



## CHURCH MULTIPLICATION Kent Sovine 2018 District Conference

***“Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God” (Luke 8:1).***

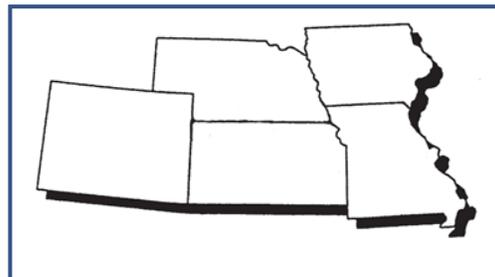
I love the picture! The Lord was on a very deliberate journey of seeing a hurting, confused, lost world come to know the beauty and joy of the Kingdom. He went into all kinds of places – the large city, the smaller towns, the rural villages. He engaged national rulers, city officials, the religious, the pagan, men, women, children, and on and on. Jesus was consumed with getting as deep into the darkness as possible to offer a powerful invitation into a whole new Kingdom.

Fascinatingly, while Jesus is on his mission of proclaiming the Kingdom, he knows full well what is waiting around the corner for him in his own experience. The cross is coming. The sacrifice will demand his all. The pain and suffering will be unthinkable. And yet, it was a necessary part of the journey.

All of this makes me think of the MidAmerica District family and your leadership. You are all an incredible group of men and women who have picked up your cross and have decided to chase after Jesus. It is an absolute joy to see how the Lord uses you to press into dark places with the invitation found in the gospel. It is a joy to see how you faithfully serve him. It is a joy to celebrate how the good news of the Kingdom is being proclaimed – from one town and village to another. We celebrate seeing cities, towns, and villages encounter the Lord through this people. Well done!

All the while, I also know that you all sacrifice much. Many have left family, friends, homes, and communities to enter new places. Many have poured out over and over and over again for the sake of the lost and for the sake of shepherding the found. You have picked up your cross and carried it well. The cost has been high, and yet, you have endured! Well done!

My question is...where do we head next? As long as there is still breath in our lungs, we are not yet finished. Some 19 million people live around us in our five states, and most of them have no real idea of who Jesus is. What if we collectively cried out to the Lord with a plea to hear his voice regarding the next moves we need to make in our effort to bring the gospel to the 19 million? What if we took some faith-filled risks as people and as churches to press into new places – multiplying disciples, leaders, and churches? What if we pressed through the comforts and the unnecessary barriers and started something new?



In my ministry exposure, I get thrilled when I see those settings where a leader or leadership team has heard the Lord's voice. I love to see how those stories unfold. Planting churches throughout our five states, raising up leaders, and making disciples...stories of fruit that come from men and women who have heard the Lord's voice and responded in obedience.

I don't know what he has next for you, but I sure hope you get a chance to hear it, live it, and then together we'll celebrate it!