

## **Who's Next? – Part 1 (April 23, 2017)**

This week Dave and I met with a man who planted a church in Brisbane at the beginning of the year.

As we talked about the struggles and difficulties – I was reminded of how hard church planting is here in this city – the sacrifice, the cost, the commitment necessary to see a church take root.

And I was reminded again that the sacrifice is not just for the Pastor and the Elders – it is a team effort – across the board from every member of the church plant **and** the sending churches.

Ever since our church started – one of the goals we set ourselves is to plant other churches.

In the exuberance of youth – I thought it would be easy.

Not surprisingly, it turned out to be a far harder task than I anticipated.

Around six years ago we decided to do two things – plant our first church – and find a larger building for the mother church to grow in to give us more size from which to do further church plants.

Almost four years ago we planted what is now *Grace Bible Church Corinda*.

A lot of prayer, hard work and giving later Corinda is financially independent and in their own building.

However, after many, many attempts – finding a larger building for this church proved fruitless.

So, last year we told you that we were taking a different tack. We were going to stay here – and plan to plant churches out of the existing congregations we have.

We told you that:

### **Our vision is:**

To see the Gospel permeate and transform Brisbane and beyond through a network of biblically faithful churches.

And that:

### **Our mission is:**

To proclaim Christ, to equip and mature His saints, and to plant other churches who share our vision.

We also told you that this vision and mission **had** to be owned by the entire church. There is no way the Pastors or Elders could drive this without you on board.

We surveyed the members and you indicated this was a direction you were absolutely behind us in.

Today and for the next two Sundays – I want to spell out what that will actually mean for each of us here.

If you are visiting with us – our normal practice is to preach through books of the Bible. But we are taking this break to talk through something crucial to the direction of our church.

How each of those who call *Grace Bible Church* home will be invited and challenged to be involved in seeing this vision come to fruition.

This is what we are going to look at this over these three sermons:

**Who's Next – To Grow?**

**Who's Next – To Give?**

**Who's Next – To Go?**

Who's going to be next to join us in this task to say – I own that vision and I want to be a part of it.

Last year we surveyed the church and as a result of that we told you that our plan was to plant the next *Grace Bible Church* – south of here – sometime next year – preferably in the first half of the year.

However, over the past year a number of unanticipated events have occurred.

Perhaps the major unanticipated event was that the person we employed to join the pastoral team and help plant the church resigned.

But as well, both main pastors had surgery.

A number of the key church leaders had significant family events.

A number of potential church sites we enquired after were unavailable or too expensive.

The Corinda church has grown to the point that their building is now reaching capacity. So we will need to send extra pastoral staff there and pour money into extending their capacity.

As well, a number of key men and women have had to come to grips with the real cost – for them and for their families. Moving home, school, maybe jobs. The change in significant relationships.

And even this week – two days after Rob Jenner agreed to join the pastoral team – the government abolished 457 visas meaning it will take significantly longer to get Rob and his family out here than we anticipated.

All this to say – our plan has **not** changed – but our timetable is in flux.

We still hope to do a church plant next year – but as we saw in James – we can make plans – but we don't know what tomorrow will bring – instead we ought to say – if the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.

So, I want to affirm – our plan is to plant – and hopefully the question marks will clear up soon – but in the meantime we want to make sure we are ready.

We want to challenge you to be ready to do your part.

We want **Grow, Give, Go** – to be embedded in the DNA of our churches or we won't plant other churches.

We want to challenge you with the question – **Who's Next?**

Today, we will look at:

### **Who's Next – To Grow?**

You know that we have looked at many, many properties and churches over the past six years.

One conversation stuck out to me.

We looked at a property that was a church – and it was never going to be suitable – but I did ask the pastor – why are you guys selling this?

He was honest. The congregation was getting older and shrinking and he said – selling the church would enable the few of them that were left to be more comfortable over the next ten years or so as they graduated to glory.

I have to tell you – I just couldn't understand that.

I remember thinking – Lord never let me settle for comfortable. I want to take up my cross and lay down my life.

The Pastors and Elders have been praying, talking, planning about the next ten, twenty years.

