

Observations Over Thirteen Years of Disciple Making Movements in Twenty-Eight Sub-Saharan Africa Countries and Five South Asian Countries

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I. Introduction

Since 2005 New Generations (formerly Cityteam International) has been attempting to catalyze Disciple Making Movements among 56 countries in Africa, South Asia, South East Asia and the Far East.

We affirm that the great movements that are happening, especially in the Global South, are never the result of human hands, but by Divine acts of God. They all bear many fingerprints of Jesus, but none of human hands. However, when Kingdom minded people align with Jesus' mandates for disciple making in a context of His Kingdom values and lifestyles, God often births great movements.

This paper deals with the outcomes New Generation has observed from those initiative 28 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries and 5 South Asian countries where we have comprehensive enough research protocols, along with research teams to harvest and analyze the data from almost 500 engagements in people groups or urban cluster.

In those 28 countries New Generations has been able to create extensive research protocols and develop a team of eight people that comprise the Research Group. New Generations utilizes both quantitative and qualitative measurement tools to measure and describe what we see God doing, and importantly understand what we are missing or doing poorly.

This 13 years of research has given us much encouragement, and helped us help other organizations to get better, and equally important it has also highlighted gaps and missteps that had to be addressed.

But before looking into the data and the outcome of these 13 years of partnering with God and over 700 partner ministries we serve in DMM work, I would like to briefly discuss what are the elements of Disciple Making Movements.

II. Disciple Making Movements

Disciple Making Movement (DMM) is the term coined by New Generations to describe the spreading of the gospel with the intention of making disciples who learn to obey the Word of

God and quickly make other disciples who then repeat the process, resulting in many churches being planted.

Disciple Making Movement is not a set of strategy or program but rather it is a lifestyle and ministry philosophy based on Kingdom values modeled by Jesus in the gospels. It is based on Jesus' own ministry, the central theme of the Kingdom is now among us-more real than any earthly reign, Jesus' lifestyle as revealed in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' prayer life, His steadfast obedience to the Father's will, His investing his own Divine mandate into His Apostles, 70 unnamed disciples, and to the generations of Christ Followers who will complete the Great Commission. Disciple Making Movements can also be called Kingdom Movements as they are grounded in taking the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament themes very seriously.

1. **Disciple Making Movement Heavily Depends on Prayer.** Every DMM that we have the privilege of witnessing traces its origin to intense intercessory prayers and fasting¹. A faith filled prayers asking God to bring His Kingdom into people's lives and whole villages and cities has resulted in transformed lives, communities, towns and cities. Jesus thought his disciples to pray for God's Kingdom to come is a crucial prayer that produces Kingdom result. When the disciples went from village to village to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom, they were empowered to show signs of God's Kingdom presence among the people they were proclaiming through healing and deliverance. The traditional way of limiting the gospel teaching about the Kingdom to just a metaphor has been a big hinderance to the advancement of God's Kingdom in people's life. But we have seen in DMM the Kingdom's presence is real, manifesting its presence through healing, deliverance and other forms of miraculous signs alongside the gospel proclamation. We estimate 70% of occasions where movements started, resulting in multitude of people becoming Christ followers and multigenerational churches planted, were accompanied by miraculous signs.
2. **Disciple Making Movement Equip Ordinary People to Achieve the Impossible.** One of the reasons that DMM is simple, scalable (attainable), and sustainable is because in most cases DMM is initiated through committed and obedient ordinary people². DMM does not depend on highly skilled and educated outsiders, for the proclamation of the message but depends on obedient insiders that may not have any form of skill or education; It does not depend on resources that are sent from outside but can be sustained through what the locals can afford and generate (Mathew 10:9-10); and it

¹ New Generations has many thousands of individual intercessors in the Global South that have dedicated themselves to pray for DMMs to happen and flourish among the least reached people groups of the world.

² Some of our successful movement leaders are house wives, poor widows, bicycle taxi drivers, masons, farmers, former commercial sex-workers etc.

does not lack workers that need to be deployed since workers are raised from the harvest field itself.

However, this does not mean that there is no need for gifted and highly skilled outsiders in starting, promoting or facilitating a movement. What it means is, in DMM the role of the outsider is mainly for equipping the ordinary people who in turn will do the job of initiating, promoting and facilitating the work of the movement (Ephesians 4).

