



The Burden of the Fast: Expansions.

THEODORE ANDOSEH

2016 – PRAYER AND FASTING CRUSADE
CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL - KOUME / BERTOUA

Fasting is a heart cry to God.

- *Come out and just ask God: O Lord, pour Yourself on our ministry, rent the heavens and grant us explosions, so that we can succeed.*

Before all the plenty knowledge we know about how explosions come, even if we don't know how it come and God gives them to us, we will take.

Acts 2:46-47

46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

NIV

Three things come out, this is not an explosion, it is an expansion, God adding every day. Extension are territorial, expansion is sudden. Three things come out. For my own mind, I put them into acronym form C.C.C:

1. The church developed a sense of community, they met regularly, they had a sense of community, the brethren were committed to their meeting. What you are not committed to, God will not add anybody to. Why should God add people to what i snot serious to you. The first members are critical in deciding growth. There was a sense of community, they were committed to their won meetings; their meetings were regular and attended.

There are many leaders who have decided to fail. In the psychology of church planting, if the person who is planting the church does not assist to his own meetings, nobody will come. If you cancel the meeting that you started, nobody will come. If you start a church and you are just two of you and on Sunday, you dress up and come and sit down and hold a meeting with utter seriousness, God will add to you. But let it be in your house and on Sunday, you despise the few people you have, you dress poorly and don't plan the program, go and do something else with your life, because God will not give you people. God does not waste people. Many people have already plan for failure because they do not take their church, nor god seriously, they don't plan their sermons, they don't treat with great treasure their members. In business, everybody treats his clients very well, if you don't do so, your life depends on them, the future of your children depends on them. Those who make business know that the customer is king, they treat their clients with care.

The pastor is in the business of building people, his clients are his members, he cares for them. Every pastor that neglect the first five members is just a poor business man. Even if he was in the world, he will fail, he does not have it; even in the world, he will fail, anything that enters his hands gets spoiled, when he has five people, they are nothing. A true pastor, when he has five people, they are five cows. If he takes care of them, make sure that they eat, make sure that they grow, protect them from being prayed, they will grow, they will multiply. Every member is already your future. she may be a dormer prostitute, if you take care

of her, if you can only see in her, our own Mary Magdalene, maybe you will treat her well. The reason that she will become nothing and you also will become nothing is that in your own eyes she is just a prostitute. That vision tells you that you yourself has not believe in your gospel that it could change people, you plan to fail, you have no gospel, you don't have anything, stop it and go and do something else with your life; a sense of community manifested by individual commitment to the community. You plan meetings and you don't attend them, you come late, you dress shabbily, nothing is regular for you, you don't take it seriously enough to be regular, you don't put any mind into it. God would not give you, you don't even want, that is not where your future is. Everybody who will have a community and create a community identity. Many people don't have big church because they have not convinced God, they are not convincing, they will fail. They were trying something, it was not their life. They have not sense of vocation to handle it as if their whole future depends on it. They want other people to labour and then they come and be babysitter for other people's children, they are hungry for the podium produced by the labours of others. They have not commitment to anything. If the people you have produce a sense of community, by your meetings, treat your meetings seriously. Their meetings serious for them.

The second thing I want to say about the sense of community is that they were praising God. Every negative community will not grow. A community that is praising God, that is upbeat, that is positive with testimonies, will have something to offer to people. Many people have nothing, they are not positive. These was a praising people, that is one of their characteristics, they have found something that made them happy, that made them sing. If your church is not positive there are no mega churches that are negative. If you don't have a positive personality, you can be a pastor of mega church, you don't have it. why should people gather around you to live raining season? You are a messenger of night. Who want to come to your church, you are Mount Sinai with thunder and darkness; who will come? Even you yourself, will you go? Nobody who is a pessimistic eye to life can gather men. Flowers draw attention, if your life is not a flower, who will look at you? Nothing bright, nothing charming, you are just some tasteless insipid flat pancakes.

A positive community, praising God. Any mega church that does not have a praising committed team will fail. Whether you call it choir. You cannot succeed with negative persons, you can't even succeed with those instead of being committed to what you have spent their time to criticise it, you cannot succeed with those who are not proud of where they belong, you will fail.

Praising God and finding favour with all men. You cannot succeed with socially wretched characters, people who are in debts, people who are quarrelling with their wife until their neighbours are aware, you cannot succeed unless the members of your church have a good reputation, you cannot succeed with people who have nothing that the world admire, bad manners, people who don't greet people on the road, people who share with their neighbours, even God will not add. God adds people but there is certain church to which God add and the Bible gives us picture of such a church.

The produced a sense of community, something that they are proud of. They brethren enjoyed each other, they visit each other. A church where everyone is a wizard and suspect others, who will enter a negative community? The bible gives us here the picture of the kind of church to which God adds.

- *We are going to pray that our churches will produce a sense of community.*

We are busy wanting people to join our community without producing a sense of community to which they will belong. If we don't produce a community, there is nothing God will add to.

2. The second factor is Communion. The brethren had a good relationship among themselves very good relationships among themselves. Their relationship was food centred. They had food-centred relationships. They ate each other food. Never plant a house-church in a house of a stingy woman who will not give us her food. Churches eat, the brethren eat. Any house in which people don't eat freely, people should not meet their, such house kill growth. They met in temple for teachings and in houses to eat and communion. They money spent was not given by church. They met in t communion, food, visiting. Praising, that is communion with God. Eat is agape with each other. Finding favour, that is good relationships with neighbour. There was communion with god in praise. Among themselves, brotherly love and eating, and with their neighbour, neighbourly love and favour.

A community where the people don't relate well with one another, God will not add. A community with suspicious, with reserve, where we believe that our members are still witches, wizard and necromancers so that you cannot eat their food. Food and warmed homes. That is something that Headquarters churches don't have, it was lacking in Yaoundé and more and more, it is lacking in Bertoua. Communion, food, warm.

3. God's commitment. Every community that reflects God's nature, every community that crystallises the ethos of God's heart, by the way they treat each other's, it will attract God and God will add. The addition of souls is divine improvement of the community. When God likes a church because they reflect His spirit, he adds. God's addition is conditioned upon a certain climate. So, relationships among brethren are a factor of growth. The commitment to the community is a factor of growth. When you go to a church and the pastor is thanking people for having taken some time out of their program to come to church, such a church will die, they have no commitment to the community, the pastor himself is acknowledging it, they don't belong, they are attending. Who thanks a child for coming home?

COMMUNITY - COMMUNION - COMMITMENT

Sense of community, genuine relationship and the divine commitment. God will then add.

We need to pray that our churches will be churches to which God can add Our house churches, our public centres, that they will become communities to which God can add.

Pray that:

- The Lord will enable the brethren who are in CMFI to be deeply committed to our churches, that our members will be deeply committed to our meetings and to our churches, so that God can add to us.
- God will bless our churches with good relationships between the brethren, really good relationship, where they visit each other because they have a sense of belonging
- The brethren in our ministry will have good relationship with their neighbours and good reputation with our neighbours, mostly from kindness and character.
- God will add to every house church, local church and mega church in our ministry,
- That God will show us his favour by adding to us.

There are some churches to which God ad, this is what they look like

- Three people pray that the churches at Headquarters will exemplify this quality community life, it is an important factor.