



Planting Healthy Churches that Reproduce

by

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I. Developing Church Planting Teams

A. Church planting is the responsibility of the local church

1. A healthy church prepares people for ministry - Acts 8:4
2. A healthy church sends a support team to assist a leader who has gone out to plant churches - Acts 8:5-25
3. A healthy church sends leaders to gather and form churches of saints who have moved to other areas - Acts 9:31-32
4. A healthy church trains leaders to function as a team - Acts 10:23, 11:12
5. A healthy church trains Christians to minister cross culturally - Acts 11:20-21
6. A healthy church sends leaders to assist Christians in ministry - Acts 11:22-26
7. A healthy church prays for guidance in church planting - Acts 13:1-3
8. A healthy church sends out some of its best leaders to plant churches - Acts 13:1-3, 16:1-3
9. A healthy church focuses on the surrounding region - Acts 9:31, 19:10

B. Building a church planting team in a local church

1. A team from a local church
 - a. build the leadership team in the local church - Acts 13:1
 - b. pray that the Lord will show who to send out - Acts 13:2
 - c. recruit other interested team members - Acts 13:5
2. A team from several churches
 - a. begin to develop multiple teams - Acts 15:36-41, 19:10
 - b. add to teams recruits from other churches - Acts 16:1-3, Acts 20:4

- C. Building a church planting team for urban or regional ministry
1. build a vision for the region - Colossians 1:7-8, 4:12-17
 2. build a multicultural leadership team - Acts 13:1, 19:10
 3. build a multiethnic church planting team - Acts 19:10, 20:4
 4. build a multiclass leadership team - Colossians 4:9; Philemon 1:1-2; Colossians 4:10-16
- D. Sponsorship of a church planting team
1. local church sponsorship
 2. area churches sponsorship
 3. a church extension agency sponsorship
 4. a mission agency sponsorship
 5. a church planter without sponsorship
 6. a church planting team without sponsorship
 7. a combination of two or more of the above
- E. Developing a church planting team
1. the local church develops the team from its congregation
 2. several local churches develop a joint team from their congregations
 3. a church planter moves into an area and gathers a team of existing Christians
 4. a church planter moves into an area and develops a church planting team through evangelistic Bible studies, follow-up Bible studies and FLOCKS Bible Studies (Acts 2:42-47)

Fellowship
Leadership development
Outreach
Caring
Knowledge
Service
 that are:
 Praying
 Praising

II. Developing Contacts

- A. Meet people where they work, live and spend their leisure time
 - 1. Christ met people where they:
 - a. worked - Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9; Luke 2:46
 - b. lived - Mark 1:29-33, 2:1
 - c. spent their leisure time - Luke 4:16, 5:1
 - 2. Paul met people where they:
 - a. worked - Acts 16:25-29, 18:1-3, 19:9
 - b. lived - Acts 18:7
 - c. spent their leisure time - Acts 16:13, 17:17, 22
- B. Meet people through people
 - 1. Illustrated by Christ - Matthew 9:9-10; John 1:41-47
 - 2. Illustrated by Peter - Acts 9:36-39, 10:24
 - 3. Illustrated by Paul - Acts 16:31-34, 28:7-10
- C. Meet people through their needs
 - 1. Illustrated by Christ - John 4:4-7, 8:1-11, 11:31; Mark 5:1-7
 - 2. Illustrated by Peter - Acts 3:2-7, 9:36-39
 - 3. Illustrated by Philip - Acts 8:4-8, 8:29-31
 - 4. Illustrated by Paul - Acts 9:10-17, 16:16-18
- D. Build personal relationships
 - 1. Illustrated by Christ - John 1:38-51, 3:1-21, 4:4-26
 - 2. Illustrated by Philip - Acts 8:26-39
 - 3. Illustrated by Paul - Acts 16:14-15
 - 4. Illustrated by Aquila and Priscilla - Acts 18:24-26
- E. Build community relationships
 - 1. Illustrated by Christ - Luke 4:16-21; Mark 1:38-39
 - 2. Illustrated by Peter - Acts 9:35, 39-42, 10:24
 - 3. Illustrated by Paul - Acts 14:1, 17:1-4 and 10-12, 18:17-18