The traditional way of depending on highly educated and highly paid clergy does not produce a movement that is simple, scalable and sustainable.

3. **Disciple Making Movement are Holistic: Merging Compassion/Healing, With the Gospel of the Kingdom/Transformation.** We don't see a bifurcation of Kingdom proclamation and of compassion ministry in Jesus ministry. The Gospels tell us Jesus came healing and preaching. When Jesus sent the twelve to the villages to proclaim the Kingdom message, he gave them authority to heal and deliver people from demonic oppression. Disciple Making Movements follow the principle of entering communities with genuine love expressed in compassion ministry. The compassion ministry we provide can range from healing and deliverance to providing means that can benefit the welfare of the community, means like providing access to clean water, seed banks, better health, education, skill development etc. The compassion ministry is not an end in itself but however small or big, will help us to gain acceptance by the community and create a willingness to hear our message.
4. **Disciple Making Movements Require Trusting for God to Supply the Resources.** Luke 10 and Mathew 10 passages tell us there are two vital resources that God provides that enables DMM to overcome both the cultural barrier and the cash barrier when entering into a new field.

The first resource is God's prepositioned person to bridge the gospel to their family, friends, community or workplace. The Bible calls such kind of person "person of peace". These people are characteristically receptive to the gospel testimony; hospitable; and opens a family to hear the gospel. The person of peace, whether it is man or woman breaks the barrier of culture. They are the insider who will do the inside work of taking and promoting the gospel in his family, community and tribe starting from day one. It makes one wonder if the time which requires for people to spend a lot of time and money to study the culture and language of the people which they intend to engage with the gospel is really necessary when we know that God has already provided an insider who only needs to be found and coached.

The other provision is providing of things that require cash. Jesus tells his disciples not to carry money when they go to the harvest field because all the things that requires for them to purchase will be provided to them in the field. This goes along

to say all the cash that is required to make disciples and plant churches is very much minimized. The traditional way of making disciples and planting churches costs a lot of money that needs to be generated from outside. A large sum of money is required to disciple a person to Christ. For example, the total expense per baptism in the United States is estimated to be \$1.55 million.³ In our case, all DMM expenses combined typically are far less than \$100 for each individual baptized, and most of those expenses are generated from the field.

5. Disciple Making Movements Depend on Lost People Discovering God in the Bible and Choosing to Obey What they Discovery About God's Will in Every Passage.

The principle behind this method of assisting the lost to discover the truth themselves, is based on the biblical teaching that God is already working ahead in preparing people's heart (e.g. the person of peace), and the duty of the harvest worker is to help people discover the truth by themselves from the Bible and obey it.

We call this method Discovery Bible Study (DBS). A typical DBS has four components: Hearing or reading a bible passage or story; saying it in their own words; saying the "I will" statement; and listing the people whom you are going to share the passage they have learned.

In this way from day one we initiate the formation of disciples that have a lifestyle of obeying God and that multiply themselves.⁴

People may start to obey God at the individual level or in group or as a community. We call a group that meets regularly to hear the Word of God with the intention of obeying it, a Discovery Group. In addition to studying the Bible together, a discovery group, when they meet, they worship God together, pray and intercede for their needs and the needs of their community and support each other. They also function as accountability group to check if the members have carried out their "I will" statements and have shared to others what they have learned in the previous lesson.

6. Disciple Making Movement is Ordinary Disciples Making Disciples and Churches Planting Churches.

One of the most important aspect of DMM is the multigenerational multiplication of disciples which will result in multiplication of churches as more discovery groups transition to become multigenerational churches. This is done in an intentional manner

³ David B. Barrett, Todd M. Johnson, Christopher Guidry, and Peter Crossing, *World Christian Trends, AD30-AD2200: Interpreting the Annual Christian Megacensus* (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2001, 520–529);

⁴ In DMM we disciple people to conversion. This is modeled by Jesus who chose 12 disciples to be followers of him. But it was not until just before his death that the disciples began to confess Jesus as their Lord and Messiah and embrace on following him even unto death. But in the traditional method we ask people to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior at the first encounter and then begin to teach them how to become a disciple in a discipleship class. The traditional method discipleship is knowledge based (we teach them to know how to become a disciple) but in DMM it is obedience based.

so as to create a movement that will have a longstanding result of reaching and transforming communities, people groups, affinity groups, towns and cities through the gospel. As the DMM progresses, at each stage of their growth, most of the movements create their own organic structure that enables them to organize and at the same time sustain the movement of Kingdom expansion. This is contrary to the traditional method in which planting a church and organizing it in the form and structure acceptable to the mother church/denomination is the goal and an end by itself.

