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HUMAN BEINGS & not human doings

Is it possible to reach the world one person at a time? By **Rona Miller**

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST THING YOU HAVE learned at CPx Raymond? *"That we are human BEings and not human doings! So often we feel pressurised to do this or do that and fill in a tick box list! But God has called us to BE; it is in our relationships that we find meaning and fulfilment. CPx has taught me the importance of people before process."*

I am in Noordhoek to meet Floyd McClung, well known author, speaker, evangelist and visionary. While I learn more about what makes Floyd tick, over 45 students are gathered in the next room, having come in for the six-month Church Planting Experience training (CPx) at All Nations.

As an American famous for Christian

outreach (18 years in the red light district of Amsterdam) and now living in South Africa; I wanted to know: "Why?" Like many believers, Floyd is positive about Africa's role in fulfilling the many promises and prophecies of God. His relationship with our land goes back pre-independence. In 1978 he spoke at Hatfield Church, Pretoria, initially to check out the horrors of apartheid



for himself, but instead of judgement, God laid a love for the continent upon his heart. And after a number of visits Sally and Floyd McClung settled at the tip of Africa with a view to training missionaries, equipping spiritual leaders and working with the poor.

Floyd tells me: “Our daughter was born in Afghanistan, our son in Holland and we have always had a passion for reaching out to people who would not be normally found in church. For instance, when we saw the drug addict or prostitute come to Christ, it was not easy for them to assimilate into a typical church structure. They didn’t have the clothes, the social graces etc and I guess from there I realised the importance of meeting people where they are. My passion is the un-churched. Jesus met people along the way and we seek to do the same. A fresh expression of a living, loving Jesus Christ.”

FAMOUS IN HELL!

“So in reality how do you do this?” I ask, “Do you take the American 4x4 into the townships and hand out tracts?” Floyd laughs telling me he has a good South African *bakkie* and yes he did take it into Masiphumelele and from there began (lots of) prayer walks. As a very tall white guy with a shock of grey hair he’s pretty obvious in the township setting! But Floyd used this to his advantage and struck up conversations with locals. From this he insists it was simply a progressive matter to initiate spiritual discussions and then repeats the process he has been doing worldwide since the early ‘80s.

In many areas, regular meetings take place in people’s homes or on soccer fields or “anywhere where two or three are gathered in His name.”

“We believe in the orthodoxy of a radical community of Jesus followers who seek to alleviate injustice and share the Father’s love with those who have never heard that He cares for them. We believe the church of Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. Jesus Himself chose the church to be His ongoing, incarnate presence in the world.”

The disciples walked with Jesus for years before they were born again; they built relationships, learned the Lord’s

ways, and of course could not become new creatures until after Calvary. From this CPx takes the model of prayer first; then going out to meet people where they are, and as relationships are built then only are the commands of Christ examined and taught.

SLOW IS FAST

This gentle giant emanates a patience seldom seen in the church world. It is as though he has learned (perhaps through years of ministry) that actually, slow is fast. He insists that if people first build relationships, at the end of the day the Kingdom will expand more rapidly than through programmes and performance.

Consequently CPx seems to do things a little differently from the typical church planting model. They have no buildings, no regular service times, no budget, but much vision. The present students are from 12 different nations ranging from Australia to Nigeria and on to Europe. All have a desire to influence their generation and work cross culturally. Floyd says: “Most are sent by their church, many from churches we have planted.”


They study for three months living communally (a great learning curve) and then go on outreach for two months before returning for evaluation. The hope is that they will return to their homelands and repeat the process creating a ‘viral’ growth effect as movements institute these five processes: pray, meet, gather, disciple and multiply.

Floyd emphasises: “We believe God has a big dream, but we also believe He transforms the world one life, one family and one community at a time. We believe in dreaming big and building small, one new community of believers at a time. We believe the effectiveness of any movement

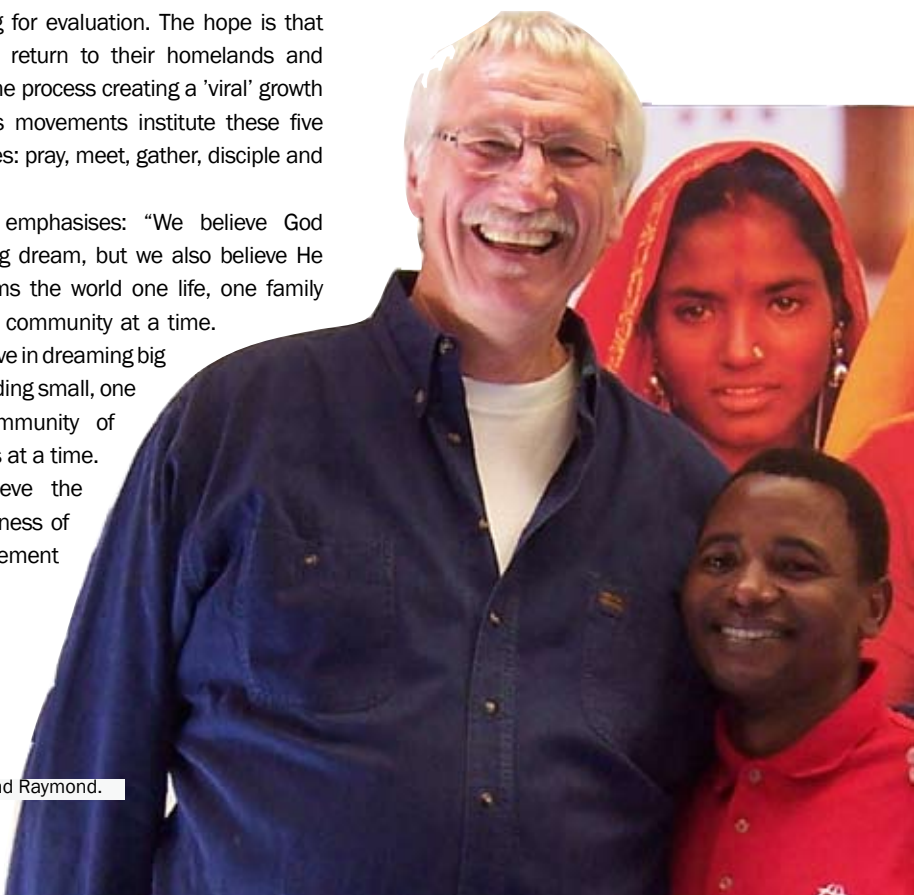
that makes a lasting impact will be measured by how effective it is in fostering a culture of discipling; doing the works of Jesus as we go. So we share Jesus passionately and also help people with their everyday needs such as job creation, AIDS awareness, life skills and so on.”

Floyd points out that the Acts’ Church met from house to house, and that a modern-day equivalent is the underground church in China where millions meet in intimate groups sharing the realities of the Gospel. This is thought to be the fastest growing Christian movement of all time.

Floyd says: “The church has asked people to believe in something before they belong to it. Jesus asked His followers to first belong before He asked them to believe. He understood that belief is not a set of propositions to give ascent to, but a Person to know, love and then obey... He invited them into intimacy, into friendship with Him. They were part of a community.”

Driving back I ask the question: “Is it really possible to reach the world one person at a time simply through relationship?” 

What are your thoughts? Contact us at yoursay@todaypublication.com.



Floyd and Raymond.