

CHURCH PLANTING

Church Planting: Syllabus

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CLASS #1:

- I. Course Introduction.
- II. Church Planting and the Bible.
- III. Reasons Why Church Planting Projects Fail.
- IV. Foundational Scripture and Concepts for Church Planting.
- V. Six Phases of Church Planting.

CLASS #2:

- VI. Apostolic Teams and the Philosophy of “Go/Give/Leave.”

CLASS #3:

- VII. The 12 Activities of Church Planting.

CLASS #4:

- VII. The 12 Activities of Church Planting (cont.).

CLASS #5:

- VII. The 12 Activities of Church Planting (cont.).

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Church Planting: Exam

Possible 20 Point Questions

- 1) Explain how the principle of multiplication began in Genesis and how it relates to Church planting (pp. 222-224).
- 2) List and describe Yoder's six phases of Church planting (pp. 226-228).
- 3) What is an apostolic team and what is the philosophy of Go/Give/Leave? Why are both concepts so important in Church planting (pp. 230-235)?
- 4) Describe the Church planting activity of becoming acquainted with the people (p. 241).
- 5) Describe some of the principles of ministry used in the Church planting activity of baptizing and receiving members into the new church (pp. 249,250).
- 6) How can the Church planting team mobilize the new believers? (pp. 256,257).

Possible 10 Point Questions

- 1) Use 1 Cor 3:10-15 to show what God is most concerned with in Church planting (p. 224).
- 2) List three reasons why Church planting projects fail (p. 225).
- 3) How does Prov 24:10 apply to Church planting (p. 226)?
- 4) List three methods to attract new people to a church (p. 229).
- 5) Name the five ministries found in Eph 4:11 and their corresponding focuses in establishing a church (p. 230).
- 6) List two reasons why missionaries do not leave (p. 233).
- 7) Why might we say that the "leave" part of church planting is the most important? (p. 234)
- 8) Why must the apostolic team leave as soon as possible? Give two reasons (p. 234).
- 9) What is a "divine appointment"? (p. 244)
- 10) List three basic topics to teach to new believers (p. 246).
- 11) List three important commands that should be taught in the first church meetings (p. 251).
- 12) List three questions you should consider when deciding on an appropriate style of worship for a newly planted church (p. 253).

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I. Course Introduction.

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A. The Importance of Church Planting.

1. The goal of evangelism is to add to the church. Our goals must focus on improving the appearance of the bride (Eph 5:27). The Church is the bride.
2. The Church is the foundational unit of Christianity. It is the body of its founder and leader.
 - a. Therefore, to plant a church is to plant Christianity.
 - b. To plant a church is to plant an expression of Christ.

B. The Purpose of This Course.

1. In this course we hope to gain a foundational understanding of Church planting.
2. This course gives the student vision, ideas, and tools for church planting use.
3. We will study various church planting issues in the first part of the course.
4. In the second part of the course we will gain from the experience of George Patterson who has planted hundreds of churches in Honduras.
 - a. This course will offer a summary of the information found in his book called "A Church Planting Guide."¹
 - b. In that study we will consider what Patterson calls the 12 Church planting activities.
5. Let us begin by considering some teachings that are based on the experience of another successful Church planter, Larry Tomczak.²

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II. Church Planting and the Bible.

A. What does the Bible Say about Church Planting?

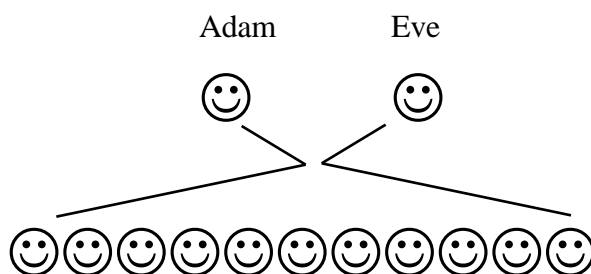
1. If we want to have New Testament Church results, then we need to return to the New Testament plan of Church planting (Acts 2:41).
2. There are many methods of evangelism. However, in the New Testament the method of planting a church was used most often for evangelism.
3. To complete the Great Commission (which means to make disciples not simply getting people to make “decisions” to become Christians), we must plant churches.
4. We must focus on multiplication. There must be spiritual multiplication.
 - a. Producing high quality fruit will eventually result in the production of a large quantity of fruit.
 - b. The philosophy of multiplication seeks to evangelize and disciple a small group of people in order to affect a wider area (see Acts 19:1-10).
5. The principle of multiplication began in Genesis with Adam and Eve.
 - a. They were commanded to multiply (Gen 1:28). They were not told to “add”.
 - b. They did not populate the whole earth themselves. They reproduced themselves.
 - c. Their children then reproduced themselves, etc.

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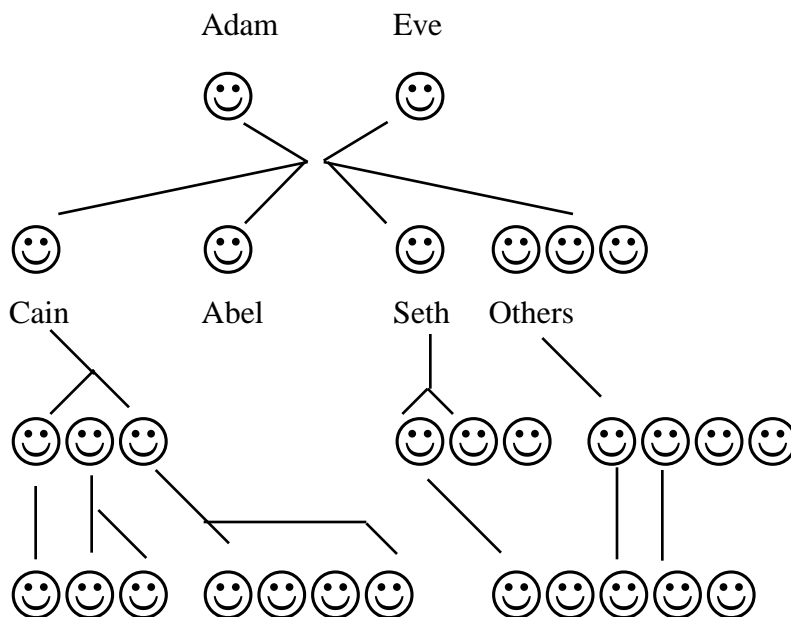
Discussion Point

Study and discuss the following diagram related to the multiplication principle as demonstrated by Adam and Eve.