7. **Disciple Making Movement Requires Courage and Sacrifice.** Mathew 10: 16-42 tells us that suffering, persecution and martyrdom are the things that accompany movements of Kingdom advances. In this last 13 years of our DMM journey there have been untold stories of persecution, suffering and martyrdom. However, this has not discouraged the Christians in these movements, , rather it has embolden them. Instead of killing movements, in most cases it has eventually cause people to count the cost of discipleship and press on to new opportunities to bring transformation in the hardest places.

III. Data Collection Method and Data Verification Process

A. Data Collection Strategies and Methodologies

New Generations has a data and research team of eight people. Team members collect data and analyzes the outcome of the DMM activities every quarter. DMM narratives from every region are also collected every quarter.

The numerical data is compiled and verified for accuracy and reliability at the regional level by the regional data officer and sent to the data team. We use a format that has 14 elements to collect our numerical data each quarter (see the format in the appendix). The numerical information is entered into a master database. The master database as of 2017 4th quarter has compiled DMM data of 424 people groups and 61 urban centers and affinity groups from 28 Sub Saharan African countries and 5 South Asian Countries.

The stories and activity reports are compiled and are analyzed to assess the nature of the movement and the life transformation happening among the people in the movement.

B. Data Verification Process, Both Quantitative and Qualitative Data

We have an ongoing method of verifying the data which we receive from regions, for its accuracy and reliability.

Before it reaches the data team, data sent from the field by the church planter passes through at least three reviewers: the area coordinator, the country director and the regional data officer. Each person reviews the data for its accuracy and reliability. Questionable data is not submitted until verified.

C. Internal Audit and External Audit.

Since 2012, we have been doing ongoing internal audits⁵ by going to the field to do quantitative assessments, to determine the number of churches and Christ followers, and qualitative assessments, to assess the DNA of the potential or actual movement.

In 2015, we invited an external audit to assess a country with remarkable outcomes and the International Mission Board's (SBC) Global Research Office did that audit in 2016. The audited SSA country has many extraordinary Disciple Making Movements happening. The IMB team chose nine people groups, (seven of which were Muslim background) to assess. The research group confirmed that strong DMMs are happening among these groups. A security sensitized version of that 131-page assessment is available for Christian researchers and missiologists.

At this stage in our journey, we are preparing to do a more comprehensive internal audit, more extensive and detailed than the one we did in 2012; and we are also preparing to have an external audit which will be done by an external organization.

IV. Thirteen Year Outcomes of 110 Movements (100 or more churches to at least 4 generations) and analysis of some key elements.

A. 2005-2018 Summary Outcomes From 5 African Regions and 1 South Asia Region

New Generations, working with more than 700 African and South Asian partner organizations was able to see God empower the planting of 54,237 churches among 424 people groups and 61 urban centers and affinity groups. Of the 54,237 planted churches, 31% are Muslim Background Believers' (MBB) churches.

The number of people that have become Christ followers is 1,392,388 of which roughly 1 out of 3 is a Muslim Background Believer (MBB).

⁵ We call it internal audit because the audit was done by New Generations and its partners.

There are 110 people groups/affinity groups/urban centers that have reached DMM threshold, which means they have more than 100 churches planted, 4 or more generations deep. The highest generation reached in a people group up to date is 27.

MARCH 2005 TO DECEMBER 2017- CITYTEAM INTERNATIONAL DISCIPLE MAKING MOVEMENT 12 + YEAR OUTCOMES								
Regions with Hard Data	Number of Countries Engaged with Churches Planted	Total Number of People Groups Engaged with Churches Planted	Number of Urban Centers, or Special Categories	Total DMM Movements: >100 churches, and 4 or more generations	Total Number of Churches	Number of MBB Churches	Total Number of New Christ Followers	Number of New MBB Christ Followers
Sub-Saharan Africa	28	315	54	103	44,338	16,594	1,290,595	396,819
South Asia	1	109	7	7	9,899	-	101,793	673
TOTALS OF HARD DATA REGIONS	29	424	61	110	54,237	16,594	1,392,388	397,492

