly God’s call to *multiplication*, with an emphasis on church planting.



I praise our triune God for including us in what he is doing. And I thank and commend our pastors and congregations for their faithful participation—including providing support through prayer and donations to the work that our GCI ministries are doing to encourage, equip and supervise our churches on our journey with Jesus to *GC Next*.

Blessings to you all,
Dan Rogers

PS: Our congregations will soon be preparing their 2011 budgets. I urge them to budget for regular donations to our **GC Next domestic mission fund**. This fund helps make possible the mission-support services provided to our US congregations by *Church Multiplication Ministries (CMM)* and *Generations Ministries (GenMin)*. For a convenient way for congregations to make automatic, regular donations to this important fund, go to <http://cmm.gci.org/SupportCMM.aspx>.

Why I'm passionate about church planting

by GCI pastor and DPL Eric Shaw



As a gardener, I'm always planting something. It's part of my nature. I know that if you do not plant, there is no way you will have a crop. When we first began to discuss church planting in GCI, because I am not an early adapter, it sort of passed over me. Then I heard Dr. Eddie Gibbs (professor at Fuller Theological Seminary) say this:

In terms of winning a new generation for Christ, most existing churches are not going to make it. That's why I believe God is doing a new thing in our age – a renewed commitment to church planting.

Dr. Gibbs said this in light of the rapid pace of change within our world. Because new cultures are rapidly emerging within the US, it is vital that existing churches participate in planting new churches within those cultures so that they can be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I'm passionate to see existing churches help new church plants “*sprout*” and then grow.

For videos about church planting with district pastors Eric Shaw and Heber Ticas, go to <http://gci-usa.blogspot.com/> and click on “multiply.” To learn more about church planting within GCI, go to <http://cmm.gci.org/>.

US 2011 Regional Conferences



On Mission with God

Multiplying Disciples, Ministries & Churches

GCI leaders, members and friends—you are invited to ***On Mission with God***—GCI's 2011 *US Regional Conference*. This important conference will be held next year in eight places (locations and dates will be similar to those in 2009; details will be announced here next month).

On Mission with God celebrates our inclusion in the love and missional life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We'll explore ways to participate actively in what God is doing to multiply Jesus' disciples, his discipling ministries and leaders, and his discipling churches (including re-missioning existing churches and starting new ones).

At *On Mission with God*, large group (plenary) sessions will set the stage for multiple “hands on” workshops. Plenary sessions will feature inspiring worship with short, inspirational messages from Dr. Joseph Tkach (GCI president), Dr. Mike Feazell (GCI vice president) and Dr. Dan Rogers (GCI superintendent of US ministers). Most of the conference will be devoted to interactive workshops that explore achievable, yet innovative ways for GCI congregations and ministries to participate in what God is doing in the church and out to the community. Multiple workshop options will address topics relevant to pastors, ministry leaders and ministry workers of all kinds.

Note to church pastors and treasurers: Be sure to include this conference in your budget planning and on your church calendar for 2011. Costs will be similar to those for the 2009 regional conferences. Senior pastors are required to attend this conference as part of their continuing education obligation.