



The Silver Bullet

by Dan Schaffer

It seems that many Christians and churches are searching for the silver bullet or the magic formula that will solve all of the problems of the church and allow that church, and the believers in it, to explosively grow and impact their world. We demonstrate by our actions that we feel that if we had just the right strategy or the right "program" everything would be perfect. In this search we go from program to program but none of them deliver what we had hoped for. What is the root of the problem? Could it be that the church is **centered** on a "program" focus and this **has created** a large part of the problem?

So what is on the alternative to a program? Could it be that it is a life giving "relational process"? Christ, when he called the Apostles, said "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." He identified the goal and gave them the entry step, and they needed to engage the process. Throughout the next three years they followed him on a pathway that led to the cross. It was on this pathway, through the deep relationship they lived in, that they experienced and caught his heart and passion, accepted the call, and after his death built his church.

What were some of the elements that characterized this life giving pathway or process?

1. It started with a radical commitment.
2. They got to know each other and Christ intimately.
3. It took time.
4. They saw Christ in all aspects of life.
5. They developed trust.
6. They internalized the Word through his teaching.
7. They practiced his Word though their assignments.

8. They built the church and turned their world upside down through the power of the Spirit after His death.

So what is the foundational difference between a program and a process? In a program we expect that a tool or resource will bring about the change. A program has a beginning and an end. In a process we create a relational environment where the goal is commonly understood. It has a beginning but no end. The process is dynamic, in that we ask the right questions that lead us to the questions that only God can answer. Through the power of God's Spirit we are transformed and can reach the goal.

Conversely, a program is about using the tool to produce the desired result.

In a program we are putting our faith in this tools power to change. That is called production. In a life giving process, we are creating a relational environment where we ask the right questions and invite the spirit to work. We are putting our faith in the character and power of the Spirit of God. That brings transformation and ultimately "reproduction".

“If we want to see the power of the church restored we must build a pathway . . .”

God. That brings transformation and ultimately "reproduction".

If we really desire transformation, reproduction and God's power in the church there is a key question that we must ask. Do you ever get reproduction and transformation from a production model? The answer is never! If we want to see the power of the church restored we must build a pathway for women that will take them from spiritual child hood all the way to spiritual motherhood and a pathway for men that will take them from spiritual childhood to spiritual fatherhood. **Only then will we see the church restored to the powerful reproductive body that God intended it to be.**

Ministry Update

► Africa (Dick Hanson)

In 2009 I was personally blessed to introduce the Building Brothers Process to the Good Shepherd Community Church in Kigali, Rwanda (Africa). Over this past year, we have been training (via Skype) their 9 key men who oversee their 2 Kigali Churches and 20 outlying village churches. The men, including Pastor Simon the founder, are very engaged in the Four Phase Process and are now ready to enter into Phase III. They meet ever week in one of their homes and have shared with us the impact the Process is having on them... particularly in their experiencing the "Father Vacuum" and "Servant Leadership" sections.

Rongin, one of the Pastors, has e-mailed... "we are build each other up" and "know each other better" (trusting).

Fidele e-mailed... "Praise the Lord brother Dick, I hope you are fine with your family, so do I and the rest brothers cell (BB Group) in Kigali Rwanda. I am missing you and Pastor Dan. Please say Hi to your family & his family too. I am blessed by face two (Phase II) about Christlike servant hood "leadership." As a young servant called in church leadership

ministry I'm learning new skills from your teachings that would cost me much to learn them through experience".

Bless you all, Fidele Nizeyimana

These men have really captured the vision for becoming Spiritual Fathers and have personally given their children the Fathers blessing... that is so vital to everyone!! These men have also actively reached out to connect with the United Methodist Church, Virginia Conference, to be furthered mentored in experiencing the Four Phase Process.



Pray that these men continue to grow and will pass on the legacy of Spiritual Fatherhood in their special ways in Rwanda, Africa!

Good Shepherd Community Church Leadership Group in Kigali, Rwanda (Africa)

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Ministry Update

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► Germany (Dan Schaffer)

Last April, as I previously reported, 35 German men visited Colorado for 8 days of Building Brothers Leadership Training. After that very impacting week, it was determined I would visit Germany several times a year to continue the trainings, encourage the men in their Spiritual journeys and help them launch the Building Brothers Four Phase Process throughout Germany. Over the last year, I have made four trips to Germany! This time I arrived on October 13 and returned on November 15. This was a very productive time of seeing the mission of calling men "to know Christ and become Spiritual Fathers" advanced and spread north, south, east and west. Over the 33 days, I taught; 3-Pastor Overviews; 3 Phase I Trainings; built up and trained 87 Group Leaders; was the main speaker at the Gigomister Conference attended by 850 men; equipped church leaders at 6 churches and preached four Sunday services.

The 54 men who came to the USA in 2007 and the 35 men who came in 2009 are the foundation of everything that we see happening throughout Germany. They are hungry to know Christ and they are moving forward to help other men. They are engaging in relationships with other hungry men and with God. The pastors and churches that are in the BB process are excited and openly describing how God is restoring their churches and giving them a new start. One pastor described it as "a new birth" for him in ministry. God has truly opened up this transformational process in Germany!

The Spiritual Fathers Book and all of the Four Phase Workbooks have been translated and published in German. I see God at work and it is very encouraging. I want to especially appreciate the work done by Rainer Osterloh in Celle Germany. Rainer is the local primary leader of Building Brothers in Germany and a long-time friend. May God bless him for his faithful work in promoting and supporting the Building Brothers Process to the men of Germany.

Please keep praying that God will protect and expand what he is doing in the hearts of the men of Germany.

Mens' Conference in Bad Gandersheim, Germany (850 men attended)



► United States United Methodists

Virginia Conference (Dan Schaffer)

When I returned from Germany I participated, via SKYPE, in the celebration of the churches and men who have completed the year long Building Brothers Four Phase Process. Five pastors gave testimony to the impact the process had had in their lives, the lives of the men and of the church. A total of 63 men attended the celebration. Close to half of the men who were at the calibration, were men who are waiting to start the second generation with men new to the Process. On January 26 they will be hosting a Pastors Overview to reach out to other churches in the Virginia Conference and in March will launch Phase I.

Kansas

Churches in this Conference have begun Phase I with the fourth generation of men in two churches.

Mennonites

Hartville Mennonite has completed the Four Phase Process and is moving towards the second generation and actively outreaching to the churches of the Akron Ohio community.

Lutherans

25 men between the ages of 20 and 60 have begun the Building Brothers Four Phase Process. I believe this church will open the door to the churches in the Des Moines Iowa area.

God is continuing to open up critical "beachheads" and we thankful and yet aware of the resources that it will take to serve all of what God is opening up. Please pray for the right people to serve what God is opening and the financial resources to continue to serve.

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