

# The Process of Planting a Church



By Danie Vermeulen

# Dedication

This publication is dedicated to the people of Africa, a people who will become a model of church planting, vision and hope.

To a people who face the promise of a new dawn.



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# Preface

After twenty-two years of pastoral experience and having been involved in 38 church plants during this time, I have been confronted on so many occasions with the question, “How does one go about planting a church”? I have never felt adequately informed to write something in this regard but lately the Lord has burdened my heart to share on this topic from my experience, specifically within an African context.

This morning at the breakfast table I was telling my family about the new training manual I am writing on church planting. My twelve-year-old son, Danie Jr. casually remarked, “but Dad, is it really necessary? It is so basic! All you do is get a few people saved and build a building and there you go.” Needless to say after we all had a little chuckle I said to him, “You are right son, it is rather basic. It is rather basic for a married couple to have children and if we are the Body of Christ it should be rather basic for this ‘body’ to reproduce itself.” Very proud of himself he said, “So what’s the big deal.” My explanation satisfied him when I said, “Son, suppose you were unaware of the fact that one day, when you got married, you could reproduce, would you do it?”

Most churches are unaware that it is actually basic that they should reproduce themselves into many other churches and that is why I feel the urgency of writing this manual.” I want every pastor and every church to know that you don’t need a special gifting to plant a new church. It is natural!

I believe that I will be able to lay a foundation for my conviction from the Scriptures to help you understand that church planting is not a good idea but rather a Biblical basis for the fulfilment of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19. I am not a theologian but I do believe with all my heart that it should be Father’s heart and vision that would motivate us and spur us on to complete the work He has given us.

If we do not share His heart for the lost we will continue to build churches that are introspective and spend all our resources on the already saved warming our pews and we will spend endless energy ‘entertaining’ them so that they would come back next Sunday to get more for themselves. In such churches missions and evangelism is what happens outside the church and led by the few that feel called to it but the majority is there for the “show”.

After having been in 23 countries and having preached in hundreds of churches, I must admit that there are many exceptions to the rule. There are churches and church movements across the world that are multiplying rapidly, planting churches where there were none, some giving their lives in the process, transforming their communities cities and nations.

Your church could become one of them! Like Danie Jr. said, “It’s pretty basic!” Stay with me for a while and I almost guarantee you that at the end of this chapter you will agree: “It’s pretty basic.”

**DANIE VERMEULEN**



# A Biblical Basis for Saturation Church Planting

*“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it...’”* Genesis 1:28 (KJV)

Before we establish a Biblical basis for church planting, we have to answer the question for ourselves “What is Father’s vision for the world?” Once we have somewhat of an understanding of Father’s heart for a lost world, we will start to appreciate His strategy.

## **ADAM AND EVE’S COMMISSION**

Adam and Eve, creatures in His image, filled with His glory, reflecting His righteousness, were commissioned with a one-sentence command: *“Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it...”*

They were created with a natural fertility according to their kind. It was expected of them to put their fertility into action, so that the replenishment could take place. This was the beginning of an earth filled with a God-kind of people – a human race in constant fellowship with their Creator – a kingdom that would rule over the animal world.

God had no intention to grow this race by adding more to it, but chose for them to *multiply themselves*. This would cause a hereditary multiplication of that which God had created in His image, giving man the pleasure to create with God, through a natural ability placed within him. Until this day, every parent is filled with awe at the birth of a child. The thought that they had a part in this wonderful creation is overwhelming.

Father’s vision was that the expansion of the human race should result in a replenishment of the earth. *The vision was an earth filled with a people expressing the glory of God, living in a state of complete righteousness and enjoying an intimate relationship with Father.*

However, the sad story is that the first Adam failed through sin and the thus the entire human race fell into a hereditary cycle of sin and death. Did it change Father’s heart for the world? No, not at all. From the moment that God declared *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel.”* (Genesis 3:15), Father put in place a rescue plan and doomed satan to defeat. In an instant, the heavenly announcement echoed through all eternity, declaring the promise of the last Adam who would crush satan’s head.

## **THE LAST ADAM’S COMMISSION**

So, what does this have to do with church planting? Let the last Adam unfold it for us. He took up the commission of the first Adam to restore everything that Father had in mind for us (Acts 3:21). Father’s vision is to see all men saved and coming to the knowledge of the truth.

Christ, the last Adam, came to redeem us from the bondage of sin and death. He restored righteousness by becoming our righteousness. He came to establish God’s Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

### **'be fruitful...'**

The commission to the first Adam was, *"Be fruitful..."* It is written about the last Adam that, *"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."* (Col 1:15) *"And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead..."* (Col 1:18) Jesus is showing His fruitfulness through his body – the church. Just like the first Adam was made fruitful to multiply the human race, so the last Adam is made fruitful to multiply His body (the church) throughout the earth. He said, *"...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."* (Matt 16:18)

The prophet Habakkuk declared Father's vision for the earth when he said, *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."* (Habakkuk 2:14) How is Father going to do this unless it is done through His bride, the church? The church is the reflection and carrier of His glory. In Paul's epistle to the Corinthians he says, *"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."* (2 Cor 3:16)

### **'...and multiply'**

The last Adam is fulfilling Father's vision through multiplying His church throughout the earth. Through this reproduction the earth is receiving the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. As the church is multiplied, it brings the incarnate presence of Christ into a community.

If this is true, then church planting should be a natural result of church life, just as reproduction is a natural result of the marriage relationship. Stuart Murray writes, *"The practice of church planting may encourage the conclusion that reproduction is as fundamental a feature of the church as it is of biological organisms. A healthy church does not just develop internally and expand in size and social impact, but naturally expresses its life in new forms and structures."*<sup>1</sup>

Ellis and Mitchell say *"if a church exists which never thinks about reproducing itself...never expects or anticipates that this is the natural business of growing up, then it is actually sterile."*<sup>2</sup> Could we go so far and say that churches that do not engage in some form of church planting and remain like that for a number of years, should perhaps be regarded as abnormal? As Stuart Murray says, *"Perhaps it would be better to regard reproduction through church planting as normal, and the survival of ecclesiastical structures for more than a couple of generations as abnormal and problematic."*<sup>3</sup>

## **CHURCH MULTIPLICATION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

If the church is a body then it has all the necessary "DNA" to reproduce after its kind. We can conclude that both Jerusalem and Antioch were "mother" churches.

The best example though is the church at Antioch. Through the church planting of Barnabas and more specifically Paul, many churches were reproduced from one local church. The essence of Paul's ministry was the church – his ministry resulted in a church but he undoubtedly expected a multiplication of churches to take place.

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<sup>1</sup> Murray, Stuart: **Church Planting, Laying foundations** (Paternoster Press 1998) pp: 57, 58

<sup>2</sup> Ellis, Roger & Mitchell Roger: **Radical Church Planting** (Cambridge: Crossway, 1992) p: 73

<sup>3</sup> Murray, Stuart: p 59

He writes to Timothy, *“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”* (2 Tim 2:2) It was not only Paul’s expectation but in several places it actually happened. It happened in Thessalonica (1Thes 1:8) – Epaphras started the church in Colosse (Col 1:7) and someone else planted a church in Laodicea. (Col 2:1).

Jon Haley says, *“For Paul, faithfulness to the Great Commission meant more than preaching evangelistic messages here and there. It meant completing a sequence of activities that would result in mature churches. We could say without overstating the case that, for Paul, to “make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:19) required planting churches.”*<sup>4</sup>

## **THE KINGDOM OF GOD GROWS THROUGH CHURCH MULTIPLICATION**

***‘...Replenish the earth and subdue it...’***

Christ, the Last Adam, announced the new Kingdom (Matt 4:17). Father’s vision for this people to *“replenish the earth and subdue it...”* was clearly portrayed in Jesus’ words and ministry. There is a literal “replenishment” theology in the following Scriptures:

*“There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him **all** men might believe.”* (John 1:6) (NIV)

*“But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw **all** men to myself.”* (John 12:32) (NIV)

*“This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants **all** men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”* (1Timothy 2:2) (NIV)

*“And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the **whole** world as a testimony to **all** nations (ethne) and then the end will come.”* (Matt 24:13) (NIV)

*“Therefore go and make disciples of **all** nations...”* (Matt 28:19) (NIV)

*“...but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that **all** nations might believe and obey him...”* (Rom 16:25) (NIV)

Jesus’ first sermon was to announce the new Kingdom (Matt 3:2). He said He would build His church and that the gates of Hades would not stand against it. We can therefore conclude that this new Kingdom is made up of churches, that He will subdue the Kingdom of darkness, penetrate it and rescue those in bondage through His church. (Col 1:18, Eph 3:10-11, Rom 5:17).

Where the light shines, darkness disappears. When a church is planted within a community, the Kingdom of God arrives in that community – a force directly opposed to the kingdom of darkness, with a vision to fulfil the last Adam’s mission, *“...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”* (1 John 3:8) (NIV)

I conclude with the words of Dr. C. Peter Wagner, *“The single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting new churches.”*<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Haley, Jon: **Toward a Biblical Theology of Church Multiplication**, p. 5

<sup>5</sup> Wagner, C. Peter: **Church Planting for a greater harvest**, Regal Books p11

# The Strategic Value of Saturation Church Planting

## WHAT IS SATURATION CHURCH PLANTING?

By "saturation" we mean that it is the church's ministry to reach out to "every person," "anyone," and "everyone" as stated in 1 Timothy and 2 Peter. These passages make it clear that God wants every man, woman, and child to hear and understand the Gospel and have the opportunity to believe in and fully obey Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. An important part of the Christian life is being a part of a local church where God's Word is believed and taught.

Saturation church planting (SCP) is thoroughly biblical. It is completing the Great Commission through church planting in such a way that every man, woman and child has a chance to accept or reject the Gospel through the witness of a local church. SCP is the vision, strategy, and ministry of filling nations, regions, cities, villages, and neighbourhoods with churches that will take the Gospel to every person in their language and through their culture.

## CHURCH PLANTING BREAKS THROUGH BARRIERS

Show me a denomination in decline and I will show you a denomination without a church planting vision. Show me a country where the Christian population is stagnant or in decline and I will show you the denominations within it, with no church planting vision. It stands to reason. Yet, there are now numerous countries that show major evangelical growth since the denominations and church groups settled on a specific national church planting goal. Examples of these are the Philippines, China, Brazil (in fact most of Latin America) Ghana and Zimbabwe. In every continent of the world there are church planting movements breaking through the barriers of evil resistance, bringing the glory of the Lord, the incarnate presence of Christ into their communities.

Jim Montgomery, Founder and President of Dawn Ministries, is possibly the most knowledgeable on this subject. He played a major role in developing a strategy in the Philippines in the early 1970's that would change the face of the Philippine church forever. IN 1974, when about 75 church and mission leaders committed themselves toward the goal of a church in every barrio by AD2000, a movement was born called DAWN – an acronym for *Discipling a Whole Nation*. For the Philippines, this would mean growing from about 5,000 churches to 50 000 in 26 years!<sup>6</sup>

In February 2001 they will have their celebration – 50,000 churches planted in 26 years! It has impacted the nation tremendously. Who did it? Who should get the credit? The church, the Kingdom of God in the Philippines! They multiplied themselves over and over. Most denominations showed growth that outshone the growth of their counterparts elsewhere in the world. Why? They had a vision to saturate their nation with churches in every barrangay (neighbourhood).

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<sup>6</sup> Montgomery, Jim: **DAWN 2000, 7 million churches to go**, Highland Books – p 34

## **SATURATION CHURCH PLANTING**

Saturation Church planting is a vision that aims at mobilizing the whole body of Christ within an area, city, province or country to plant a church within easy access of every person in order to disciple the whole nation. (Matt. 28:19) At this juncture I must point out that Jesus' command to us was not to make disciples in the nations but to make disciples of all nations. This is a whole nation vision. Therefore, the mobilization of the whole body of Christ is so essential.

