



## Grandparenting by Danny Lehman

"And the things you heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Tim. 2:2).

A few years ago, I sat in my office staring at the wall feeling so low I could have gotten a job as a "speed bump"! I was reflecting on the fact that in previous years the local base that I oversaw was certainly not breaking any records for church planting among the unreached, which we considered God's priority and our inheritance.

We had laid hands on many and sent them to the 10/40 Window, commissioning them to pioneer among those who had never heard the gospel. Most of those we sent, however, especially the Westerners, ended up starting YWAM bases similar to the one they were sent from.

My dejection was rooted in the fear that we were like the proverbial dog chasing its tail and training students to train students to train students...etc.

It was then that the Lord encouraged me. "Look at your grandchildren."

As time went by, I began to see the children of the "Timothys" we had trained. They (many of them non-Westerners) were actually reaching the unreached. Churches were being planted, not by our great strategy but God's great design--The Grandfather Principle.

In one country alone, India, from two bases planted in 1982 there are now ten training bases, 30-plus church planting teams and 275-plus Indian nationals on staff along with 200-plus Westerners serving in various stages of the Paul-Timothy-Reliable Men-Others process of multiplication.

The objective of all we do should be toward making disciples of all the nations, especially the unreached. Some of us are "Pauls"--the apostolic types that actually plant churches. Those of us who are not apostles, however, can still be vitally involved in the apostolic pattern by multiplying ourselves into our children and grandchildren.

I used to think the greatest thrill I could have as an evangelist was to lead someone to Christ. I have found one greater, however. That is the thrill of seeing someone I've led to Christ leading others to Christ.

There is a slogan in America that is popular among senior citizens and it certainly applies to us: "Happiness is being a grandparent." Let's stay busy reproducing ourselves in our children and grandchildren!

*Danny Lehman, Director of YWAM Honolulu*