Two weeks ago we had a very honest conversation.

When Rob joins us – in one sense our church will then be in the most comfortable position we have ever been in.

Corinda is now self-sufficient. Holland Park is doing well financially, numbers wise, enthusiasm.

It would be really easy for people like Dave, Luke, myself – a number of the Elders – to cruise comfortably for the next twenty years and retire.

I want to assure you – that is **not** our plan at all – not anywhere near it.

Our plan involves some really uncomfortable decisions for the leadership.

Some of us will move churches, houses, relationship settings.

We plan on taking financial decisions that are significant – personally and for the church.

Why? Because we are absolutely convinced that the kingdom is far more important than we are.

**But** we realised to partner in the gospel we all need to grow because God uses mature committed Christians.

Ephesians 4:15–16 says this:

We are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

God's plan is to grow us and then use us.

Christians are **not** meant to be comfortable or stagnant – we were called to grow and and then go.

So, my point today is simple:

**Grace Bible Church needs every member growing beyond their comfort zone into the image of Christ to achieve our kingdom task.**

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There are many verses that haunt pastors.

James 3:1:

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Hebrews 13:17:

Your leaders keep watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.

But one of the ones I personally find most challenging is Colossians 1:28-29. There, Paul says that the thing he toils and struggles with all his energy – is to present **everyone** mature in Christ.

I have been to many conferences where figures something like this are bandied about.

In most churches – 20% of people are sold out to the Lord – 20% are an anchor to the work and 60% are merely passengers.

I do **not** think that is accurate here at this church.

But whether that is accurate or not – Paul would never accept that.

He toils and struggles with **all** his energy – is to present **everyone** mature in Christ.

Please understand what this means.

Mums and dads – most of you have probably said something like this to your children regarding school.

James – I want you to study hard, prepare diligently and do your best on this exam. Now if you do this and you get a C – fine – I am proud of you.

But son, if you have A ability and coast to a C – know Dad will **not** be happy.

Or if you are a C student who gets an F – again – **not** happy.

In a similar way, God has gifted every one of us differently. This is both in what gifts we have and our capacity to use those gifts.

For example, many Christians have the gift of teaching – few have the capacities of a Charles Spurgeon.

Unfortunately, sometimes we pastors seem to hold up the greatest saints of the ages – as the norm. Men and women who prayed for hours each day. Non-stop evangelists. Those who could read Greek and Hebrew at 8 years old.

No – very few have that capacity.

But we are all called to be faithful with the gifts and capacities we do have.

If you are faithful to serve God with whatever you have – God will be well pleased – and that is maturity for you.

Paul set a task – everyone pushed to become the mature saints they were created to be.

Unfortunately, the reality is that in this church and most churches there are too many of us cruising, comfortable, happy to stay in our comfort zones.

Colossians 1 haunts me because as I look back on my ministry – I see far too many passengers – men and women I have not pushed to grow – who are not more mature in Christ today than they were five, ten, twenty years ago.

And as I contemplate the future – I know that the men and women who turned the world of the first century upside down – they were **not** passengers.

They realised that the church was a battleship not a cruise liner.

We need mature saints if we are going to do the task the Lord gave us.

So, I want to challenge us all to make it a goal to grow in maturity and become more like Christ.

How?

When the Elders suggested doing this series – I thought great. Then I sat down. I actually need a year to do this justice not 3 weeks.

If you think about the passages in the Old and New Testaments on growing and maturity – there are **so** many.

So – I have reduced this down to three points:

**Sell out to grow**

**Seek wisdom to grow**

**Serve others to grow**

There are so many other ways to grow – but I want to talk about these three.

We begin with the first point:

**Sell out to grow**

Often when we hear – sell out – we think of selling out in a bad way.

But Scripture calls us to sell out in a good way.

In 2 Corinthians 8 – Paul is reminding the Corinthians of the churches of Macedonia. Persecuted churches, poor in fact so poor Paul says they were in extreme poverty.

But, out of their their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty, they overflowed in a wealth of generosity. When they heard of Paul's mission they begged for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints and they gave beyond their means.