F. Demonstrate love and concern for people

1. Illustrated by Christ - Matthew 9:36-38; Mark 8:1-2; John 11:32-35
2. Illustrated by Peter - Acts 3:6, 9:39-41, 10:27-29
3. Illustrated by Paul - Acts 16:18, 17:22-23, 28:7-10

III. Developing the Nucleus

A. Build the nucleus before going public (beginning services)

1. Illustrated in Jerusalem - Acts 1:15
2. Illustrated in Thessalonica - Acts 17:2-3
3. Illustrated in Berea - Acts 17:10-12
4. Illustrated in Corinth - Acts 18:3-4
5. Illustrated in Ephesus - Acts 19:7-9

B. Introduce the church to a committed nucleus

1. Illustrated by Christ - Matthew 16:18
2. Illustrated at Antioch - Acts 11:19-23
3. Illustrated in Galatia - Acts 14:21-26
4. Illustrated in Asia - Acts 19:8-9

C. Principles for building a nucleus

1. Make disciples - Acts 2:42, 14:21-22
 - a. focus on Bible study
 - b. focus on prayer
 - c. focus on building relationships Godward (worship)
 - d. focus on building relationships manward (fellowship)
2. Planting the church
 - a. build vision - Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8
 - b. build dependence on the Holy Spirit - Acts 1:5-8
 - c. build commitment to build church body (plant church) - Acts 14:21-23
 - d. build nucleus before going public (see above)
3. Develop leaders from within the nucleus - Acts 13:1

IV. Developing Evangelistic Outreaches

- A. Make sure the message is Christ-centered not just need-centered - Acts 2:22-36, 13:14-43, 17:22-34
 - 1. wisdom will not transform - 1 Corinthians 1:17-21
 - 2. signs will not transform - 1 Corinthians 1:22-24
 - 3. the preaching of the cross does transform - 1 Corinthians 2:1-2
- B. Focus on repentance and faith - Acts 20:21
 - 1. repentance means to turn to God from idols to serve the living and true God - 1 Thessalonians 1:9
 - 2. faith means confessing Christ as Lord and believing in our heart that God raised Christ from the dead - Romans 10:9-10
- C. Focus on following Christ - Acts 2:37-42
 - 1. disobey and die - Genesis 2:16-17
 - 2. obey and live - Matthew 7:24-27
- D. Discern whether you are in synagogue country, Samaria or among the Greeks
 - 1. synagogue country - is where people are familiar with the Bible but have not yet placed their trust in Christ - Acts 2:5, 17:11-12
 - 2. Samaria (Samaritan society) - is where people have some background of the Bible but they feel that their past is so bad that God will not accept them, they feel shut out - John 4:1-42; Acts 8:5-25
 - 3. among the Greeks (Corinthian society) - is where people have little or no background of the Bible and you need to begin with a Creator- Acts 17:22-34
- E. Methods of outreach necessary with different groups
 - 1. synagogue country - confrontation
 - a. illustrated by John the Baptist - Matthew 3:7-12
 - b. illustrated by Christ - Luke 18:18-27; John 3:1-21, 6:22-66, 8:12-59
 - c. illustrated by Peter - Acts 2:14-40
 - d. illustrated by Paul - Acts 13:14-46, 18:1-6, 26:1-29

