

**The Pocket
Guide to
Church Planting**

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Aim to Multiply

If we want the church to grow faster than the population, then we must multiply.



If an evangelist were to reach 1,000 people per day for Christ and would continue reaching 1,000 more people for Christ every day, it would take 37,000 years for the entire world to get saved.

On the other hand if, disciples will go out and make **one disciple** who, in turn makes other disciples who reproduce disciple-making over and over, we could reach the entire world in 37 years!

Our Heart

Simple

You can do it! The principles are so simple that young or old, educated or non-literate, urban or rural, shy or gregarious, experienced or a beginner, you can make a huge impact by planting simple churches that keep multiplying.

Cutting Edge

You can make a huge impact on people who are far from God! Planting reproducible churches is universally documented as one of the most effective ways to share the good news of Jesus.

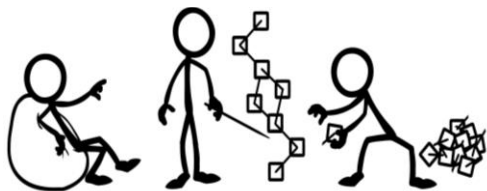
Runaway Train

You can be part of a God story, a Gospel adventure! Once it starts, churches planting churches gains a momentum of its own, potentially triggering an out-of-control church

planting movement. Well, we're not in control, but the Holy Spirit is firmly in control.

Colorful and Cool

You can do it anywhere with anyone! Simple churches have been started in various ethnic groups and cultural expressions, on U.S. college campuses, among illiterate people, in African villages, among Asian megacities, in businesses and in coffee shops. Anywhere people normally gather, they can meet Jesus there and have church there.

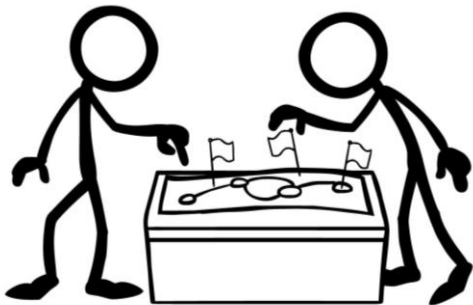


Act out of Acts

You live out of New Testament principles. The reproducible church model is straight out of the Gospel and the Book of Acts. It is Biblical.

Outlive Yourself

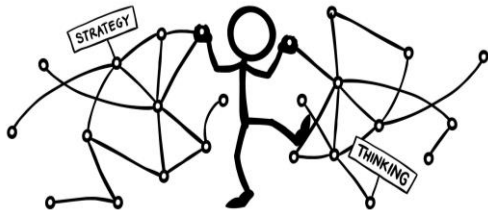
Be part of a mission strategy that is sustainable! Start a mission work that empowers the locals to out-do you and work yourself out of a job as soon as possible.



Five Steps

1. Pray

Pray until you can weep over people. Fast and pray. Walk and pray. Ask God to let you see what he sees and feel what he feels. Pray for a man or woman of peace to open the door to the hearts and minds of people you are reaching. Pray for understanding and love of the culture. Pray for the Lord to give you specific strategies.



2. Meet

Meet people where they are. Hang out with those who don't know Jesus. Get outside the Christian bubble. Resist the temptation and emotional need to focus on team issues that absorb your time and energy. Look for pockets of people that have no Jesus followers in them. When you meet people, don't extract them out to meet your friends. You go and meet their friends.

3. Make

Make Disciples. Invest in people's lives. Don't wait for them to pray a prayer to accept Jesus or say they want to follow Jesus to invest in them as people. "Disciple making" is another way of describing evangelism, and of building meaningful relationships.

Disciple making is about introducing people to Jesus in such a way that they get to know him

personally, and then learn to love and obey him. Emphasize the privilege of going to other nations so God's mission is part of their spiritual DNA.

4. Gather

Allow those you meet who are spiritually open to gather with other seekers for fun, hanging out, enjoying common interests, prayer, and study of God's word. It's sometimes best if you let them decide who to gather with and where and when. Focus on the words and stories of Jesus. Don't wait for them to say they want to become a follower of Jesus to gather people into a community of friends. Gathering around a meal with others is one of the best ways to build community. Jesus said that where two or three gather in his name, he is with them. This is "church" in its simplest, most essential form. Nothing more is needed to "be church." There is more that can be done to contribute to growing a

healthy, vibrant church (see Acts 2:42-47), but gathering people together is the beginning of planting that church.

5. Multiply

Plan for growth. From the beginning, train new believers to take responsibility for meetings and outreaches. Stay in the background as much as possible to encourage others to grow and exercise their spiritual gifts. When you get too big for good body life, make a plan to start a new gathering.

Work Within Networks

Encourage young believers to remain friends with their friends! Instead of you bringing the young believer into your world, go and enter into their world. Instead of introducing them to all of your friends, you go and meet their friends. Instead of showing them the places where you hang out, you find out where they hang out and go there.

A small percentage of people have such severe addiction issues that they will need to leave their old friends, but most people will not. Look for people who will introduce you and Jesus to whole networks of people. Enjoy the process of discovering a new group of friends!

