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What is a Resource Church

Based on an article by Rob Rufus

There are many outstanding Churches in the New Testament, but one of the Churches that particularly arrests our attention is the Church at Antioch. I believe this is because it has the distinguishing characteristics of being a Resource Church. This Antioch Church seems to have affected the history of the world beyond any of the other Churches of its time. What are the ingredients of a Resource Hub?

A Resource Hub in my opinion must have a high percentage of the following characteristics:

1. It is a Church that has built into its psyche, "We are here to go beyond ourselves".

Not that it neglects its own needs, but as someone has said, "The Church is the only society that exists primarily for its non members". It sees itself as being strategic to facilitate the success of others. The vision for the nations is a passion that pulsates and permeates every part of the Church. It is reflected in its prayer and praise. It joyfully gives large percentages of its income, 20%, 30%, 40% and more to resource Church planting and ministry beyond itself. It is willing to give of its key leaders and people for Church planting.

2. It develops a radical new breed of Christian.

A people who have not come into the kingdom just for personal life enhancement, but out of a deep gratitude to Christ for saving them from certain judgment. Thus they are willing to be inconvenienced to fulfill His purpose with joy.

3. It is a Church that is not build around having regular high profile "guest speakers".

It avoids the danger of developing an addiction or appetite in its people to hear the latest "in vogue" speakers. Not only that, it develops the ability to remain faithful and endures extended periods when its own key leaders are away traveling, because it is not built around entertaining speakers but around a shared passion to see the nations impacted. It is an unselfish Church filled with unselfish people.

4. It is a Church that requires great maturity among its people.

Maturity is not measured in age or how many years you've been a Christian but is an attitude that refuses to allow any offense or betrayal or hardship to stop your honoring of Jesus as Lord and being generous with all. You are given to "the bigger picture". Its people are loving, forgiving and gracious.

5. It not only equips people for ministry, it releases people into the activity of ministry for both local and trans-local work.

6. It is filled with an atmosphere of vibrant faith and vision.

7. It attracts the Ephesians 4 ministry offices to it.

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and pastors of high profile gravitate towards Resource Hubs for a period of refreshing, recovery or restoration. It needs a caliber of local elders who have enough security and stature not to be threatened by these gifted ministries, but to serve them graciously while remaining clear and confident of their local governmental responsibility and authority. A Resource Hub will also activate the emergence of Ephesians 4 ministries from within its ranks very quickly.

8. Not only is it outward looking in terms of the nations, but reaching the lost in its own city is also a high priority.

9. It is a Church that is rugged, militant, aggressive, violent and forceful in intercession and spiritual warfare.

It will not tolerate passivity, apathy or wimpy defeatist attitudes within itself.

10. It needs to be a model that substantiates the message and heart of COTN.

When people see a Resource Hub they should be able to catch what COTN is all about.

11. A Resource Hub does not just have academic presentations about God's reality.

It needs to regularly experience the substance of God's manifested presence in supernatural signs that bring wonder, awe and amazement!

12. It lives, progresses and delights in the Grace of God.

It protects its people from the bondage and fear of legalism. Just as Paul rebuked Peter to his face in Antioch for his hypocrisy so that others would not be led astray, its leaders are not afraid to address any issue that has the potential to steal genuine freedom and liberty.

13. It is related and open to apostolic correction and input.

What a Resource Hub is NOT:

1. A Headquarters for other Churches.
2. A Mother Church that smothers other congregations working in the area.
3. Not necessarily a Mega Church; being large does not in and of itself qualify it to be a Resource Church.

The Biblical Foundation Of A Resource Church – Acts 11–20

1. Teaching/Training Center – Acts 11:25&26
2. Access to Prophetic Anointing – Acts 11:25&26
3. Giving Church – Acts 11:29
4. Worshipping Church – Acts 13:2&3
5. Prayer and Fasting – Acts 113:2&3
6. Holy Spirit Led – Acts 13:2
7. Sending Church – Acts 13:3
8. Receiving Church – Acts 14:26–28
9. Resident Five Fold Ministries – Acts 14:28
10. Team Led
11. Serves a Network of Churches – Acts 15:36&41, 18:22&23, Chapter 20
12. Thinks Kingdom, not just Local Church