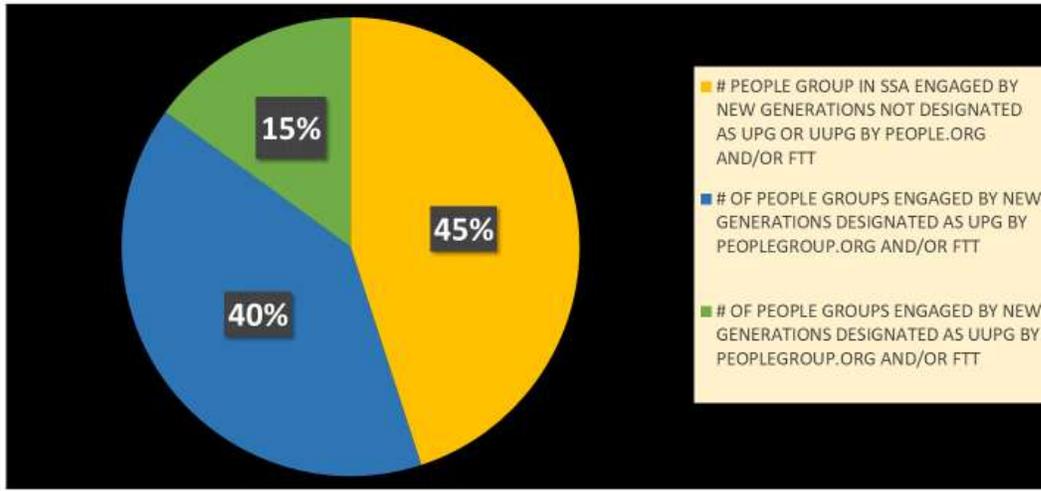
Over the years we have prioritized engaging unreached or unengaged people groups with no “Jesus option.”

As a result, of the people groups which we have engaged with DMM in the 5 regions of Africa, the majority (55%) fall into the category of unreached people groups as designated by Peoplegroup.org⁶ and/or FTT⁷. And out of the 55%, 15% were designated to be Unengaged and Unreached People Groups until October 2016. New Generations has been intentional in making disciples in pioneer places and people groups where there are no or few disciples of Jesus Christ.

⁶ Peoplegroups.org is a website (www.peoplegroups.org) belonging to the International Mission Board that has information on the status of evangelical Christianity for every people group.

⁷ FTT is abbreviation for Finish the Task. It is an organization that tries to mobilize Christian organizations and churches to initiate a church planting activity among the Unengaged and Unreached People Groups (UUPG). Their website (www.finishingthetask.com) has the list of those people groups that are UUPGs.

NEW GENERATIONS ENGAGED PEOPLE GROUPS IN SSA DESIGNATED AS UPG OR UUPG BY PEOPLE.ORG AND/OR BY FTT



B. Analysis of the 110 Movements That Have Reached the DMM Threshold.

The majority of the churches that have been planted, and the majority of the people that have become Christ followers are found in these 110 movements that have reached DMM threshold (>100 churches, 4 or more generations deep). The number of churches and the number of Christ followers in these 110 DMMs is 47,033 (which is 87% from the total number of planted churches) and 1,259,291 (which is 90% from the total Christ followers) respectively. Therefore, the 110 DMM movements are a good representation of the whole DMM work that NGs is catalyzing in the 5 regions of Africa and South Asia, and in this paper we are going to more closely examine these representative 110 movements.

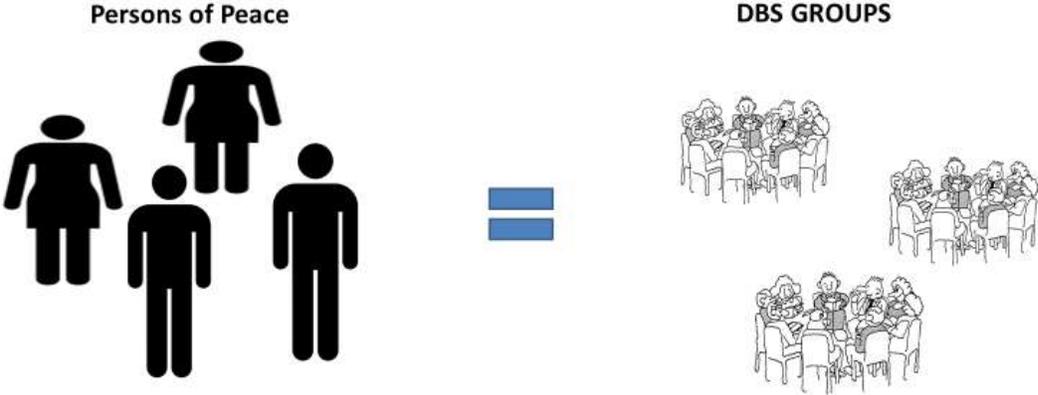
The following is what we have discovered in our study of the 110 movements

