

Micropolitan Summit –Nov 11, 2004 – Summary

Gentlemen, thanks for taking the time to gather for our first Micropolitan Summit. There were 23 of us here. An interesting tidbit: Tom Avey emailed me about an article in USA Today, Nov 23, 2004 about current trends, mainly political. The point of the article is that Micropolitan is the new way to think. There are 573 Micropolitan areas in America as tabulated by the Census Bureau. They use these definitions: they describe regions with their central cities have at least 10,000 people but not more than 49,999 – anything bigger is considered metropolitan. These 573 Micropolitan areas have 29.8 million people living in them and include 674 of the 3,141 counties in the US. Most micros are in the South and Midwest with Texas having the most at 41. Interesting – thanks Tom!

Our time had a focus in 3 areas: Vision, Fraternity and Prayer.

Vision: Our vision time revolved around Tony, Ron and Terry sharing. The PP presentation is available if you wish it – just let me know (TW).

Fraternity:

Here is a summary of responses to each of the following questions we interacted upon in our fraternity time:

1) "If resources and personnel were unlimited, what would you like to see happening in blanketing the countryside and small cities of Ohio with effective, self-reproducing Grace Brethren churches that consistently make more and better disciples for Jesus?"

As we interacted on this question, we affirmed that we want to be a part of a shared effort in seeing leaders multiplied and consequently, churches multiplied. We do not want to work alone but in combination and coalition to see this effort invested. We wanted to affirm a new way to measure our effort, not by size but by the product that is produced; to lose the "competitive" nature of church work and ask God for more.

2) "What one thing that seems impossible now, if it could happen, would lift your congregation to a new level of effectiveness that would issue in greater capacity for you and your congregation to play a vital role in a micropolitan church multiplication movement in Ohio?"

Some of the "one thing(s)" we discussed are:

**Enhance our understanding of God's intention related:*

**To our faith in Him*

**To sharing resources*

- *To view and clarify success as God does*
- *To allow greater control to Him and away from us in regard to multiplication*
- *To PRAY*
- *To understand how amazing all Pastors are as made by God in His calling, particularly “backbone” church pastors*
- *To rejoice in the “backbone” churches*
- *To truly help one another in all endeavors*

3) "What do you believe we can do together more effectively than we can do individually?"

**We can seek God better together with each other’s affirmation and encouragement and consequently, become more worthy of reproducing ourselves as we engage God together. We can share material resources for our endeavors for church plants etc. We can PRAY, for each other and for multiplication. We can work together to view our resources as plentiful because they are God’s, not ours.*

4) "If we join together in God-dependent vision, fraternity and prayer, what do you think we could possibly accomplish in the next 3 years? 5 years? 10 years? 20 years?"

**One a day!*

***Prayer:**

As we moved to our quiet time, we saw that God did challenge our hearts to lift up our eyes to His harvest in a new and great way!

We wrote down the following cities or areas as prayer targets:

Circleville, Washington Court House, Portsmouth, Laureville, Chillicothe, Athens, Springfield, Hispanic, Somali/Islamic, Crestline, South side of Dayton down to Cincinnati, Winchester (In), Rossburg, Xenia, Urbana, Bellefontaine, Lima, Kenton, St Mary, Wapokoneta, Van Wert, Sidney, Piqua, Indian Lake

We also saw many coalitions forming between our churches – may we be proactive in forming these alliances to seeing God move in our midst!

Regarding specific barriers to this effort, we quickly recognized the following:

Time, leaders, resources; all that to say developing a vision that allows each of these specifics to be addressed!

Our Next Summit is planned for
Thursday, April 21, 2005 at Southwest Grace, Grove City

At this summit, we will (Lord willing) begin addressing some of the issues we have identified as key sources for our progress! I will keep you informed.

As we get the regular prayer ministry of this movement started, you will receive emails to this regard holding specific prayer requests and target areas, formed coalitions, those of us involved so that we can hold each other up in prayer!

Please do email with thoughts, ideas, matters that God has placed on your heart as we move on. Thanks so much! May God be glorified!

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