Mentoring Chains



Rather than gathering people only around yourself, establish mentoring chains in line with 2 Timothy 2:2: “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

Paul



Timothy



Reliable People



Others

You



Your disciple



Your disciple's disciple



Your disciple's
disciple's disciple

Empower Others

Rather than build the church around your ministry, empower others *to do ministry* in line with Ephesians 4:11-13: “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **to equip his people for works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”



Don't make people wait until they have passed a course before releasing them and empowering

them to go out and share Jesus with others. God uses young and immature people in powerful ways. Don't make it seem like immature people can't tell their Jesus story to others and invite others to follow Jesus. In fact, encourage them to share their own personal Jesus stories with others right away!

Greater levels of responsibility come later, but we are always asking ourselves, "What kind of service can I equip this person to do today?"

D-Groups

A, B, C Format – It's very important to follow the pattern called "ABC" when you get together for meetings (call it anything you want to call it). Divide the D-Group meeting into one-thirds and faithfully stick with **the purpose of each one-third**. The D-Groups help lay the foundation for very basic discipleship. The format is easy to learn and easy to follow, and it is also very transferable.

A – Ask (accountability leading to short verbal worship and praying for each other)

1. Ask, "What is one thing you are thankful for?" Then, "Let's take time to thank God with short prayers of thanksgiving."

2. Ask, “Do you have a need to share or a sin you want to confess?” Then, “Let’s pray short prayers for each other.”
3. Ask, “What did you learn in last weeks Bible study and how’s it going applying it to your life?”

B – Bible study

Simply ask three questions:

1. What does the passage tell us about Jesus/God?
2. What does it tell us about ourselves?
3. What are we going to do about it? How will our lives change as a result of what we’ve learned?

C – Commit (to pray and obey)

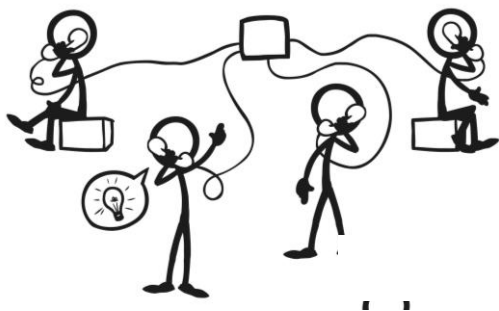
1. Pray. “Who are three people you can share this truth with?” (preferably these

people will not yet be followers of Jesus)

“Let’s pray for them now in groups of two.”

2. Obey. “How will my life change as a result of what I learned here today? I will _____.” Share your statement with someone and seal your commitment through prayer.
3. Practice. It is crucial to spend a few minutes at the end of each session practicing how the truth that was learned will be shared with the three people you are praying for.

You will probably try to skip this “C” part or give some excuse why this part is not good for your group. If you do skip it, your church will not grow in the way you want it to.



Three Levels of Authority



If you teach new believers the three levels of authority, then they can begin to make wise decisions for themselves.

1st LEVEL

New Testament Commands

Obey God's commands without voting or arguing about them, He is our Supreme Commander. A church is completely planted when it is doing all of the vital ministries that

are required by Christ and His apostles in the New Testament.

2nd LEVEL

New Testament Practices, not Commanded

A Christian has freedom to heed such practices or not to, since they are not commands. Do not prohibit following them, since the apostles practiced and approved them.

3rd LEVEL

Customs with no New Testament basis

Never demand blind obedience to *traditions*. Most traditions are good. Prohibit traditions that hinder obedience to New Testament commands.

Seven Basic Commands

Teach new believers the seven basic commands. Jesus actually had about 150 commands, but these seven are enough to keep people on the main tracks. You can go into more detail later.

1. Repent (and believe)
2. Be Baptized
3. Break Bread (have communion, be in fellowship)
4. Love (forgive)
5. Pray
6. Give
7. Go and make disciples



S.A.V.E.

Always remember that your job is to empower others and then to move on. Following this pattern will help you to stay on track from the beginning.

Show

Someone who is more experienced in an area or has more knowledge shows the younger believer how to do something or passes on some knowledge that will lead to greater obedience. The goal of all discipleship is obedience to the commands of Jesus.

Assist

The younger believer then assists the older believer in leading. This stage can begin immediately after the younger believer has seen the teaching or been exposed to the teaching

even one time. The older believer might meet with the younger believer and coach them. The younger believer shouldn't have to teach the material in the same way the older believer did. Don't worry too much if the younger believer doesn't do a good job the first time. Keep working with them if their heart is open and teachable.



View

The older believer watches the younger believer lead. The older believer should do his/her best to build the young believer's confidence and to

praise them in front of others for being brave enough to move out into a new area of giving to the community. The older believer and younger one meet afterwards, and the older believer builds up the younger one by giving feedback.

Exit

The older believer exits the scene and moves on to a new area of ministry. The younger believer is now able to stand on his/her own with loving input from an older brother or sister but without dependence on them. The older and young believer continue the relationship but more as equals at this point.

It might take a long period of time to move through the steps (a year or two), but it can take as little as a few months before a young leader (even one brand new in the Lord) is able to stand on their own. The pace at which you progress depends on the unique situation. Remember that

pre-believers can often pass on good Biblical teaching even if they don't completely understand it all just yet.

Find out more:

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