

09-30 Global “Five and Twelve” Training Initiative: Progress, Barriers, and Best Practices

This transcript captures a global community of practice meeting focused on the “Five and Twelve” training methodology. Participants share updates on their rollouts across various regions, including successes and common barriers, followed by a strategic discussion on best practices for launching initiatives, ensuring post-event engagement, and scaling the model effectively.

Global Rollout Updates and Progress Reports

This section consolidates individual check-ins from participants leading “Five and Twelve” training initiatives worldwide. Each leader introduced themselves, specified their geographic location, and detailed the current phase of their rollout (e.g., first touch, fourth touch). They also highlighted key successes such as new house churches and baptisms while identifying primary barriers like logistical challenges or distance.

- **Atlanta, GA:** Will Smith reported that the rollout on Saint Simon’s Island is past its third touch and is awaiting a “four fields intensive.” The team is maintaining regular harvest rhythms and has successfully started a house church.
- **Chicago, IL:** Taylor, also from Atlanta, is working on a fourth touch in Chicago. Similar to the Atlanta team, they are facing challenges coordinating the four-fields intensive with local partners.
- **San Francisco Bay Area, CA:** A new “Five and Twelve” initiative is set to launch in February with an ambitious goal of 150–300 attendees for the first touch. The model will include eight-week “three-thirds” groups hosted in five homes after each touch. Key barriers are securing a venue and needing two or three more people for the logistical planning team.
- **Detroit, MI & New Waverly, TX:** A first touch is scheduled in Detroit. Another rollout is being planned in New Waverly, Texas, for a group of believers who started a church in a biker bar. The primary barrier is the distance between these locations and the leader’s limited travel capacity.
- **Lovington, NM:** Randy McDaris shared that their first touch included both English and Spanish congregations. The training resulted in 28 conversations in English and 24–26 in Spanish within 45 minutes. A subsequent one-day mission trip led to two people coming to Christ.

- **Bolivia & Peru:** A rollout in Bolivia has completed its first three touches (one online) and is now planning the four-field intensive. In Peru, a combination of online and in-person intensives has resulted in a full-year calendar, with teams now catalyzing new work in Bolivia and Lima.
 - **St. Louis, MO:** A recent “Five and Twelve” event was fruitful, with several people accepting Jesus and one new believer getting baptized in her apartment complex.
 - **Europe:** A “Five and Twelve” training in Germany 1.5 years ago has multiplied. Leaders are now on their third and fourth touches in four different European cities (one each in Germany, Italy, Romania, and Hungary).
 - **Fort Wayne, IN:** Joel Conley is relaunching efforts locally, focusing on the Haitian diaspora. He is in discussions with a 1,500-member church for a potential 2027 launch. A significant barrier is the tendency for participants to become “super trainers” who attend events but don’t establish consistent local rhythms.
 - **Nepal:** Don reported that an emerging network in Nepal, after a mid-level training, has set a goal of rolling out 27 “Five and Twelve” initiatives. With 150 leaders mobilized, they have already launched three of them.
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Strategic Discussion: Overcoming Key Implementation Barriers

This section focuses on the group’s collective problem-solving around common obstacles encountered during “Five and Twelve” rollouts. Key topics included adapting the intensive fourth-touch training for contexts with limited availability, moving participants from one-off training events to sustained weekly rhythms, and the challenge of fostering local ownership versus creating “super trainers.”

- **Adapting the Four-Day Intensive:** A recurring barrier is the difficulty of getting participants to commit to a four-day intensive training.
 - **Solution 1 (Condensed Model):** Troy shared success in Europe and New Zealand with shrinking the intensive to a 2 or 2.5-day format (e.g., all day Saturday/Sunday). While not ideal, this gives people the essential vision and tools.
 - **Solution 2 (Hybrid Approach):** Don suggested that even with a condensed local training, key leaders can be invited to a full four-day intensive held elsewhere at a later date, using a shared calendar.
- **From “Super Trainers” to Local Rhythms:** A major challenge identified by Joel and others is that participants often attend trainings without

implementing the work, hindering the establishment of local harvest rhythms.

