



Organic Church University - a huge success!

30 people gathered in Austin TX October 23-25, 2009 for New Church Specialties Organic Church University and were greeted by the presence of the Holy Spirit. We came to learn and got more than we were expecting. Friday night we started with a reminder of who owns the church and a time of "erasing the whiteboards" of our hearts. We prayed "search my heart O God" and meant it. The Spirit showed up and revealed some things people have been carrying that needed dealt with in repentance and humility before God before they could take the next steps of ministry. We asked God to "create in us a pure heart" that is ready and willing to do whatever He calls us to do irrelevant of methodology. It was a time of pure joy for me as I watched the Spirit of

God draw us away from the material and simply work in His church, doing what we could not have "presented".

We learned principles and strategies and exchanged ideas. It was exciting for me to see participants notice how much these principles, ideas and strategies were grounded in the Word. One participant writes in his evaluation, "I really appreciated all of the Bible references and the way Biblical teaching was brought into each session." Thank you Lord for your Word, the seed that brings life.

Then there were times of confession as seasoned Christians admitted to having never lead anyone to Christ let alone disciplined anyone. "How can we call others to do what we have not and are not doing ourselves" they said. Then commitments were made.

We learned from one another and I watched, with joy as the body modeled together the value of community learning and the ripple effect when God moves upon one person and he/she is willing to share what God is doing with the group.

One of the highlights for me came in the form of a couple visitors Saturday night. Bryan and Dustie were homeless and alone and are now part of a family. They stopped by looking for some help. The group responded as the church and loved them, encouraged them, and supported them. They came back Sunday morning and joined us for the rest of the conference. They took notes, joined in the conversation and became part of the family like they had been there from the beginning. One of the participants asked me if I had staged this as an opportunity to practice what we were learning. One of the lessons they taught us was what can happen when the church creates a safe place for nurturing relationships. Dustie and Bryan connected with some of the folks from Austin and will be cared for, loved and nurtured in the family of God. They are certainly a part of our Organic Church University 09 family.

There were many more lessons learned and many great things that will happen in the Kingdom of God because of this weekend. There were many participants from the south Texas area and I am excited about what God is doing along the border. Thank you all for your prayers, encouragement and support.

We are now in the evaluation process and will be talking about future training and learning opportunities. If you missed this one and are interested in Organic training please let us hear from you as that will help us in our planning process. Great Days Ahead!

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