1. Quantitative Relations between Person of Peace, Discovery Bible Study Groups and Churches Planted

- 1.1. One of the elements which we tried to analyze in the 110 movements of DMM is the proportion of Persons of Peace (PoP) to Discovery Bible Study Groups. Our intention was to find out how many persons of peace need to be found for one DBS group to be formed? What we found out in three SSA regions that have data on these variables, was 1.3 PoPs need to be found in order to establish 1 DBS group, or for every 4 PoPs that were found 3 DBS Groups are formed.

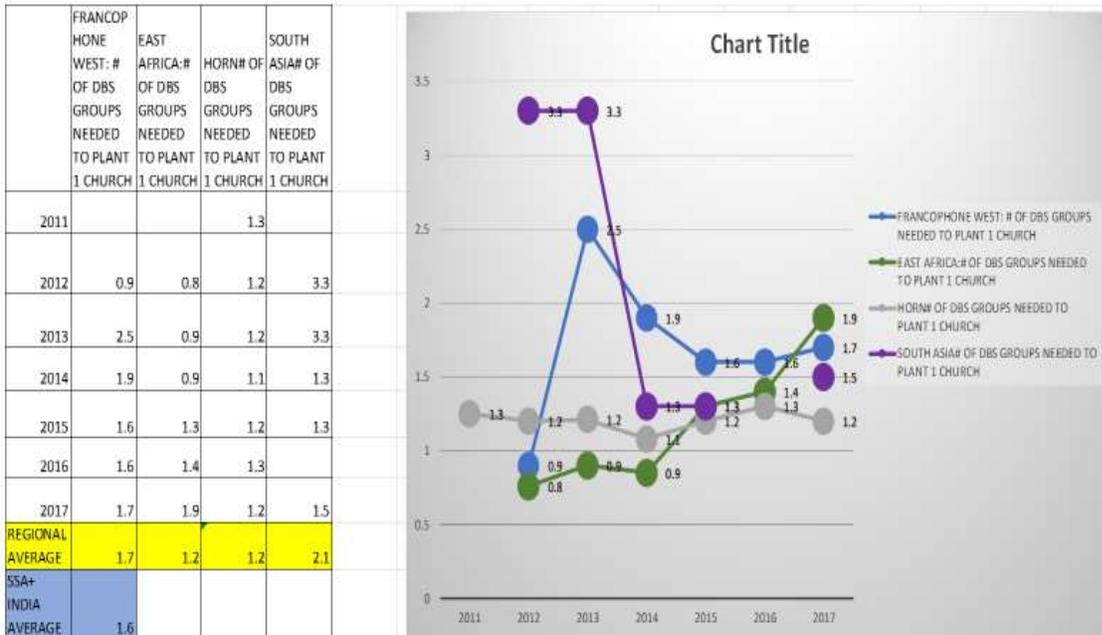
	FRANCOPHONE WEST QUANTITATIVE RELATION OF THE # OF POP TO ONE DBS	HORN QUANTITATIVE RELATION OF THE # OF POP TO ONE DBS
2011		1.8
2012		1.6
2013	1	
2014	0.9	
2015	0.8	
2016	0.8	
2017	0.9	
REGIONAL AVERAGES	0.9	1.7
SSA AVERAGE	1.3	

**SSA: FOR EVERY THREE DBSs TO BE ESTABLISHED
FOUR PERSONS OF PEACE NEED TO BE FOUND**



1.2. The second element which we tried to analyze in the 110 movements of DMM is the proportion of DBS Groups to the number of churches planted. We asked the question: how many DBS Groups need to be established for one church to be planted? Our finding, based on 3 SSA regions plus the South Asia region, was 1.6 DBS Groups are needed in order to plant 1 church; or we can say roughly 3 DBSs will end up being 2 churches.