2. Samaritan society (and others who are shut out) - compassion
 - a. illustrated by Christ - Matthew 9:9-11; Luke 7:36-8:2, Luke 15:1-24; John 4:4-26, 8:1-11
 - b. illustrated by Philip - Acts 8:5-8
 - c. illustrated by Paul - Acts 16:16-18
 3. Corinthian society (and others who have no background) - creation
 - a. illustrated at Lystra - Acts 14:15-18
 - b. illustrated at Athens - Acts 17:22-34
 - c. illustrated at Corinth - Acts 18:6-11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- F. Methods of presenting the Gospel to those not yet Christians
1. one to one evangelism - John 3:1-21, 4:4-26; Acts 8:27-35, Acts 13:7, 18:1-3, 24-26
 2. evangelistic Bible studies - Acts 16:13-14, 23-24, 18:7-8, Acts 28:23-24, 30-31
 3. discussion and dialogue - Acts 6:9-10, 19:8-9
 4. presenting the Gospel where people gather - Acts 14:1-3, Acts 17:1-4, 17, 22-34
- G. Developing a nucleus for church planting through evangelism
1. train the entire church planting team for effective evangelism
 - a. equip all Christians to share the Gospel - Acts 8:1-4
 - b. equip some to bridge cultures - Acts 11:19-21
 - c. the early focus of the church planting team should be evangelism - Acts 2:14-41, 8:5-8, 11:19-21, 13:5, 14:1, Acts 14:21, 16:13-14, 17:1-4, 10-12 and 16-34, 18:1-10, Acts 18:24-19:9
 2. focus on evangelistic Bible studies
 - a. greater response comes from Bible study - Acts 17:11-12
 - b. Bible studies provide opportunities to include family and friends - Acts 10:24, 16:14-15, 18:7-8, 19:9-10
 - c. focus on starting more than one evangelistic Bible study - Acts 2:46-47, 20:20-21
 - d. people can get their questions answered in small group evangelistic Bible studies - Acts 17:17, 18:24-26

V. Developing Effective Follow-up

- A. Focus on small group Bible study and fellowship groups (FLOCKS) - Acts 2:41-47

Fellowship - Acts 2:42

Leadership development - Acts 2:42, 46

Outreach - Acts 2:41, 47

Caring - Acts 2:44-45

Knowledge (Bible study) - Acts 2:42, 46

Service - Acts 2:44, 46

that are:

Praying - Acts 2:42

Praising - Acts 2:46-47

- B. Focus on one-to-one ministry - Acts 2:46, 18:26, 20:20

1. new Christians need spiritual parents - 1 Corinthians 4:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12
2. new Christians need good examples - 1 Corinthians 11:1
3. new Christians have problems from their past - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
4. new Christians have many questions that they need answered - Acts 11:26, 18:26

- C. Focus on making disciples - Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 14:21-22

1. new Christians need to be shown (have examples to follow) - Acts 20:20
2. new Christians need to be taught - Acts 20:20
3. new Christians need to understand spiritual growth - 1 Peter 2:2; 1 John 2:12-14

- D. Focus on attitude change - Ephesians 4:22-32; Colossians 3:5-17

1. this involves putting off and putting on certain things
2. this involves learning to abide in Christ - John 15:5, Galatians 2:20
3. this involves learning to walk in the Spirit - Galatians 5:16-26

- E. Focus on balanced growth - Exodus 18:20
1. we must have clearly in mind what we want new Christians to know and understand of the things of God (knowledge)
 2. we must have clearly in mind what we want new Christians to become (attitude and character)
 3. we must have clearly in mind what we want new Christians to learn and a workable plan to help them accomplish it (ministry)
- F. Build relationships between Christians - Romans 12:4-5; John 13:34-35
1. the New Testament gives 31 “one anothers” that we are to do
 2. the New Testament gives 12 “one anothers” that we are to avoid
- G. Developing a nucleus for church planting through follow-up
1. as individuals become Christians, help evangelistic Bible studies become follow-up Bible studies and then develop into FLOCKS Bible studies
 2. help each of the members of the church planting team develop a FLOCKS Bible study
 3. have periodic times of fellowship which bring the various FLOCKS Bible studies together for fellowship and the building of relationships
 4. help each new Christian learn to participate in the FLOCKS Bible study - as the number of Christians grows appoint:
 - a. a prayer leader to lead a prayer and praise time
 - b. an outreach leader to share the needs of non-Christian relatives, friends and acquaintances
 - c. a caring leader to share the needs of group members
 - d. an assistant teacher to take charge when the leader must be away
 5. when a Bible study reaches 12 to 15 people, divide into two FLOCKS so that the group will be small enough for all to continue to participate (there are some very important reasons why Christ chose only 12 apostles - Mark 3:13-14)
 6. depending on whether you are in a rural or an urban area will be a key factor in when you should begin public services
 - a. a rural area should have two or more FLOCKS when you begin public services
 - b. an urban area should have four or more FLOCKS when you begin public services