## **WHY SATURATION CHURCH PLANTING?**

There are several reasons other than the Biblical basis why saturation church planting is the best method of evangelism. Let's look at some of them.

### **1. New churches grow faster than old churches**

Why do newly planted churches grow faster than older churches? Because most often evangelism is their main activity. They break into new households of relatives and friends and if there is a building, something new is more noticeable. Also keep in mind that it is easier to give birth than to raise the dead!

### **2. Church planting can give new life and vitality to your church**

A new baby creates great excitement in a household. Kawit Baptist Church in Kawit, Philippines was planted in 1986 and reached a peak attendance of 50. When Pastor Arman Dela Merced arrived in 1993 the church was down to only 8 members! Pastor Arman, knowing that it is easier to give birth than to raise the dead used his dying church to plant a new church. Within 6 months they succeeded in planting a daughter church in Imus with 60 members! There was a great receptivity in Imus. But the amazing thing is that through giving birth, revival came to the church in Kawit. Their membership shot up to an incredible 96!

### **3. More types of churches are needed**

Churches are like people and have different personalities. It is often determined by the pastor himself. Theological persuasions also play a major role and often determine the liturgy in the services. God, in His infinite wisdom, created such variety in the expression of church that it actually becomes difficult for someone to say "I can't find a church where I fit in." We just need to continue to plant more types of churches that cater for all homogeneous groups.

It is also necessary to mention here that we are in desperate need of churches that will cater for all the needs of our youth. They need an expression where they will be comfortable with the dress code, music and liturgy. It is a well-known fact that the last generation style church will not appeal to the new generation.

### **4. Church planting develops new leadership**

Peter Wagner says *"Many churches have confirmed the fact that the most important institutional variable for the growth and expansion of the local church is leadership...For the most part, existing churches have unconsciously placed a ceiling on both clergy and lay leadership and, as a result, upward mobility of new people into positions of ministry is difficult. But new churches open wide the doors of leadership and ministry challenges and the entire body of Christ subsequently benefits."*<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Wagner, C. Peter: **Planting churches for a greater harvest**, Regal Books – p. 20

**5. Church planting helps denominational survival**

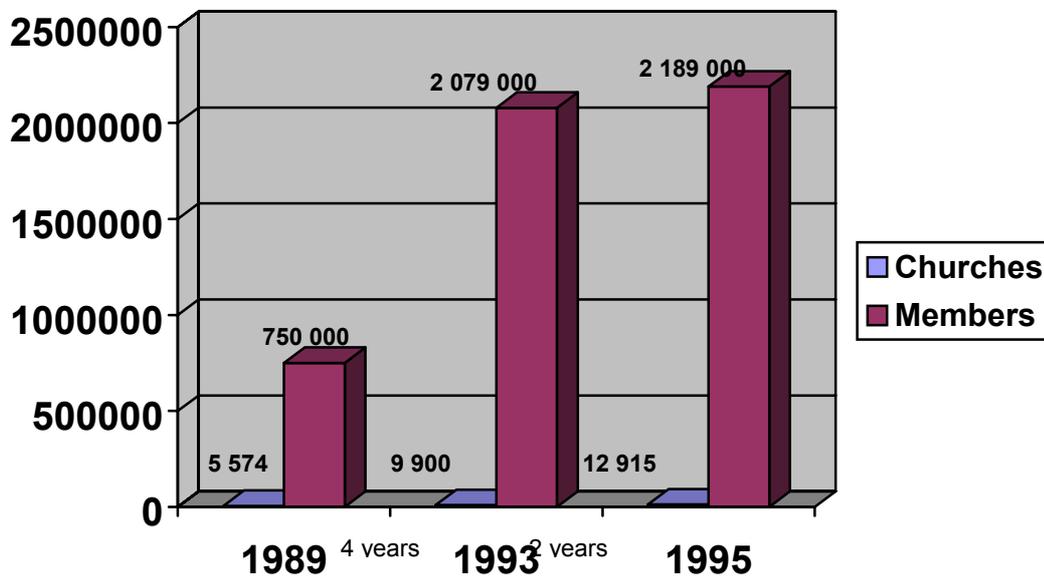
In his book, *“Church planting for a greater harvest”*, Peter Wagner makes this observation, *“Without exception, the growing denominations have been those that stress church planting.”* Many denominations talk about church growth and have intentions to plant churches, but that is as far as it goes. They have neither a plan nor strategy and are often too proud to ask for help.

In South Africa, noticeable events have taken place, which I believe will impact this nation greatly. Dr. Isak Burger, Moderator of the Apostolic Faith Mission, is busy mobilizing his denomination to formulate a growth plan through church planting and they are by no means a declining denomination!

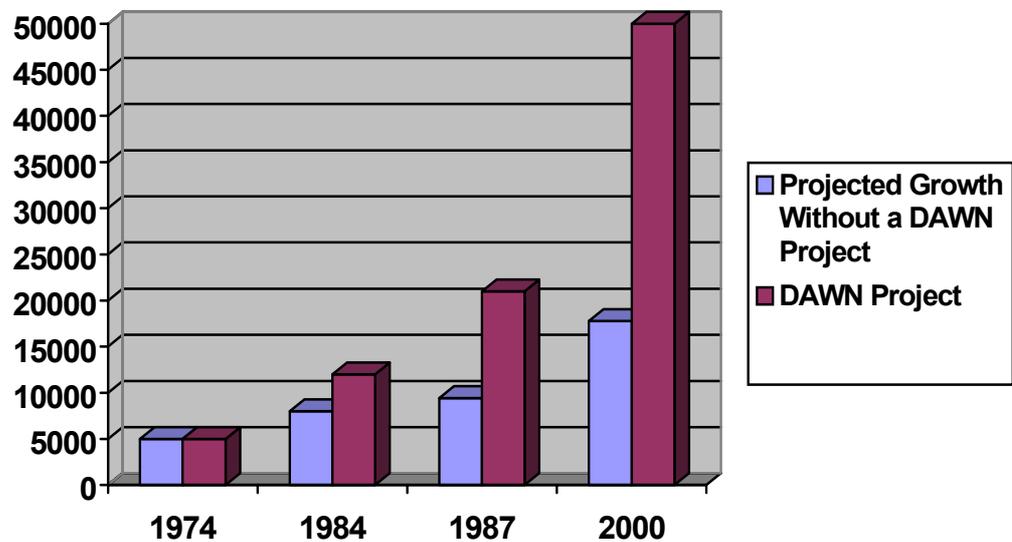
The Baptist Union also has a definite church planting vision. New Covenant Ministries started as one small charismatic church in Bryanston, South Africa. Today it is ministry with literally hundreds of churches across the world. Church planting has become an ethos which is practiced by every local church in their movement. But these are growing groups. What about those in decline? You can do what the Church of England in the UK did. They embarked on a DAWN project and after a 20-year decline they are now showing tremendous growth.

**6. Church planting is the best method of evangelism in a nation**

A study of the church growth in Peru shows a startling discovery. They have set a goal of 50,000 churches by the year 2003. That meant 6 new churches every day! But look at this: In 1989 they had 5,574 churches and it grew to 12,915 by 1995 – an Average Annual Growth Rate of 15.03%. In 1989 they had 750,000 members in their churches, and this figure grew to 2,189,345 by 1995 – an Average Annual Growth Rate of 19.55%! The conclusion derived from this is that membership growth rate is faster when planting churches.



I know of no other method of evangelism that can show such an impact on a nation! If the Philippine church did not embark on a DAWN project, they would have planted only 17,778 churches (projected) by the year 2000 instead of 50,000!



#### 7. **New churches can stimulate existing churches.**

It is sad to say that in most cases, when a new vibrant church is planted within a community where there are already existing churches, there is often hostility toward the new church. Pastors are afraid to lose members to the new church. My advice to pastors is: Just keep growing green grass in your church and the sheep will not wander.

Older churches that have stagnated are often “challenged” by the newer churches into caring for their flock more effectively. New churches raise the level of religious interest.

The essential criterion for any community with more than one church is to see each other as part of the team that Jesus has called to “destroy the works of the evil one.” (1 John 3:8) Once a pastor can pray for more workers to come to the harvest field where he is laboring, he has truly become a Kingdom minister.

#### 8. **Church planting will bring a new awareness and compassion for the lost.**

It is almost hard to believe that most churches spend 90% or more of all their resource on the already saved. The average church spends at least 90% of its finance on church members who have heard the gospel over and over. The average pastor spends at least 90% of his time on church members who are already saved.

So we can go on and on. Churches stagnate when they become introverted in their church life, when are overwhelmed with their own needs and wants. Such churches lose vision and fall into “religiosity” rather than shakers and movers in His kingdom.

As a child I often watched the farm workers on a Sunday afternoon gather their dogs together to go rabbit hunting. Whilst there was no rabbit in sight, these dogs would snarl and snap at each other, but the moment they saw a rabbit they forgot about each other and went for the kill. So it is in a church, where there is no vision for the lost, the church members will bite at each other. After my 22 years in the pastorate, I know this to be a true fact.

When a church becomes involved in a church plant, a new passion for the lost will be evident. It is like a mother giving birth to a new baby.

**9. Church planting will bring a world vision to your church.**

Often, Christians hide behind the walls of their church. They are told not to mix with the “world” and sometimes they are discouraged to read secular material such as newspapers. How sad. We need to know what is going on in the world we are living.

There are thousands of Christians that know nothing about the unreached peoples of our world, the 10/40 Window or the lostness of Generation X! Churches that become involved in church planting are always looking for the unchurched, unreached and ignored. It is then that their eyes open and they become aware of the harvest.

I get so excited when I hear of churches that are planting new churches cross-culturally, making an effort to go to the “ends of the earth”. Some of the most exciting times in my life as a pastor was when I was involved in planting churches in Malawi among the Yao, an unreached people group 2300 km’s away from my church in South Africa. My church members developed a world vision!

**10. Church planting often re-emphasizes the principle of sowing and reaping.**

It is a biblical truth that “whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” (Gal 6:7 NKJV). If we are talking about “planting” we automatically talk about “reaping”. When we invest finances into church plants we need to expect a harvest of finance for the planting church. If we invest people and staff in planting a church, guess what we will reap?

**THE PRACTICAL PROCESS**

If a nation is going to embark in saturation church planting, then a DAWN-type strategy is necessary. Jim Montgomery<sup>8</sup> outlines 12 ingredients to a DAWN strategy. He says: “It is a strategy that:

1. Is Christ-centered in its emphasis on seeing Him made incarnate in every cluster of 500 to 1,000 people in the world;
2. Is built on the comprehensive plan of God who is not willing that any should perish;
3. Focuses on the systematic occupation of the land;
4. Takes advantage of the practical and emotional values of a whole-country approach;
5. Releases the incredible power of information;
6. Delivers a prophetic message to the Church;
7. Harnesses the vast energies inherent in working towards a measurable, time-bound goal;
8. Emphasizes the “best method under heaven;”
9. Helps the body of Christ function effectively as a body;

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<sup>8</sup> Montgomery, Jim: **DAWN 2000, 7 million churches to go**, Highland Books – p. 170

10. Releases the great potential of denominations;
11. Encourages parachurch organizations to function truly “alongside” the Church;
12. Provides a frame of reference for national and worldwide strategy for the discipling of the nations

Each of these 12 ingredients of DAWN is powerful in itself. When they are put together in a symbiotic relationship, their potential is enormous.

