

## Exponential 2015--Vol. 9, No. 20

**May 15, 2015**

Two weeks ago church planters from across the Churches of God, General Conference (CGGC) attended a gathering of leaders in Florida. This annual event focuses upon the multiplication and development of new churches in the states and worldwide. At the heart of the event is the evangelistic agenda to spread the good news about Jesus and invite people everywhere to follow him. The event covers three days, Tuesday through Thursday, and incorporates a mix of large plenary sessions and a multitude of workshops.



Last year we met in Orlando at First Baptist, but this year due to renovations we went to Tampa First Baptist. There were over 4000 present from all over the country and the world, and the CGGC had over 50 CGGC leaders present from every Region, Eastern to California. Last year and this year we held our own pre-conference meetings Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. This gave us a great time to network and cast vision for CGGC new church multiplication. Due to other obligations, Linda and I couldn't join the group until Wednesday morning, but it was still great to see everybody even though we missed the fellowship of the first two days.



Alan Hirsch (left) with Michael Frost

Keynote speakers included scholars like Alan Hirsch, missiologists like Michael Frost, church planting movement leaders like Mario Vega and Bob Roberts to name just a few. To say the least the Exponential Conference is a Gospel feast for me. Every year I come away with a spiritual blessing and an intellectual challenge, not to mention the encouragement received from worshipping with so many brothers and sisters in Christ. I'd liken it to the throne scenes in the book of The Revelation. Don't just take my word for it. Here's a reflection from Victor Glover who helps lead new church ministries in North Carolina.



Victor Glover

*"Exponential Conference Tampa FL was just what Doctor Jesus ordered. Where a few thousand of us church planters/leaders could come together for worship and fellowship all centered around King Jesus. A glimpse of heaven if you ask me. CGGC from all our regions was represented with ERC bringing up the rear. LOL. Hulk Hogan's restaurant was nice. Here are his championship belts and boots. The brother got some feet on him! 'The Spark' has lit my fire to change a culture for multiplication. Let's go get it, get it in Jesus name!!!!!"*







Thank-you, Victor! One of the highlights for me is the dinner I host on Wednesday night for all CGGC attendees at the conference. I reserved a separate dining room at the local Golden Corral restaurant and that night 52 of us assembled for dinner and a time of spiritual conversation. Around the tables we talked about personal and family things, getting to know each other better in the process. After the meal we turned the conversation to ministry happenings sharing, personal testimonies and prayer concerns. The evening always concludes with a time of intercessory prayer.



Too soon for me Exponential 2015 ended. I came home with pages of notes, and a head full of ideas. For Linda and me this year seemed different in some respects. I think the Lord was using the conference in part to prepare us for our coming ministry transition. So now it is incumbent upon us and all to act upon what we have learned and experienced. The Lord be praised!

One Mission together,  
Ed  
*Soli Deo Gloria!*