What was the impetus behind their incredible generosity?

In 2 Corinthians 8:5 – Paul says – they gave themselves **first** to the Lord and **then** by the will of God to us – to the leaders of the church.

From that verse – I want to suggest that if we want to make an impact for the kingdom we have to sell out to two things.

### **We have to sell out to Christ and then to the church**

First:

#### **If we want to grow – we have to sell out to Christ**

When I first became a Christian and read the New Testament – the cost of commitment was a **huge** shock to me.

Jesus did **not** say – make me an important part of your life. He said – if you want to be My disciple you have to make Me **the** most important part of your life. Nothing else can come close – not wife or family or career or wealth – nothing.

Matthew 13:44:

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

To gain Christ means you give up everything.

You count everything else as rubbish compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.

To live is Christ, to die is gain.

Jesus never compromised on this. Many wanted to follow Him – but not at any cost.

Luke 9:57–62:

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

I think of the rich young ruler – what do I have to do to be saved? Sell it all and give to the poor – no – too much.

Luke 14:26:

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

I can well remember sitting at my desk saying – wow – if I am going to be a Christian – I am going to have to take those verses seriously. Can I do that?

I decided I should.

I have tried. I have failed at times – but by the grace of God I have tried.

But it is good to constantly remind ourselves about what this actually means if we say we are Christians.

Mark 8:34-35:

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

You have to give up your life to save it.

A crucified Saviour has crucified disciples.

Jesus is talking about choosing to make sacrifices for the kingdom – time, money, family, prestige and for some even their lives.

We domesticate these verses.

Oh Jesus means – **if** it comes to it – **if** someone puts a gun to my head and says – deny Jesus – **then** be ready to lay down your life – but if it doesn’t come to that – we don’t have to make that call.

**No!** Jesus makes it clear – a crucified lifestyle costs – it costs everyone in terms of position and time and money and lifestyle – and for some – their life.

We must all lose our life to gain life. This is a lifestyle not a one time event.

Mark 8 verses 36-37:

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?

What if a billionaire came to you with this deal:

I need your kidneys – one for me – one for my wife – and I will pay – handsomely. I will give you one hour – live like a King – eat what you want – burn money – buy anything – do anything .... but in one hour I get your kidneys – and you die.

Deal – or no deal??

We would say – NO DEAL!!! You can't be serious? My life for one hour? My life is worth more than that!

Now – be honest here. What many of us do with this command of Jesus would be the equivalent in my illustration of saying this:

Both kidneys no. **But** I have a counter-offer for you. I won't give you both kidneys – but I will sacrifice one – and for that I don't expect the world – just a very comfortable long life.

We think this is counting the cost.

We give God something that barely costs us.

We give Him a fraction of the time we spend on TV.

We give Him a fraction of the love we give to our families.

We give Him a fraction of the money we spend on personal luxuries.

We say no to a few minor things.

And then we think we have taken up our cross. We think this should suffice.

That is cruising. That is being a passenger.

There is no way we will make the sacrifices necessary to plant churches, to reach Brisbane and beyond – unless together we **first** sell out to Jesus.

Unless we are so convinced that our real home is eternity that we will count it a joy to sacrifice for the kingdom.

As well – back in 2 Corinthians 8 Paul also said this:

**If we want to grow – we have to sell out to the church**

On the day of Pentecost a new body came into existence – the church.

The church was a God-given, God-designed gift to Christians for us to grow, minister and reach the world.

When you read the New Testament – there is never one hint that you can be a lone ranger Christian – a Christian who exists apart from a local church.

There is never a hint of Sunday only or satisfied to be a passenger Christians.

While the New Testament does refer to the universal church – the whole group of Christians in all the ages – the more common way to speak of the church is referring to the local church.

What is the local church?

A **local** church exists where a group of saints gather in regular fellowship, where the Word is rightly preached and practiced, and baptism and the Lord's Supper are rightly administered. The church is accountable to a biblical leadership and to the local body, who encourage and admonish each other to glorify Christ in their lives and to reach out to the lost.