It didn't happen like this. This is addition.



It did happen like this. This is multiplication.



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6. The application of this principle is essential in church planting. We do not want to create dependency. We want to multiply (reproduce) those who will do the same thing (reproduce others) (see 2 Tim 2:2).
7. We need to plant local churches that breath the life of the New Testament Church.
 - a. The message - It must be strong and direct with a CLEAR challenge to repent and believe (Acts 2:36-39).
 - b. The mentality (perspective) for church planting.
 - 1) The world is not simply a distraction. It is understood that the life of the world is aggressively against the life of the Christian (Acts 2:40).
 - 2) Therefore, although we cannot be isolated from the world, we must be separated from the world.
 - c. The method of organization.
 - 1) Each Christian must be a vital part of the local church. Each member of the body must function in the body.
 - 2) Christianity does not only consist of meetings. It is a shared life within the community of faith.
 - 3) The structure and organization of the church is not based on meetings and programs. It is based on relationships.
 - 4) God is not concerned with how fast we can build the church. He is concerned with the quality of the work (1 Cor 3:10-15).
8. The church is planted by an apostolic team (Eph 4:11; 1 Cor 12:28). Paul worked with a team (Acts 13:2, 5, 13; Acts 20:34; Acts 22:6). We will say more about apostolic teams later in the course.

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Discussion Point

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Use the following diagram to summarize a correct view of the church.

Topic	It is not	It is
Christianity	A meeting	A shared life
Structure of the Church	Based on meetings and programs	Based on true relationships
Concern of God	How fast we build the church	The quality of the work
The Church	A business or an organization	The Body

III. Some Reasons Why Church Planting Projects Fail.

A. What Was Lacking?

1. A lack of a clear direction and wisdom from God in the planning stages.
2. A lack of appropriate ministry gifts within the team.
3. A lack of prayer (even more essential in pioneer work).
4. A lack of resources (people and finances).
5. A lack of character and maturity in the leaders.
6. A lack of training.
7. A lack of strategy and administration (vision and planning).
8. A lack of unity within the team.
9. A lack of understanding of the target culture.
10. A lack of willingness to adapt to the new culture (contextualization, which is the necessary adjustments in form that allow God's message to survive between cultures and time).

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Discussion Point

Discuss your experience in Church Planting efforts or those that you have seen planted. Were any of the problems listed above a problem in the church planting effort?

IV. Foundational Scripture and Concepts for Church Planting.

A. Scriptures for Church Planting.

1. Prov 24:10.
2. Zech 4:10.
3. Gal 6:9.

B. Concepts to Meditate on and Discuss.

1. Pray like everything depends on God. Work like everything depends on the team.
2. Consistently review and remember what God has already done. This will help you to have faith for victories in the future.

V. Six Phases of Church Planting (by Glen Yoder)².

A. Phase #1: Conception.

1. This is the beginning. It is the phase of Church planting that happens before you leave for the target area.
2. In this phase the vision and strategy are conceived and developed.
3. The team spends much time together and begins to form strong relationships.

B. Phase #2: Pre-natal.

1. This phase happens before the church is a “public” place of worship.

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2. The Church planting team makes contacts in the community. They conduct personal and public evangelism.
3. The first disciples are formed into small groups. There may be several small groups meeting in various houses.
4. Ministerial foundations are formed. Basic doctrine is taught.

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C. Phase #3: Birth.

1. The church begins to be a public place of worship where possible. In restricted cultures, wisdom and boldness must be considered.
2. A philosophy and method of worship is implemented.
3. People in the community are invited to attend public meetings on Sunday.

D. Phase #4: Early life.

1. The converts with the strongest commitment to Jesus begin to take more and more responsibility for the decisions and activities of the church.
2. Delegation of authority begins. Reproduction of leaders and gifts begin.

E. Phase #5: Adolescence until maturity.

1. A sense of permanence and maturity is developed.
2. The focus is on leadership training.
3. There is a clear process of the multiplication of leadership and ministry.
4. There is increasingly evident organization in the body of believers.

F. Phase #6: Reproduction.

1. The church begins to reproduce itself—planting other churches and ministering to its host community.
2. Evangelism and missions begin to be emphasized.
3. The church sends missionaries to start new churches.

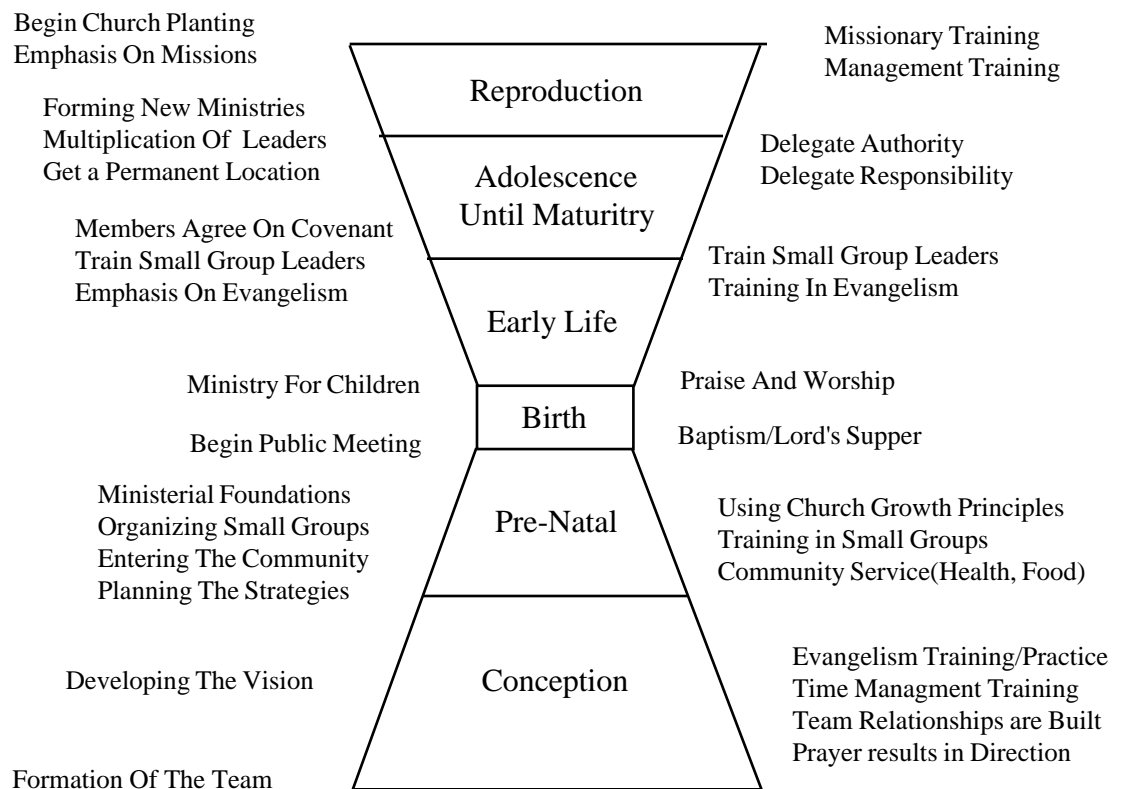
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Discussion Point

