

# Te Cuento...

## ...The Story Inside

### 77,000 Experiments

Seventy-seven thousand living rooms. Seventy-seven thousand Free Methodists in the U.S. Seventy-seven thousand experiments in growing new churches.

*Whoa, slow down cowboy. Seventy-seven thousand new churches?*



Our Beloved Mascot

Sure. Maybe they'll look a little different from the existing churches. But after all, isn't the minimalist definition of church simply 2-3 gathered in Jesus' name? Or maybe that's the full definition. Call somebody smarter than me.

Remember fruit flies? Remember why scientists use them for experiments on multiplication? It's because they reproduce quickly. A good fruit fly can give you 4 generations in 30 days. The fruit fly is our mascot for rapid kingdom expansion! Adopt one today at your local animal shelter. Hurry.

Why does planting a church have to involve tens of thousands of dollars and years of study and seminary-trained church-planters? Why can't we plant one in our living room on Tuesday night? Or in the company cafeteria on lunch hour? Or in Panera Bread on Thursday afternoons, or in the church basement on Saturday nights, or ... now it's your turn to dream.

Why **not** micro-churches? Why **not** every Free Methodist a church planter? All seventy-seven thousand of us!

And then our macro-churches can be places where the 77,000 micro-ministers are trained, encouraged, networked, held accountable, resourced and sent out. Macro-churches become where we "*prepare God's people for works of service ...*" (Ephesians 4:12a).

### REVENTÓN 2010

Por primera vez en la historia, en 2010, las 10 conferencias del oriente de los estados unidos vamos a celebrar juntas nuestras conferencias anuales. Va a ser un gran ¡REVENTÓN CONFERENCIAL!

Lo tenemos programado para los días 22-24 de abril de 2010 en Orlando Florida en el Doubletree Hotel a la entrada de Universal Studios (Usted puede combinarlo con una vacación familiar ¿no?)

HABRÁ MÚSICA, HABRÁ BUENA PREDICACIÓN, HABRÁ  
CONFERENCIA ANUAL

Y, en el mismo Reventón 2010 estamos festejando 150 años del aniversario de la fundación de la Iglesia Metodista Libre. Así que estamos encimando fiesta sobre fiesta y todo será increíble. Desde ahora hay que ir haciendo su ahorro para asistir. No lo vaya a perder.

**Acuérdese: Orlando, Abril 2010**

From:  
Bishop David Roller

### Chocolate Chips

- > Here's the #1 key to 80 thousand experiments. **Good cookies.** I mean, a warm chocolate-chip cookie is the best evangelistic tool ever invented.
- > Jesus said to give a cup of water, but I'm sure it's only because Toll-house chips had not yet been invented.
- > Maybe they didn't even have toll-roads yet, who knows?

*Te Cuento/Story is a bimestrial letter from Bishop David Roller to those who minister.*

### A Culture of Rapid Kingdom Expansion

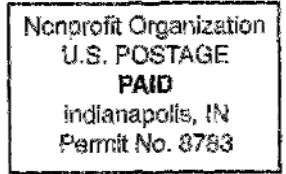
*Instead they were longing for a better country... Hebrews 11:16*

Rather than longing for the past:

- ◆ long for the revival of 2009,
- ◆ long for your living room full of people,
- ◆ long for an old car with a trunk with welcome gifts for new neighbors,
- ◆ long for a hospital waiting room, a jr. high cafeteria, the Lord's supper in a park,
- ◆ Long for every street to be full of our churches,
- ◆ long for our children to experience God,
- ◆ long to retire doing good.



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## Inspecting What We're Expecting

So I saw a pastor recently and he said, "We don't know what you mean when you talk about 'creating a culture of rapid kingdom expansion.'" He didn't exactly accuse me of talking like a politician, but there was that hint!

Well, here's what "Create a Culture" means ... it means **changing what we expect**. It means adding to what we expect about church — what it should look like and act like, what church is for, WHO church is for, and what we believe is the right way to do church. The culture of each local church leads it to expect certain things should happen. Certain things are "right," certain things are "wrong." And generally, you get what you expect (call it "faith" if you like).

We expect church will reach people desperate for Jesus! We expect church will "go and make disciples!" We expect church will lead people to Jesus all the time. Isn't church great!

There are different modern metaphors for the church ... a hotel for saints, a hospital for sinners, an airport for missionaries. But I like an old one — the body of Jesus. We expect to act as He acted. We expect to be purposefully on the road together — not just casually seeing each other again next Sunday. We are nothing that can be called "the body" unless we are on mission together.

What's going to happen in church this week? What will church make happen this week? It depends on what we expect.

**From:**  
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### December 2008 to February 2009

#### DECEMBER

- 7-12 Board of Bishops strategy retreat in Oregon
- 13-17 Leadership team in Manchester, England
- 24-31 Vacation days—Merry Christmas!

#### JANUARY

- 7-10 Haiti Annual Conference
- 12-14 Gathering for Strategic Ministries
- 14-17 Large Church Pastors Summit
- 23-24 Latino Network
- 26-28 District Leader Equipping Event
- 30-31 Missions Convention St. Petersburg, FL

#### FEBRUARY

- 1 Clearwater, FL FMC
- 7-8 Wilmore, KY FMC & Asbury College chapel
- 13 Binghamton, NY FMC
- 14-15 Endicott, NY FMC
- 16-19 BoB & AFMEI meetings
- 21 Pittsburgh Supt Nominating Committee
- 22 MD/VA churches
- 24-26 Superintendents' meeting