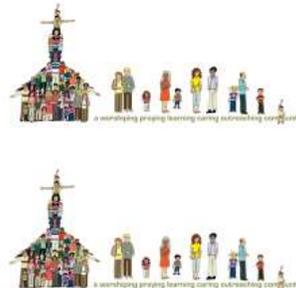
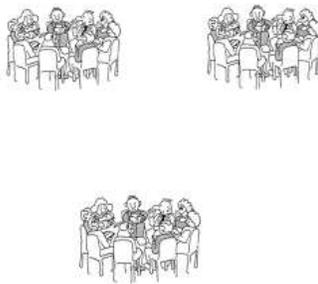
Proportion of DBSs to Churches



**SSA: FOR EVERY TWO CHURCHES TO BE PLANTED
ROUGHLY THREE DBSs NEED TO BE ESTABLISHED**

DBS GROUPS

CHURCHES

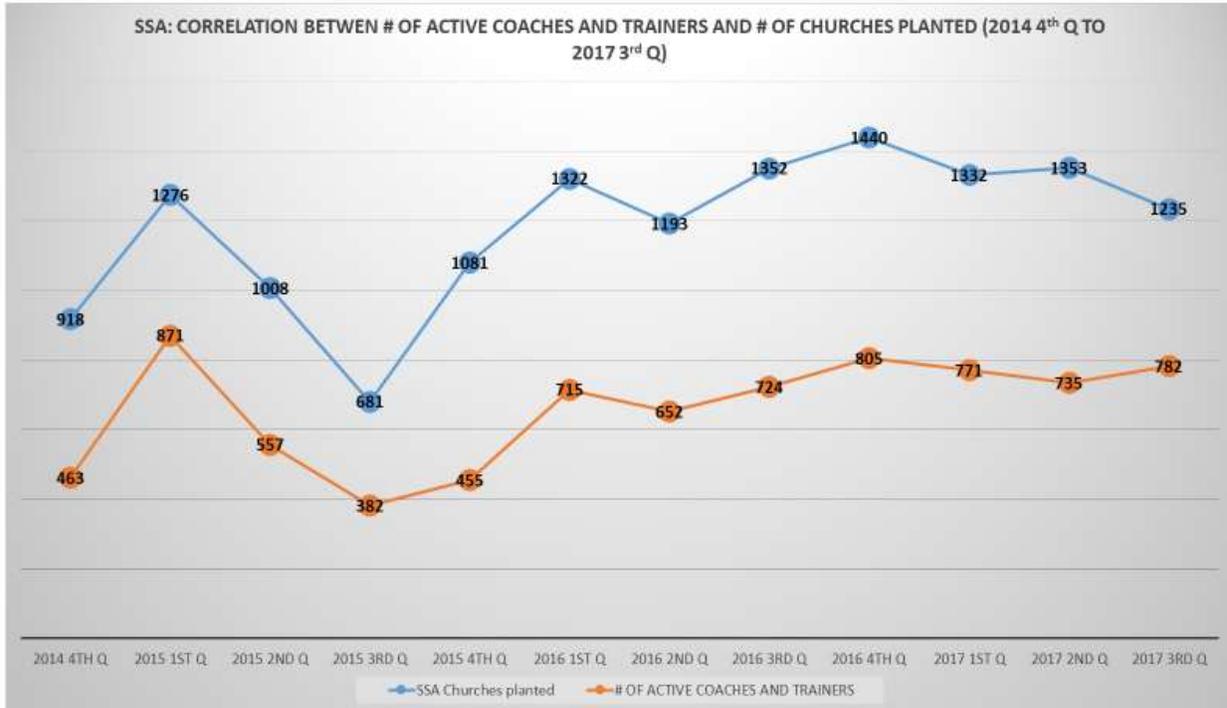


- Correlations between the number of leaders trained and number of churches planted and number of active coaches/trainers and number of churches planted.