- **Solution:** The group agreed that establishing weekly rhythms is “extremely important.” The key is to find a local “insider” who takes ownership and leads these regular gatherings. David emphasized that this requires immediate follow-up and setting clear expectations from the start.
 - **Casting Vision: Partial vs. Full Pathway:** Will raised the question of whether to present the entire “Five and Twelve” pathway upfront, as it can sometimes overwhelm potential partners.
 - **Consensus:** The group’s experience overwhelmingly favors presenting the full vision. Troy noted that being direct and clear about the dates and commitment (“Die to your comfort and calendar”) has been met with an overwhelmingly positive response in New Zealand. Augie and David added that failing to show the whole process often results in one-off event attendance with no long-term fruit, whereas explaining it as a multi-stage process helps filter for truly committed leaders.
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Best Practices for Launching and Sustaining Initiatives

This section details the proven strategies and best practices for successfully initiating and maintaining a “Five and Twelve” rollout, as shared by experienced practitioners. It covers the pre-launch phase, the critical importance of establishing weekly rhythms, and the strategic value of presenting the entire pathway upfront.

- **Pre-Launch & Coalition Building:** The most effective launches begin with a clear pre-launch strategy. David described pulling in leaders from a wider region (e.g., Chattanooga, Memphis) to “swarm” a launch in a central city like Nashville. This creates momentum and allows visiting leaders to catch the vision and take ownership back in their own cities.
- **Event-to-Rhythm Transition:** The transition from a training event to sustained weekly rhythms is a critical success factor.
 - **Set Expectations:** Local teams must understand from the beginning that their commitment extends beyond the training event to include leading weekly touchpoints.
 - **Immediate Follow-up:** The moment an event ends, the work begins. Best practices include immediate communication via a dedicated Signal group, providing a clear pathway with next steps, and establishing a regular meeting time (e.g., Tuesday nights or Saturday afternoons) for harvest and accountability.

- **Casting the Full Vision:** Practitioners have pivoted from offering piecemeal trainings to casting vision for the entire “Five and Twelve” process. This approach serves as a filter, identifying leaders who are serious about the commitment. It prevents the “short-circuiting” that occurs when people attend a single event without understanding the long-term discipleship and mobilization pathway.
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The Power of Cross-Pollination and Collaborative Support

This section highlights the theme of mutual support and the “snowball effect” of collaboration across different regions and organizations. It includes stories of leaders and teams “swarming” to support new launches, sharing resources, and how one training event can catalyze multiple new initiatives.

- **Cascading Leadership:** The Nashville training served as a catalyst, directly inspiring launches in at least three other cities. This “cascading leadership effect” occurs when participants gain experience and vision in a training environment and then take ownership to replicate it locally.
 - **Regional Swarming:** There is a clear pattern of cross-pollination across North America. Leaders from Iowa helped in St. Louis, Atlanta sent interns to Tennessee, and the Nashville team is now sought after to help in Memphis. This collaborative “swarming” provides critical momentum for new launches.
 - **Resource Sharing for a Wider Reach:** The network is actively sharing resources, particularly for Spanish-speaking contexts. Augie and Karen’s support in Nashville and St. Louis was highlighted as a vital asset for reaching bilingual communities. A leader at a bilingual church in Texas expressed a need for this support, which was immediately met with an offer to help.
 - **Inter-Organizational Partnership:** The movement is not siloed within one organization. The discussion noted active collaboration between various groups, including E3, Global Gates, and Launch Global, to achieve shared kingdom goals.
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Tools and Resources for Scaling the Movement

This section centralizes the discussion around the tools and platforms being developed to support the expansion of the “Five and Twelve” movement, primarily in North America. It covers the creation of a centralized website to promote training events and the use of a Signal group for ongoing communication.

- **Centralized Website & Training Calendar:** A white-labeled website is being developed to serve as a “one-stop shop” for the movement in North America. It will feature a map of opportunities, including residencies, “Five and Twelve” initiatives, and local teams. This addresses the common question, “Where is this happening?”
 - **Event Submission Process:**
 - **Automatic Sync:** Events created on Eventbrite through the “Sent Ones” or “I am Second” accounts will automatically sync to the new website.
 - **Manual Submission:** For events not on Eventbrite, organizers can email the details directly to Meredith Curtis to have them added to the calendar.
 - **Community of Practice Communication:** A Signal group exists for practitioners to ask questions, share updates, post testimonies, and request support. This platform is intended to foster ongoing learning and collaboration between formal meetings.
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