

TRACKING AND ASSESSING KINGDOM GROWTH

As we labor to see the kingdom of God grow, a valuable practice is tracking and assessing activity as it happens. Tracking and assessing both reveals how the kingdom of God is advancing and focuses our labor to see greater kingdom growth.

Tracking and assessing allows us to celebrate how the kingdom of God is growing.



1 Thessalonians 1:1-10:

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Paul tracked and assessed how the kingdom of God was advancing among the church of the Thessalonians. Paul celebrates the faithfulness and

fruitfulness of the church and encourages them to continue in love and holiness. (Later in his letter, Paul also instructs and exhorts the church where he had assessed that it was needed.) Tracking and assessing allows us to celebrate how the kingdom of God is growing.

Tracking and assessing helps us address concerns and encourage further kingdom growth.



Luke 10:17-20:

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

In Luke 10:1-12, Jesus appoints and sends seventy-two followers on a mission of gospel proclamation and

healing. When the seventy-two return, they give a report of what happened which Jesus assesses. Jesus first encourages them and validates their authority, power, and protection in his name. Then Jesus addresses a specific concern, redirecting the focus of his followers from their power over the spirits to their own salvation. Tracking and assessing allows us to address concerns and encourage further kingdom growth.

Tracking and assessing offers wisdom in where to send laborers and resources for God's kingdom.



Acts 11:19-26:

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The report of this came to the ears of the church in

Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

The church in Jerusalem tracked and assessed the work of those scattered due to persecution, including men who spoke to Greek-speaking non-Jews in Antioch. The church in Jerusalem knew that a great number of Gentiles had turned to the Lord in Antioch, so they sent Barnabas to validate the outreach among the Gentiles and encourage the new disciples. Then Barnabas tracked and assessed the work in person, concluding that there was a need for Paul to come to Antioch. Because of a faithfulness to track and assess activity in Antioch, a great many disciples grew in the Lord. Tracking and assessing offers wisdom in where to send laborers and resources for God's kingdom to grow.

How can we track and assess kingdom growth?



There are a variety of tools which can be used to track and assess growth in the kingdom of God. Popular tools for tracking and assessing include maps, spreadsheets, lists, diagrams, and mobile applications. Each tool will have a unique approach with specific outcomes which are tracked. Different phases of ministry might require different tools for tracking and assessing. Whatever tools are used, they should function to reveal how the kingdom of God is advancing and focus efforts to see the kingdom of God grow.

One example of a tool which can be helpful for tracking and assessing several outcomes of kingdom growth is an application called GenMapper. GenMapper can be used to geographically map and analyze generations of churches, church health, people groups engaged, baptisms, gospel proclamation, and more. GenMapper has been



designed for several languages, with features in place to keep online data secure. If you are interested in using GenMapper to better track and assess kingdom growth through your ministry, you can visit www.genmapper.com.

Whatever tools are used, tracking and assessing can be a valuable practice to see focused kingdom growth. May we labor with endurance to see greater growth of the kingdom of God.

For Kingdom Growth

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Many thanks to all who have contributed to this material for kingdom growth. Your service in the Lord is never in vain.