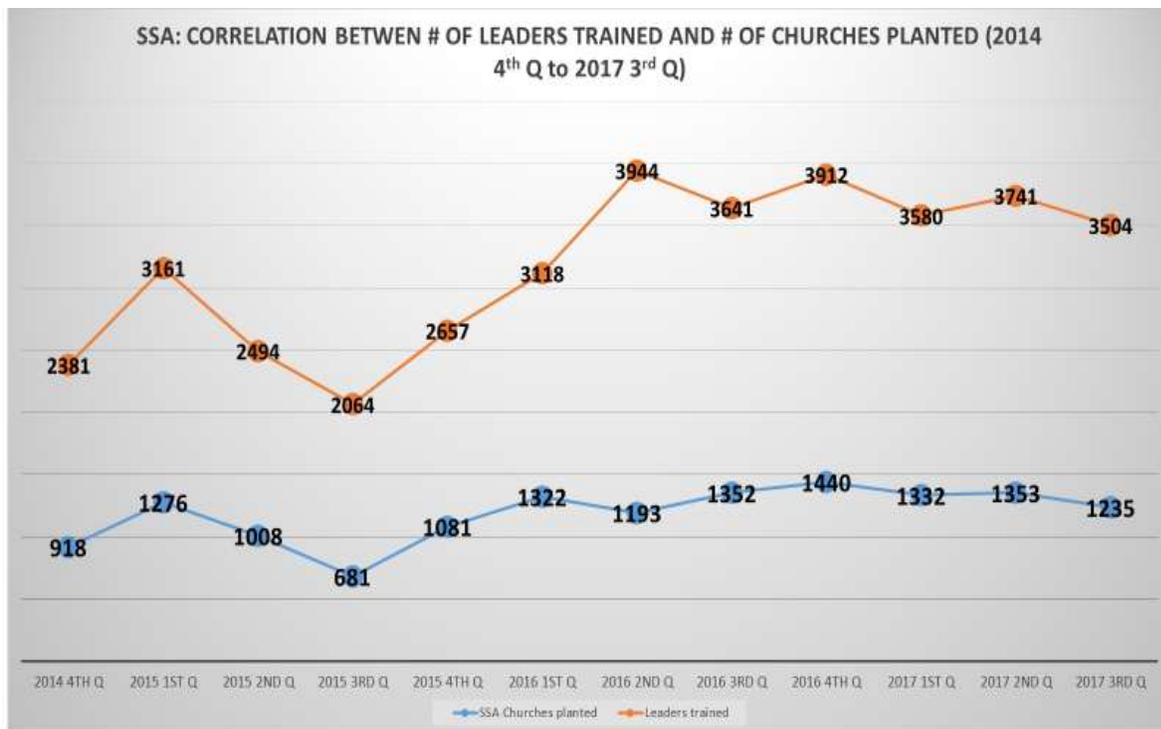
We analyzed in 5 Sub-Saharan Africa regions whether there was a correlation or association between the number of leaders trained and the number of churches planted

and between the number of active coaches/trainers that actively train and diligently coach Christ followers .

What we found was a high positive correlation or association in the two cases. The correlation coefficient between the number of leaders trained and number of churches planted was high, which was 0.881513; and the correlation coefficient between active coaches/trainers and the number of churches planted was also high, which was 0.887808⁸. What this means is that the more trainers and coaches we have that train and coach many leaders the more churches are planted.



⁸ The strength of correlation is strong if the result moves away from 0 to either -1 or 1.



V. Discussion

In our 13 years on this Disciple Making Movement journey we are learning that Kingdom advancement can only be realized through taking seriously the teaching of Jesus in the gospels and committing ourselves to literally obey them, whatever the cost may be.

This has been confirmed to us by the outcome of multitudes from many “tribes, languages, peoples and nations” become followers of Christ and to see the formation of the Church of Christ in places and people groups that were categorized as “unengaged” before.

In the 110 movements we tried to analyze the proportion of “person of peace” to discovery group, and the proportion of discovery group to church. What we found out is for every 1 discovery group to be formed, 1.3 person of peace need to be found and for every 1 church to be established 1.6 discovery groups need to be formed. In other words, roughly, the finding of 4 persons peace will produce 3 discovery groups and 3 discovery groups will eventually transition into 2 churches.



This “4→3→2” trend seems to be the rule in our case.

The other thing we tried to analyze is the correlation or association between the number of people being trained, coached and mentored to the number of churches planted. What we found out, in general, is that the more people trained, coached and mentored the more churches are planted. As succession of leaders emerge from a new generation which a movement has attained, the leaders are trained and coached on DMM. In this way DNA of the movement continues.