Study and discuss the following diagram (by Glen Yoder) of the six phases of Church Planting.

- What are the six phases of church planting?
- What must be done in each phase in order to plant the church?
- What types of training correspond to each phase?
- Try to explain and give practical examples of each point.



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Author's Comment:

The following is a list of methods to attract additional people to the church. This list only represents suggestions and is not a complete list of possibilities. Create your own list of methods based on the realities of your situation.

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1. Pray to the Lord of the harvest (Mt 9:38).
2. Practice hospitality. Invite people to your home. Have a neighborhood picnic.
3. Offer home Bible studies on special topics of interest that would be especially relevant to that group of people (marriage, raising children, financial success, etc.).
4. Organize special events for children.
5. Advertising (radio, television, posters, flyers, etc.).
6. Give personal invitations to the Sunday morning service or to special meetings.
7. Do personal evangelism. Testify to those you meet in natural situations.
8. Do door to door evangelism.
9. Do street evangelism (parks, street corners, tents).
10. Do follow-up. Send a letter and visit those who visit the church for the first time.

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VI. Apostolic Teams and the Philosophy of “Go/Give/Leave”.

A. Apostolic Teams.

1. An apostolic team is formed based on the five ministries found in Eph 4:11:
 - a. Apostles - those who are sent to organize new works (not to be confused with the original 12 apostles in the New Testament).
 - b. Prophets - those whose messages call the people of God back to the core principles they proclaim.
 - c. Evangelists - those with a unique call to build the church.
 - d. Pastors - those with a unique ability to nurture disciples into all aspects of the Christian life and church.
 - e. Teachers - those with an ability to fortify believers with practical wisdom for Christian living and service.
2. Each of these ministries must do its part to establish the church.
 - a. Apostles and Prophets focus on planting the foundations and giving direction.
 - b. Evangelists focus on evangelism.
 - c. Pastors focus on pastoral ministries.
 - d. Teachers focus on teaching.
3. This is not to say that teachers are not able to evangelize or that pastors are not able to teach, etc. We are only speaking here in terms of emphasis and focus.
4. Certain types of growth of the church will result in the focus being on certain ministries.

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Discussion Point

Consider and discuss the following diagram related to the different types of potential growth in the church.

Types Of Growth	Specialist
Initial growth	Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist
Internal growth (quality)	Pastor, Teacher
Expansion growth (quantity)	Evangelist
Extension growth (forming new sister churches)	Evangelist, Teacher, Apostle
Bridge growth (missions)	Apostle, Prophet
Vision growth (in general)	Prophet

5. After the church has been planted, each of the individual ministries should begin to concentrate on training and reproduction.
 - a. Evangelists train others to be evangelists.
 - b. Pastors train others to be Pastors, etc.
 - 1) The idea is to reproduce your gift.
 - 2) The goal is to work yourself out of a job (so that others can do the ministry).
6. After there is a sense that the gifts have been reproduced, the team leaves in order to do the same thing in another unreached location.
7. The planted church is taught to send their own “Apostolic team” to another unreached location.
 - a. The same process of the reproduction of gifts should happen within the church.
 - b. The result should be that several “Apostolic teams” could be sent out.
 - c. This is the beginning of the NATURAL multiplication of churches.

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Discussion Point

How are these Apostolic teams different than traditional church planting teams?
Why are Apostolic teams generally more successful?

B. The Philosophy of “Go/Give/Leave”.

1. The Apostolic team must have a philosophy of ministry. We can call this philosophy “Go/Give/Leave”.
 - a. Go (see Mt 28:19; Gen 12:1).
 - 1) Missionaries must “GO” in obedience to Christ’s command.
 - 2) Missionaries must leave their own homes and GO to the nations of the world.
 - b. Give (see Mt 28:19, 20; Gen 12:2, 3; Mt 10:8; 2 Tim 2:2).
 - 1) Missionaries must give freely what they have received freely.
 - 2) The greatest missions story is in Jn 3:16. God GAVE. Jesus WENT.
 - c. Leave (see Jn 16:7; 2 Tim 2:2; Acts 14:23; Phil 1:6; Acts 20:32; Acts 20:29, 30).
 - 1) Missionaries must also leave. Jesus LEFT so that the Holy Spirit could complete the work. Paul LEFT for the same reason. He knew that the natural process was for the Holy Spirit to mature the church. LEAVING is a necessary part of the idea of reproduction (see 2 Tim 2:2).
 - 2) There is risk involved (see Acts 20:29, 30). That is why we have faith. To let go is to let grow. LEAVE is an essential part of missions.