### **HOW A SATURATION CHURCH PLANTING PROJECT WORKS**

Dr. Murry Moerman,<sup>9</sup> gleaning from Montgomery makes the observation that the details of how a saturation church planting project works, varies from country to country and situation to situation yet some ingredients are necessary:

- A person or group of persons earnest for the reaching of their country, as was the reformer, John Knox of Scotland, who cried out to God, “Give me Scotland or I die!”
- A national representative working committee that shares the vision and is willing to give of personal and organizational resources to guide this relatively simple process.
- The gathering and updating of relevant information regarding the current harvest force and harvest field in the country. From this can be gleaned a “prophetic message”, how God sees His Church in the nation and what He is saying to His people.
- Periodic national and regional gatherings of the leadership of the Church to consider what God may be saying and how each denomination may best respond for God’s purposes to be accomplished. These gatherings are frequently called “congresses”, to emphasize the decision-making element of response. Goals will be set and reviewed, progress celebrated, prayer for revival renewed and fresh commitments made.
- The commitment to continue the process until Jesus returns: mobilizing prayer, monitoring of harvest force and harvest field progress, dissemination of information in publications and congresses and sharing church planting models and resources.

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<sup>9</sup> Moerman, Murray: **Transforming our Nation**, Richmond BC Church Leadership Library Books, 1998 – p. 40

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# **The Church Planting Process**

## **1. Selecting the Soil**

***- Research -***

# 1. Selecting The Soil - Research

## 1 Corinthians 3:6-10

*"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. 10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.*

The New International Version, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House) 1984.

Since Paul used agricultural terms to explain the birth of the Corinthian church I am going to stay with agricultural terms. It is also user-friendly terms in Africa. We understand the process of farming.

### 1.1 Look for fertile soil - People responsiveness

Any farmer desiring to plant a crop that would yield a good harvest first selects the soil carefully. Certain soil is just not conducive for farming. In the church planting process, it is necessary to first look for people responsiveness. I am not saying that if the people are not responsive that they should be ignored. However, there are seasonal opportunities when a certain village, neighbourhood or people are very responsive for various reasons.

### 1.2 Research

It is important that the soil is researched so that you know what type of crop is conducive for that particular soil. This speaks of research. Research is the process of gathering information, which allows us to assess and measure the task and to establish goals, plans and priorities for planting the new church. It is imperative that the church planter should first do a three-fold research:

- **Harvest Field**  
The identity, location, description and status of the people, including all the ethnic, linguistic and social groups in every community of the city.
- **Harvest Force**  
The identity, location, description and status of all denominations, local congregations, mission agencies and parachurch organizations.
- **Spiritual Mapping (Demonic Activity)**  
Spiritual Mapping is the *researching of a city* to discover any inroads Satan has made, which prevent the spread of the gospel and the evangelisation of a city for Christ. We must learn to see the world as it really is, not as it appears to be. Spiritual mapping involves superimposing our understanding of spiritual forces and events in the spiritual domain onto places and circumstances in the material world. It is a means whereby we can see what is beneath the surface of the material world.

# RESEARCH

## DEFINITION

*It is the process of gathering information, which allows us to assess and measure the task and to establish goals, plans and priorities for completing the Great Commission.*

## THERE IS WISDOM IN BEING INFORMED

Solomon also affirmed the incredible value of information and knowledge. The book of Proverbs is filled with convincing statements about the necessity of being informed. Let us look at a few interesting Scripture verses:

**a) Proverbs 13:16**

*“Every prudent man acts out of knowledge...” (NIV)*

**b) Proverbs 14:15**

*“A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.” (NIV)*

**c) Proverbs 15:14**

*“The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.” (NIV)*

**d) Proverbs 18:13**

*“He who answers before listening, that is his folly and his shame” (NIV)*

**e) Proverbs 24:3-4**

*“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.” (NIV)*

# Research - The Power Of Information

*by Roy Wingerd*

**Information about the Harvest Field and the Harvest Force is helpful to us ONLY if we have faith to believe God's promises and if we are willing to obey His commands.**

When all the work of research is completed – that is, all the surveying, interviewing, recording, calculating, analysing and writing – **few people, if any, will have been brought to “the knowledge of the TRUTH”** and, therefore, saved. Research is not normally an evangelistic activity that directly leads people to faith in Jesus and into responsible membership in His Church.

Yet, research and information are of great value to carrying out the Great Commission. A true picture of the vast harvest fields of the world is often the tool God uses to burden His people for the lost. Adequate, accurate and up-to-date information, when interpreted correctly, can impel the Church into effective evangelism and church planting.

The importance of research is modelled for us, as the nation of Israel was ready to enter the Promised Land. Moses was commanded by God to send out twelve men to spy out the land of Canaan. These twelve men apparently were adept at the techniques of spying out land, making keen observations, recording information and drawing conclusions. Upon their return, they reported what they saw to Moses.

Ten of the spies “made the hearts of the people melt with fear.” Their description of the obstacles ahead caused the people to grumble, “If only we had died in Egypt! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword?” (Numbers 14:2) But Caleb and Joshua “followed the Lord wholeheartedly” “ (Joshua 14:8). They “silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.’” (Numbers 13:30) Calling them to faith they said, “do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us.” (Numbers 14:9)

What made the difference between these two and the others? Was it not the fact that the ten spies relied on themselves, while Caleb and Joshua trusted fully in God? They all saw the giants in the land. The majority found themselves weak and incapable by comparison. Caleb and Joshua, however, never lost confidence because they never lost sight of **THE ONE** who was greater than all the giants combined.

Caleb and Joshua teach us that the power of information lies not so much in the information itself, but in the faith, conviction and character of the one to whom information and knowledge is entrusted. Vision, commitment, courage, self-sacrifice, persistence – the things we see in these men – are an inspiration to anyone who would give his life to complete the Great Commission.

The faith of such men determines whether the force unleashed through information will be positive and motivating or destructive and debilitating.

God could have told Moses and the Israelites everything there was to know about the challenges they would face in conquering the land. But He chose not to reveal this information to them supernaturally. They needed to see for themselves in order to discover the obstacles and opportunities on their own. This forced them to exercise their trust in God and His promises and to show their obedience to His command to conquer the land.

The task of conquering the land of Canaan can be considered an Old Testament parallel to the task of making disciples of all nations. In the same way, the Lord has not told us everything we must know about making disciples of all nations. Today, more than ever before, “spies” must be sent out to discover who all the peoples are, where they are and what they are like. This is no small task. And in the process of studying the Church and the nations we will face many “giants”. How will we respond?

When men of faith present data on the Harvest Field and the Church of a nation, it can help the body of Christ – church leaders, evangelists, church planters, lay people – get a picture of what God the Spirit has been and is doing. It can challenge them to set goals and make plans for completing the Great commission in their native land.

When the same data however, is presented by people who lack faith, it can cause the Church to shrink back from the seemingly impossible task. Men and women who gather and present accurate data with bold faith and indomitable courage ***unleash the real power of information.***

Caleb and Joshua, the researchers, never lost sight of the One to whom all power and authority in heaven and on earth has been given. (Mathew 28:18) So, we also must understand and walk in “his incomparably great power for us who believe.” (Ephesians 1:18-23)

Research is a vital part of the DAWN strategy. But the act of gathering vital, accurate, up-to-date and challenging information is no guarantee that the Church will stand up and say, “Let us go and make disciples of all peoples, for we can certainly do it.” We must combine such information with faith, ***“for without faith it is impossible to please God!”*** (Hebrews 11:6)

The eyes of the Lord are searching throughout the whole earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him (2 Chronicles 16:9). Will He find men of faith who will boldly stand up in the face of opposition and call the Church to move out and “conquer the land?” The Lord Jesus Christ is looking for men from every nation who are neither afraid nor ashamed to say “Let us preach the gospel to everyone and plant churches everywhere: for with the help of the Lord Jesus we can certainly do it!”

# Understanding Harvest Field and Harvest Force

## HARVEST FIELD

The identity, location, description and status of the people, including all the ethnic, linguistic and social groups in every community of the city.

### QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HARVEST FIELD:

#### Identity

- Who are the people that make up this city or region? What people groups are there and what languages do they speak? What social class divisions are there? Who are the poor and destitute?

#### Location

- What are the geographic divisions in the city?

#### Description

- What is the political, economic, social, and religious condition of the city? What is the moral condition? What are “the sins of the fathers”? What are the reasons for these conditions? What are the basic needs of society? What are the types and levels of poverty and oppression?

#### Status

- What is the total population, the urban and rural population, the population of men, women, children, youth and adults of the city. How many households or dwellings are there? What is the population of each language and people group?

# **HARVEST FORCE**

The identity, location, description and status of all denominations, local congregations, mission agencies and parachurch organizations.

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HARVEST FORCE:**

### **Identity**

- What denominations, local churches, mission agencies and parachurch organizations make up the Harvest Force in this city?

### **Location**

- Where are they located? Where are they working in this city? Among which people groups are they working?

### **Description**

- Which denominations have goals and plans for growth? Which ministries most directly result in churches being established? What methods are most effective for church planting and evangelism? What other supportive ministries are indirectly related to church planting?

### **Status**

- How many churches, members, pastors and other workers are there in each denomination or local church? How fast are they growing? How many expatriate missionaries are there? How many people are being ministered to by each parachurch organization?

# Spiritual Mapping

## DEFINITION

Spiritual Mapping is the **researching of a city** to discover any inroads Satan has made, which prevent the spread of the gospel and the evangelization of a city for Christ. (*Cindy Jacobs*)

I agree with George Otis Jnr, when he said, "We must learn to see the world as it really is, not as it appears to be". He also coined a term for this new way of seeing - "spiritual mapping". It involves superimposing our understanding of spiritual forces and events in the spiritual domain onto places and circumstances in the material world. Spiritual mapping is a means whereby we can see what is beneath the surface of the material world.

## TERRITORIAL STRONGHOLDS

### A BIBLICAL BASE?

Many are frightened by the term or even concept of "territorial strongholds" due to the fact that it is an extra-biblical term. Though it is an *extra-biblical* term it is not an *unbiblical* concept. Is there Biblical support for territorial strongholds? I believe there is. Let's briefly look at three examples in the Old and New Testament:

### EXAMPLES OF TERRITORIALITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

#### 1. High Places

##### Numbers 33:51-52

*"Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; [52] Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places..."*

**One of the downfalls of Israel was the "high places".**

#### Why?

- These were literal territorial domains of evil spirits from where activity was launched. They defiled the whole nation from there. To break this stronghold over Israel they had to destroy these "high places".
- God saw this as spiritual adultery.
- It was one of the causes of the Babylonian captivity.

#### 2. Bel Marduk

##### Jeremiah 50:2,3

*"Declare ye among the nations and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is put to shame, Merodach is dismayed; her images are put to shame, her idols are dismayed. [3] For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein: they are fled, they are gone, both man and beast. "*

The word "Bel" or Baal is a generic name for "Lord" and in this verse it is applied to Marduk, as in Lord Marduk. He was "the state god of Babylon" or the ranking territorial stronghold over that nation.

### **3. *The Prince of Persia* (Daniel 10)**

There was no literal prince over Persia. It was undoubtedly a territorial stronghold.

## **EXAMPLES OF TERRITORIALITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

### **1. *Artemis of the Ephesians***

Artemis is the Greek name for Diana (Roman) who was the ruling spirit over Ephesus. The leaders of the city of Ephesus became so upset with the ministry of the apostle Paul that they feared the goddess Diana's temple would be despised and her magnificence destroyed. (Acts 19:27) The people called her "Saviour", "Lord" and "Queen of the Cosmos". She wore the signs of the zodiac around her neck and "possessed an authority and power superior to that of astrological fate". -Clinton E. Arnold, *Ephesians: Power and Magic* p.27

### **2. *The Great Prostitute (Revelation 17)***

This whole chapter shows this the territoriality of this demonic spirit.

