

Church Planting: From The Call To The Going (Session Four)

Introduction: So far in our course, we have defined the need for church plants, the mission of church plants, the models of church plants, and the qualifying characteristics of a church planter and his church planter team. In session four of this course, we will be addressing the spiritual and practical principles of how we church plant. We have possessed the big picture of the cause. Now we need to look at the practical things we need to understand in order for a God-birthed church plant to launch and get established in the region of the country or world where God is sending that team. I use the term God-birthed because not all church plants are birthed by Jesus, the great Head of The Church. In this session, we will also address some wrong reasons why someone desires to plant a church.

Because church planting is not just planting churches in the United States or other Western developed nations, we will also address launching church plants cross-culturally among unreached people groups of the world. In Acts 1:8, Jesus said, “ ...You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem (those near us), and in all Judea (those like us) and Samaria (those near us but different than us), and to the farthest parts of the earth (those far from us). Church planting involves local and global church planting. A true apostolic church cannot ignore this complete mandate. This is why we will address the local and cross cultural aspect of church planting.

“He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.” Matthew 13:37-39

“ God has always existed as a community of persons comprising one God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. This divine community was on a mission. Before the beginning of time, this triune God planned the church as a people whom he would adopt through Jesus Christ. At creation, the triune God made Adam and Eve to bear his image and to rule and reign over creation in God’s name. In other words, the first family in the history of the world was a community on mission.”

Darrin Patrick, Church Planter: The Man, The Message, The Mission

“ Christ’s church exists as an intentional gathering of people who are “called out” (ekklesia) by God. This means that people have sensed the calling of God and have purposefully come together to seed a new church.” Aubrey Malphrus, The Nuts And Bolts of Church Planting

I. The Call

A. The subjective call

1. It is God Himself speaking to us
2. It is a specific calling versus a general calling
3. It is God calling us to preach the gospel to a specific place and people
4. It is not always an impression in your spirit
5. It can be a stirring
6. It can be an encounter
7. It can come with a restlessness
8. It can come through a sovereign prophetic word from someone else
9. It can be something that doesn’t let go of your spirit and consumes you.
This is called a burden.

B. The Objective Call

1. The result of a discovery process mentioned in session three
2. The counsel of others
3. The overall apostolic atmosphere of your local church
4. Your missional theology
5. A perceived need in a city or region
6. Circumstances
7. An invitation and open door
8. The initiation of your pastoral covering

C. Wrong Reasons to Church Plant

1. You are frustrated in your present circumstances
2. You need to feel you are significant in God’s purpose
3. You want to be independent
4. Church planting is trendy

5. You are comparing yourself to others
6. You have a desire to preach but no opportunity
7. You want to boost your reputation and image

II. The Nuts And Bolts of Planting A Church

- A. Process with those who are over you in the Lord and receive confirmation and a second or third witness
- B. Assess the cost financially
- C. Find financial providers
- D. Build a core team. The research shows that the stronger the team, the faster the church will grow.
 1. Identify a send out date with your local church or denominational covering.
 2. Spend time with your core team establishing values and vision before you are sent
 3. Establish the business essentials of the church: incorporation, By Laws and Constitution, EIN numbers, a church board overseeing the corporation, identifying corporate officers, financial structure, bookkeeping, spending authority, determining the source of money and where it goes, check endorsements, and bank deposits
 4. Identify temporary roles of the team that will be for the first three months of the church's launch
 5. Choose a name that reflects your vision
 6. Determine a launch date once your team is settled in their new location
 7. Develop a website announcing the church's launch and an invitation to join the core team meetings to be a part of the team
8. Find a venue
9. Develop strategies for outreach, disciple making, services, assimilation, and especially decision making within the ministries of the church
10. Develop a marketing strategy using all the tools of our culture. Most church planters in America spend 10-20% of their budget on marketing. In other words, you must make touches: personal invites, cards in the mail, door

hangers, make your presence felt in the community through serving or blessing, branding, website links, giveaways, banners, logos, etc.

11. Identify what needs to be purchased in order to go public on weekend services.
12. Make your opening service a party. Invite personal friends and people from the sending church or sending organization. Create energy. It has been recommended that you should have some pre-launch services to iron out the kinks.
13. Contact visitors. I recommend that the Church Planter do this in the beginning stages of the church because people are going to come because they connect to the pastor more than the culture.
14. Spend the first six months to a year preaching the mission and The Church, assimilating new people, establishing values and ministry philosophy, formulating more concrete leadership roles and teams to oversee the church's ministries, and continue to make touches with the people you are trying to reach with the gospel.
15. Without becoming too rigid, begin to develop systems of decision making, spending, reporting, and implementing the system. Some level of chaos is exciting and creates momentum; however, in time, it can lead to anger, frustration, and conflict. The Church needs to be an organism led by God but it must be an organized organism.
16. As the church begins to grow, the church planter now needs to work with his team on how to structure to handle the growth and to expand the reach and touch of the church in its mission. Obviously, this requires new ways of doing things, the hiring of staff, and the delegation of responsibilities. The church needs to grow stronger inwardly to enhance its reach outwardly. For this to happen, the pastor needs to decrease so that Christ can increase in the life of the Church. This means the church planter goes from being the leader of everything happening in the church to the leader of the

teams moving the church forward. This requires wisdom, trust, and strategic intentionality.

17. The new church starts to become mature and begins to reproduce new converts, disciples, and leaders. At this point, the leader needs to decide if he will maintain or continue the excitement of being missional. To stay missional means to keep outreach fresh and in the forefront of the church. His passion is to raise up leaders as the church expands its touch and reach in the community where it ministers. Then it also needs to extend the Kingdom of God by being a church plant that plants churches. As this happens, the kingdom of God is now extending throughout the earth.