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2. “LEAVE” is often the most difficult part of the proposed philosophy. It is also the most violated. Many missionaries never LEAVE the place they go to. Why?
- a. It happens when missionaries are trying to build their own kingdoms.
 - b. It happens when missionaries have a low opinion (prejudice) of the abilities of the nationals. They feel that they can not do the work correctly.
 - c. It happens when missionaries have a high opinion (pride) of their own abilities. No one else can do it as good as they can.
 - d. It happens when missionaries have little faith. They choose to put more faith in themselves and therefore establish a system of control to have a sense of security.
 - e. It happens when missionaries are lazy. They become comfortable in the missionary lifestyle.
 - f. It happens when missionaries do not keep the goal in their minds toward which missions is working (Mt 24:14; Rom 15:20, 21).
 - g. It happens when missionaries try to build institutions and programs instead of the kingdom of God. Thus, they have become involved in many time consuming projects that often have no lasting value.
 - h. It happens when missionaries think that “going slowly” means “we are producing higher quality fruit”. There is a high value put on the “sacrifice” of being in the same place for 20 years. Paul would not have agreed. He would say that “intensity” means quality (see Acts 20:31).
 - i. It happens when missionaries do not understand the principles of natural growth. Churches grow naturally when they are given freedom to grow naturally. They do not grow naturally when they are controlled and “spoon fed”. Churches that are dependent on missionaries are not healthy churches.
 - j. It happens when missionaries speak of teaching men how to fish so they can fish for themselves (instead of fishing for them). Unfortunately, many do not practice that principle.

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Discussion Point

What have your experiences been regarding the Go/Give/Leave principles of missions?
Discuss and allow comments.

3. The **LEAVE** part of missions is often the most difficult because the missionaries must give away what they have worked so hard to start. In this sense, the **LEAVE** phase is really only a second part of the **GIVE** phase. Missionaries must **GIVE** in order to **GIVE AWAY**.
4. The **LEAVE** part of missions is often the most important because it is the part that allows the young church to grow naturally. **GO** and **GIVE** allow the church to be born naturally. **LEAVE** allows the church to grow naturally.
5. Remember: Paul and his teams **WENT** in order to **LEAVE**. They did not **GO** in order to stay. They multiplied the kingdom of God by multiplying ministry. They started the ministry. Then, as soon as possible, they gave the ministry to those who lived there who could actually do it better because they could do it more naturally. They lived there. They were the natural leaders and knew their people and their culture.
 - a. The Apostolic team must leave as soon as possible (without leaving too quickly before the foundations are set) for two reasons:
 - 1) To let the church grow naturally under the local leadership. The church must be indigenous.
 - 2) To continue the Apostolic work. The team must leave to plant churches in other unreached areas.
 - b. Paul was able to have this philosophy because he trusted the Holy Spirit. He put his faith in God to complete the work (Phil 1:6).

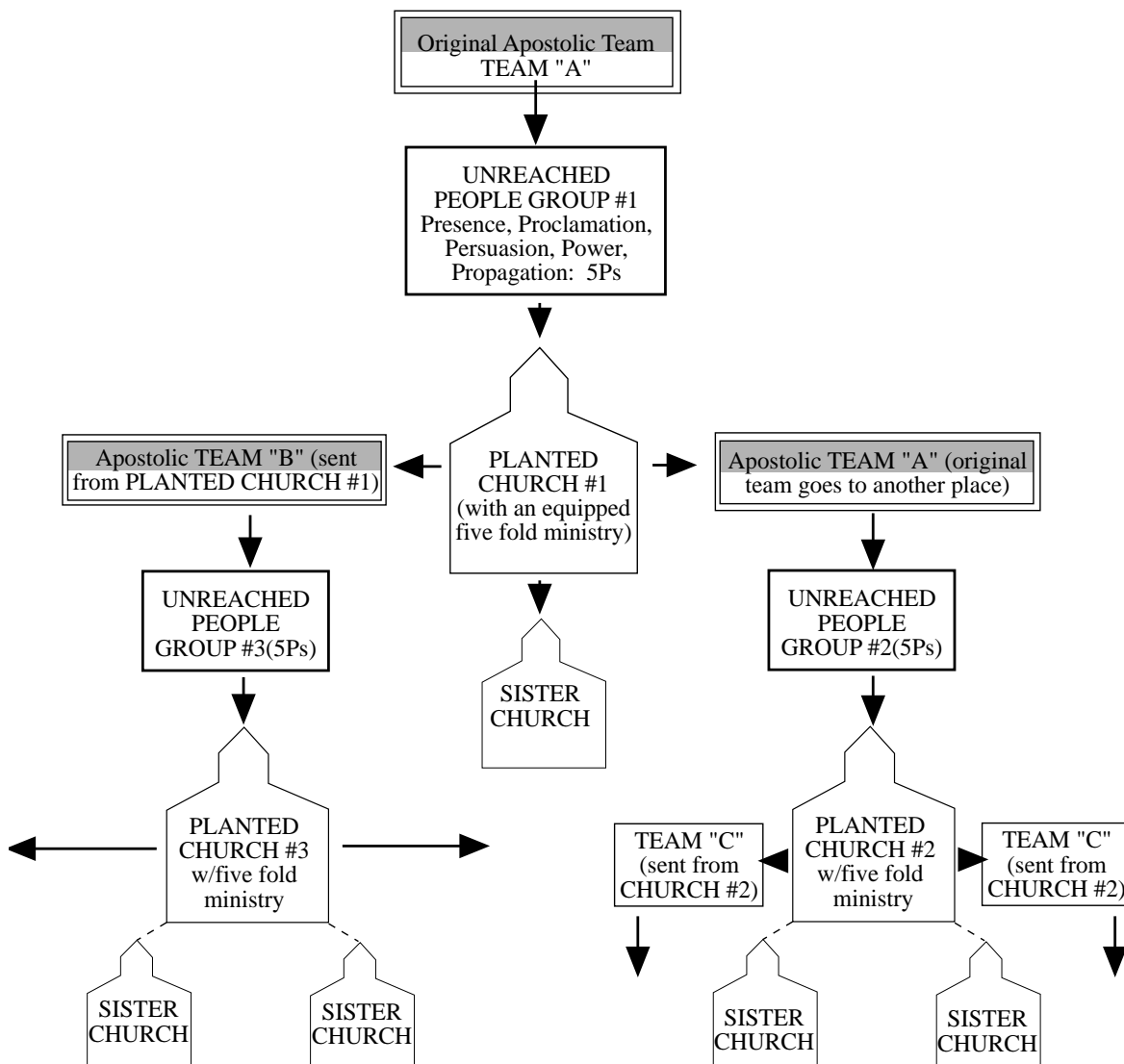
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Discussion Point

The following diagram helps explain the ministry of “Apostolic teams” and the philosophy of ministry called “Go/Give/Leave”. The key is REPRODUCTION.

