

## *Biblical Basis for CPM & T4T*

*Church Planting Movement / Training for Trainers*

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A Church Planting Movement is a rapid multiplication of indigenous churches planting churches that sweeps across a people group or population segment. Church planting movements are now happening in several parts of the world. The CPM that Ying Kai and his partners started is the fastest growing CPM recorded in history.

Research has shown that the fastest way to evangelize is to start churches. The fastest way to start churches is to start church planting movements. The fastest way to start church planting movements is to put T4T into practice and carry it out to the ends of the earth.

The ingenious insight that the developers of T4T discovered is that it is not sufficient to merely teach learners, but we must teach learners that do what is taught. More than that, it is not even enough to teach doers, but we must teach doers that also train others to learn, do and train others to learn, do, and train. Only this is true multiplication. This is not a new idea. Paul the apostle taught the same thing to Timothy, in 2 Tim 2:2. In that verse there are four generations – true multiplication. Paul is the father, Timothy the son, his faithful men the grandsons, and the “others also” the great-grandsons. This is how Paul and his Timothys reached 25 million people in 15 years. Ying Kai and his co-workers discovered and are carrying out this biblical principle. This is how they have won and baptized over 2 million people and started over 160,000 churches in ten years.

The following are biblical truths and principles that T4T embraces and embodies:

### **Evangelism**

1. God wants all people to be saved. 1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9
2. God wants all people to hear the gospel. Mt 28:19, 20; Mk 16:15; Lk 24:47; Jn 20:21; Acts 1:8; 13:47
3. Many must proclaim the gospel. Rom 10:15
4. Proclaimers must be sent Rom 10:16
5. Every believer is a priest. 1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6
6. Priests proclaim. 1 Pet 2:9
7. Every reconciled person has the ministry of reconciliation, 2 Cor 5:18, and to every believer God has committed the message of reconciliation, 2 Cor 5:19.
8. Every believer is salt and light. Mt 5:14-16
9. Testimony is effective. Jn4:7-39; Rev 12:11; Mk 5:19, Mk 8:9 (they came to Jesus because of the demoniac's testimony).
10. Every believer should testify. Ps 107:2

New believers are the most likely to bring many people to Christ. That is because they have the most non-Christian friends and relatives. Believers who have been saved for 2 years or more have relationships with few non-Christians. T4T practice is to immediately upon conversion, have the new convert make a list of all the lost people they know. They are also immediately taught how to share their testimony, and a simple gospel presentation. They can then go immediately and share with the people on their list. Because of the trust factor in their close relationships, many of these also readily come to Christ. They then are trained to do the same: make a list, testify, and share the gospel in their relationships – and so it continues, in concentric circles of relationships. This is how the gospel spread so fast in Jerusalem in the first weeks and months after Pentecost. The church grew from 3000 souls in Acts 2:41 to 5000 households in Acts 4:4, to “multitudes of men and women constantly added to their number” in Acts 5:14.

## **Evangelism Training**

Because all believers should share their faith, all believers must be trained to do so, to the point that they are competent and confident that they can. This training will not be effective unless it is ongoing, with the trainees setting goals and reporting on their progress and results. There must be ongoing encouragement and coaching from a leader and peers to motivate the believer to keep going, and improve his witness.

It is not what is expected that gets done, but what is inspected. Sermons about evangelism are not enough. Training events are not enough. Classes are not enough. Emotion is no substitute for action, and action is no substitute for reproduction. Reproduction of life long effective witnesses is the fastest and best way to fulfill the great commission. Habits take several weeks to form. A life-style of sharing one's faith will not become habitual without ongoing training, coaching, peer accountability, and living in a church or team culture where the rank and file believers share their faith regularly.

## **Teaching All Believers to Obey the Commands of Jesus Christ**

1. Jesus wants all believers to teach His commands. Mat 5:19; 28:20; Heb 5:12
2. Obedience oriented teaching is biblical teaching. Mt 28:20
3. Teaching all believers to do, not just learn, is biblical teaching. Ps 111:10; James 1:22-25; Lk 6:46
4. Spirituality is not measured by how much a believer knows, but how much he obeys. James 1:22-25;
5. Our mandate is to WIN, BUILD, TRAIN, SEND. We are to win the most possible to Christ, (1 Cor 9:19), build their faith and love (1 Cor 8:1; Eph 4:29; Col 1:28-29), train them to win, build and train (2 Tim 2:2; Heb 5:12-14), and send them into the harvest fields (Mark 3:14; Mark 4:29 lit. he sends forth the sickle; Luke 10: 1-3; Rom 10:14-15).

## Leadership Development

T4T is not just an evangelism method, not just a discipleship process, but also a leadership development process. The greatest need in the world is godly servant leaders. Everything rises or falls on leadership. Jesus poured his life into 3, 12, 70, and 500 leaders, in that order of priority. They in turn reached the known world in the first century. T4T takes the leadership principles Jesus followed and taught and once again puts them into practice. Leadership is a set of learned behaviors. Any Spirit-filled believer can learn to live out leadership behaviors. They start with love and faith. Can any believer not love or exercise faith? Can any believer not do and teach? Of course they can. IF they are willing and properly trained, every believer can become a fruitful leader. Will all do it? Probably not, because some are not willing and some are not trained. Some will become more dynamic leaders because of gifts of leadership, apostleship, evangelism, or teaching that they have. T4T offers training to EVERYONE. We cannot rule out anyone, because we are not God and we cannot see the end from the beginning. At the outset we do not know who will become a trainer and who will not. So T4T trains everyone who is willing to be trained. The leaders rise up like cream rises to the top of raw milk.