VI. Conclusion

In the March/April 2018 in the editorial article of *Frontier Missions*⁹ Rick Woods quoting Donald McGavran says “...Christian history demonstrates one certain reality; the only way that peoples are ever reached is through movements.” The gospels and Acts attest to this truth: It is only through God’s Kingdom advancing movements that peoples, cities and nations can be reached.

In Mathew 28:18-20, Jesus commands his disciples to make disciples of all the nations (*ethne*)-the kind of disciples that follow and obey the commandments of Jesus. The book of Acts tells us how the disciples carried out the making of disciples of all the nations. We read in Acts, that which started small, with the power of the Holy Spirit and the commitment of obedient disciples became a movement that “turned the world upside down” Acts 17:6 (NKJV). God’s Kingdom impact was felt throughout the Roman Empire as generational leaders, disciples and churches arose, through the disciple-making process, to carry on the making of disciples from everywhere to everywhere.

It is in this same spirit as that of Acts that DMM is striving to function. As New Generations in our 13 years DMM ministry, we are in awe to see multitudes from many people groups becoming followers of Christ. We have learned to give credit to God for all the outcomes because the main lessons we have been taught in our 13 years of DMM work is to know firsthand that the Harvest belongs to God, the means and principles of gathering the Harvest comes from God, and He is the one who

⁹ http://www.missionfrontiers.org/pdfs/FullIssue_LowRes_40.2_0304-2018.pdf

sends and raises Harvest workers, even from the Harvest field. We have learned that our part is to maintain a teachable and obedient heart that responds to the Spirit's prompting as we strive to work for God's name to be glorified among all people groups.

We know that we are novices and have a lot to learn from God and from you, His people. But we also know that we have the obligation to share God's mighty work of salvation among multitudes of lost people which has unfolded before our eyes through the DMM process. We also know that the work is vast and the Harvest is great even if the Lord enable us to raise tens and hundreds of thousands of harvest workers, which he definitely can. Therefore, it is our desire that the body of Christ join us in the DMM journey as it is our desire and passion to see the unleashing of disciple-making movements throughout the world until we see "the gospel for every person; an evangelical church for every people; Christ-like leaders for every church; and Kingdom impact in every sphere of society."¹⁰

Glossary of Terms

Catalyst/catalyzing. Its literal meaning is to cause something to happen or to change. In this paper, it is used to describe the role New Generations plays in promoting and facilitating DMM among its partner organization through training, coaching and mentoring.

Church. A church in DMM is a group of baptized disciples that meet regularly for worship, studying the bible, fellowship and service.

Discovery Bible Study (DBS). A bible study method with a discovery approach and with the aim to obey what you have discovered. A typical DBS has four components: Hearing or reading a bible passage or story; saying it in your own words; saying the "I will" statement; and listing the people whom you are going to share the passage they have learned.

Discovery Bible Study Group. A group of people, usually non-believers, that meet regularly to do DBS with the intention of following and obeying God

¹⁰ The quoted statement is from the Lausanne mission statement.

Disciple Making Movement. It is the spreading of the gospel with the intention of making disciples who learn to obey the Word of God and quickly make other disciples who then repeat the process, resulting in many churches being planted.

Disciple Making Movement Threshold. Those Disciple Making Movements that have more than 100 churches planted, and 4 or more generations deep.

Generations of disciples and churches. In DMM it pertains to disciples and churches multiplying to produce more disciples and churches which in turn multiply to produce more disciples and churches. The outcome of this ongoing multiplication is a multigenerational movement of disciples and church in which it is possible to trace the line of descent.

Indigenous leaders. Leaders that come from within the group that is engaged with DMM.

Person of peace. Persons of peace (or man or men of peace, according to Luke 10) are God's pre-positioned agents to bridge the gospel to their family, their friends, or their workplace. The Luke 10 and Mathew 10 passages tell us that if there is no a person of peace in a town or the village the disciples are told to not enter into the village. The characteristics of the person of peace according to Luke and Matthew are: he/she is receptive to the gospel testimony; he/she is hospitable; and he/she allows his/her family to hear the gospel. We have good examples of person of peace in the NT. Typical example are: the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, Cornelius, Lydia etc.

Unengaged People Groups. A people group where there is no disciple making or church planting happening.

Unreached People Groups. A people group in which less than 2% of the population are Evangelical Christians.

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