## **NINE PRINCIPLES FOR SPIRITUAL MAPPING**

- 1) It must be based on God's Word and His revelation.
- 2) Those engaged in spiritual mapping and warfare must ensure they are living in holiness.
- 3) They must be under spiritual covering, submitted to a local church.
- 4) Research must be done under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and not through a scientific process.
- 5) Reporting must be done without personal or prejudicial opinions.
- 6) Those involved must keep a positive attitude.
- 7) Those involved must be in absolute unity.
- 8) Those involved must not be young or immature Christians.
- 9) Ultimately the elders of a town must take the lead.

## **CONCLUSION**

Spiritual mapping is like the intelligence forces of an army. Through it, we go behind enemy lines to understand the enemy's plans and fortifications. As Kjell Sjoberg says, we do "spiritual espionage".

A good Biblical example is the spies to the Promised Land sent by Moses and later by Joshua. There are several spiritual parallels that can be drawn from those encounters.

# HOW TO DO SPIRITUAL MAPPING

## **Ezekiel 4:1-3**

*“Thou also, son of man, take thee a tile, and lay it before thee, and portray upon it the city, even Jerusalem: [2] And lay siege against it, and build a fort against it, and cast a mount against it; set the camp also against it, and set battering rams against it round about. [3] Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. This shall be a sign to the house of Israel.”*

There is no set pattern or formula to do spiritual mapping, but let us look at the suggestions of C. Peter Wagner on how to do spiritual mapping on your town.

## **STEP ONE: GATHERING THE INFORMATION**

Following the lead of contributors such as Harold Caballeros, I am going to divide the information-gathering phase into three parts:

- (1) Historical research
- (2) Physical research
- (3) Spiritual research.

Whether you would want to assign this to three separate teams as Caballeros does is up to you. But it does have some advantages if personnel are available.

## **1. HISTORICAL RESEARCH**

### **I. THE HISTORY OF THE CITY**

#### **A. *The Founding of the City***

1. Who were the people who founded the city?
2. What was their personal or corporate reason for founding the city? What were their beliefs and philosophies? What was their vision for the future of the city?
3. What is the significance of the original name of the city?
  - Has the name been changed?
  - Are there other names or popular designations for the city?
  - Do these names have meanings? Are they linked to religion of any sort? Are they demonic or occultic names? Do they signify blessing? Curse? Do they highlight the city's redemptive gift? Do they reflect the character of the people of the city?

#### **B. *The Later History of the City***

1. What role has the city played in the life and character of the nation as a whole?
2. As prominent leaders have emerged in the city, what was their vision for their city?
3. Have any radical changes taken place in the government or political leadership of the city?
4. Have there been significant or sudden changes in the economic life of the city? Famine? Depression? Technology? Industry? Discovery of natural resources?
5. What significant immigration has occurred? Was there ever an imposition of a new language or culture on the city as a whole?
6. How have immigrants or minorities been treated? How have races or ethnic groups related to one another? Have city laws legitimised racism of any kind?
7. Have city leaders broken any treaties, contracts or covenants?
8. Have any wars directly affected the city? Were any battles fought in the city? Was there bloodshed?

9. How has the city treated the poor and oppressed? Has greed characterized city leaders? Is there evidence of corruption among political, economic or religious leaders and institutions?
10. What natural disasters have affected the city?
11. Does the city have a motto or slogan? What is its meaning?
12. What kinds of music do the people listen to? What is the message they receive from that music?
13. What five words would most people in the city use to characterize the positive features of their city today? What five words would they use for the negative features.

## **II. HISTORY OF RELIGION IN THE CITY**

### **A. *Non-Christian Religion***

1. What were the religious views and practices of the people who inhabited the area before the city was founded?
2. Were religious considerations important in the founding of the city?
3. Have any non-Christian religions entered the city in significant proportions?
4. What secret orders (such as Freemasonry) have been present in the city?
5. What witches' covens, Satanist groups or other such cults have operated in the city?

### **B. *Christianity***

1. When, if ever, did Christianity enter the City? Under what circumstances?
2. Have any of the early or later Christian leaders been Freemasons?
3. What role has the Christian community played in this?
4. Is Christianity in the city growing, plateaued or declining?

### **C. *Relationships***

1. Has there been conflict between religions in the city?
2. Has there been conflict between Christians?
3. What is the history of the church splits in the city?

## **2. PHYSICAL RESEARCH**

1. Locate different maps of the city, especially the older ones. What changes have taken place in the physical characteristics of the city?
2. Who were the city planners who designed the city? Were any Freemasons?
3. Are there any significant discernible designs of symbols imbedded in the original plan or layout of the city?
4. Is there any significance in the architecture, location or positional relationship of the central buildings, especially those representing the political, economic, educational or religious powers in the city? Did Freemasons lie any of the cornerstones?
5. Has there been any historical significance in the particular plot of land upon which one or more of these buildings are located? Who originally owned this land?
6. What is the background of the city's parks and plazas? Who commissioned and funded them? What significance might their names have?
7. What is the background and possible significance of the statues and monuments of the city? Do any reflect demonic characteristics or glorify the creature rather than the Creator?
8. What other artwork is featured in the city, especially on or in public buildings, museums or theatres? Look especially for sensual or demonic art.
9. Are there any prominent archaeological sites in the city? What meaning might they have?

10. What is the location of highly visible centers of sin such as abortion clinics, pornographic bookstores or theatres, areas of prostitution, gambling, taverns, homosexual activities, etc.?
11. Where are areas that concentrate greed, exploitation, poverty, discrimination, violence, disease or frequent accidents?
12. Where are locations of past or present bloodshed through massacre, war or murder?
13. Does the position of trees, hills, stones or rivers form any apparently significant pattern?
14. Do certain landmarks of the city have names that would not glorify God?
15. What is the highest geographical point in the city and what is built or located there? This can be a statement of authority.
16. Which zones or sectors or neighbourhoods of your city seem to have characteristics of their own? Attempt to discern areas of the city that seem to have different spiritual environments.

### **3. SPIRITUAL RESEARCH**

#### **A. *Non-Christian***

1. What are the names of the principal deities or territorial spirits associated with the city past or present?
2. What are the locations of high places, altars, temples, monuments or buildings associated with witchcraft, occult, fortune-telling, Satanism, Freemasonry, Mormonism, Eastern religions, Jehovah's Witnesses and the like. Do these form any patterns when plotted on a map?
3. What are the sites of pagan worship from the past, even before the city was founded?
4. What are the different cultural centers that might contain art or artefacts connected with pagan worship?
5. Has any city leader knowingly dedicated himself or herself to a pagan god or a principality?
6. Were any known curses placed by the original inhabitants on the land or people who founded the city?

#### **B. *Christian***

1. How have God's messengers been received by the city?
2. Has evangelism been easy or hard?
3. Where are the churches located? Which of them would you see as "life giving churches"?
4. What is the health of the churches in the city?
5. Who are the Christian leaders considered as "elders of the city"?
6. Is it easy to pray in all areas of the city?
7. What is the status of unity among Christian leaders across ethnic and denominational lines?
8. What is the view of city leaders toward Christian morality?

#### **C. *Revelational***

1. What are the recognized mature intercessors hearing from God concerning the city?
2. What is the identity of the ranking principalities seemingly in control of the city as a whole or certain area of the city's life or territory?

## **STEP TWO: ACTING ON THE INFORMATION**

An advantage of having several contributors in a book such as this is that they provide glimpses of several different approaches to strategic-level different approaches to strategic level spiritual warfare. We have seen Cindy Jacobs lead the pastors of Resistencia in repentance. We have seen Kjell Sjoberg's friend infiltrate a Swedish occultic Organization and observed Harold Caballeros find the strongman's name on a certain page in the Guatemala newspaper. We have seen Bob Beckett drive oak stakes into the ground at the gateways to Hemet. As well, we have seen Victor Lorenzo join in a human cross in the centre of the plaza in La Plata, and Bev Klopp repent in Seattle's underground buildings. All of them found some advantage in the methods they used, but none of them claim that others should do it their way.

Through prayer, God will show leaders, city by city, what action is most appropriate for their particular situation. Meanwhile, there are some general rules for ministering to a city the first book in this series, *Warfare Prayer*, will be familiar with the rules for taking a city, which I explained there. For the benefit of those who have not read it or those who have forgotten, I will simply list the six rules without further explanation:

### ***Rule 1: The Area***

Select a manageable geographical area with discernible spiritual boundaries.

### ***Rule 2: The Pastors***

Secure the unity of the pastors and other Christian leaders in the area and begin to pray together on a regular basis.

### ***Rule 3: The Body of Christ***

Project a clear image that the effort is not an activity simply of Pentecostals and charismatics, but of the whole Body of Christ.

### ***Rule 4: The Spiritual Preparation***

Assure the spiritual preparation of participating leaders and other Christians through repentance, humility and holiness.

### ***Rule 5: The Research***

Research the historical background of the city in order to reveal spiritual forces shaping the city. (This was covered in the first part of this chapter: "Gathering the Information.")

### ***Rule 6: The Intercessors***

Work with intercessors especially gifted and called to strategic-level spiritual warfare, seeking God's revelation of- (a) the redemptive gift or gifts of the city; (b) Satan's strongholds in the city; (c) territorial spirits assigned to the city; (d) corporate sin past and present that needs to be dealt with; and (e) God's plan of attack and timing.

## WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THE INFORMATION

It is very difficult to digest raw data and research information in its written form. It is imperative to plot this information on a map. A map is like a picture that tells a story. To illustrate this I will give you a case study and an example of a map.

### Soweto – South Africa

Soweto has a population of 2 million inhabitants. For us to do any significant church planting it was necessary to research this city. The kind of information mostly needed was:

- **Christian Churches** – how many are there, where are they and how many people are attending church? We also make a distinction between Evangelical and Mainline churches. This will tell us something about the Harvest Force.
- **Cult Churches** – how many, where are they, and how many people attend these churches? This is part of the Harvest Field research.
- **Drinking Places** (Bars, Taverns etc.) how many are there and where are they? Alcohol abuse is a major stronghold in Africa. These drinking places are also mostly where the prostitutes operate from. The drinking places have a direct influence on AIDS, as well as family breakdowns. This is part of Spiritual Mapping.
- **Gambling Places** – We conduct research about gambling places for the same reasons as above.
- **Witchdoctors** – Africa is still very steeped in the practices of witchdoctors. They have a very strong influence in a community. This is also part of Spiritual Mapping.

On **page 29** is a simple map of one of the suburbs of Soweto. The startling research findings were:

- Population - 86,000
- Churches - 7 (average size 100)
- Cult Churches - 15
- Witchdoctors - 18
- Drinking places - 75

The statistics together with the map paint the following picture:

- **The Harvest Force:**  
You can now see the spread of the churches (where they are situated). You can now also determine the size of the Harvest Force. If the average church size is 100 members and there are 7 churches then the size of the Harvest Force is between 700 -1,000 people.
- **The Harvest Field:**  
If the population is 86,000 and the Harvest Force is 1,000 then the Harvest Field is 85,000. This tells you that you need to set a goal of at least 85 new churches for this area.

- **Spiritual Mapping ;**  
The map tells you where these strongholds are situated. As this community is being transformed through the planting of churches, you will be able to notice the decline of drinking places and witchdoctors.  
This information also helps us in intercession and evangelism. However this information **MUST NOT** fall into the hands of the wrong person! It can cause a reaction from the very people you want to reach.