In T4T it is recognized that not all will become trainers. Similar to the biblical truth that all are not apostles, it is a reality that not all are trainers who start groups that start groups. But it is important that every person is appreciated, loved, respected and valued, regardless of how many they witness to or if they start a group. T4T is a way of finding and developing those who have it in them to become trainers, defined as those who start groups that start groups.

T4T is on the job training. T4T is apprenticeship. T4T is just-in-time training. A trainee learns biblical truth just in time to pass it on in his own groups. This is chain link discipling. Everyone has an upper link – the T4T group he attends, and lower links – the T4T groups he/she starts and leads.

How fast can a new believer learn, grow, witness, start and lead a group? A whole lot faster than you may think he can! There is no need to fear that. Every group starter has a mentor – his group leader. His T4T group leader is his coach, his cheerleader, his confidant, his co-trouble shooter, and his doctrine corrector. But more than that, his Teacher is the Holy Spirit, and his textbook is the Bible - the living and powerful Word of God, (Heb 4:12). I John 2:27 teaches us that all believers have the anointing, the Holy Spirit living in them. He “teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie...” The Apostle John inscribes here that “you have no need for anyone to teach you,” because the Holy Spirit takes the Sword of the Spirit, and leads us into all truth. John 16:13. Fourteen years of T4T practice, now in several nations, has proven that godly, faith-filled servant leaders are being developed and leading movements toward reaching their countries with the gospel.

The T4T process includes lots of leaders retreats, where group leaders learn doctrine, theology, hermeneutics (Bible interpretation), ethics, morals, church leadership, and any other topic needed to help them become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, and developers of their followers to be the same.

T4T builds families because it equips parents to disciple children in the basics including evangelism, follow-up, discipleship, and leadership development.

2 Tim 2:2 was written by one apostle to another, and that is the primary application. Yet we can glean principles from the verse to be applied to all believers.

## Church Planting

T4T groups can become churches, or cluster to become churches, and many do.

A church, according to the New Testament is:

1. Believers gathered in the Name of Jesus, (Mt 18:20).
2. Believers who gather regularly to devote themselves to apostles teaching, (the Bible), fellowship, (sharing their lives, aspirations, victories and struggles), breaking of bread, (the Lord's Supper), and prayer, (Acts 2:42)
3. A healthy church also gives and evangelizes, (Acts 2:43 -47).
4. A healthy church eventually has ordained leaders called overseers/elders/pastors. But new churches often don't have appointed leaders yet. In Acts 13 Paul started many churches and left them without ordained leaders, until he came back through within a year or two and recognized which men the Holy Spirit had made overseers, and ordained them.
5. A church has covenant, but not necessarily a written covenant. Covenant is devotion to one another, Rom 12:10. Church is a covenant community.
6. Church is not a building. The Greek word in the NT translated "church" is ekklesia, and means a called out gathering of people. Church is people wherever they may gather. A church may meet in a home, which the NT churches did, (Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19; Col 4:15; Philemon 2). Churches meet under trees, in caves, on roof tops, in meadows, and many other places, and Jesus meets with them every time, (Mt 18:20).
7. There is nothing in Holy Scripture that says a church is not a church unless it has musical instruments, a sound system, or any of the other things traditions have added. House churches are real churches, in the eyes of God and are just as legitimate as large, or rich, or fancy churches. Maybe house churches are more legitimate in some cases!
8. T4T groups often become churches. That is by design. The intentional plan of T4T is to launch networks of house churches that rapidly start more house churches.
9. Another option some are choosing is to follow the cell church model, considering the T4T groups to be cells, and gathering them into weekly celebration worship services. But the majority of, and fastest growing CPMs encourage T4T groups to become churches.
10. Research shows that new churches see more people saved than older churches, and small churches see more people saved, per capita, than large churches. These are established facts. T4T captures both of these, the newness and the smallness! That is why T4T CPMs grow faster, because new groups are always being started, no matter what the size. There is never a need to wait for 4 or 6 or 8 people to commit, you can just start with whomever you can gather.

## **The Biblical Basis for the 7 Parts of the T4T Meeting**

T4T meetings last on average about 1½ hours, and consist of 7 parts:

1. Care. I Cor 12:25 (10 minutes)
2. Worship – John 4:21-24 (~10 minutes)
3. Report (accountability) – Mk 6:30; Lk 10:17-20 (10-15minutes)
4. Cast Vision – Hab 2:2; Prov 29:18; Acts 26:19 (5-10 minutes)
5. Teach Lesson – Mt 28:20; Col 1:28 (20-30 minutes)
6. Practice – Pr 22:29; I Tim 3:2 lit. “skilled in teaching”; Titus 1:9 (20 -30 min)
7. Set goals and pray – Lk 13:32; Phil 3:14; Is. 32:8; 2 Thes 1:11; 3:1 (15 min)

## **The World Goal**

Keep in mind that there are still over 2 billion people who have never heard the gospel. So the real issue is how are we going to reach the rest of the world in our lifetimes? Are we willing to let another generation go to hell having never heard of Jesus? We cannot. So even though T4T may be different than what you are used to, let me encourage you to try it. You just might end up loving it. My wife, Su, was nervous about starting her first group, because the plan was different from what she was used to. But she went ahead by faith, and now she loves T4T. Her Indian girls are leading 160 groups!

T4T groups really are “Great Commission Groups”. Why? Because they are the fastest way to fulfill the Great Commission.

For more information, go to [www.runglobal.org](http://www.runglobal.org), and [www.t4tonline.org](http://www.t4tonline.org)

You can also write me and I can send you information and training materials that will help you roll out T4T where you are. [mike@runglobal.org](mailto:mike@runglobal.org)