



Be Fruitful and Multiply: Embracing God's Heart for Church Multiplication

By Robert E. Logan

Church Smart Resources

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St. Charles, IL 60174

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-- Reviewed by J. D. Payne, Director, Nehemiah Project and Assistant Professor of Church Planting and Evangelism, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

In this easy-to-read work, Logan compiles years of ministry, research, coaching, and church consultation into addressing his passion, church multiplication. His purpose for writing this book is two-fold. First, Logan writes to convince the unconvinced that it is God's will for every Christian to be involved in a church multiplication movement. Second, he writes to offer a basic framework to assist readers in getting involved in such a movement.

The book is divided into two sections. Section one discusses the biblical roots of church multiplication, issues of contextualization, principles of church multiplication, and suggests different ways people can be involved in multiplication movements. The second section addresses ten essential areas of multiplication movements (spiritual dynamics, shared vision, planning, mobilizing church planters, assessing church planters, coaching church planters, planting new churches, developing multiplying networks, funding) and introduces the reader to action steps and additional resources.

There are numerous strengths of this work. For example, Logan's emphasis that church multiplication is clearly supported by biblical teachings is to be commended. He advocates that multiplication movements must be empowered by God, culturally relevant, and consist of reproducible methods that will empower "ordinary people to do extraordinary things" (31). A great importance is placed upon indigenous leadership. Much is written about the role of prayer in multiplication movements. Also, Logan peppers this work with numerous global illustrations, revealing examples and principles from both Western and non-Western church planting practices.

One limitation that I find in this work is that Logan's systems approach appears too structured to result in church multiplication movements. Much of the book is written for well established churches and denominations desiring to be involved in such movements. Though I believe that Logan's paradigm is well needed and will be well received by many groups and will result in the planting of numerous churches, it is a "top-down" approach to multiplication. Though grassroots approaches are discussed, the book seems to advocate the perpetuation of systems that are inherently contra-movement.



I strongly encourage missionaries and denominational leaders to read this work. I know of no other person who has had such a wonderful influence on church planting as Bob Logan. If you desire guidance in creating a healthy atmosphere for church planting in your church or denomination, this book is a must-read. Logan's passion for multiplying disciples, leaders, and churches is evident throughout this work. May this book be read, digested, and especially applied.