

FEATURE :: becoming vs. doing

simple church :: a New Testament house church network

An interview with Milton Adams

Q :: What initially sparked your interest in ministry to postmoderns?

A :: In North America only 16.6% of the population goes to church on a given weekend and 60% of young adults under the age of 40 have never walked in the doors of a conventional church. As my wife, Brenda, and I reflected on these sobering trends, our hearts question was, how do we reach people who have no interest in "church" but are very interested in God.

Q :: What specific methods or programs is Simple Church implementing to reach out to postmoderns?

A :: Sorry to disappoint you, Simple Church is not about programs. People, including postmoderns, are so tired of being the target of church programs and discussions. So Simple Church is about empowering common lay-people, no matter what age they are, who are convicted to become 21st century missionaries in their home town.

Q :: What are your favorite principles or ministry models for reaching out to postmoderns?

A :: The network is built upon a few simple principles: **1)** Empowering lay-people to do ALL the work of ministry. **2)** Believing that lay-people, as they accept God's invitation to join in His kingdom work, can and will be used by God in amazing ways for His glory. And **3)** keeping it so simple that anybody can be part of a simple church plant. In other words, it does not take a religious CEO to "do church".

Q :: What is your goal for the projects that your church is working on right now?

A :: This may be hard to grasp, but Simple Church is not "my church". Nobody owns the church even though that kind of language is common in conventional church circles. The church is made up of God's people, be it only two or three. Regarding "projects", the goal is to listen to how God is inviting a Simple Church gathering to join Him in His kingdom work, and then do it.

Q :: What specific methods are you using to draw younger people into your church? How do the church members respond and get involved with those methods?



title :: SIMPLE CHURCH NETWORK DIRECTOR

location :: MULTIPLE LOCATIONS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD), SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION (SPD) AND TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION (TED).

bio :: MILTON, HIS WIFE BRENDA AND THEIR 3 CHILDREN ARE BASED IN FLORIDA WHERE THE FIRST SIMPLE CHURCH STARTED IN THEIR HOME. IN 2009, THE NAD TEAMED UP WITH THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE ASKING MILTON TO DEVELOP A NETWORK OF SIMPLE CHURCHES.

website :: www.simplechurchathome.com

Photo courtesy of www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=775764821&ref=ls

A :: I feel like I'm being somewhat redundant. But I hope the theme is loud and clear - Simple Church is not about methods. In John 5:19 Jesus said, "the Son can do nothing by Himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does." So it is not so much about targeting postmodern people. It is about teaming up with God and working with Him no matter who He invites us to work with - that is what missionaries do.

Q :: How do you share responsibilities among the pastoral staff and lay members so that no one becomes overwhelmed?

A :: First of all there are no pastors. Everything is lay-led. Simple Churches start with a CORE4 missionary team. These are lay-people who do facilitate but they are common people from all walks of life. Simple Church is 100% voluntary. Every year CORE4 missionaries have the opportunity to recommit to the mission. So we leave it up to God and honor every persons conviction.

Q :: What would you recommend to others who want to effectively reach postmoderns who are just skipped by a lot of churches and outreach programs?

A :: Explore the idea of "becoming the church" as compared to "doing church". These may sound similar but they are worlds apart. Another key question to begin asking is, is the church a "who" or a "what"? This

question, and the Biblical answer to this question is the crux of what the Simple Church network is built on.

Q :: How does someone learn more about Simple Church?

A :: First, visit our web page found at www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com and click on the blue button in the top right corner. This webinar video presentation will give you the big picture. Then just follow the directions on the rest of the web page.

Milton's Recommended Reads & Resources:

- Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God (workbook) by Henry T. Blackaby, Richard Blackaby & Claude V. King
- The American Church in Crisis by David T. Olson
- unCHRISTIAN: What a New Generation Really Thinks and Why It Matters by David Kinnaman
- Recovering an Adventist Approach to the Life and Mission of the Local Church by Russell C. Burrill
- Missional House Churches by J. D. Payne