VI. Developing Godly Leadership

- A. Focus on developing spiritual maturity
 - 1. levels of spiritual maturity
 - a. spiritual newborn babes - 1 Peter 2:2
 - b. spiritual toddlers - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, 13:11; Ephesians 4:14; Hebrews 5:11-14
 - c. spiritual children - 1 John 2:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12
 - d. spiritual young men - 1 John 2:12-14
 - e. spiritual parents - 1 John 2:12-14; 1 Corinthians 4:15-17
 - 2. problems when a spiritual toddler is put in leadership
 - a. he acts like one who is not a Christian - 1 Corinthians 3:1
 - b. he is not able to understand the difficult teachings of the Word - 1 Corinthians 3:2
 - c. he causes envy, strife and divisions - 1 Corinthians 3:3
 - d. his talk, understanding and thinking of spiritual things is limited - 1 Corinthians 13:11
 - e. he is tossed to and fro by every false teaching - Ephesians 4:14
 - f. he is easily deceived by false teachers - Ephesians 4:14
 - g. he is dull of hearing to spiritual truth - Hebrews 5:11
 - h. he needs to be retaught the basics of Christianity - Hebrews 5:12
 - i. he is unskillful in the Word of righteousness - Hebrews 5:13
 - j. his senses are not developed to recognize good and evil - Hebrews 5:14
- B. Focus on equipping the saints for the work of the ministry - Ephesians 4:11-13
 - 1. God has given spiritual leaders - Ephesians 4:11
 - 2. God has called leaders to equip the saints - Ephesians 4:12
 - 3. God has called all Christians to do the work of the ministry - Ephesians 4:12
 - 4. God has called all Christians to build up the body - Ephesians 4:12
 - 5. God's goal is the unity of the body - Ephesians 4:13
 - 6. God's goal is the maturity of the believer - Ephesians 4:13
 - 7. God gave us a model of maturity - Ephesians 4:13

- C. Focus on Biblical principles of servant leadership - Mark 10:42-45
1. servant leadership does not pattern itself after the world - v. 42
 2. servant leadership recognizes that he who serves is greatest - v. 43
 3. servant leadership looks for ways to serve all - v. 44
 4. servant leadership follows the example of Christ - v. 45
 5. servant leadership is giving rather than receiving - v. 45
- D. Focus on helping people develop toward Biblical qualifications for leadership
1. basic qualifications given to Moses for leaders - Exodus 18:21
 - a. able men
 - b. men that fear God
 - c. men of truth
 - d. men that hate coveteousness
 2. basic qualifications given to the early church for leaders - Acts 6:1-4
 - a. men of good reputation
 - b. men full of the Holy Spirit
 - c. men full of wisdom
 3. qualifications given for deacons (in addition to basic qualifications for early church leaders above) - 1 Timothy 3:8-13
 - a. must be reverent
 - b. must not be double-tongued
 - c. must not be one who drinks
 - d. must not be greedy for money
 - e. must hold the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience
 - f. must have had time to shown these qualities
 - g. must have a wife who is respected if married
 - h. must only have one wife
 - i. must be the spiritual leader of their home
 4. qualifications given for elders (in addition to qualifications for deacon) - 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9
 - a. must desire to be an elder
 - b. must be temperate
 - c. must be sober-minded
 - d. must have good behavior
 - e. must be hospitable
 - f. must be able to teach
 - g. must not be violent
 - h. must be gentle