**Who encourage and admonish each other to glorify Christ in their lives and to reach out to the lost.**

One of the great tragedies of the Christian life is that in many ways the local church – the body God designed for us to share and love and grow – has become more of a social club – where nice people spend a few hours with other nice people – or a teaching centre – where our heads learn some facts about God.

We see symptoms of this in attitudes such as:

- Christians can think it's fine to attend a church indefinitely without ever joining a local church.
- Believers move churches very easily without regard for how that will affect the other church and other believers.
- Believers don't integrate their Monday-to-Saturday lives with the lives of other saints.
- Christians think it is fine to make a perpetual habit of being absent from the Lord's Day gathering on a regular basis.
- Christians make major life decisions (moving, accepting a promotion, choosing a spouse, etc.) without considering the effects of those decisions on the family of relationships in the church or without consulting the wisdom of the church's pastors and other members.
- Believers fail to realize that they are mutually responsible for the spiritual welfare of the other members of their church.

When you are not sold out to a local church – this leaves us conducting our Christian lives somewhat aloof from the church.

It is a teaching time not fellowship and partnership.

That was never God's plan. The local church was designed to be so much more.

We can get good teaching on the Internet, but it is in the community of God's family that we find accountability and community and use our spiritual gifts and apply the one anothers.

The local church is a family. No lone rangers. God's plan is that we STRIVE TOGETHER.

And we are not spectators watching from the stadium – we are all on the field – in the battle.

Every one of us has a role to play. We are to minister to one another.

No one should think they can just attend Sunday service but not minister to the body. I have an obligation to you – you have an obligation to me.

You have an obligation to those who are a part of this church.

The church is a family where you covenant to help one another become mature in Christ.

We need this because as sinners we all have times where we fail to live up to our calling and then others in the family encourage us and help us bear our burdens and point us again to the goodness of Christ.

When you read through the New Testament – one of the things you just cannot miss is that from the moment of Pentecost onwards – the Spirit of God fused all Christians into the church.

Although that one body is made up of many local congregations – collectively – all Christians share the same task – to see the gospel of Christ permeate to the outermost parts of the world.

You read the book of Acts and it is clear that gospel interests trump self interest.

In Acts 2 we read about the events of the Day of Pentecost.

Jews from all over the Empire had gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost.

If you look at verses 9-11 we see that this included Jews and proselytes from:

Persia, Medea, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Rome, Crete and Arabia.

Peter preached and three thousand of these Jews were converted.

But they had only planned to be in Jerusalem for a short time. Now they wanted to stay and sit at the feet of the Apostles and learn.

But they had needs and were far from home.

So what happened?

Acts 2:44–47:

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

All of those who had resources – money, food, possessions, homes – they made it all available for the good of the gospel.

And other Jews saw this miracle and the Lord kept adding to the church.

Acts 4:32–35:

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Now – don't mishear me.

I am **not** suggesting we have to adopt Christian communism. Sell everything we have and live communally.

In Acts 5 Peter made it clear that the money and property belonged to Ananias – but it was his responsibility as a steward to use it for the kingdom.

I **am** suggesting that if the Spirit of God is in you – then you will be sold out to Christ and to His church and this will lead you to be willing to make sacrifices for the sake of the gospel.

If the local church is God's gift to help you grow – then be a part of it.

If you are on the fringes of the church – join the church – become a member. If you have toyed with the idea of membership – stop toying and join.

The next classes – are baptism on June 4 and Membership on June 11 – set those dates aside.

As well, join a homegroup. Get involved in men's ministry and women's ministry.

Make sure you are accountable.

Make sure you are putting your hand up to serve.

### **Sell out to grow!**

As well, we have to:

### **Seek wisdom to grow**

We hear so much about being self-aware. Far more important is to be spiritually self-aware. To know our strengths and weaknesses. To know the areas we need to grow in – to mature in – to learn.

If you are going to become the man or woman we need you to be to help us at this church or at a church plant – you need to ask yourself some hard questions.

I want you to think back over your spiritual life – five years or even ten years ago.