**MAP**

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# **The Church Planting Process**

## **2. Ploughing the Ground**

***- Prayer -***

## 2. PLOUGHING THE GROUND - PRAYER

The very next thing a farmer does, is to plough the ground. The hard soil needs to be opened up and softened for the planting process.

Likewise, the community in which you are going to plant a church needs to be opened up and softened for the gospel. This can only be done through prayer. You have now done the research which will give you not only statistics but also actual situations that you can target in your praying.

### 2.1 PRAYER

Without deep intercessory prayer and patience in hearing God's strategy for the church plant, it will not have a lasting effect. I suggest that prayer walking in the neighbourhood or village may be of great value - praying on-site with insight.

#### Acts 4:23-31

*On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:*

*"Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?*

*26 The kings of the earth take their stand  
and the rulers gather together  
against the Lord*

*and against his Anointed One.' 27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. " 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (NIV)*

## THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER

### 1. Getting God's hand stretched out.

- They had a deep passion and desire for their community to be touched by God.
- They understood that prayer was the key.
- They were more concerned with their community's spiritual needs than with their own safety. They have just been warned by the authorities not to preach the gospel.

### 2. For the healing of the community

- They identified with the hurts of their community.
- Obviously we speak of the whole spectrum of hurts.
  - Physically
  - Spiritually
  - Emotionally
- We will never see our community saved unless their hurts become our concern. Until we have a compassion for them.
- We can never have compassion for our community while we are busy with ourselves and concentrate on our own hurts.
- It's almost like you get healed while you are healing someone else's wounds.

### **3. To bring the miraculous into our community.**

- The community will only discover God's power when the church displays it.
- There is no greater delight for the Christian than to experience miraculous answers to prayer.
- Can you imagine the organization that takes place in the heavenlies to make your prayer effective?
- Recently we have seen God's miraculous power in our community when the church prayed for rain.

### **4. Discovering the power in Jesus' name.**

- Unfortunately we often pray with wrong motives. Often our prayers have an ingredient of self-advantage in it.
- Our passion must become that people would discover Jesus.
- Stop trying to persuade people with human reasoning. Let them experience Jesus.

### **DEVELOPING A HEART FOR YOUR CITY**

1. The Lord does not only have a heart for individuals but for cities/communities.
2. Before God can use us to reach our cities/towns, we must develop a heart for the place.
3. Nehemiah 1:3-4
4. Matthew 23:37
5. Several prophets were sent to bring prophetic words to cities.
6. The early church evangelism plan started with their city - Acts 1:8

### **IDENTIFYING WITH THE FELT NEEDS OF YOUR COMMUNITY**

1. Unless we are going to be touched by the needs of our community we are only going to pray religious and rhetoric (language designed to impress) prayers.
2. We must be able to pray from the heart. Felt needs versus assumed needs.
3. How do we discover the needs of a community?
  - Read the paper.
  - Ask questions - make it your business. I attend an information meeting with the police.
  - Listen with sanctified ears to the community-talk and then verify it's authenticity.
4. People need miracles. Prayer brings them into contact with a living God who cares for them.
  - Praying with the mayor this week.
5. You cannot preach to them until you have prayed for them. We pray too much for those who ought to know how to pray and too little with those who do not know how to pray.
6. Hear God's heart beat for your city.

I strongly suggest that you engage in prayer walking. It has a lot of benefit for church planting.

# PRAYER WALKING

*(Please note that a handbook entitled: "Praying on Site with Insight" is available from the DAWN Africa office. Please refer to the contact details on page 2 of this training manual.)*

## Acts 4:29-32

*Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. " 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. 32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. (NIV)*

## INTRODUCTION

- Prayer gives us access into any part of the world, any house in the world and any person in the world.
- You can affect your neighbourhood, your city or the world with your prayers.
- Prayer has brought communism to its knees, the Berlin wall to its foundations and billions of people to Christ.

## DEFINITION

It is taking the church outside its walls to **pray** on-site with **insight**.

## The Biblical Foundation of Prayer Walking

### Genesis 13:14-17

*The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. 15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. 16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. 17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." (NIV)*

### Joshua 1:3

*I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. (NIV)*

## WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPLES HERE?

### Abraham

- God wanted Abraham to physically **be** on the territory to give him identification through observation.
- God wanted him to see it – vision impartation.

### Joshua

- You can also fight a battle without physically being on the ground – enemy identification / territorial spirits.
- God's promise was linked to Joshua's feet – reclaiming ground.

## Lessons to Learn From Joshua

### Numbers 13:18-20

*See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. 19 What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwallled or fortified? 20 How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land. " (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.) (NIV)*

### **Strategy #1 - Find out what the land is like**

- Look for things that can tell you more about the people themselves.
- Do you know of any Christians in the area?
- Do they keep to themselves or are they open for relationships?
- Obtain the names of the people and the approx. age.

### **Strategy #2 - Assess the enemy**

#### **Numbers 13:28-29**

*But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev, the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan. " (NIV)*

- Determine the sociological problems.
  - *Single parents?*
  - *Social interests etc.*
- Determine which territorial spirits control the area.
  - *You cannot be the sole judge. Must be a group.*
- Don't over exaggerate the enemy's influence. Don't give the devil exposure by constantly talking about what he is doing. (Descendants of Anak)

### **Strategy #3 - Discover the fruit of the future**

#### **Numbers 13:23-25**

*Men they reached the Valley of Eshcol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. 24 That place was called the Valley of Eshcol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. 25 At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land. (NIV)*

- Envision what this area is going to be like in the future.
- Trust the Lord for promises, dreams and visions.
- Pray prophetically.

## **Prayer Walking - A Preparation for Jesus' Visitation**

**Luke 10:1-20**

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF SENDING 72 MISSIONARIES**

- I call this "saturation preparation".
- The 36 teams went to do specific preparation for Jesus' visitation to these towns.
- Jesus gave them a specific strategy to follow.
- They were sent like lambs among the wolves.
  - *They will enjoy Divine protection.*
  - *They will have a Divine boldness.*
- It seemed like madness to do this.
  - *It seems like madness for God to use us!*
- Take no purse, bag or sandals.
  - *Faith venture, keep money out of it.*

### **Strategy #1 - Pray**

- Jesus even told them what to pray.
  - *They were not to only pray for converts but for converts that will become workers.*
- Locked-up in our community are many people that are still going to be workers in the harvest fields of God.
  - *Pray for their salvation and release.*
  - *Like with Joshua, you must see the fruit of the future.*

### **Strategy #2 - Be the agents of peace.**

- Do not get involved in arguing. Don't waste your time with fruit that is not ready.
- "Man of peace" literally means "a man searching for peace and willing to receive it"
- This person may be the means whereby you could reach the whole "oikos" (household).

### **Strategy #3 - Identify with your community**

- Eat and drink what is set before you. Identification.
  - *In many cultures eating and drinking is the sign of your love for them.*
- Spiritual pride will damage all your efforts.
- Do not move around from house to house.
  - *You can fall into the trap of looking for more comfort. Be content.*
  - *People must know where to get you.*

### **Strategy #4 - Be an agent of healing to your community.**

- Satan is destroying people. They don't need your judgment.
  - They need your compassion.

## **AN ILLUSTRATION OF KINDNESS**

*Steve Sjogren adapted from the book A Conspiracy of Kindness (Vine Books, 1993, Ann Arbor, Mich.). Steve is pastor of the vineyard Christian Fellowship of Cincinnati North.*

"Kindness opened one man's heart to God when we were doing free lawn care. We had loaded a couple of mowers and rakes into a truck and drove around until we saw long grass. We approached his house and knocked on the door to tell him what we were up to. Through the screen door this man barked, "What do you want?" We gave him the brief explanation; without even looking up, his response was simply, "Yeah, whatever..." "

He sat motionless in front of the T.V watching a Reds baseball game. We mowed enthusiastically. We sometimes call it "power mowing" in the Vineyard - and finished in about thirty minutes. We stopped by to tell him we were done and ask if we could pray for any needs in his life. He said he didn't have any needs. As we stepped away from the door, one young man in the group said he was sure this man was in great emotional need and that we ought to insist on praying for him. We turned around and prayed a simple little prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit, and touch this man's pain, whatever it is." The response was instant and surprising - he erupted in deep sobbing, grabbing the nearest person in the circle and wetting his shoulder with tears for some minutes. As the crying died down, he told us his son had been arrested the night before for stealing a car to support a drug habit. That day God's presence and power penetrated this man's pain and isolation in a tangible way ... because we were willing to cut a little grass."

- Use the power Jesus gave you to bring healing. It is the best form of spiritual warfare.
- Get your hands dirty.

### **REMEMBER**

1. Be patient
2. Be persistent
3. Don't try and make things happen.

## **Applying Jesus' Principles in Prayer Walking.**

### **1. A VISION FOR HARVEST.**

**Luke 10:2** *He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. (NIV)*

- As you walk envision the ingathering.
- Pray bigger than yourself.  
Don't bind the Lord by your unbelief! If He could make Jericho's walls fall, He can answer your prayers.

### **2. ALWAYS DISPLAY THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT TO THE WORLD.**

**Luke 10:3** *Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. (NIV)*

Let God's power makes the difference.

- Humility in the face of arrogance, kindness in the face of hatred and blessing in the face of anger.
- Unconventional warfare! You go to the wolves instead of them coming for you.

### **3. USHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.**

**Luke 10:5-7** *"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' 6 If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him, if not, it will return to YOU. 7 Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. (NIV)*

- Jesus is the prince of peace.
- Peace was the greeting blessing of the Christians. John 20:19  
Acts 15:33  
Acts 16:36  
Greek - "eirene"  
Hebrew - Shalom
- Learn from David's prayers for Jerusalem.  
Psalm 122:6-9  
Psalm 147:12-14

### **4. MAKE PROPHETIC PROCLAMATION.**

**Luke 10:9** *Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you. (NIV)*

- Your community is going to experience God. Declare it!
- Look for opportunities.

### **5. EXPECT RESULTS.**

**Luke 10:17-18** *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name. "18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*

**Luke 10:21** *At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. (NIV)*

- God was making himself known to whole cities through ordinary people.
- This is for Father's "good pleasure"

## WHERE CAN WE WALK?

1. Our neighbourhoods
2. Our workplaces
3. Our churches
4. Overlook points
5. Sites wrongly named or cursed
6. Sites of past sin
7. Places of ongoing sin
8. Sites of strongholds
9. The Gates of The City
10. High Places

## SUGGESTIONS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WALKS

### HOW TO GET STARTED

1. **Recruit a partner**
  - Prayers of Agreement
  - Matthew 18:19** *"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. (NIV)*
2. **Family Walks**
  - Each pray for their peers
3. **Don't be a lone ranger**
  - If you are not a leader, make sure you have submitted your plan of action to your leadership.

