

## CHURCH PLANTING

### 1. Learn as much as you can about church planting.

- a. See Bibliography below.

### 2. Articulate the need for church planting.

- a. Church planting is the “exhausting but exciting venture of faith that involves the planned process of beginning and growing new local churches, based on Jesus’ promise and in obedience to his Great Commission.”<sup>1</sup>
- b. The number of churches per capita is decreasing, not increasing.
  - (1) In 1900, there were 28 churches for every 10,000 Americans. In 2000, there were 12 churches for every 10,000 Americans.<sup>2</sup>
- c. “Without church planting, we will not fulfill the Great Commission.”<sup>3</sup>
  - (1) “It takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people.”<sup>4</sup>
  - (2) No single church, no matter how large and active, can by itself reach a city.<sup>5</sup>
- d. Compared to established churches, new churches:
  - (1) Are more effective at evangelism.<sup>6</sup>
    - (a) Church planting is “the single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven.”<sup>7</sup>
    - (b) “Some denominations have found as much as 80% of their conversion growth comes from new churches. Research has confirmed again and again, the vast majority of unchurched people are reached through the planting of new churches.”<sup>8</sup>
  - (2) Grow faster numerically and spiritually.
    - (a) “[W]ithout exception, the growing denominations have been those that stress church planting.”<sup>9</sup>
    - (b) “Church plants often grow both numerically and spiritually. Lay leaders often look back on the start of the church plant as the time they grew the most in their spiritual lives. It is not uncommon for people to double their giving in the new church plant. They share their faith more, they step up to ministry more, they read their Bible more because they are on the front lines.”<sup>10</sup>
  - (3) Multiply leaders more effectively.

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<sup>1</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting New Churches*, 19.

<sup>2</sup> E. Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, 9.

<sup>3</sup> E. Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, 14.

<sup>4</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches*, 140.

<sup>5</sup> T. Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York.

<sup>6</sup> E. Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, 7.

<sup>7</sup> C. Peter Wagner, *Church Planting for Greater Harvest* (California: Regal Books, 1990), 11.

<sup>8</sup> L. Schaller.

<sup>9</sup> C. Peter Wagner, *Church Planting for Greater Harvest* (California: Regal Books, 1990).

<sup>10</sup> EFCA Church Planting Boot Camp.

- (a) “Every church labors to develop and disciple new leaders, but new congregations do it faster. Many times people that would have no chance of leadership in the larger, bigger parent church are thrust into leadership in the daughter church plant. Especially during the early days, church plants produce a much higher percentage of leaders than most other churches.”<sup>11</sup>
- (b) “Church plants necessitate an intentionality in mission, and an urgency for evangelism, as well as a plethora of opportunities for Christians to step up and serve in areas they haven’t yet had experience in.”<sup>12</sup>
- (4) Pay more attention to local community needs and the lives of non-Christians.
- (5) Are more open to new ideas and less inhibited by tradition.
  - (a) Church planters test new ideas as they look for ways to reach people for Jesus Christ. They are often on the cutting edge. The vast majority of ministry innovations in the last two decades have been created by church plants that are driven to reach the unchurched.
- (6) Cost less and take less time to plant than revitalizing a dying church.<sup>13</sup>
  - (a) It’s far easier to plant a new church than to renew a dying one.

### 3. Get assessed as a church planter.

- a. Church planter assessments in New Zealand can be done here:
  - (1) CCCNZ: <https://www.cccnz.nz/page/mission/>.
  - (2) Multiply NZ: <https://www.multiply.co.nz>
- b. Consider your divine design. Are you a church planter?
  - (1) See *Divine Design*.
  - (2) Do you have the spiritual gift of apostleship, evangelism, faith, leadership, preaching, or teaching?
  - (3) Leaders with the *NT* or *NF* pattern should be in the point position.<sup>14</sup>
- c. Are you a healthy person?
  - (1) “Healthy church planters plant healthy churches.”
- d. Are your wife and children ready?
  - (1) “If you have a personal or marriage weakness, it will be exposed under the pressure of church planting.”<sup>15</sup>
  - (2) Great resources for wives are:
    - (a) Angie Hamp, *Confessions of a Church Planter’s Wife: Coming Clean about the Dirty Side of Church Planting* (2011).
    - (b) Christine Hoover, *The Church Planting Wife: Help and Hope for Her Heart*. 2013.
    - (c) Anne Milam, *Bloom Where You’re Planted: Stories of Women in Church Planting* (2013).
- e. Are you ready to work hard and say no to other things?

