

Notes from Brian Sanders, *Microchurches (A Smaller Way)*. UNDERGROUND MEDIA, 2019

Encourage biblically appointed leadership, sacramental worship, pursuit of the gifts. p.2

Microchurches need larger network, leadership & resources of citywide church. Microchurches community of friends with whom they are walking thru life & trying to follow Jesus – committed to mission as they are to worship & their own friendships. p.9

Church planting is the business of every Christian. Microchurches are not likely to be excellent by standards of most big churches. They can be beautiful because they are imperfect. p.13

Microchurches have people dream about what this could become. Microchurches inadequacies are expressed. p.14

Microchurches – family/community. We are meant to be despised – sent into every culture, every nation. p.22

We are to walk in humility, in small, united by grace. p.22

Microchurches are not just small groups, life groups, or house groups. Why? Small grps tend to be about bldg. community – rarely about meaningful mission. Microchurches begin with a sense of place & mission – very different p.23

Can be adaptive, flexible & creative – excel in contextualization. Meeting places can be very diverse – strategic in taking the Word to their community & engaging nonbelievers. Microchurches traffic in power – part of struggle between good and evil; power & principalities. p.24

Centralized, concerted church expressions must serve the free expression, micro-expression of the church in order to confront every evil, reach every person & transform every part of society. p.25

Microchurches are potential to engage more people – when we are dispersed we find ourselves face to face with the devil and needs of people & so we are compelled to act, call upon our other worldly resources & deliver good news of the kingdom of God – p.26

*Church is blessed to be broken & given to the world. p.27*

*We are supposed to be something physical, manifestation of God's tangible presence in the world – p.30*

*When way of Jesus is embodied by his people, the church is revolutionary. Church is reinforced by phenomenon of renewal – p.31*

*The church is always reforming. Future – networks will devour hierarchies. We will have to adapt our approach to things like leadership, governance, community & mission if we hope to adapt to new world we find ourselves in. p. 32*

*A worshiping community as mission is the church. p.34*

*Worship is the only antidote to sin; repentance, faith, surrender & obedience rolled into one. p.38*

*No true expression of the church without a group of people who are committed to offering all of themselves. Church – fellowship of true & proper worshipper – p. 39*

*Worship – commitment, embodiment, group of people dedicating themselves to be people of Jesus, following way of Jesus. p.40*

*Microchurch holds more hope to be the above*

*Community – belonging, love. p.46*

*Love is weak; opening of ourselves to needs & wellbeing of others; to love is to suffer. p.47*

*Community as family – where people are known, accepted & loved. p.49*

*Community as witness; as mission – not something we add, who we are. p.57*

*Church is salt arresting the decay of the world around us. Light shining in the darkness. Microchurches are like a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. Microchurches must carry each of these qualities – surrendered to Lordship of Christ; takes piece of His mission in the world. p.57*

*How to start a microchurch? p.63*

*IDEATION ITERATION CODIFICATION EXPANSION*

*Dream/Idea Experiment Convictions Welcoming*

*Team Learn Disciple Sending*

*Microchurches should be started by missional people. First work – engage in mission p.66*

*Don't aspire to plant a church – instead aspire to accomplish some mission – to see kingdom of God come to some place or people. First step – join God in the work of mission p.67*

*Must hear from God. p.68*

*Be spiritually healthy – p.69*

*IDEATION – begin with end game. What is your kingdom dream? Whom is it for? How is it rooted in a deeper desire for the kingdom of God? What do you want to start, where, with whom, & why? p.73*

*Define your kingdom dream; bath in prayer. Measure your ideas by the known call & character of Scripture. Does it elevate Jesus as Lord? Does it make disciples? Will it reflect the kingdom of God? Will it bring goodness to the poor?*

*What of your stories shaped you & explain why you want to start a microchurch. Find right people to commit to same dream is critical. To carry out a mission you need people. Dreams don't move into reality without a team. p.78*

*Find right people who are also being called by God into the venture. Things to consider when finding your team:*

*Similar stories*

*Calling*

*Rapport*

*Character*

*Reliability*

*Capacity*

*Skill*

*Covenant p. 79*

*ITERATION*

*Learn by doing. Learning is very important. Posture of listening, quality of humility, introspection of reflection.*

*Today we learn by doing – take risks, experiment, process feedback, no failure, only feedback. p.86*

*Consider every iteration as an experiment. Failure is inevitable. p.87*

*Microchurches have permission to experiment. p.88*

*Disciples are made in process of discovery, desperation, & trust. Study, experiment, reflect. p.92*

*Try something new, track the results, prayerfully reflect. Repeat. We experiment to discover something that works. We reflect to discover a place where God is more profoundly present. We learn. It is important to start small. p.93*

*Establish convictions & make disciples as you experiment having successes and failures. Come to conclusions about what works in your context. p.97*

*When you see fruit double down on those things because God is at work. Pause & celebrate when you have victories – see God as being faithful. p.98*

*Consider your context to make disciples. Remember it has to involve people coming to Jesus. p.101*

*Discipleship Journey – grounded in love of God; foundation – people need to know love of God. Baptism into way of Jesus; how to teach core truths of an orthodox faith. Call to leadership/servanthood; Discernment of calling; empowerment & sending. p.102*

*Expand through welcoming & sending. p.107*

*Commit to the stranger. p.108*

*Measure things so we can learn about ourselves and how useful we are being to the people we hope to serve. Measure things so we remain humble. Make sure we are accomplishing what it is God has asked us to do & not drift into something more comfortable & less fruitful. p.109*

*Sending – don't be selfish. Send people out to expand the kingdom. Give freely. Best multiplication comes out of freely giving. p.110*

*Microchurches should consider the loop of growth through welcoming & sending. Best way to grow – repeat what works for your mission. Adding. Scaling. Franchising. Multiplying. p.112*

*People need to hear the voice of God inviting them, urging them, sending them into mission together. Creative attention given to starting microchurches and all it entails. Give creative attention to supporting, equipping, networking together microchurches so they can thrive. p.118*