- i. must not be quarrelsome
 - j. must not be a new or immature Christian
 - k. must be respected by everyone including those outside the church
 - l. must not be self-willed
 - m. must not be quick-tempered
 - n. must be a lover of what is good
 - o. must be just
 - p. must be holy
 - q. must be self-controlled
 - r. must be able to answer false teachers according to the Word of God
- E. Basic principles for developing the leadership of the nucleus
(The four calls and commission of Christ)
- 1. come and see - John 1:39
goal - evangelism and follow-up (birth)
 - 2. come after me (come and grow) Mark 1:16-20
goal - edification (growth)
 - 3. come and be with me (come and serve) - Mark 3:13-15
goal - equipping (ministry)
 - 4. come and shepherd - John 21:15-17
goal - expansion (leadership)
 - 5. as you are going, MAKE DISCIPLES - Matthew 28:19-20
goal - extension (reproduction)

VII. Beginning Public Services

- A. Focus on prayer as the time approaches for the first public service - Acts 1:14
- 1. we need to persevere in prayer
 - 2. we need to pray until there is unity
 - 3. we need to recognize our need for God to work
 - 4. we need to realize our total dependence on God
- B. Focus on our dependence on the Holy Spirit
- 1. the Holy Spirit is our source of power - Acts 1:4-8
 - 2. the Holy Spirit is our source of unity - Acts 2:1

- C. Focus on communicating clearly with people
 - 1. understand the unity of the Spirit - Acts 2:1
 - 2. understand the diversity of the people to be reached - Acts 2:5
 - 3. communicate with words that people understand - Acts 2:6-8
 - 4. be prepared for opposition - Acts 2:13

- D. Focus on the message to be communicated
 - 1. realize that the first public service communicates your purpose to the people of the area
 - 2. let people know the source of salvation - Acts 2:21
 - 3. focus on the death of Christ - Acts 2:23
 - 4. focus on the resurrection of Christ - Acts 2:24-36
 - 5. be prepared to answer questions - Acts 2:37
 - 6. give people the opportunity to repent - Acts 2:38-41

- E. Be prepared to immediately begin new small group Bible studies (FLOCKS Bible studies, Sunday school or some other small Bible study groups)
 - 1. small group Bible study provides the opportunity for new Christians to learn what the Bible teaches and get their questions answered - Acts 2:42
 - 2. small group Bible study provides the opportunity to begin building relationships with other Christians - Acts 2:42
 - 3. small group Bible study is the place where people learn to worship and pray with others - Acts 2:42
 - 4. small group Bible study provides the opportunity to become aware of the needs of others - Acts 2:43-45

VIII. Developing Church Organization

- A. Build the organism rather than the organization
 - 1. the nucleus provides the leadership for the new small groups and churches - Acts 2:42-47, 14:23
 - 2. help new leaders learn to speak the truth in love - Ephesians 4:15
 - 3. help new leaders become dependent upon Christ - Ephesians 4:15
 - 4. help every Christian begin to learn to function - Ephesians 4:16
 - 5. help all Christians develop their effectiveness in ministry - Ephesians 4:16
 - 6. help the body build itself up in love - Ephesians 4:16

B. Develop additional structure only as it is needed

1. recognize that additional disciples create new needs - Acts 6:1
2. neglected needs can produce a breakdown of unity - Acts 6:1
3. recognize the priorities of the leadership team - Acts 6:2, 4
4. seek qualified people to lead new ministries - Acts 6:3
5. select people who most fully understand the new needs - Acts 6:5-6

C. Focus on multiplying disciples

1. disciples increase as the Word of God increases - Acts 6:7
2. disciples increase as people become obedient to the Word - Acts 6:7
3. disciples increase as they are given opportunities to serve the Lord - Acts 6:8-10

