

## **Chapter 14**

### **Moving Forward**

*“Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work.”*

~ Peter F. Drucker

By now, you’re fired up and inspired to create new scorecards and become a hero-making Multiplier who advances God’s Kingdom.

Over the last 13 chapters, we’ve looked at where we are today with the prevailing addition-focused scorecard (the five levels of multiplication) and the need to deconstruct it; identified the importance of changing your personal scorecard and confronting your misplaced motives; and discovered five essential practices for moving from Level 1 to Level 5 leadership.

From there, we explored solid foundations for new multiplication-based scorecards (three dimensions for multiplication); examined why vision and a pathway for multiplication are essential for moving your new scorecard forward; and explored your vital role as a Multiplier in making the shift to a multiplication culture that embeds your multiplication vision (aligning three elements of culture); and finally, discerned the most common tensions you’ll face in the multiplication journey.

### **Taking Your Cue**

I realize this is a lot to process. If you’re feeling overwhelmed, you’re in good company. Two thousand years ago, a team of learners felt the same way. They were grieving the loss of their Founder and one of their twelve team members. They felt uncertain of themselves and their future. Clearly, they were squarely at Level 1 (subtraction culture), unable to see any forthcoming movement.

While simply giving up would have been the easiest response, the eleven disciples pressed on in faith, taking one small, determined

## *Multipliers: Leading Beyond Addition*

step at a time. Then Jesus showed up in Jerusalem to give them their mission—“Go!” And then, “Wait.” Wait for what? They knew their assignment. What did they need to wait for?

*“... wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit ... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:4-8).*

In the first two chapters of Acts, we see how the disciples took steps to carry out Jesus’ Great Commission, both before and after Pentecost. They waited for power, prayed, put the right leadership in place (Mathias replaced Judas), held to the authority of Scripture, shared the gospel, called people to action, and lived in common, modeling what they would ultimately multiply.

As leaders, we can learn from the disciples and create specific priorities with concrete short-term actions that move us toward multiplication. Like the disciples, we need to:

- rely on God’s power (not ours);
- pray diligently and proactively;
- hold fervently to Jesus’ commands;
- put the right leaders in place;
- call people to a higher standard;
- and model what we seek to reproduce.

### **Beyond Vision to Action**

As you’ve learned by now, the pathways to Levels 4 and 5 require leaders who are intentional, courageous, and disciplined. There’s a reason why only 4 percent of U.S. churches *ever* reproduce. Moving that multiplication needle requires leaders like you to face and deconstruct your current scorecard and then redefine your success via new scorecards, both for your church and for you, personally. Bottom line, becoming a Multiplier takes action.

## *Multipliers: Leading Beyond Addition*

When I hear people talk about good intentions with no plan for executing them, I always think about this quote from Peter Drucker: “Many brilliant people believe that ideas move mountains. But bulldozers move mountains; ideas show where the bulldozers should go to work.”<sup>1</sup>

If you’re serious about becoming a Multiplier that leads beyond addition, you must move beyond the inspiration of ideas or a vision. And that action needs to start right now. If you read this book and come away inspired or convicted, yet don’t take specific, concrete steps to change, you won’t see multiplication. It’s as simple as that.

Becoming a Level 5 Multiplier who leads multiplication in and through your church *can* be a reality. Jesus doesn’t ask us to do something for His purpose without empowering and equipping us with the vision and the plan for it. However, like anything in life, we can have everything we need but without action, good intentions are futile. Drucker offers another gem to remember:

“It is meaningless to speak of short-range and long-range plans,” he said. “There are plans that lead to action today—and they are true plans, true strategic decisions. And there are plans that talk about action tomorrow—they are dreams, if not pretexts for non-thinking, non-planning, non-doing.”<sup>2</sup>

Granted, we may not always have the exact blueprint in front of us. Missiologist Alan Hirsch (who contributes his insights to the eBook *Becoming a Level 5 Multiplying Church*) notes that when we commit to a vision of doing something that has never been done before, there is no blueprint or model.

“We simply have to build the bridge as we walk on it,” Alan says. “And remember, no advancement or development would have ever been achieved if someone hadn’t broken from the herd and charted a different (and better) way.”<sup>3</sup>

## *Multipliers: Leading Beyond Addition*

Jesus has called you to something bigger than leading a growing church. He has called you to chart a new, inspired course. I hope by now you believe and understand that. I pray that you will take the necessary steps to become a leader who asks for the courage and wisdom to assess and deconstruct your current scorecard and then risks to establish a new definition of success, both for your church and for you, personally.

God hasn't called you to just be a leader. He has called you to be a leader who makes heroes and takes seriously His vision for multiplying biblical disciples in fresh, sometimes unconventional ways that see disciples start new communities of faith and reach into every crack and cranny of society.

He has called us to be HeroMakers and has equipped us to be Multipliers.

### **Putting It into Practice**

- *Do you sense that God wants you to move on from your current "here" to a new "there"?*
- *Most church leaders like to dwell (or live) in the land of vision and have a difficult time moving from ideas to planning. Has this been a problem for you? How will you make sure you move from ideas to planning to action?*
- *What are the three to five most important things that you as a leader need to do in the coming year (into your next budget year) to build momentum and put your church on a trajectory in the right direction?*
- *Are you willing to commit at least 10 percent of your budget to Level 4 and 5 activities? Even if you must cut other things or step out on faith before you know where the resources will come from?*