### WHEN YOU WALK

1. Ask God for a Word for your Neighbourhood.
2. Pray that Word over your neighbourhood.

**Psalm 122:6-9** *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:*

*"May those who love you be secure.*

*7 May there be peace within your walls  
and security within your citadels. "*

*8 For the sake of my brothers and friends,  
I will say, "Peace be within you. "*

*9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek your prosperity. (NIV)*

3. Ask the Lord to show you, which territorial spirits are in control over that area.
4. As you walk pray against them.
5. Pray for souls to be saved
6. Pray for doors to be opened for you.
7. Bless the street and homes in the Name of Jesus
8. Listen to the instructions of the Holy Spirit.
9. Check all things with your cell leader or his intern.
10. Report back on a regular basis.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR WALKING IN YOUR WORKPLACE

1. Don't fight flesh and blood. Determine which strongholds are operating to influence your work environment.
2. Pray the opposite spirit.
3. Make localized declarations.
4. Confess the sins of the people on their behalf.
5. If possible worship at those places.
6. Continually pray for conversions.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYING AT CHURCH SITES

**2 Chronicles 6:20-21** *May your eyes be open toward this temple day and night, this place of which you said you would put your Name there. May you hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. 21 Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive. (NIV)*

**Mark 11:17** *And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations"? But you have made it 'a den of robbers. "' (NIV)*

1. Discuss the matter with the pastor first to get permission and to make a commitment of communication.
2. In your discussion with the pastor, ask the Lord to show you, which strongholds are operating in the church.
3. If there are records of the prophetic utterances over the church, use it to declare it in your prayer walk.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYING AT OUTLOOK POINTS

- Outlook points or places have strong Biblical significance.
- Big contest between God and Satan occurred at elevated places.  
*E.g. Elijah at Mt. Carmel, Jesus and Satan, Golgotha*
- Panoramic Prayers - praying with a bird's eye view.
- Jesus often went to the mountain to pray.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYING AT SITES WRONGLY NAMED OR CURSED

- Names were often changed by God in the Scriptures.  
*E.g. Abram > Abraham; Jacob > Israel; Simon > Peter*
- There are places, which are named after false gods, criminals or Satan himself.
- Prayer walkers often find fruitful prayer in seeking to rename a place for God's intended purpose.

**WARNING** – **Do not** make name changes on your own. First consult with the elders of the town.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYING AT SITES OF ONGOING SIN

- Adult Sex Shops
  - *Never go on your own.*
  - *Never curse the people.*
  - *Do not develop an attitude with them.*
- Casinos
- Pubs

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYING AT SITES OF STRONGHOLDS

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5** *The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the Knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (NTV)*

- Freemasons Masonic Lodge
- Cults - Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Old & New Apostolics etc.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYING AT THE GATES OF THE CITY

- In biblical times gates acted more like filters, restraining evil and welcoming that which was worthy of honour. The respected elders of the town governed from the gates. It wasn't in a courtroom style but rather in communal fashion.
- The elders guarded the city from wrong influences and moral danger.
- Today it would be places of governance - i.e. the borough where the Town Council meet.
- City entrances - roads, harbor, airport etc.

### CONCLUSION

- **John 12:35** *Then Jesus told them, " You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. (NIV)*
- **Micah 4:5** *All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. (NIV)*
- **James 5:16** *The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (NIV)*
- Paul told the church in Thessalonica, "...pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one" **(2Th 3:1-3)**

### TAKE PRAYER SERIOUSLY

It is clear from these passages that the early Christians prayed strategically for the spread of the Gospel and against the evil influences, which hinder the Gospel from advancing. These same prayer needs still exist today.

In developing and implementing a church planting strategy, take prayer seriously. Do nothing without prayer. Your saturation church planting ministry must be born out of prayer and then continuously be bathed in prayer from start to finish.

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# **The Church Planting Process**

## **3. Planting the Seed**

***- Planting the Church -***

### **3. PLANTING THE SEED – PLANTING THE CHURCH**

After the farmer has ploughed the ground it is now time to plant the seed. This speaks of evangelism and the actual planting of the church – the establishment of the congregation.

I am somewhat reluctant to give too many examples of how churches have been and can be started. We are so prone to copying instead of hearing from the Holy Spirit.

During your times of prayer the Lord will give you strategies of how the church should be planted and methods of evangelism that should be used. There are many different ways of planting a church but I will suggest five in this particular chapter (not in any order of preference):

#### **3.1. STARTING A HOME-CELL WITH CONVERTS YOU HAVE REACHED OR CHRISTIANS IN THE AREAS THAT ARE UN-CHURCHED.**

##### **THE CELL CHURCH**

I believe that the church structure that best develops leadership in the quickest and most efficient way is the cell model. The largest and most effective churches – as far as discipling and reaching people in the entire world is concerned – are cell churches.

##### **WHY HOME CELLS?**

In Jesus' ministry, He operated mainly out of homes, not formal buildings. He often taught His disciples in houses (Mark 2:1; 7:14-27; 9:33; 10:2-12; Matthew 13:36). His disciples lived with families in homes wherever they went. Living in a home was part of His plan for bringing people into a personal faith experience.

In Luke 10, Jesus assigned the seventy disciples to enter homes, offering peace to all that lived within. When they found a "man of peace" (one desiring to find peace), they remained in that home, eating and drinking whatever was set before them. In this way, a household would be converted to Christ and another home Church would be established.

In the non-structured Church, one person usually dominates over others (seen in most churches today). This limits the possibility of growth. This was not possible in the early Church.

##### **THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TRADITIONAL CHURCH AND CELL CHURCH**

- The Traditional Church has a cell ministry as one of its many programs.
- The Cell Church is a basic Christian Community.

## **CLARITY ABOUT THE CELL CHURCH**

It is not : A denial of the need for programs.  
The Cell Church is : A strategy for a people-centered and community based program.

It is not : An absence of departments.  
The Cell Church is : A structure with departments that support the system of cells.

It is not : Only small groups.  
The Cell Church is : A system of cells, congregations and celebration.

It is not : A group of independent house-churches.  
The Cell Church is : A vision-driven movement of people living in basic Christian Communities.

## **THE NATURE OF THE CELL CHURCH**

The Cell Church has the following characteristics:

1. The Cell Church operates not only on Sundays but on the other six days as well.
2. Everything that happens in a Cell Church exists to support the cells.
3. The Cell Church first grows and then builds a building.
4. Cells meet in homes during the week and are basic units of the church.
5. The Cell Church considers each member to be a minister and equips him or her to do the work of the ministry.
6. The lost are reached through "Cell Friendship Evangelism". Cells multiply causing dynamic growth.
7. Church members are cared for at cell level.
8. Celebration Worship Services, which take place on Sundays, are an overflow from the body life, taking place in the lives of the members during the week.
9. Spiritual gifts for edification, equipping and evangelism are released in the cells.
10. The community of cells is a place of healing for the individual and the family.
11. In the small groups, members can lose all inhibitions and can receive edification and healing.

## **THE BENEFITS OF CELL GROUPS**

### **1. Effective Management Units**

The cell is manageable because it is self-contained. Every task of the church can be implemented through this one basic unit. The cell also has a simple leadership structure, which cares for and develops the members of the cell.

## 2. An Effective Caring System

The cell structure ensures that hurting members are taken care of at any time and not just on Sunday.

## 3. Church Growth

The key for the cell church to multiply and grow is the cell unit. As the cell members reach out to the lost, the cells grow and multiply.

## 4. Raising Up Leaders

The Cell structure provides the opportunities for members with a calling on their lives to fulfill their calling without necessarily entering the ministry full-time.

## 5. The World Can be Reached

In the cell structure, every member is a minister. They touch the lives of the hurting and lost people out in the world.

## 6. Spiritual Gifts can be properly exercised

In a cell setting, everyone can exercise spiritual gifts.

## **CONGREGATION**

A Cell Church member needs a circle of friends around him/her for *fellowship*. This is where congregational activities for groups of between 50 and 200 people are organized. *Large-group interaction*, testimony, mass teaching or information transfer takes place effectively here. The congregation may set aside a half-night for prayer, or sometimes several days of prayer. The Zone or District Congregational Meetings are examples of activities conducted throughout the year.

## **CELLS AND CELEBRATION**

The Cell Church is the ideal setting for God to reveal His nature. When we meet on Sunday as a congregation, we celebrate and worship the Most High God Who is: Holy, Great, Awesome, Eternal and Exalted. During the cell meeting, we experience God's Immanence or Most High Nature: Intimate, Close, Indwelling, Involved, Friend, Comfort, Accessible and Humble.

### ▪ **Evangelism**

Too often, our churches have visible or invisible barriers that keep people out. We have traditions, we have certain ways we dress and act, and we might even have expectations for those who would visit.

Cell groups provide a natural "bridge" to unbelievers. As members in a cell group develop relationships with unbelieving friends, it is much more natural for them to invite them to a group meeting. And for the unbeliever, coming to a small, informal gathering is much less threatening than going to a place where they don't know anyone and aren't sure what the "rules" are.

- **Developing Relationships**

In a cell group, the members spend time together, participate in ministry together, encourage and pray for one another, and help each other with struggles and needs. There is a strength and intensity to their love and devotion towards God and towards each other.

A cell group provides an ideal environment for the development of mentoring or discipling relationships. More mature believers are able to come alongside younger believers to encourage them, to teach them, and to perform ministry together with them. Since one of the goals of a cell group is to grow and multiply itself, the members will continually be looking for ways to reach out to the lost around them.

- **Discipleship**

Romans 14:19 says, *"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."*

Cell groups provide a place where believers can be ministered to, and where they can minister to others. The Bible outlines clear responsibilities that believers have towards one another. All of these occur naturally in a cell group, as each person ministers according to his giftedness.

Spiritual gifts were given to prepare God's people for works of service, **so that the body of Christ might be built up** (Eph 4:12). We are supposed to encourage one another (1Th 4:18) and speak words that will build up others according to their needs (Eph 4:29). This assumes that we share our burdens one with another (Gal 6:2) so that we are able to help each other. Our greatest desire should be to honor one another in brotherly love (Ro 12:10) and to love one another deeply, from the heart (1Pe 1:22).

- **Developing Spiritual Gifts**

Cell groups are also the place where the spiritual gifts of each member are discovered, developed and used. In a cell group setting, people are nurtured and encouraged to learn their spiritual giftedness through their involvement in the ministry of the cell. In this way, they grow in their faith and maturity, and have opportunity to be discipled by more mature Christians. In time, they will repeat this process and begin to disciple those in the group who are less spiritually mature.

- **Development of Leaders**

The benefit of cell groups is that leaders are responsible for the spiritual development of only a handful of people, not tens or hundreds. The cell group approach also involves many more people as it gives lay leaders the chance to develop their spiritual gift of leadership. Instead of having "professional clergy" who are given positions of leadership based on what they know, cell group leaders are qualified by the maturity and ability they have demonstrated through their ministry in the cell group.

- **Church Planting**

The use of cell groups has many benefits in the process of church planting. One of the greatest advantages of cell groups is that they can be used to the benefit of a church planter, no matter which type of church planting model he is working with.

### **CELL CHURCH IN A SATURATION CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGY**

In a saturation church planting strategy, it is the desire of the church planter to fill an area with churches that reproduce and start new churches themselves.

Cell groups provide a natural and effective way to evangelize, to disciple new believers and to develop new leaders. If the groups meet in people's homes, there might not be a need for a formal church building. Eliminating this cost enables the church to start new

churches when the cell groups are ready, not when funds are available. In other words, lack of funds is not a hindrance to natural church growth.

Cell groups provide the ability to develop a strategy whereby an entire neighborhood; town or country can be saturated with an effective witness for Christ. Without traditional barriers to growth, the cell groups can flourish.

Simply stated, **the use of cell groups makes it easier to start new churches.**

### **3.2 HOLDING A CRUSADE AND PLANTING THE CHURCH WITH THE CONVERTS.**

To simply hold a crusade to make converts is irresponsible. Jesus never gave us a command to make converts! The command was to make disciples. The work of an evangelist is not completed until the convert has become a disciple. You do not have the right to lead someone to Christ without making sure that he will be disciplined. I have heard evangelists say that their job is to make converts and it is the church's responsibility to disciple them. In essence, there is some truth in this, but it has not worked in Africa. The church in Africa has not grown through the thousands of crusades. One of our major problems is that we have many converts but few disciples. That is why we could have the biggest genocide of the century in Rwanda, a country with an 80% Christian population.