D. Develop outreach to groups of other cultures in the area

1. reach and disciple people of the other cultures - Acts 6:1-8
2. encourage the disciples to minister to their cultures in the places where their culture gathers - Acts 6:9
3. train disciples to lead discussions with the people of their culture - Acts 6:9-10

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IX. Developing Church Extension

A. Develop a vision for all nations

1. regularly focus on our commission to make disciples - Matthew 28:19-20
2. regularly focus on God's pattern of outreach - Acts 1:8
 - a. our Jerusalem - those that our church can reach
 - b. our Judaea - those who cannot easily be reached by our church because of distance or size of population
 - c. our Samaria - those who cannot easily be reached by our church because of differences of culture (often both cultures have a lack of trust and misunderstand each other)

- d. our uttermost part of the earth - those who cannot easily be reached by our church because of differences in language
- B. Develop a vision for the whole region
1. the church at Jerusalem focused on the whole region - Acts 9:31
 2. the church at Antioch focused on the whole region - Acts 11:26
 3. the churches of Galatia focused on the whole region - Acts 16:1-
- 5
4. the church at Ephesus focused on the whole region - Acts 19:10; Colossians 2:1, 4:12-13
- C. Focus on how many we can send out rather than how many we can bring in
1. the church at Jerusalem sent out many - Acts 8:4, 11:19-21
 2. the church at Antioch sent out part of its leaders - Acts 13:1-3
 3. the churches of Galatia, Asia and Greece sent out part of their leaders - Acts 16:1, 19:10, 20:4

X. Dealing with Property and Buildings

- A. Focus on building the body first
1. developing the work comes before developing the building - Proverbs 24:27
 2. use available property and buildings - Acts 16:13, 17:1-4, 10, 17, Acts 18:7, Acts 19:8-9
 3. develop the body and let the body determine where they will meet - Acts 20:20
- B. Focus on giving rather than receiving
1. poverty does not prevent giving - 2 Corinthians 8:1-2
 2. poverty does not prevent giving to help other areas - Philippians 4:15
 3. giving is a way to serve the Lord and bear fruit - Philippians 4:15-19
- C. Build independence and responsibility - Acts 14:23
1. a team of leaders was appointed from within every church
 2. the team of leaders was given the responsibility for the future

decisions of each church

- D. Property is the responsibility of the congregation
 - 1. the early church functioned without its own buildings - Acts 18:7, 19:9
 - 2. the early church found its own places to meet - Acts 2:46; Romans 16:5; Philemon 2

XI. Developing a Balanced Ministry

- A. Focus our ministry on our Biblical foundation - Ephesians 2:20
 - 1. the apostles gave us eyewitness testimony of the resurrection - Acts 1:22
 - 2. the prophets gave us the written Word of God - 2 Peter 1:19-21
 - 3. Christ is the foundation and builder of the church - 1 Corinthians 3:11; Matthew 16:18
- B. Focus our ministry on balanced equipping
 - 1. the contemporary trend is to build the ministry around the gift of the pastor
 - a. evangelist - builds a seeker church
 - b. pastor - builds a counseling church
 - c. teacher - builds a teaching church
 - 2. the Biblical responsibility of spiritual leaders is to equip the saints - Ephesians 4:11-13
 - a. evangelist - equips the saints to share the Gospel
 - b. pastor - equips the saints to minister to one another
 - c. teacher - equips the saints to teach the Word of God
 - 3. the Biblical responsibility of spiritual leaders is why the early church always sent out a church planting team
 - a. Christ sent the disciples out in teams - Mark 6:7; Luke 10:1
 - b. the church sent a team to join Philip in Samaria - Acts 8:14
 - c. the Lord sent a team with Peter to Cornelius - Acts 10:17, 23, 11:12
 - d. when Barnabas was without a team, he immediately recruited one - Acts 11:25-26
 - e. the Lord sent out a team from Antioch - Acts 13:1-5, Acts 15:39-40