

The Voice of Charlotte Awake

AWAKE PRAYER

- Pray for the upcoming “Multipliers Lab” (Sept.) that will train new leaders to bring people to Christ and disciple them through new Bible Clusters.
- Pray for these fifteen “Multipliers” as we mentor them in outreach and disciple making.
- Pray for the multigenerational/multicultural Band of Brothers outreach ministry that the Spirit will call men and young men willing to make disciples.
- Pray for the young women’s Bible Cluster ministry that has produced much fruit over the last six months.
- Pray for the Lord to raise up area pastors willing to mentor the “Multipliers” as they grow “Bible Clusters” into fully-functioning “Community Cluster” congregations.

Bible Clusters

READ • TALK • PRAY

Want to help others encounter God through His word? Keep it simple and start a Bible Cluster!

Go to BibleClusters.org for video training and information.

COMPASSION AND THE HARVEST OF THE LORD

by Edward Yee

“When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion...” – Matthew 9:36 ESV

Compassion is one of *those* words. You know it when you feel it. It’s like pity; it’s like empathy. The closest word is probably sympathy. But what you are not likely to hear is that compassion is the *joining in suffering*. If I am compassionate toward you, presumably I am *joining with you in your suffering*. It goes beyond my mental acknowledgment of your burdens, beyond my feeling sorry for you.

At the very least, I must *join you in your suffering* at the heart level, as Christ *joined us in our suffering* on every level. Though we can never do for one another what Christ has done for us, the principle still applies. I cannot be adequately compassionate toward you unless 1) I love God, 2) I love you as God loves you, and 3) I count the cost and *join you*.

It is easy for those who read the larger context of the verse above to focus on the call of Christ to “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the harvest” and completely overlook the *compassion* that preceded Jesus’ words or, worse, to assume that we already have that compassion that God requires. God will indeed send laborers, but those stay and continue to harvest until the harvest is complete will stay *only if* they love both the Lord of the harvest and the harvest itself and only if they have counted the cost of being in the harvest. In other words, they will only stay if their hearts have been touched by Christ-like compassion.



Do you have the compassion of Christ for *His* harvest? Perhaps what God requires of us first, even before we think about praying and sending laborers into the harvest, is that we love what He loves. We must love *His people* as the Bride groom loves *His Bride*. Do you love the church, the Bride of Christ? If so, have you counted the cost of loving her? Will you suffer for her just as He has suffered for you?

God calls us to labor in *His* harvest. Some He calls as shepherds, but it is *His* flock. Count the cost. In compassion, go into the fields, for they are ripe for harvest.

Lord, touch our hearts with deep-seeded, Christ-like compassion for Your harvest!

Pray for all those who labor in the Lord’s harvest. It is hard work, and without God, the task is insurmountable. But with God, all things are possible.

Grace and peace.

Edward Yee is a 3rd year student at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte. He is pursuing a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry and a Master of Arts in Religion in Church Revitalization.

THE PATHWAY TO REVIVAL

by Dr. David F. Ingrassia

The pathway to revival and church revitalization is through church planting.

That's a statement that on the surface makes little sense in a city that supposedly has more churches per capita than almost any other city in the world. On the other hand, anyone with children understands the power of new growth.

As a young pastor's family there were many times when we trudged our five children to visit those in hospitals, shut-ins, and nursing homes. Nothing cuts through the darkness of depression and ailing bones better than the life and energy of children. It's the circle of life — God's promise to Eve that despite the certainty of death from sin, God brings life.

So it is with the church. There is no better path to revival and revitalization than the presence of new believers, babies in the kingdom. They bring health and vibrancy to the church.

Charlotte is a growing city. Many of Charlotte's churches are growing, some by people moving into the city, some by transfer from other churches, and some by evangelism. It's the latter, new believers, who bring vitality to the church. And it's these new believers who also have the



most extensive networks and effective witness to all their friends.

Disciples make disciples. That's the mark of a healthy church. Similarly, church leaders train other church leaders, and healthy churches birth other churches. That's the biblical pattern since Pentecost. The church grows as we make disciples of all nations.

The healthy life cycle of the church includes the continual birth of new believers and congregations, but just like the physical birth rates of western countries, the spiritual birthrate of the church is failing to keep up with those who pass to glory. Transfer growth presents a false data echo. One congregation gains while another loses. Only evangelism and conversion brings new growth into the church.

Charlotte Awake's mission is to call the church to revival to fulfill the Great Commission in new ways in these last days. Since the pathway to revival is church planting, Charlotte Awake also calls the church to plant new congregations.

The basic building block of Charlotte Awake's ministry is the "Bible Cluster" where groups of three or more encounter God through reading His Word together. But encounters with God through His Word brings many to salvation in Christ, and as people come to know the Lord, they gather in "Community Clusters"—that is, they gather in new congregations of believers, church plants.

Some Community Clusters revitalize already existing congregations. Other Community Clusters form new congregations that soon birth other congregations.

The principle is still the same. Disciples make disciples. Leaders train leaders. Churches birth churches. And the pathway to revival or church revitalization is church planting — even in a city that has an abundance of already existing congregations. The Lord's kingdom is ever-growing. He wants it that way.

AWAKE ALERTS

Starting this Fall, Charlotte Awake will host its first 8-week Multiplier Lab for men and women who have a desire to introduce God's peace to those who do not know Christ and learn how to disciple them to make disciples one heart at a time. The curriculum is created by Charlotte Awake to help mobilize believers to go into the harvest and make disciples, but not go it alone. The fellowship within the consort of participants is just as important as the teaching itself.

We believe that all disciples of Jesus are called to make disciples of Jesus. If you are interested in more information about participating in our upcoming Multiplier Lab, please contact Pastor Justin Roper at justin@charlotteawake.com

Thank you for your investment in revival

Every dollar given, every prayer prayed, every sharing of our newsletter and podcast has been an investment in the coming revival in Charlotte. We cannot thank you enough for your faithful support of Charlotte Awake!

To make a donation, please go to CharlotteAwake.com/donate

