

Hosea Bilyeu has pastored Ridgecrest BC for 24 years and has taken them from about 28 people to about 2800 people. During his pastorate, they have sponsored various mission church plants and links – some made it well, others did not – most did!

He asked us to think about the following question:

“If you had unlimited resources, and could do anything you wish for the Kingdom of Christ, what would you do?” -- Bobb Biele

The question reveals your heart. Take a moment and answer it yourself . . .

Hosea answered it, “I would start and grow healthy churches.” His pastorate has been active in doing just that – and he plans to lead his church to do it two more times before he retires.

Four Lessons Hosea has Learned:

1. Church Planting is painful for a church and its leaders.

When you start a church, friends/tithers/good leaders leave to start that new work. You miss them in many ways.

Grief is to be embraced if Growth is to be Experienced.

Acts could be subtitled: Growth and Grief

Acts 1-3 Growth, Acts 4 Grief etc. . (Multiplying and murmuring go together!)

WHY THEN GROW?

- The Condition of the World Around Us!
- The Commission of Christ to Us!
- The Inevitability of Grief Either Way!

Choose your grief! There is grief if you grow. There is grief if you decline and die! Either way, you are going to experience grief, so choose what kind of grief you want to experience and go there!

- The Growth That Comes After the Grief

The church needs a release valve – planting a church allows people to leave with honor. You are going to lose people anyway for many different reasons. Church Planting, i.e., starting a new church allows the church to help people leave in a constructive manner with honor.

2. Church Planting is profitable for the Kingdom of God.

Add up the numbers of people saved, leaders, community served, etc. of all the plants off of a church and the numbers will be much higher than that church could have done on its own.

[This concept is the principle of multiplication/reproduction. All living things must reproduce!]

3. Leadership is the crucial issue!

Pray for the right leader – and the rest will fall into place. If the leader is wrong, nothing will help that group/church thrive.

4. The Crucial Question is, “Will my life be about mission or will it be about me?”

Am I more interested in my success, fame, comfort, preferences, control . . . , or am I more interested in Jesus Christ receiving great glory in His Kingdom?

It is seldom right to do nothing. So, what will I/we do about church planting?