Responding to God's Call to the Poor

World Impact

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." - Matt. 9.37

World Impact is looking for highly committed people who have a calling from God to cross-culturally evangelize, equip, and empower the unreached urban poor. We nurture and train missionaries who join others to form a church plant team that seeks to establish an indigenously led, reproducing church.

Those who join our church plant teams do so with a commitment to "do whatever it takes" to get the church planted, despite a person's particular expertise or credentials. We believe that "who you are" (Christian character) is more important than "what you do" (what qualifications you bring).

Once the team is formed, God will equip team members with the gifts and burdens necessary to establish that particular church, just like the church itself (Rom. 12.5-8). Only the Holy Spirit knows which gifts and functions will be needed in that given context. For example, one church might have a heavy emphasis on adult addiction ministry, while another might begin through children's Bible clubs that create entree into adult relationships.

Because of the dynamic nature of each missionary endeavor, it is not important for you to come with a pre-determined role, gifting, or emphasis. What is needed is a calling from God and a willingness to serve in any way needed to penetrate whole families, disciple them, and hand over the leadership of the church (1 Cor. 9.23-27). What matters most is a commitment to contribute to the vision of establishing new churches.

Once a group of people is formed into a team, then the task of assigning roles begins (knowing that the initial assignments are likely to change). Some common functions that emerge in many church plants (this list is not exhaustive) include: adult ministry (men's, women's, marriage and family), children's and teen ministry, worship leading, organizing (projects and developing systems), and administration (keeps systems going). The most critical functions are evangelism, shepherding/nurturing believers, and communicating the Word of God (teaching and preaching).

Of course, the team's leader must assume certain functions that are not to be delegated to other team members, such as spiritual leadership of the team and vision-casting. The team leader must also serve as a role model to the emerging church in the critical functions (evangelism, shepherding, and communicating the Word of God).

Some tasks, especially evangelism, require all members' involvement from time to time. In fact, the team needs to be flexible enough to overlap into many, if not all areas. Since not everyone will be equally gifted or compelled in every area, the team must have a spirit of servanthood and openness as they assume various roles to accomplish the task.

In areas where a team consistently lacks expertise, a support team member can be enlisted to assist in that task. For example, if no one can lead worship well, a support team member could be asked to lead music until someone within the church takes over.