Think about where you were in terms of holiness, sacrifice, Bible study, prayer, your marriage, giving, evangelism. What your life in Christ was like.

Now fast forward to today.

How would you compare your life then with now?

Are you more like Christ?

Have you defeated some entangling sins?

Do you love to be with the people of God more today?

Do you share the gospel more?

Have you learned more about grace and Christ and heaven?

Do you have a greater love of giving cheerfully?

Do you handle trials better?

Do you have a greater love for His Word and prayer?

Some of you will evaluate your life and know you are holier and more mature. You will have seen growth in your Christian life.

For some – your life will have been spiritually stagnant. Not much change.

And for some self-assessment hurts because you will realise that you have in fact actually regressed spiritually.

But, Paul would say – regardless of what you found – Philippians 3:13–14:

One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

What matters is what you do from this day on.

Fast forward five or even ten years into the future.

Where would you *like* to be spiritually?

Even more important – if you are going to make a kingdom impact – where do you *need* to be spiritually?

What areas of your spiritual life, your relationships, your family life do you need to see significant growth in?

When you know those areas – prayer, accountability, evangelism, understanding the Word – whatever the lack – find the God-given resource for growth.

If you don't know how to grow – talk to an Elder.

In His grace, God has given us many resources to help us grow.

Some are parachurch resources – Bible Colleges, teaching ministries, online sermons, university ministries, books.

But most are right here in the church. Prayer meetings, homegroups, men's and women's meetings, growth groups, discipleship groups, accountability.

Let me share my heart here.

I thank God for the number of incredible, godly men and women we have.

But we need more.

We need many more mature, faithful, available saints.

We need more leadership here, at Corinda, more for the plant.

We need at least four more deacons here – let alone the ones for a church plant.

We need more of those who can disciple others.

We need several more homegroup leaders and women's leaders.

We need dozens and dozens of you to move from being passengers to leaders.

We need you say – **I'm next to grow.**

Finally – we need you to:

## Serve others to grow

Leaders have a God-given role of caring for the souls of those under their care.

But it is impossible for leaders to do all the work of maturing the saints.

That is why if you add up the verses in Scripture giving instructions for leaders to minister to the church – it pales in significance to the number of verses where every Christian – **every** member of the body of Christ is commanded, exhorted, encouraged to minister to others in the body.

When one part of the body needs encouragement or counsel or admonition – it is not just Dave's job or my job – in fact it is impossible for us to help everyone – it is your God-given task.

Sometimes I talk to Christians who say – I'm not godly enough or gifted enough or holy enough to help someone else.

Then you disagree with God. In 1 Corinthians 12 – we are told that *every* part of the body of Christ – every one of you – has a role to play.

And it is in fulfilling this role – in serving others that we grow.

Over the years, one of the most encouraging things I have seen has been some Christians who have struggled mightily in their own walk with God – respond to the challenge to minister to others.

They found some other hurting saints and listened to them, gave to them, cried with them – befriended them.

And ministering to others was part of the way God designed for them to get healthy and grow.

They started reading the word to know how to help others.

They started praying for them.

They turned their focus to others.

If you don't want to be lukewarm – one of the things you need to do is to throw yourself into serving others.

We have a particular responsibility to those who are brothers and sisters in the household of faith (Gal. 6:10).

These responsibilities are outlined in many places – but one of the clearest is in the one anothers of Scripture.

There are the one anothers of **love**:

Love one another (John 13:34-35)

Bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2)

Serve one another (Gal 5:13)

Comfort one another (1 Thess. 4:18)

Be hospitable to one another 1 Pet. 4:8)

Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another (1 Pet. 5:5)

There are the one anothers of **edification**:

Build up one another (Rom. 14:19)

Encourage one another (1 Thess. 5:11)

Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24)

Confess your sins to one another (Jam. 5:16)

There are the one anothers of **warning**:

Admonish one another (Rom 15:14)

Restore one another (Gal 6:1)

These commands are for **you**.

Who is **your** one another brother?

Who are **you** carrying out some of the one anothers toward?

Even if you are not where you want to be – ministering to others is still your responsibility – and part of your healing and growing process.

