
Sunday, February 5, 2017
Did You Know?

Living for Mission

Last year many of us read a book called *Gaining by Losing* written by J.D. Greear. The subtitle of the book says, “Why the future belongs to churches that send.” I commend the book to all of you. This book spoke about being a church that thinks more about God’s Kingdom than just our congregation -- that our church is here not to merely gather more members, but to think so much bigger than that. Now, in theory, this was something that I knew was absolutely right. It made sense, but when it came to our actions, that’s when it became a lot more difficult. Let me share what I mean.

Several years ago we had the opportunity to send off one of our associate pastors to plant a church and we sent with him some key families that would help his church get off the ground. The four families that we sent included a deacon and three key leaders. In theory, I knew that the right thing to do was to graciously and happily send them off, and to bless them as they dove into uncharted waters. I’ll be honest with you; it was a struggle to let those people go. I had to wrestle with my own insecurities. I knew what the right thing was, but I can’t say that my heart was all in.

Fast forward a couple more years and another one of our pastors received the call to leave Young Nak and plant a church. I was glad for him and only wished for his success, but also in my heart, I knew I had to get behind him in a more tangible way. So, I offered that if he wanted to plug his church plant and recruit members from our congregation, I would give him the pulpit to do that. He declined saying that he wanted the church plant to be multicultural and not so Korean or Asian. As his time at YN was coming to an end, two more key families decided to go with him—another deacon family and one other key leader. This time around, it was a lot less difficult for me to send them off with our blessing, but I did sense that God was testing my heart, helping me to see what was really in my heart. Was I sending them off because that was merely the right thing to do or because I really cared about God’s Kingdom?

Then I read in Greear’s book that they do the same thing. They, too, regularly recruit people to leave their church in order to be involved in a new church plant or ministry. Upon reading this I felt that our church had been doing the right thing all along. I want all of us here at City to gather so that we can be trained and equipped to do ministry, that we would be inspired to go into difficult places with hearts that overflow with love, with the only message that can offer real hope for lost sinners—the Gospel. We don’t exist to hoard God’s resources, which includes our best people, rather we exist to lead peoples near and far to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Open your heart to how God might be stretching you during February Missions Month.

Pastor Peter