Discuss these concepts and answer any questions.

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VII. The 12 Activities of Church Planting.

Author's Comment:

The following 12 activities are derived from A Church Planting Guide, by George Patterson.¹ Used by permission.

A. Activity #1: Seek the Lord's Guidance.

1. Getting started.
 - a. Prayer is the most important activity in Church planting (see Prov 3:5, 6).
 - 1) Jesus prayed before He went to new places (Mk 1:35-39).
 - 2) Peter was praying when God showed him His plans (Acts 10:9).
 - b. In this activity we will:
 - 1) Pray in order to decide where to plant a new church.
 - 2) Make plans for the natural multiplication of churches.
2. Where do I plant the church?
 - a. Pray and ask God for a vision and a burden for a specific place.
 - b. Meet with other leaders who might be interested in Church planting. Ask God to form a team.
 - 1) Pray together regularly.
 - 2) Accept the advice of others.
 - 3) Strive for unity in the group. God can bless unity (Ps 133:1-3).
 - 4) If possible, visit the area that is being considered.

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- c. Questions to consider.
 - 1) How far away is the location?
 - 2) Is it already being evangelized?
 - 3) How many Christians are there?
 - 4) How receptive to the gospel are the people who live there?
 - 5) Are the churches there actively witnessing and evangelizing?
 - 6) Do friends or relatives of other Christians live there? Will they go with us to visit?
 - 7) Are new people moving into the area?
 - 8) What type of work do the people do?
 - 9) What types of problems do the people have?
 - 10) What is their economic situation? Are they poor?
 - 11) What do these people do for enjoyment?
 - 12) Are there different groups of people who live in that same area?
- 3. How can I plan for the multiplication of churches?
 - a. Draw a simple map of the area you have chosen.
 - b. Decide on a strategic location to plant the first church.
 - c. Decide on several other strategic places where churches should be planted.
 - d. Consider how the initial church could begin a chain of churches.
 - 1) Commit to the philosophy of training local leaders to do ministry.
 - 2) Plan to train local leaders who will go to plant churches in other areas.

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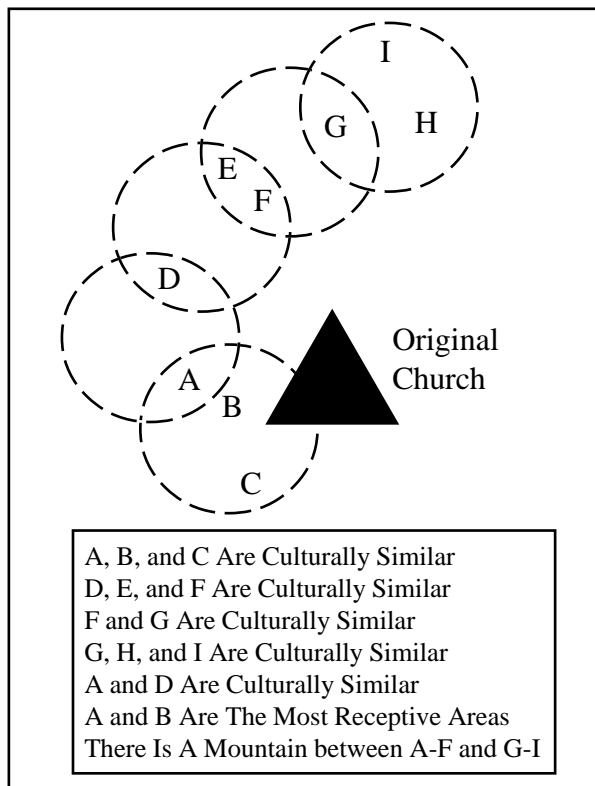
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- 3) Consider the variables of geography, culture, and receptivity. Plan for the churches that are closest to the target area geographically and culturally to plant the church in that area.
- 4) Answer the following questions regarding the situation seen on the map and the information provided below the map.
 - a) Where would you plant the first church (each letter represents a location that needs a church)?
 - b) Into which areas would you send trained workers from the original church?
 - c) How would you plan to reach all of the areas?

Geography, Culture, and Receptivity



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- e. The team should make a covenant together. They should make a commitment to God and to each other with respect to reaching the churches.
- f. Pray and fast (Acts 13:1-3).
- g. Enlist others to pray for the team (2 Thes 3:1).

Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

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B. Activity #2: Organize Your Team.

1. Introduction to organizing your team.
 - a. The New Testament pattern is to plant churches in teams.
 - 1) Peter went with others to evangelize in Caesarea (Acts 10:23).
 - 2) Paul and Barnabas (also Mark, Luke, and others) formed a team (Acts 13:2).
 - b. In this activity we will:
 - 1) Form a team.
 - 2) Meet together to plan.
2. Forming the team.
 - a. Pray for a church planting team. Jesus prayed all night before He chose His team (Lk 6:12, 13).
 - b. Establish a strategy to ensure a strong commitment to the task.
 - 1) The best way to do this is to promote a strong commitment to Jesus and to the other members of the team.
 - 2) This is accomplished through forming strong relationships.

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3. Planning.

a. Questions to ask in the meetings.

- 1) Who will the team be accountable to? How will this accountability be made practical?
- 2) What finances will the team need? How will the team get them?
- 3) How will the leadership of the planted church be formed?

b. Things to do in the meetings.

- 1) Pray.
- 2) Decide on and review the philosophy and strategy of Church planting that will be used.
- 3) Study maps while discussing strategy.
- 4) Find ways to obtain literature in the language of the target group.
- 5) Discuss the practical details concerning the daily life of the team (housing, food, family time, work schedules).
- 6) Consider the gifts of each team member. Assign responsibilities according to these gifts.
- 7) The final meeting should be a commissioning service for the team (Acts 13:1-3; 15:40).
 - a) A report can be given to the larger body of Christ who is supporting the mission.
 - b) Team members can reaffirm their commitment to the mission and to each other.
 - c) The sending church can pray over and lay hands on the team.

Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

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C. Activity #3: Become Acquainted With the People.

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1. Introduction to becoming acquainted with the people.
 - a. Paul related to the people. For example, Paul observed the people and the surroundings of Athens. Then he spoke to the people in a way that related to them (see Acts 17:16-34).
 - b. In this activity we will:
 - 1) Decide who to evangelize first.
 - 2) Become acquainted with the people.
2. Who should we evangelize first?
 - a. Some churches grow better when they are formed according to the same ethnic group and class (this is called the “homogeneous unit” principle of Church growth). Focus on one well defined group of people.
 - b. First, use any “connections” you might have. Visit family members or friends of those on the team or in the sending church.
 - c. Evangelize in natural situations in the beginning. Visit neighbors. Talk to people in the market, park, and on buses.
 - d. Participate in community activities. Start conversations with people that can lead to witnessing. The gospel spreads most naturally through networks of relationships. It may even be possible and beneficial to join organizations.
 - e. Who are the community leaders? Who are the people who influence others? There are many strategic benefits to evangelizing the leaders first. They can provide many more connections and can provide a natural base of leadership in the church.
 - f. In general, be an observer and a learner.
 - g. If it is done with sensitivity, a questionnaire can be used to make contacts and to learn about the people. Team members could go door to door.

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3. Getting acquainted with the people.
 - a. It is very important that you know the people. You will be a better evangelist if you know the beliefs and needs of the people.
 - b. The following questions should be considered. Use tact in gaining the necessary information.
 - 1) What is their religion?
 - 2) What religious customs do they practice?
 - 3) Why do they practice them?
 - 4) What do they believe about God?
 - 5) How do they worship Him?
 - 6) What do they know and believe about Jesus?
 - 7) What do they believe about Heaven and Hell?
 - 8) What do they believe about eternity?
 - 9) What do they believe about Creation?
 - 10) What do they believe about evil spirits?
 - 11) What do they believe happens to them after death.
 - 12) What do they believe about sin and salvation.
 - 13) What do they know about the Church? Is it positive? What do they think is negative about the Church?
 - 14) What do they believe about prayer?
 - 15) What are the most common problems and needs of the people?
 - 16) What type of work do they do?
 - 17) What is their economic level?

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Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

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D. Activity #4: Claim Christ's Victory.

1. Introduction to claiming Christ's victory.
 - a. Take time to study the following Scriptures with your team.
 - 1) The Bible tells of many victories that were preceded by prayer and fasting.
 - 2) Study and discuss Eph 6:10-20. Especially focus on vs. 12, 13.
 - 3) Consider, study and discuss 2 Cor 4:4; Rev 12:11; Col 2:15; Heb 2:14,15; Rom 1:4; 2 Cor 10:3, 4; and Dan 9:1-3.
 - b. This activity should be done throughout the church planting process. However, here we want to focus on intense spiritual warfare in preparation for more intense evangelism.
2. Plan and have intense times of prayer and fasting.
 - a. Pray for discernment. What are the particular spiritual strongholds that need to be broken in that area?
 - b. Pray for the power of God to be manifested.
 - c. Pray for souls to be saved.
 - d. Proclaim the authority and victory of Jesus Christ over the spiritual powers in the area.
 - e. Continue praying until you feel you have gained the victory.

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Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

E. Activity #5: Find Receptive People.

1. Introduction to finding receptive people.
 - a. At this stage we should try to make contact with as many people as possible (Jn 1:41, 42).
 - 1) We should focus on heads of households.
 - 2) We are like fishermen who cast our nets wide in order to catch the maximum number of fish. Then we draw in the net and catch those who are most interested (Mt 4:19; Acts 17:34).
 - 3) We are like farmers who sow the seed on all types of ground but who concentrate on the soil that has the most potential (Mt 13:3-7, 18-23).
 - 4) Do not spend a lot of time with those who are not interested or with those who show strong opposition (Mt 7:6).
 - 5) Give priority to those who are more receptive. Paul, for example, went to the Gentiles because they were more receptive than the Jews.
 - b. In this activity we will try to make contact with people who are receptive to the Gospel.
2. Pray for “divine appointments”. The Holy Spirit can lead you to receptive people (see Mt 13:3-7, 18-23). Set a goal. How many people do you want to contact? How many will you have further contact with?
3. Consider and agree on effective and efficient methods of evangelism. How will you make the contacts? Make a plan. Review the information you have from Activity #3. This will help you to decide on wise methods.
4. Put the plan in action. Do it!

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5. Evaluate your work.

- a. Did you reach your goals?
- b. What plans worked?
- c. What plans were changed?
- d. How did the people respond to the methods that you used?

6. Use the principle of multiplication in order to contact more people. Go with those who have already shown interest to visit their families and friends.

7. Use the “social gospel” (mercy needs) to work together with the “evangelical gospel” (spiritual needs). Respond to physical and felt needs.

- a. Warning: Do not allow social work to weaken the evangelistic work. Evangelize those who come for help.
- b. As you seek to attract new people, establish only those projects or ministries which the new church is able to sustain, especially if they address felt needs.

Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

F. Activity #6: Teach the Gospel.

1. Introduction to teaching the gospel.

- a. The fisherman draws in the net very carefully. He does not want to lose the fish simply because of his bad method of pulling them in.
- b. It is the same with evangelism. We must make sure that we present the gospel clearly so that we do not lose the fish simply because of an ineffective method.
- c. We must defend and teach the gospel to those who are interested (Acts 19:8).

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2. Pray for wisdom and clarity in how you teach the gospel to interested contacts.
3. Organize a program.
 - a. Who will you teach? Focus on teaching groups instead of individuals (families, groups of neighbors or friends, etc.).
 - b. Who will teach them?
 - c. When and where will you teach them?
 - d. What will you teach them (see Lk 24:44-48)? Also consider the following list.
 - 1) Who is God?
 - 2) What is sin?
 - 3) What is death?
 - 4) What is the judgment?
 - 5) Who is Jesus?
 - 6) What is eternal life?
 - 7) What is the new birth?
 - 8) What is the gift of the Holy Spirit?
 - 9) What is repentance and faith?
 - 10) What is baptism?
 - 11) What is the Church?
 - e. Suggestions for teaching.
 - 1) Form home groups as soon as possible.
 - 2) Try to relate the teaching to what they already know.

