

How to Plant Churches

Timothy Project

Student's Manual

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LESSON

1

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH PLANTING

**Theme text: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".
(Matt. 28:19)**

I

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

"A healthy, obedient church is like a plant that grows and reproduces itself endlessly" (Dr. George Patterson).

There are quite a few leaders who are losing enthusiasm and the enormous and incalculable benefits of planting a church. The best and healthiest churches are still to be planted; therefore, the content of this manual will significantly help people who aspire to be church planters.

- Are you the type that enjoys a challenge?
- Are you the type of person who likes to start a project from scratch?
- Are you a people person?
- Do you enjoy working in a team?

If you answered "YES" to these four questions, then consider yourself a potential candidate for church planting.

You will be challenged to seriously consider, with much prayer, a wonderful way of planting new churches.

Our deepest desire is to encourage pastors and leaders who want to engage in the wonderful ministry of church planting.

II

OBEDIENCE TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

We value the planting of new churches because we believe it is the most efficient means of evangelising that exists. It is through church planting that the body of Christ is best built up, equips its workers and multiplies its leaders.

We value the planting of every kind of church, in order to reach all kinds of people. We are not restricted to one "model" of church planting.

We value church planting that helps develop healthy and biblical foundations. We do not encourage church planting for numerical growth only, but we encourage an annual assessment using proper instruments of evaluation, in order to protect the wellbeing of the members.

We value church planting that will develop and make better disciples. We believe that healthy churches will grow and reproduce new churches, resembling the natural process of human healthy life. We value churches that are multiplying in number and quality. We believe that mature churches will reproduce many daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter churches.

III

HEALTHY AND MULTIPLYING CHURCHES

It's amazing how much time, energy and grief can be avoided by simple basic planning. Some churches fail in their purpose of planting due to a poor, careless and reckless planning. Planting a church in many ways resembles family planning.

Some families plan their children, others face unexpected pregnancy. Whatever the case, the reality is that most people have the same amount of time to prepare before the arrival of the baby.

Regarding the arrival of the baby, it would be very unwise if the parents had not devoted the time and energy required to prepare mentally, physically and emotionally for this important event. Babies need nappies, adequate food, time, care and attention, among other things. We must face planting a church in the same light. Therefore, before the church is born: prepare, plan, get ready.