

Exodus 23:14-16 ¹⁴“Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year: ¹⁵You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty); ¹⁶and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.

Background: PM’s reference points = Foursquare Conventions

Partly preaching Partly business: Finances/bylaws/rules/elections of officials

B/C it involved elections – he felt that great attention was placed on movers/shakers

Our Fellowship:

Started planting new churches in 1973

PM got a suggestion from a friend to hold a Deliverance Convention

Met: Had evening services and some morning seminars

Saw the advantage of Pastors being preached to and Pastors fellowshiping/comparing notes

Over time things developed naturally

It was a logical outflow that churches be planted out of a conference: Friday night

That’s what we’re about/why we are here: To plant couples into ministry

1978 1st couple into another nation (Australia)

Money was raised to send them

Bible foundation:

Annual feasts: Set times God’s people were to gather together and focus on certain things

Reminders/re-calibrating their hearts/minds with God’s will

The purposes of conferences:

1. Pastors can be preached to & refreshed
 - a. They give out constantly – but they need to be preached to as well
 - b. They are refreshed by the atmosphere/by Fellowship/by contact with their Pastor
2. Re-calibration
 - a. We tend to drift or forget what we should do or why we do what we do
 - b. Preaching comes that reminds/puts us back on track
3. Inspiration
 - a. There is a supernatural atmosphere created that people are stirred for God’s will
 - b. We often give a challenge for calling to preach (in that atmosphere)
 - c. People are inspired to go overseas/pioneer/plant churches
4. Money is raised for world evangelism
 - a. No 1 church can reach the world: But together we can raise the \$ to plant internationally
5. Churches are planted
 - a. Tangible progress in reaching the world
6. God gives practical challenges of obedience
 - a. Our conferences are very different than church world: Registration/pay your own way
 - i. We pay for people to come if can’t afford/give them hotel/Meal \$
 - b. Offerings are taken to pay for this: More than paying bills
 - i. A practical way to obey God
 - ii. Testimonies come of God speaking to obey – a change in life/heart from that time
 - iii. Testimonies of miracle breakthroughs