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- 3) Use the Bible. Give a Bible to each person if possible. Encourage each one to read applicable sections before the meeting.
- 4) Meet regularly.
- 5) Explain the benefits of following Christ. Also explain the costs.
- 6) Encourage families and friends to consider making the decision together.
- 7) Be sensitive to the existence of occult practices in the lives of new converts.
 - a) A new convert must identify, confess, and renounce all occult practices.
 - b) Occult objects should be destroyed.
 - c) The power of the objects should be broken in prayer.
- 8) Help heads of households to teach their families.
- 9) Have time to socialize and do recreational activities together.
- 10) Teach on baptism. Explain that it is the way in which a person can publicly make a decision for Christ.
- 11) Pray for the sick. Expect God to heal.

Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

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G. Activity #7: Assess the Results.

1. Introduction to assessing the results.
 - a. Do your work with the goal in mind. Focus on getting results (1 Cor 9:22). Always be willing to evaluate yourself. This is how we can begin to improve.
 - b. In this activity we will:
 - 1) Evangelize the friends and relatives of the most responsive people.
 - 2) Evaluate the work that we have done.
2. Consider who has been most responsive. Ask them to make a list of all family members and friends.
 - a. Make a plan of when, how, and who will visit the people on the list.
 - b. Ask the person who made the list to go with you and to share why he is interested in what you have to say.
3. Evaluate the work.
 - a. Have you focused on a specific group of people?
 - b. Is Christ at the center of your teaching?
 - c. Can the people in the home groups explain the basic points of the gospel? Do they know how to pray? Have they memorized any parts of Scripture?
 - d. Have you focused on encouragement with the new converts?
 - e. Are you still regularly evangelizing?
 - f. Have you promoted relationships between people? Is there a good foundation for the beginnings of a church?
 - g. Is there a general lack of response from the people of the area? If so, it may be time to move to another area (Mt 10:14).

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- h. Are the team members completing their responsibilities? Is there discipline in maintaining schedules?
- i. Are team members spending enough time with their own families?
- j. Is there a strong sense of unity within the team?
- k. Are there any conflicts between team members that need to be resolved?
- l. Where do we need to go next? Do we need to review any of the previous activities?

Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

H. Activity #8: Baptize and Receive Members Into the New Church.

- 1. Introduction to receiving new members.
 - a. Notice that baptism is an important part of the Great Commission (Mt 28:19).
 - b. Also notice that in the Bible baptism was not delayed (Acts 16:31-33).
 - 1) In the New Testament people did not raise their hands or come to an altar call. They were baptized!
 - 2) Baptism was not a reward or a graduation ceremony that was done after a long Church membership class. It was done at conversion and represented the beginning of the Christian life.
 - c. In this activity we will:
 - 1) Baptize the new converts and receive them as members of the new church.
 - 2) Celebrate the Lord's Supper as a new church.

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2. At this point, make the teaching on baptism simple (see Mt 28:19, 20; Acts 8:35-38; 10:47, 48; 2:41-47; 16:31-33).
 - a. Stress the point that baptism is the biblical way to publicly declare faith in Christ and to identify with His Church.
 - b. Baptize whole families together if applicable (Acts 16:15, 31-33).
3. Suggestions for the baptism service.
 - a. Let the convert give his testimony, then baptize him.
 - b. Lay hands on him and pray that he would be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17).
 - c. Celebrate the Lord's Supper together.
4. Suggestions for the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
 - a. Try to make the situation natural. Gather around a table if possible.
 - b. Take time to sing some praise songs.
 - c. Take time to pray. Ask each person to pray silently and to confess their sins. Assure them of Christ's forgiveness.
 - d. At this point do not try to explain doctrinal issues about the Supper. Be sure to portray an attitude of reverence to the Lord.
5. Make it clear to the new group of converts that they are now a church.
 - a. Review basic teachings concerning the definition and life of the church.
 - b. Begin to promote the vision for having local leaders.
 - c. Establish a way the new members can make a covenant with each other.

Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

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I. Activity #9: Teach All to Obey Christ.

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1. Introduction to teaching all to obey Christ.
 - a. Part of our job as Church planters is to teach people to obey Christ's commands (Mt 28:20).
 - 1) We must give birth to disciples who are willing to obey the commands of Christ. There really are no other types of real disciples.
 - 2) It is natural for a Christian to want to obey Christ's commands. Without obedience there is dead faith (Jms 2:14-17).
 - 3) We are not saved by works (Eph 2:8-10). But we are saved to do good works (Jms 2).
 - b. In this activity we will teach new believers to obey Christ's commands.
2. The following list of important commands should be taught in the first church meetings.
 - a. Repent and believe (Mk 1:15; Jn 3:16).
 - b. Be baptized (Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38).
 - c. Love God, your neighbor, and your brothers in Christ (Mt 22:37-39; Jn 13:34).
 - d. Meet to share the Lord's Supper (Lk 22:17-20).
 - e. Pray and read the Bible every day (Mt 4:4; 6:5-13; Jn 14:15).
 - f. Give sacrificially (Mt 6:19-21).
 - g. Evangelize and teach others (Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15).

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3. Make a list of all of the new converts. Write each of the commands at the top of the paper. Keep a record of how each one is progressing in obeying each commandment.
 - a. Are the new converts giving to those in need? Are they sharing and being good stewards?
 - b. Are they establishing a daily devotional schedule?
4. Promote fellowship in the new church. Organize times of recreation and eating together.
5. Teach on the tithe and receive offerings. Have a meeting to pray and decide how to use the money.

Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

J. Activity #10: Hold Worship Meetings.

1. Introduction to holding worship meetings.
 - a. The new converts must know that they are the new church (not the team) and that they must meet together (Heb 10:25).
 - 1) The new church should have its own identity. The meetings should not simply be done in the way that the team members are accustomed to. The team must contextualize the style of worship.
 - 2) Do not lead meetings in a way that the new converts will find difficult to copy.
 - 3) Make the meeting simple and natural.
 - b. In this activity we will: Begin to have worship meetings in a simple style that can easily be imitated by potential local leaders in the future.