And when any of us fails in our role of mutual ministry – the whole body is weakened.

1 Corinthians 12:26:

If **one** member suffers, **all** suffer together.

Go to a homegroup – not just to get – but to minister.

Can't go to homegroup? – go to a ladies Bible study.

Can't do that – have a struggling couple or a single mum or a divorced dad or a single person over to tea – just be a friend. Play a game – have a laugh – and then ask them how you can pray for them.

Can't do that pick up the phone, write a note or just pray for another.

When you just go along for the ride – those around you suffer.

Think about the person in front of you – behind you – across the church from you.

**You** are God's gift to them.

You are not here on a Sunday just to sit and learn – you are here to develop a relationship with these people. Iron sharpening iron. One flawed saint encouraging another flawed saint to keep pressing on to the upward goal in Christ.

God gave you as a gift to this church and we need you. Boy do we need you.

Sometimes I meet people in the church who say – I looked around and there is nothing for me to do here.

I feel like screaming.

We can't fill all our rosters now. Dot is constantly sending emails about volunteers needed – she sent one this week about a need for more men and women to serve as stewards.

We need enough people who can help with music, sound, DP, video – to not only fill our roster – to have backups – but also to fill a church plant.

If you think there is no spot here to serve – just talk to Dot – or talk with me.

Can't work the sound or DP – we will train you.

**You need to serve others to grow.**

Brothers and sisters – I really want you to hear my heart here.

This series is not meant to be a guilt trip – or a some give more plea – or a you need to better hammer.

Far from it.

This series is an invitation.

The Lord gave us a task – to reach the nations.

To be His witnesses.

To join Him in building His church.

There is no greater privilege. No greater task we can give our life to.

This is where we find joy. This is where we find life.

This is a life worth living.

But if you desire to join us in this task then together – we have to plan and get ready.

One of the doctors I work with set herself a goal a year ago – to get fit enough to run the Great Wall of China marathon.

She told me she was so busy – the only way she would make it a priority to get fit was to sign up, pay her money and commit to the marathon.

Then she found out that you have to finish in a certain time to get a participant medal. She told me – no way am I doing all this and not getting the medal.

This goal drives her preparation.

It is all very well for the Elders to tell you – our plan is to plant churches.

The Elders can't do it.

But, the church can – you can.

To do this, you have to commit. You have to own it. And if it is your goal – your vision then you need to take the steps that will get you ready to be an active participant – not just a passenger. You need to:

**Sell out to grow**

**Seek wisdom to grow**

**Serve others to grow**

If we do this together – then the Lord can use us in ways beyond our imagining.

So who's next to put up their hand to join us in this task?

## **Who's Next To Grow? (April 23, 2017)**

### **Main Point:**

Grace Bible Church needs every member growing beyond their comfort zone into the image of Christ to achieve our kingdom task.

### **General Questions:**

1. What are the personal obstacles to be faced in church planting?
2. What are the corporate obstacles to be faced in church planting?
3. Why are so many happy to be comfortable rather than sold out in their spiritual life?
4. What does it mean to be sold out to Christ?
5. What does it mean to be sold out to the church?
6. Why do many Christians have 'commitment issues' regarding local churches?
7. In what ways does our reluctance to serve wholeheartedly affect the whole body?

### **Application Questions:**

1. Does the plan to plant a church – excite you, neutral, discourage you? Do you share and own the vision or not?
2. If we are to plant another church – what are the costs for you personally?
3. Do you think the Lord would be happy with those costs or would He ask for more?
4. Do you view your church commitment as something peripheral to your life or central to your life? What needs to change?
5. How can you be sold out to Grace Bible Church?
6. Do you think you have grown, stagnated or regressed spiritually over the past five years? Why?
7. What areas do you need to grow in over the next five years to be a mature ready saint available for the Lord to use? Do you know the resources to get you equipped?
8. Do you know your spiritual gifts and capacities? If not what might they be – what do others think they might be?

9. Are you leadership material? If not why not?

10. What one-anothers are you involved in serving others? Who can you serve?

11. What areas of service can you take on?