

Sowing Seeds

Growing up on a farm in South Dakota...I learned some a lot about planting seeds. Farmers never know when seeds planted will produce a great harvest. Sometimes birds eat up the seeds, sometimes they fall on rocky soil, sometimes the drought or weeds keep the seeds from bearing maximum fruit.

But you never stop sowing seeds. You know that the only way to see a harvest is through faithfully sowing seeds. Sow sparingly...reap sparingly. Sow bountifully...reap bountifully. It is a simple process that God established.

But, every now and then you get surprised! One seed can sometimes produce a bumper crop. With that comes great joy. Let me tell you about such a story.



Samuel Hust lived in Zlin Moravia...about two hours south of the Josiah Venture training center in Malenovice (Josiah Venture is our Eastern Europe training partner in GYI).

Samuel was a young elder in a small Brethren church, working in a factory in 2002. Stepping out in faith he decided to quit his job and take the nine-month training program of Josiah Venture. His boss promised to hold a position open for him after the internship.

Part of the internship is studying the life of Christ material that I had written along with some materials on developing your personal vision. Dave Patty, our leader in Eastern Europe, had translated the material and strengthened it for Czeck leaders.

During the final weeks of the internship, Samuel wrestled with what he would do next. Overlooking the valley where he was praying, he said he “saw the power of God in creation”. Looking up at the training center, he also “saw evidence of what God could do through people who stepped out in faith”. Right then and there he decided to move out in faith, to quit his job, and train other young leaders as he had been trained. He would devote his life to teaching others the Son’s Life.

Returning to his room, he received a message from his boss saying that his company was downsizing...his position had been eliminated...and he would receive four months severance. In his own words, “my company became my first sponsor”.

A couple of months later someone in his church gave him their car, so that he wouldn’t have to travel by train. He set out and began his first journey. He led a young man to the Lord named Michael who began to travel with him. He began to lead small groups, teaching the Son’s Life.





Within two years he had over 5 groups going. Within 3 years over 70 disciples had been trained, another 50 were in small groups, and a total of 120 were following the pattern of Jesus. He was now training young disciples coming from 18 different locations throughout Czeck and Slovakia.

One young man named Michael sensed the call to begin reaching just youth. He now is multiplying the training through other youth leaders. The multiplication continues.

I have never met Samuel. Dave Patty, the president of Josiah Venture, did not know about all that Samuel had been doing...until someone told him the story. But seeds were planted years ago...and now they were growing...and now other seeds are falling to the ground and new plants springing up. A bumper crop several generations removed. But what joy it brings.

This is what God has called us to in GYI. Planting seeds around the globe. Training young leaders how to make disciples who can make disciples. Is it working...YES. Why? Because people like you are praying and giving sacrificially...and God honors that. Secondly, because we are just following the Son's Life... training young leaders to multiply the impact of their lives to that next generation.

I wonder how many other Samuel's are out there! Our dream is to see 100,000 of them raised up in 100 countries by 2020. It will only happen through faithful seed sowing...faithful praying...and through faithful giving. Thanks for being part of that team!



Prayer requests

Web site design and production...I'd like to have it done by November 1.

For Chris Folmsbee (Sonlife North America director) as he continues to build his team and lead Sonlife North America into the future

For my International travel schedule beginning soon

September--Czeck Republic

October—Australia

Nov/Dec—Kuwait

January—Beijing

Feb/March—Malaysia

April/May—Middle East

For God's favor as I start some writing projects

For Andrew Tay—our new regional leader in South East Asia. He will be hosting our February GYI meetings as well as starting in his new role as regional leader

Major Praise

Last month I asked you to pray for a \$50,000 funding proposal for our GYI meetings in Malaysia. Through a generous donor God provided a \$25,000 matching gift towards this project! PTL!



Mission, Vision, and Values

(These are the reworked mission, vision, and values of GYI)

Mission: Equipping emerging leaders for movements of multiplication

Vision: A movement of God among the youth of the globe--resulting in church multiplication, the transformation of society, and the wonders of God known among the next generation (Psalm 78:3-7). Specifically: 100 countries by 2020.

Values: As we come together we are characterized by:

Christ's Strategy: We are committed to model our ministries on the strategy of Jesus...creatively adapting its application to our local culture and context.

Church Based Ministry: We focus on the development of healthy local church ministries committed to reaching the emerging generations in their community.

Prayerful Dependence: We are committed to minister out of our dependence on the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Indigenous Leadership: We are committed to developing self-sustaining models of ministry that are readily reproduced in typical churches of that culture.

Incarnational Multipliers: We are committed to being as well as building disciples who make disciples, modeling Christ like character and priorities.

Church multiplication: We believe that the development of proven young leaders among the emerging generation is one of the most strategic ways long term of seeing churches strengthened and multiplied.

On the Lighter Side

LETTER FROM COLLEGE STUDENT....

Dear Dad,

School i\$ really great. I've made lot\$ of friend\$ and am \$tudying hard. With all my \$tuff, I \$imply can't think of anything I need, \$o if you would like you can ju\$t \$end me a card, a\$ I would love to hear from you.

Love, your \$on

REPLY FROM DAD....

Dear Son,

I kNOW that astroNOmy, ecoNomics, and oceaNOgraphy are eNOugh to keep even an hoNOr student busy. Do NOt forget that the pursuit of kNOwledge is a NOble task, and you can never study hard eNOugh.

Love, Dad.