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<sup>11</sup> EFCA Church Planting Boot Camp.

<sup>12</sup> D. Giesbers.

<sup>13</sup> E. Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, 11; A. Malphurs, *Planting New Churches*, 14.

<sup>14</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches*, 214.

<sup>15</sup> EFCA Church Planting Boot Camp.

- (1) The church planter must be immersed in the day-to-day ministry of the church plant.<sup>16</sup>
  - (2) View church planting as a full-time responsibility. Anything less will hinder the work.<sup>17</sup>
- f. Are called to plant a church?
- (1) “You do not want to attempt to plant a church unless you’ve been equipped, gifted and specifically called by God to do so!”<sup>18</sup>
  - (2) “The church planter needs extraordinary faith. ...Although the churches not exist and cannot be seen before it is started, the planter must possess the conviction that the new church is a reality; it will come into existence.”<sup>19</sup>

#### 4. Improve your leadership skills.

- a. See *Leadership*.
- b. “The absence of strong leadership is the number one reason church plants fail.”<sup>20</sup>
- c. “There is no such thing as a leaderless church.”<sup>21</sup>
- d. Co-leadership usually results in no leadership.<sup>22</sup>

#### 5. Network. Form partnerships and build your team.

- a. Pray God will bring the right people together.
- b. Don’t be a lone ranger. Get out of your office.
  - (1) “Some church planters find themselves underfunded because they function as Lone Rangers. They refuse to take the time to build relationships and maintain strategic partnerships.”<sup>23</sup>
- c. Seek:
  - (1) Prayer intercessors.
  - (2) A parent, sister, or sponsor church.
    - (a) **Ac 14:26-28** 26 From there [Paul and Barnabas] sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. 27 And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they remained no little time with the disciples.
    - (b) If you’re a partner church, allow the church planter to recruit laypeople in your church. Give them a “hunting license.”<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches*, 103.

<sup>17</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches*, 53.

<sup>18</sup> Acts 29 Network.

<sup>19</sup> E. Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, 87.

<sup>20</sup> G. Smith, *Models for Raising Up Church Planters*, 1.

<sup>21</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting New Churches*, 25.

<sup>22</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches*, 112.

<sup>23</sup> E. Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, 223.

<sup>24</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches*, 250.

- (3) A coach.
- (4) A network of other church planters.
- (5) A core group of 3-4 families.
  - (a) Look for people with character, competence, and chemistry.<sup>25</sup>
  - (b) “When you choose core members, choose carefully!”<sup>26</sup>
  - (c) Spend a lot of time getting to know them. Interact at least fifteen times face to face with a person before inviting them to join your core group.
  - (d) Test prospective core group members by giving them assignments with deadlines.
  - (e) Ensure they understand the commitment involved.
- (6) A church planting team of 20+ adults (in addition to the core group).
  - (a) “Quality elders and magnetic mums are gold.”<sup>27</sup>

## 6. Engage in strategic planning with your core group.<sup>28</sup>

- a. Discover the core values.
  - (1) See *Core Values, Church Culture, and Church Change*.
- b. Develop a mission statement.
  - (1) See *Strategic Planning*.
- c. Conduct an environmental scan.
  - (1) See *Environmental Scan*.
  - (2) Church planters should plant churches based on who they are, where they are, and whom they’re trying to reach.<sup>29</sup>
- d. Develop a vision.
  - (1) See *Vision*.
  - (2) The church planter must communicate a clear, significant vision to draw people.<sup>30</sup>
  - (3) If you do not have a clear and compelling vision you will not be able to recruit followers, develop leaders, raise support, attract the unchurched, and plant a healthy church.<sup>31</sup>
  - (4) “If you can’t gather 40 adults around your vision in twelve months, your plant will probably not survive.”<sup>32</sup>
  - (5) “In a new church vision-casting is imperative.”<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches*, 278.

