

## **RUNNING A MULTISITE CHURCH**

A multi-site church is one church body meeting in multiple locations: either multiple venues on the same campus, different locations in the same city or even locations spread across different regions or countries. What does this model look like, and how can a local church make this model work for itself?

At Mavuno we began operating multi-sites in January 2010. We call them campuses and the first ones were Mavuno Downtown and Mavuno Mashariki. Our next was Mavuno Kampala.

We believe that this model works for us and here are some of the reasons -

- we are able to harness the strengths of the whole community in terms of vision, mission which encompass our commitment to transformation through discipleship
- we are also able to multiply opportunities for leaders to grow and serve within the campuses
- we can focus our evangelism on reaching the unreached in the specific localities we are
- it is easier for us to grow our culture of innovation to better reach the people in the places where our campuses are located

Our multi-site model is - vision inspired, mission driven, [discipleship oriented]

- *Vision inspired* – our vision is *to plant a culture defining church in every capital city and the gateway cities of the world, by 2035.*

- *Mission driven* – at Mavuno we are all about *turning ordinary people into fearless influencers of society.*

- *Discipleship oriented* – our discipleship happens through the Mavuno marathon. This is a process where people from the society come into our community, get in touch with their purpose, their community and with God's truth. They are then drawn into places of relationship, service and eventually into societal influence.

This is what we have found useful principles as we have started and continue to see God grow our various campuses.

### ***Commitment to Discipleship –***

Our commitment to discipleship is inspired by Jesus' call to make disciples of the nations. [Matt 28:18-20].

Since our focus is on those who are nominal, de-churched or unchurched in our society. We prepare for and launch our campuses by initiating Mizizi programs for those who we hope to become a part of our community. Mizizi, Life groups and other Mavuno marathon elements then form the core structure of our community.

### ***Stepping out – in faith***

We take our Lord's promises of using us and being with us seriously. We have faith in Him that when we are obedient to his call then he will give us all we need to carry out this call. It is a risky process which demands faith on our part. [Heb 11:1]. Some of the risks we have faced are – the risk of rejection by the new community, the risk of new challenges, the risks associated with being in a new legal environment, the risk associated with relationships in a new culture.

### ***Developing leadership***

Paul always spent time with younger people who he taught, mentored and eventually launched into new ministry opportunities. Timothy was one such leader. Paul then challenged Timothy, and other leaders, to train others to do the same. [2 Tim 2:2] We take our cue from this. We realize that we cannot plant effective ministries without training and deploying a continuous stream of leaders. The Mavuno Discovery program and the Pastoral Trainee program are two avenues that God has used to raise up *fearless* leaders for His vision.

### ***Managing resources***

God calls us to be faithful with the resources he avails to us. [Luke 16:16]. We have learnt that we have to continually sharpen our skills as an organization to manage human, financial and physical resources. The human and financial resources are largely managed centrally while the ministries are optimized for the local campus.

### ***Other Lessons***

*Teaching:* we have found the team teaching approach useful. Our campuses go through the same series which is prepared for and taught by members of the preaching team.

*Services:* Each service is unique in its flavor but all our campuses carry our DNA in terms of mission, vision and discipleship process.

*Culture:* Working in multiple cultural environments is a great challenge. We have found that a learning attitude and cultural sensitivity always is the best approach to share Jesus with people from the different places where we have gone.

Here's a book we have read and found useful about Multi site church ministry.

## [The Multi Site Church Revolution](#)