Crusades are a wonderful tool to establish a church with the converts, placing them in cells and nurturing them into maturity.

### **3.3 DOOR-TO-DOOR EVANGELISM**

Unfortunately, this is also the strategy used by some of the cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons. However, in some parts of Africa it is still a viable method of evangelism. It creates an opportunity to start a home-cell in the home of the converts.

### **3.4 THE JESUS FILM**

I have found the Jesus film to be one of the most effective evangelism tools in rural Africa. I have personally planted churches with the use of the Jesus Film in a crusade style. At the end of the show, after we had prayed with the new converts, we introduced them to a pastor who would be back the next day to establish a church with the new converts who had no church.

Similarly, one could do it with the video in a home. Campus Crusade for Christ has a lot of information in this regard.

#### **NEVER:**

Start a church with disgruntled (unhappy) people who walked away from another church. Make sure they have left honourably and that they are not foul-mouthing the pastor and church they come from. Believe me, if they do it with that church and pastor, they will do it with you too.

The foundations of a building are vital for the strength and longevity of the building. Any church built on criticism of other churches will reap exactly that.

### 3.5 CHURCH PLANTING MODELS

- **The “Strawberry Runner” model**

In nature, a strawberry plant will send out stems, or shoots, above the ground a short distance from itself. This stem is called a 'runner.' A new daughter plant often develops at the end of the runner. In time, the daughter plant will send out runners itself to start other plants so that there are several individual plants, but they are all interconnected by runners.

This is the ideal model for becoming a church planting movement. It suggests the idea that every church must reproduce itself over and over. Some churches plant new congregations which are not intended to become independent churches, but which have a measure of independence and a degree of continuing relationship. These relationship structures must be clearly defined.

- **The “Daughter Church” model**

When the subject of church planting is raised, the one model that usually comes to mind is the daughter model. Since the mother church provides resources, support and accountability from the outset, this type of type church plant is generally far more likely to become a healthy, sustainable, growing church plant.

Which situations could stimulate the planting of a daughter church? Let us look at two:

- a. **Members in the church come from another geographic area**

*If a number of members in a particular church travel from an area outside that in which the church primarily serves, the church may recognise that as an opportunity to plant a daughter church by sending out a group from the mother church.*

- b. **When there is a desire to reach other socio-economic groups**

*Sometimes a church could be growing and reaching many new people in one area, but they may be failing to reach certain other groups of people in the region. There are instances where people do not feel comfortable worshipping in a particular church due to differences in race, class, kind and age. The needs of these groups may call for a daughter church that will accommodate their cultural norms and minister to them more successfully.*

- **INDIVIDUAL CHURCH PLANTING**

- a. **Planting with a pioneer**

Some individuals are, by gifting, pioneers. They just have to plant churches! They naturally draw people to them. Such people can often see the potential for a church in places where nobody else even imagined one. Pioneers are all different. Some are able to work with a large denomination or a church planting movement. Others are so active that they find it difficult to fit into organizational structures and so work best on their own. Pioneers may start many churches in their lifetime. Once a congregation is established, it is time for pioneers to move on. To stay would be detrimental to what they started because they do not have the giftedness to maintain a church.

- b. **Planting with a founding pastor**

Some church planters plant a church and stay there for a very long time as the senior pastor of the church. They may even continue to plant more churches by training church planters and sending them out from the mother church to plant daughter churches.

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# **The Church Planting Process**

## **4. Fertilising the Soil**

## 4. FERTILISING THE SOIL

We know that the growth of the seed is very dependent on the fertilisation of the soil. I grew up in the Free State where a lot of mealie crops are planted. Sometimes in the fertilisation process, a patch of mealies is overlooked. This only becomes noticeable, as the mealies are about 1 metre high. By the time the mealies are fully grown it is very noticeable. Compared to the rest, this patch appears diseased.

Likewise, in a church, when the congregation is well fed, it is noticeable or rather it is more noticeable when it is not well fed.

### 4.1 TEACHING

New believers and members must be well established in the Word of God otherwise they could become malnourished or fall prey to false doctrines. It is important that every believer is well established.

There are two levels of teaching: the “milk” level and the “meat” level. It is important that new converts get regular “milk” but they must eventually move to the “meat” of the Word.

#### 1 Corinthians 3:2

*“I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.”*

#### Hebrews 5:12-13

*“In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.”*

#### 1 Peter 2:2

*“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation...”*

What are the foundational doctrines that should be taught? Issues like baptism, communion, tithing, the Body of Christ, the Holy Spirit, hearing the voice of God, the Fatherhood of God, and End-times, should be taught from day one.

### 4.2 DISCIPLESHIP

Teaching must result in discipleship. Paul said to Timothy, *“...and the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”* (2 Timothy 2.2) NIV

Once again, this is where cells come in very handy. It is geared toward discipleship. Remember, discipleship can never be done in a classroom situation. Discipleship is done through mentoring. Let me give you an illustration from a typically cell-based church.

Once you join one of their home cells, you start being discipled. There are four equipping steps you go through. Each of these steps is outlined in a booklet, which is used to mentor you. After each booklet there is a weekend (Friday evening and Saturday) experience.

The equipping booklets may contain the following subjects:

### **Welcome to your new family**

Salvation  
What is sin?  
Water baptism  
Beginning your relationship with God  
Building your relationship with your new family  
Growing in God's Word  
Prayer – Your vital communication with God  
Forgiveness  
The Lord's Supper  
The Lordship of Christ  
Our Statement of Faith  
Verification of completion and conclusion

### **Spiritual Victory**

Spirit, Soul and Body  
The Mind the battleground  
Identifying strongholds  
The role of the Holy Spirit  
Spiritual Baggage (Hindrances)  
Establishing Kingdom values  
Your place in God's family  
Verification

### **Reaching the Lost**

Steps in Soul Winning  
Types of Evangelism  
"Oikos" Connections  
My Personal Testimony  
Salvation plan for man  
Verification of completion and conclusion

### **Developing your Leadership Potential**

The substance of discipleship  
The Timothy/Titus qualifications  
Responding to the call of God  
Levels of Leadership  
Leadership Characteristics  
A Successful leader will lead...  
Keys of Leadership  
Verification of completion and conclusion

New converts can never be discipled through attending church services. Just like a new baby needs constant care so a new convert needs constant help in growing up to be a mature disciple.

New Christians go through a lot of struggles as they transition into a new lifestyle. Here are a few suggestions taken from the Omega Course compiled by the **Alliance for Saturation Church Planting**:

**“DEALING WITH THE SOURCES OF SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE”**

THE PROBLEM	WHAT THEY NEED
<p>They fail to understand some key biblical truth.</p> <p>Perhaps the person fails because he understands neither God, nor God’s purpose for him because he doesn’t understand what true faith is, nor how to live by faith, because he doesn’t understand the hope he has in Christ.</p> <p>Perhaps he doesn’t understand God’s provision for him in Christ, and in Christ’s Body, because he doesn’t understand Christ’s love for him, nor what it means to truly love God and others, or because he doesn’t understand what it means to be part of the Body of Christ, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Correction and instruction which clearly communicates the biblical truth they fail to understand and how it applies to their lives.</li> <li>▪ Opportunities to study the Scripture in greater depth.</li> <li>▪ Encouragement to become students of the Word and instruction in the necessary skills.</li> <li>▪ Opportunities to observe people who demonstrate the meaning of that truth in their own lives.</li> </ul>
<p>They don’t know how to do what is needed.</p> <p>They are not sure what to do or how to do it. Perhaps it has to do with their personal walk with God (for example: pray, study the Bible, have a quiet time, etc.).</p> <p>Or, perhaps it has to do with practical ministry to others (for example: teach, encourage, lead a family devotional, give a personal testimony, share the Gospel with an unbeliever, etc.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encouragement to apply what they are learning.</li> <li>▪ Opportunities to observe people who are doing what is required.</li> <li>▪ Instruction and practical training in the required skills.</li> <li>▪ If needed, help in developing a practical strategy to do what is needed.</li> <li>▪ Appropriate opportunities to practice what they are learning, with helpful feedback.</li> <li>▪ Practical advice and support as they develop confidence and skill.</li> </ul>

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# **The Church Planting Process**

## **5. Watering the Soil**

## 5. WATERING THE SOIL

### 1 Corinthians 3:6-10

*"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. <sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup>The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. <sup>10</sup>By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds."* (NIV)

Paul said that Apollos watered. (A symbol of the Holy Spirit is water). This tells me that Paul laid the foundation, got the church going and Apollos nurtured it for growth. To nurture the flock, the following is needed:

### 5.1 EXPERIENCING THE HOLY SPIRIT

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found two disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard *that there is a Holy Spirit.*" <sup>3</sup> So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. <sup>4</sup> Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied." **Acts 19:1-6** (NIV)

A good friend of mine once gave me these words of wisdom: "All Word and no Spirit – you dry up; All Spirit and no Word, you blow up; Word and Spirit – you grow up!" (Letter kills but the Spirit gives life.)

People want to experience God when they come into a church. They are tired of showmanship and dry rhetoric sermons. They want to feel God's presence. You cannot run a church effectively if you do not give the Holy Spirit His rightful place.

### 5.2 TEACHING THE SOLID FOOD OF THE WORD

*"Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."*

(Hebrews 5:13-14) The New International Version

We must concentrate on bringing God's people to maturity. The reason why so many pastors are counselling people over and over is because they have not come to maturity in the Lord.

### 5.3 EQUIPPING

Equipping the believers is far more than teaching. It is providing "on-the-job-training". Some training can not be done in a classroom or correspondence situation. Have you ever heard of someone who did a correspondence course on "How to swim"? Yet we do it in the body of Christ.

*"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> 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."*

**Ephesians 4:11-13** (NIV)

We explain something from the pulpit and then expect the leaders to do it as well as the pastor who had the advantage of studying and also acquired valuable experience.

#### **5.4 LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

If you fail to train – you train to fail. Everything rises and falls on leadership.

There are many characteristics of a church planter, which I cover in detail in Chapter 8 of this manual. But there is one particular “**Campus**” where leaders are trained and equipped more effectively than at any other. God’s campus of personalised training cannot be substituted by any Bible School or seminary.

Let’s have a look at some of the subjects addressed in the curriculum of this training school.

## **GOD’S TRAINING GROUND**

### **2 Timothy 2:15**

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (NIV)*

### **INTRODUCTION**

When God calls He also anoints and equips. It is like David said, “*He trains my hands for battle...*”(Ps 18:34) There are certain things a Bible College cannot teach you.

After I had graduated from formal theological training I found myself in 3 more schools. I also found that God himself is the professor and He sets up the curriculum. All Christian Leaders must of necessity pass through these schools if we want to rightly divide the word of truth.

What are these schools?

### **1. THE SCHOOL OF THE SPIRIT**

***John 14:26** “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (NIV)*

***John 16:13-14** “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.” (NIV)*

- **Not all truths unfold as a result of conscious study.**

#### **I Cor 2:9-13**

There are truths that are directly revealed to us by the Holy Spirit as we meditate and reflect on the Word of God. These truths have direct application to our lives and must be tested by the Word of God so that we aren’t deceived by our own imaginations.

That is why it is so necessary to teach people on hearing the voice of God.

## LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- **Through the Word of God (Rhema)**

**Romans 10:17**

All truth is revealed through the Word of God (Rhema). There is no doctrine or revelation that qualifies as truth unless it is tested by the Scriptures. Revelation in a person's life is progressive. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to feed us and through the application of that Word, we grow.

- **The Holy Spirit often uses dreams.**

**Joel 2:28**

The Bible is full of examples where God speaks to His people through dreams. These dreams are full of symbolism that needs interpretation. I strongly believe that the interpretation lies with the dreamer.

