

# Austin PlantR Network Mtg Notes - 3.26.2009

[www.plantr.org](http://www.plantr.org)

## **Announcements:**

A. PlantR Lead Teams: Utilizing Leaders within the network, various abilities, and passions to accomplish the work and objectives of annual goals. Please email [brandon@austinnewchurch.com](mailto:brandon@austinnewchurch.com) and let us know which of one of lead teams you might be most interested in working with.

### 1. Meeting Planning Teams

- a. Prayer Lead Team: process and report
- b. Meeting Lead Team: Planning schedule, creative, speakers
- c. BiVocational Lead Team

### 2. Networking Teams

- a. Internal Communication Lead Team: Emails, Announcements, Blogs, Etc...
- b. External Communication Lead Team: Web: program & design, keeping current & relevant.
- c. Events Lead Team: Determining standards for partnering, planning & promotion.
- d. Recruiting Lead Team: planters, established pastors, connect, retention plan, diversity

### 3. Resource Teams

- a. Demographics Lead Team: trends & new church mapping, needs, culture
- b. Equipping Lead Team: resources/calendar for training, conferences, Level 2 Networks

## **MEETING: Guest Speaker: Tony Dale, House Church Pastor & Author**

Our special guests this month will be **Tony Dale**. Tony has been a major voice in the house church movement and the founder of [House2House](#). Tony has authored a [number of books](#), including the upcoming book [The Rabbit and the Elephant: Why Small is the New Big for Today's Church](#), co-authored by George Barna.

QUOTES:

“We want to enforce what ministry as couples looks like.”

“In the House church world, the philosophy is “as little as possible from the front”.

“Each one has something”

“At one point we had 17 houses with meetings going on just down our street.”

“There was an awesome sense of community”

“We didn’t realize the things we let go of as we got bigger.”

“Literally thousands started throughout the UK. The vast majority were just falling into it. Churches were just emerging around them”

“Those churches became the foundation for the mega churches in the UK today”

“Funny how we’re kinda seeing that happening in America in reverse.”

“I live with much tension. You can take everything I say today with a pinch of salt. You are the guys who are biblically trained... I have a feeling I can learn a lot more from you than you will from me. But we’ll enjoy the conversation.”

“God led us clearly to America. But we feel like God led us here, dumped us here, then went back to England. It’s been very difficult. But we knew his leading here was so clear that we were not free to go back to England.

“All of a sudden, God spoke into our hearts again. The first thing He said, was that we would be a part of a movement again, just like at the UK.”

“House Church now represents about 1/3 of Christians in United Kingdom”

“Is there intentionality in creating MASS through starting SMALL?”

“Renewed sense of family.”

“Americans in general are leaving the traditional church. They’re not leaving faith, their leaving religion.”

**Video Suggestion:** [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org) (search: like a mighty wave... long version)

“Where church planting movements are happening, we’re actually seeing the church population overtake the general population. It’s multiplication v.s. addition. Energy and movement come from within the people themselves”.

“What we are doing is lowering the bar on what we call church and raising the bar on what it means to be a disciple.”

“When we make disciples, churches will spring up in all types of places with all types of people.”

“Our focus honestly should be Kingdom, not church”.

“Why do we need people in the world to write books on how to lead in the church?”

“You don’t run out of leaders as we know them. We already have people who are leaders in their realm of leadership.”

“In our culture God is still blessing the very very big and the very very small. That’s great. Society is de-constructing the traditional, not God. So our call is to how do we engage that society?”

### **Key Points:**

### **BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- An Army of Ordinary People
- Organic Church
- Simple Church

Massive Growth as a result of:

- No Empire Building
- No Control
- No Glory

Example of Movement in Cambodia:

1993: 6 believers started 6 churches

1993: 10 churches

1994: 20 churches

1995: 43 churches

1996: 78 churches

1997: 123 churches

2000: 220 churches and 28,000 members.

Currently over 100,000 people meeting in a month.

USA: 250,000 HC's nationwide right now (5K on internet 2008). Barna research shows 5 million in house church each week and as many as 20 million visiting each month. That's as many as go to SBC each month.

### **Significant Elements/Characteristics of House Church Movement:**

Prayer

Abundant gospel sowing

Intentional church planting

Bible as guiding authority for doctrine, polity

Local believers

Primarily Lay leaders.

Meet as cell or house

Churches plant churches (missionaries plant the first few)

Growth is rapid

Start without financial dependence.

### **What is happening in America today?**

- Financial Concerns: Impacting Churches greatly. Impacting Persons greatly.
  - Can we justify the resources?
  - Especially when we consider what else can be done.
- Post modern focus on community.
  - post Christendom structure and tradition de-valued.
  - models should reflect.
- The Starfish and the Spider:
  - “The unstoppable power of leaderless organizations.”

### **BOOK: Liquid Church**

- We've thought of church as an event: specific time at specific place.
- Think of church as a block of ice v.s. water.
- Instead of melting it will saturate.
- People are extensions of Kingdom.
- It was genuinely as much church at “x” gathering as it is on Sunday.

- Looking for presence of Jesus in the Mix.

### **Questions & Answers:**

Q: Most are not planting house churches. How do you suggest, in working with traditional model, incorporate a model of reproducibility?

A: I'm not persuaded that you can incorporate. I think you need to release these. You can run in parallel, but the nature is very different. It's a struggle in our traditional structures to genuinely release without expecting it to bless back the "mother ship".

Q: Downfall or hindrance in cell church?

A: Not cell church. It's house church. Why? Identity is critical. Negatives? Hundreds of negatives. Every problem you can pick up comes out. But also real discipleship and transformed lives. House churches are a disaster, but God uses them.

Q: Can you hit on a few principles of house church leaders.

A: Get a hold of the first clip (10 principles) Booklet into book by David Garrison

[www.churchplantingmovements.com](http://www.churchplantingmovements.com)

[www.churchplantingroundtable.com](http://www.churchplantingroundtable.com)

Q: Talk about money a lot (This Assumes Theological stance): What does HC do with tithe? If at all? Teaching stewardship?

A: No real answer to that. Each do their own thing.

Q: According to David Garrison's book and historically, HC movements are occurring in 2/3rds world. What is culturally significant for that movement?

A: Worldview and understanding of the power and presence of God. We have very small, genuine, expectation of miraculous power of God. Our faith... you spell RISK... the 2/3 world has plenty of room for supernatural because they've seen demonic. Most of us in the western have not seen the demonic.

Q: Greatest leadership issue in home church?

A: Simply not enough time to train leaders as would seem appropriate.