

Core Team Meeting with Tomáš Grulich

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Tomáš Grulich is Czech, is a professor at the Evangelical Theological Seminary, has planted and is soon to release a church at Černý Most, Prague, and teaches church planting and advises church planters and core teams.

Three Values that are foundational to Tomáš Grulich's ministry

1. Outreach/Evangelism/Discipleship. The Great commission
2. People Care/Pastoral Care. Feeding and guiding the sheep
3. Church Planting. Both believers and churches must multiply. Even as churches are at their earliest beginnings they should hope and plan to start another church some day.

Principle's to Remember

1. If we start too early with weekly services it drains the team's energy
2. A church plant needs a group of volunteers and cooperative workers. One worker in some areas is not enough. One children's worker would mean that person would have to be there 52 weeks a year. We need workers and backup workers, musicians, speakers
3. There is a sense of church started before it starts. Where two or three are gathered Jesus is with them.
4. Traditional thinking toward church planting is that a Sunday morning service is what constitutes a church, not outreach activities, or group meetings.
5. There is another way to think: A team with a leader is a church plant in process.
6. All activities must be covered in prayer. More activities than can be prayed for leads to burnout.
7. A Sunday morning church meeting doesn't mean a church is being planted. One must ask, "What is the connection of these people?" "Does the leader pray and have a good relationship to the people?"
8. The team leader must see what should be the next step and be able to talk about it and motivate people.
9. Some people need to see things concretely. Abstract concepts are not enough.
10. You need a core and then add appropriate activities at the right time.
11. As a building must have a good foundation, so must a church plant

Three Key Items in beginning a church

1. The Outward Focus: Mission service/Evangelism/Great Commission
2. The Upward Focus: Worship of God and experiencing grace

3. Inward Focus: Brother to brother/sister service and care and fellowship

All three must be present at one time.

Example: In one church with only an outward focus, one new believer said after a few months, "I was better off as an unbeliever when it seemed you cared and you paid attention to me."

If one of these is weak now, the others will be weak in a year.

Mistakes to Avoid

1. Being a one focus church. Health requires all three
2. Poor communication from the leader and in the core team.
3. Thinking that a church is a Sunday Service
4. Talking in church lingo
5. Leader thinks he knows it all – isn't listening, learning and growing
6. Leader who isn't called of God
7. Absence of a core team – leader does it all
8. Lacking a parent church, or lacking true prayer, people and financial support for a parent church
9. Pressure for results. There are only twenty Czech Republic churches from all denominations with 150 people. Be patient. It may be slow in coming.
10. Church starts or separates without the blessing of the parent church. Healthy church plants are sponsored and not the result of splits. A split is a negative motivation.