

A Brief History of Multiplication Network

The seed for the vision of Multiplication Network was planted after Dr. John Wagenveld was approached to write a book on church planting. To promote the book *Iglecrecimiento Integral* (*Wholistic Church Growth*) and make the ideas more accessible, a seminar was held on September 30, 2000 in Puerto Rico. The success of the Wholistic Church Growth seminars led to John developing two-and-a-half-day church planter bootcamps that were provided in various parts of Latin America. At this time, John and a few others were starting to sense the need to switch from an event orientation to a process orientation that actually had measurable and verifiable results.

In 2003, John began to write down ideas about potential sequences for trainings. Eventually, those notes - with discussions, additions, and refining by others throughout the years - became the “ministry path” that Multiplication Network uses today. Two years later, in 2005, John and others created the first website and decided to call the ministry Multiplication Network Ministries and because of the focus on Latin America, they started with Spanish - Red de Multiplicación. The name seemed to best describe what they were—a network of leaders who were interested in the multiplication of healthy churches.

In April 2007, two important events took place: the first continental congress was held in Puerto Rico and on April 19, the founding board of directors signed the documents of incorporation to make Multiplication Network Ministries an official organization with the U.S. government. The vision, mission, values, and logo were finalized. Our material took on a much more professional look to match the content and this helped build credibility with ministry partners.

The need for full-time leadership of the ministry was apparent and the board considered options throughout 2008. The next year, after praying for provision, John received the news that two organizations would offer six-figure amounts to support the ministry. John left his position with Bible League to provide full-time leadership to Multiplication Network. Along with dedicated volunteers, Tim Maxwell, Steve Chittenden, Corrie Lenting, and Gary Teja came to be part of a core team. Multiplication Network expanded their commitment in Latin America to 14 countries and a growing number of U.S. donors were providing support for work in other places around the world.

Multiplication Network’s Founding Years (2000-2010) were focused on developing the tools to effectively train church planters and on building partnerships with those who needed the tools. The Pioneering Years (2010-2020) were years of significant growth. From starting 264 churches in 2010 to 4,354 churches in 2020, Multiplication Network was blessed to see more than 1,045,400 people in over 50 countries now following Jesus and being discipled.

In February 2021, Multiplication Network Ministries moved forward with the creation of the Center for Innovation and Technology (CIT). The CIT was designed to provide scalability for ministry that would allow us to serve our partners and the end users at a whole new level.

God has continued to bless Multiplication Network with great momentum, including strong donor support, strategic organizational partnerships, and increasing ministry participation. As of September 2021, we have 7 global ministry hubs – Latin America, East Africa, Asia, Eurasia, Caribbean & US Hispanics, West Africa, and Europe - from which leaders receive training that teaches them to strengthen churches under their care.

In 2022, the ministry underwent a brand refresh, including a name refinement from Multiplication Network Ministries (MNM) to simply Multiplication Network. These significant changes better reflect who Multiplication Network is today and to symbolize our future. We have created a brand identity that reflects our organizational values and our brand essence is More Together, which is about the power of connecting diverse Christians in service of the Great Commission. It is by working together, in obedience to God's Word and as a united Body of Christ, that impact can be maximized. With each new person, the Kingdom impact is greater. More Together.