<sup>26</sup> E. Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, 201.

<sup>27</sup> R. Coekin.

<sup>28</sup> See the seven-step process outlined in A. Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches*, 117ff.

<sup>29</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting New Churches*, 15.

<sup>30</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches*, 101.

<sup>31</sup> EFCA Church Planting Boot Camp.

<sup>32</sup> EFCA.

<sup>33</sup> E. Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, 302.

- (6) “By keeping the vision before the people, the planter reminds them of the direction for the new church. The planter must continually remind the entire congregation of the vision. People forget.”<sup>34</sup>
- (7) “[E]ducate new members about the church’s vision and direction. ...[R]ecast the vision each month without exception.”<sup>35</sup>
- e. The five strategic questions are:
  - (1) Who are you trying to reach? Your focus group.
    - (a) “[P]lanters are open to everyone, but the new church is focused on a certain people group.”<sup>36</sup>
  - (2) How will you reach your focus group? Your disciple-making process.
    - (a) See *Contextualization, Community Outreach, Hospitality, Assimilation, Discipleship Pathway, Small Groups*.
  - (3) Who will take part in reaching this group? Your gifted ministry team.
    - (a) See *Church Organizational Structure*.
  - (4) Where is the best place to reach your focus group? Your facilities.
    - (a) See *Church Facilities*.
  - (5) How much will it cost to reach the group? Your finances.
    - (a) See *Church Finances*.
- f. Determine:
  - (1) Your discipleship pathway.
    - (a) See *Discipleship Pathway*.
  - (2) How you will mobilize the laity.
    - (a) See *Lay Mobilization*.
  - (3) How you will reach the local community.
    - (a) See *Community Outreach* and *Evangelism*.
  - (4) How you will assimilate visitors into the life of the church.
    - (a) See *Assimilation*.
  - (5) How you will develop leaders.
    - (a) See *Leadership Development*.
    - (b) The key to multiplying churches is to multiply leaders of God’s people.<sup>37</sup>

## **7. Train your core group and lay leaders on the plan.**

## **8. Execute the plan.**

## **9. Evaluate.**

- a. See *Church Assessment*.

## **10. Plant another church.**

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<sup>34</sup> E. Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, 300.

<sup>35</sup> E. Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, 300.

<sup>36</sup> E. Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, 144.

<sup>37</sup> E. Stetzer and W. Bird, *Viral Churches*.

- a. Decide at the outset how large you want the church to grow.<sup>38</sup>
- b. If a church hasn't birthed another church within the first three years of its existence, it probably won't happen.<sup>39</sup>
- c. A church can launch a new church when it has a minimum of 50 adults.<sup>40</sup>
- d. Aim for gospel saturation of your community. This happens when every resident lives within 15 minutes of a vibrant, loving, Bible-teaching, grace-oriented local church.

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<sup>38</sup> P. Wagner, *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest*.

<sup>39</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches*, 256.

<sup>40</sup> A. Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches*, 254.

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### **Websites**

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Exponential (<https://exponential.org>)

Leadership Network (<http://leadnet.org>)

New Churches (<https://newchurches.com>)

North American Mission Board, Church Planting (<https://www.namb.net/church-planting/>)

Outreach Magazine (<http://www.outreachmagazine.com>)

We Are Church (<http://wearechurch.com>)

### **Podcasts**

New Churches Q&A Podcast

Revitalize and Replant with Thom Rainier

### **Films**

*When God Left the Building* (2014)



*Notes*