

## The Lumière Project: Lessons Learned about Church Planting and Research

“Giving us eyes to see”

*Note: Participants in this session will receive access to a powerpoint, the original instruments for Lumière research (that we would encourage them to use) and multiple reports we have created. They will also have access to an updated dropbox as more reports are produced.*

Lumiere is a five year OneHope initiative (in partnership with multiple denominations) to plant more than 3,000 churches in Francophone Africa. To date over 1,000 churches have been planted in 12 countries. Many in remote locations. The research initiative surrounding it aims to track the progress of the church plants through the following:

- Demographic Information: such as number of plants, location, language(s), predominant religion of the community
- Health indicators: such as attendance, baptism, pastoral preparation/experience, the role of the mother church, ministry to children and youth, theological emphases, testimonies
- Challenges: including specific physical and religious realities that impact the sustainability of the plant

Research methods include surveying each church plant two to three times over an eighteen month period and holding extensive in-person pastoral interviews in approximately 20 representative church plants per year located in multiple countries. The lessons learned from this research include the anticipated research objectives as well as other less anticipated lessons about the power of research to catalyze and “bring sight” to multiple stakeholders. The research team at OneHope has been challenged to provide multiple entry points into the research to engage the broadest audience and benefit an increasingly wide range of stakeholders. This presentation will share methods and instruments in collecting data, insights to date and a variety of reporting techniques designed for specific audiences. Participant input and discussion are welcomed around how to mine the data further and how to encourage global church planting networks to utilize similar research instruments to more deeply understand the process and challenges after initial church planting takes place.