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2. Consider ways in which you can promote an appropriate style of worship.
 - a. Remember: This is not the team's church. It is the church of the new believers. They will want to worship according to their own culture.
 - b. Consider the following questions.
 - 1) What instruments do they play?
 - 2) Could we use the music of the people to create new worship songs?
 - 3) How can all the members participate in the worship service?
 - 4) What might be the best teaching method?
 - a) A brief Bible study?
 - b) Formal preaching?
 - c) Dramatizing Bible stories?
 - 5) What form of prayer might be most consistent with the culture?
 - a) Silent?
 - b) Group prayer?
 - c) Kneeling?
 - d) Standing?
 - e) Sitting?
 - f) With hands raised?
 - 6) Where should you meet? When?
 - a) There are advantages (especially in the beginning) to meeting in homes.
 - (1) Obvious financial advantages.

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- (2) There is more of an informal climate that can produce stronger relationships.
- (3) There is more of a setting for practical ministry.
- (4) Remember: The New Testament Church met in homes.
- b) There are advantages to meeting in Church buildings.
 - (1) There is usually more space.
 - (2) It does not burden one of the families.
 - (3) There are less interruptions.
- c) The location of the meeting place should be:
 - (1) Near people's homes.
 - (2) Available when needed.
 - (3) Affordable (if there is rent, mortgage, etc.).
 - (4) Comfortable enough that the people feel free to worship.
 - (5) Big enough to accommodate everyone.
 - (6) Permanent as soon as possible.
- d) The time of the meeting should be established regarding:
 - (1) Work and meal times.
 - (2) Customs.
 - (3) Public transportation schedules.
 - (4) Market days.
- c. Try to lead a natural service (see 1 Cor 14:26).
 - 1) It should have a sense of order as well as a sense of spontaneity. Involve the members of the church. Show them that it is their church. Promote the initiative of the natural leaders.

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2) Suggestions for a service in a new church.

- a) Have a clear beginning and ending.
 - b) Place the focus on Jesus.
 - c) Plan on ways to involve all of the members.
 - d) Promote a climate where people feel free to confess sins one to another (Jms 5:16).
 - e) Emphasize the availability of God's forgiveness.
 - f) Make the Lord's Supper the center of each service.
 - g) Pray for the sick.
 - h) Give brief and simple teachings.
 - i) Give the congregation an opportunity to respond to the message in some way.
 - j) Promote fellowship before and after the service. Be creative in how you do this.
 - k) Take offerings in a culturally appropriate way.
 - l) Organize something special for the children.
 - m) Allow some of the gifted members to minister with special music.
- d. The worship service should not be open to the "public" (the service should be held as a smaller private group) until the local leaders are able to lead the services.

Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

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K. Activity #11: Mobilize the New Believers.

1. Introduction to mobilizing the new believers.
 - a. All Christians must be witnesses for Christ. The new church will grow when the new believers begin witnessing.
 - 1) They must learn how to witness.
 - 2) They must be motivated and taught (see Mt 4:19).
 - b. In this activity we will help the new converts to evangelize.
2. Begin to focus your teaching on evangelism. Explain the purpose and importance of evangelism and missions.
 - a. Ask every new convert to make a complete list of their friends and family. Those on the lists who live in other areas can be contacts for the planting of other new churches.
 - b. Instruct them to pray over the list every day.
 - 1) Pray in faith. God can save the worst of sinners.
 - 2) Pray that God would prepare their heart to receive the word of God and be saved.
3. Every time a team member goes out to evangelize he should bring a new convert with him. They should go to the people on the convert's list.
 - a. The team member should lead the discussion until the new convert becomes confident enough to lead.
 - b. Encourage the new convert to be creative in how he presents the gospel. Explain to him that he can use his own methods that he thinks may be effective. However, emphasize the importance of God's word, and its saving nature.
 - c. Encourage the new converts to go into other areas and plant new churches. Do not wait! Multiply the vision of church planting as soon as possible.

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4. At this stage, the members of the church planting team should be actively EQUIPPING the new converts. They should be teaching them how to teach, evangelize, plan, lead meetings, baptize others, etc.
 - a. Local leadership must begin to be formed.
 - b. To do this it is very important to focus on asking the advice of potential leaders. They must be included in the work and their suggestions must be followed.
 - 1) In this way they will get involved.
 - 2) They will also learn the importance of team work.

Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

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L. Activity #12: Training Leaders.

1. Introduction to training leaders.
 - a. In order for multiplication to occur there must be a clear process of reproduction. Leaders must identify and train leaders (Tit 1:5).
 - b. In this activity we will form the leadership of the new church.
2. Local leaders must be trained to help the new church members to grow, to develop various ministries, and to plant new churches.
 - a. Pray and fast about who should be trained as the leaders (see Acts 14:23; use 1 Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 as a guide).
 - b. Choose the training materials that you will use to train the leaders (you may use the courses in MOTMOT).
 - c. Begin with the basics and focus on how to do something.
 - 1) Evangelism.

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- 2) Discipleship.
 - 3) Prayer.
 - 4) Leadership principles.
 - 5) Baptism.
 - 6) Praise and worship.
3. Make a specific plan for when and how you will leave.
 - a. What date should you be able to “commend them to the Lord” (Acts 14:23).
 - 1) Be sure that there is a team of confident and able leaders.
 - 2) Do not wait too long to leave. Do not wait until the new leaders and the new church are “perfect”. Be willing to take a risk.
 - b. Where will the team go now? How will it maintain contact with the new church? Will the team remain the same?

Discussion Point

How does the activity described above relate to your culture and environment?

CHURCH PLANTING

Church Planting: Endnotes

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¹George Patterson, A Church Planting Guide. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989. The flow of the major points of the outline of this part of the course are adapted directly from the teachings of George Patterson. Used by permission.

²Larry Tomczak, “Understanding the Ministry of Church Planting” (Gaithersburg, MD: People of Destiny International, 1987). Some of the ideas in the first four pages of this course are adapted from the Tomczak article.

³Glen J. Yoder, Class notes in course called “Principles of Church Growth”, Regent University, 1987. The “six stages of church planting” and the corresponding diagram were adapted from Yoder’s teaching.

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