- **The Holy Spirit uses visions.**

**Acts 9:10-12**

These visions may be real-life images that play off like a movie. IN other instances, it is like flashes of pictures in the mind. There is always a message with it.

- **The Holy Spirit obviously uses people.**

**Acts 21:10-11**

These people are not only pastors, but also very ordinary people and even children. Remember Samuel? God used him to speak to Eli.

- **Through spiritual words**

**1 Cor 2:13-14**

These are impressions that you get in your mind. They must always be tested against the Word of God. If it doesn't measure up with God's Word, then it is a temptation. Often it is like a word of knowledge.

- **The Early Church was led by the Holy Spirit**

**Acts 13:2-4**

If the Holy Spirit does not have His rightful place in the church, it will be governed by human reason and business skills. People will leave a church like this and look for a church where they can experience and meet with God.

- **It is vital to have relationship with the Holy Spirit**

**2 Cor 13:14**

Your ministry will only develop as you have fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

## 2. THE SCHOOL OF LIFE

- **Learn from others.**

➤ *Success stories*

I love to read about the successes of others – never to copy them, but to learn from the principles they applied.

➤ *Failure stories*

I also try my utmost to learn from the mistakes of others. There are not many books on failure stories, but if you observe around you, you will quickly spot them.

- **Keep yourself updated with current news**

- *World Events*

People find it difficult to relate to pastors who only speak Scripture verses and whose history knowledge is only the Old Testament. World events will also give you an indication of what to pray for.

- *World Trends*

It is important to watch world trends as far as technology, industry and commerce is concerned. I predict that the ones that will be deceived by the anti-Christ will be people who never kept their eyes on world trends.

All these are necessary because the people we ministry to are struggling with these issues. They are looking for answers. People are living **now** and want **now** answers.

- *Jesus was able to relate to everyone*

He used parables and illustrations that could relate to:

- *Farmers*
- *Fisherman*
- *Wildlife enthusiasts*
- *Politicians*
- *Pharisees*
- *Prostitutes*

- *Paul was a well-read man*

**II Timothy 4:13**

*“When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.” (NIV)*

### 3. SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

- **Christian service is involvement in conflict.**

- *Personal conflict*
- *Staff conflict*
- *Marital conflict etc.*

- **Paul's testimony**

- *II Corinthians 4:1,8,9*

*Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart... We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” (NIV)*

- **Paul's advice to young Timothy**

- *II Tim 4:5*

*“But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.” (NIV)*

- **Be a good student of yourself. Know:**

- *The signs of inner fatigue*
- *The signs of your emotions etc.*

#### REMEMBER

*“Kites rise highest against the wind, not with it.”*

- Winston Churchill

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# **The Church Planting Process**

## **6. Removing the Weeds**

## 6. REMOVING THE WEEDS

*(Please note that a handbook entitled: "Understanding Spiritual Warfare and Strongholds" is available from the DAWN Africa office. Please refer to page 2 of this training manual.)*

If a farmer does not remove the weeds in his fields they will choke the harvest. Because a church consists of people and people have strongholds in their lives, churches can be bound or even destroyed through these strongholds unless they are dealt with.

### UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL WARFARE

#### What Spiritual Warfare is not:

1. It is not a conflict between good and evil.
2. It is not only a conflict between God and Satan.
3. It is not just shouting at the devil and calling him names.
4. It is not just for a selected or holy few.

#### What Spiritual Warfare is:

1. It is the battle between the Kingdom of God and Satan for the souls of people.
2. It is the daily spiritual combat against the forces of darkness.
3. It is to enforce the reign of Christ.
4. It is for every Christian.

### DEFINITION

*Spiritual warfare* is the outright conflict between the Kingdom of God, led by the Lord Jesus Christ and the forces of darkness, led by Satan for the souls of people.

## FROM CREATION TO THE CROSS

### • SATAN BEGAN THE CONFLICT

**Isaiah 14:12-18** *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! " You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven, - I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. " I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.*

### • SATAN AND A THIRD OF THE ANGELS WERE CAST FROM HEAVEN

**Revelation 12:9** *The great dragon was hurled down -- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

### • SATAN BECAME THE RULER OF THE KINGDOM OF THE AIR

**Ephesians 2:2** *"...in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

### • GOD DECLARED WAR AFTER THE FALL OF MAN

**Genesis 3:15** *"And I will put enmity between you and the Woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and YOU will strike his heel. "*

### • EVER SINCE, THERE HAS BEEN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

*A nation (Israel) was formed that would bring forth the Messiah. Prophets fought many spiritual battles for the preparation with John the Baptist as the main forerunner.*

## THE GREAT CULMINATION AT THE CROSS

**1 John 3:8** *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*

**Colossians 2:14-15** *"...having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. "*

- **A major part of Jesus' ministry was delivering people from demons**

## THE MANDATE OF THE CHURCH

**Mark 16:17** *"...And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons;*

**Ephesians 6:12** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

**2 Corinthians 10:4** *The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*

## JESUS AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- Jesus made it very clear that he was initiating spiritual warfare.
- Look at the following Scriptures:

**Luke 4:18** *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,..."*

**Matthew 16:18** *"And I say also unto Thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

### 6.1 DEALING WITH STRONGHOLDS IN A CHURCH

#### **(2 Corinthians 10:3-5) NIV**

*For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

A "stronghold" is a spiritual fortress where a power has control. These fortresses exist in the thought-patterns, opinions and ideas that govern individuals, churches, communities and nations. In the Old Testament, a stronghold was a fortified dwelling used as a means of protection from the enemy. These were physical structures, usually cave high on a mountainside, and were very difficult to attack. Obviously, Paul uses the word "stronghold" to define the spiritual fortress wherein Satan and his demons hide and are protected.

These fortresses also exist in the thought-patterns and ideas that govern individuals and churches, as well as communities and nations.

In several of the Pauline Epistles, Paul actually addresses strongholds that were binding those churches and were making their witness ineffective. Let's look at some of these churches and their strongholds as well as five churches in the book of Revelation:

### **A. THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH**

This was a church of much contrast. It was a church that was rich and strong in spiritual gifts, (1Cor 1:4-7) yet they were extremely un-spiritual in many other aspects of church life. Paul, at great risk to himself, shows no fear in addressing these issues. Although he does not call each of them strongholds, they all fall into the definition of strongholds. We must understand that we cannot deal with the strongholds of a community, town or country, if we do not deal with our individual and corporate strongholds.

- A stronghold of division - 1 Cor 1:12-13
- A stronghold of immorality - 1 Cor 5:1-6; 6:15-18
- A stronghold of extreme liberality - 1 Cor 8:9-13
- A stronghold of idolatry - 1 Cor 10:14-22
- A stronghold of ignorance of God - 1 Cor 15:33-34
- A stronghold of unforgiveness - 2 Cor 2:5- 11
- A stronghold of worldly partnerships - 2 Cor 6:14-7:1
- A stronghold of resistance to authority - 2 Cor 10:8-13
- A stronghold of sedition.  
(*Conduct or language inciting rebellion against authority.*) –2 Cor 11:4-15
- A stronghold of a lack of repentance - 2 Cor 12:21

### **B. THE GALATIAN CHURCH**

- A stronghold of legalism - Gal. 3:1-5  
*Laying down laws for Christians that are outside the requirements of the Scriptures. E.g. clothing, serving of communion etc. Find the balance between extreme liberality and legalism.*
- A stronghold of religion - Gal. 4:8-10,15,21-31  
*Sons of Hagar or sons of Sarah.*

## **FIVE CHURCHES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

### **1. THE EPHESIAN CHURCH**

- A stronghold of cold love - Rev. 2:4,7  
(*"To him who overcomes...."*)

### **2. THE PERGAMUM CHURCH**

- A stronghold of demonic teachings. - Rev. 2:13-17  
(*"To him who overcomes...."*) 1 Tim. 4:1 Nicolaitans = "destruction of people" a sect mentioned in Rev. 2:6,15, who were charged with holding the error of Balaam, casting a stumbling block before the church of God by upholding the liberty of eating things sacrificed to idols as well as committing fornication.

### **3. THE THYATIRA CHURCH**

- A stronghold of Jezebel - Rev. 2:20-26  
(*"To him who overcomes..."*)  
"The Spirit of Jezebel" - Who was Jezebel? Daughter of Ethbaal, king of Phoenicia. He was a Canaanite High Priest who ascended to the throne through intrigue and violence and who then made his daughter High priestess.

### **The Scriptures give the following insights through the life of queen Jezebel.**

- **1 Kings 16:31** - Caused her husband and king, Ahab, to serve Baal i.e. The Spirit of Jezebel seduces church leaders and husbands and attempts to cause them to turn away from God. She uses sex and violence to achieve her ends.
- **1 Kings 18:4** - She killed the Lords prophets i.e. She attacks the Scriptures and the prophetic word.
- **1 Kings 18:19** - She installed her own prophets i.e. She introduces false doctrines and religious systems.
- **1 Kings 21:1-16** - She usurped the role of head of family and nation i.e. She seeks to bring about role reversal in church and home. Note that homosexuality is an extreme role reversal and that the feminist movement also seeks to up-end the Biblical headship model.
- **2 Kings 9:30** - She practices sexual seduction i.e. She tries to seduce church leaders and husbands. Note the fall of the T.V Evangelists and the high rate of divorce and adultery in the nations. Refer to Rev 2:20 for further insights.

### **THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE JEZEBEL SPIRIT:**

- It is a **dominant spirit**. This spirit uses another person to dominate leaders and therefore churches and nations. It makes "Ahabs" out of the leaders.
- It is a **violent spirit**. This spirit will destroy anyone to have its way.
- It is a **spirit of sexual immorality**. This spirit uses homosexuality, lesbianism, prostitution, pornography and any other sexual disorder to reverse the Biblical headship model.
- It is a **spirit of idolatry**. This spirit will introduce false doctrines and religious systems to keep her victims away from experiencing God in His fullness.
- It is a **spirit of seduction**. This spirit is out to reverse God's divine order. She controls the feminist movement and also undermines the divine leadership role of the husband.
- It is a **witchcraft spirit**. She will use counterfeit gifts to infiltrate the church. i.e. Prophecy (fortune-telling); always submit personal prophesies to your oversight.

### **4. THE SARDIS CHURCH**

- A stronghold of spiritual death. - Rev. 3:1-5 ("He who overcomes...")

### **5. THE LAODICEAN CHURCH**

- A stronghold of lukewarmness. - Rev. 3:14-21 ("To him who overcomes...")

Although these strongholds were *over the church*, they were *resident in individuals*.

### **6.2 DEALING WITH STRONGHOLDS IN RELATIONSHIPS**

It is good to constantly observe relational problems in the church. Many churches split because of relationship problems. That is why Paul says to the Ephesians,

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

**Ephesians 4:2-3 (NIV)**

# HOW TO BREAK STRONGHOLDS

## INTRODUCTION

The question most often asked is, "Can I break my own strongholds?" The answer is yes and no. With prayer and fasting you can break the yoke but it is difficult to take authority over something that has authority over you. You will need someone to help you. Beware of pride!

## WILLINGNESS TO REPENT

- The person must have a willingness to repent and see that his/her stronghold contains sin.
- The person must have a willingness to surrender to Christ.
- At this point you may loose some and not be able to help them.
- Forgiveness is essential.

## IDENTIFYING THE STRONGHOLDS.

- *Through identifying the obvious signs, actions, sins and history of the person.*
- *Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*
  - The discerning of spirits - 1 Cor. 12: 10  
**Example:** Acts 16:16-18
  - The word of knowledge - 1 Cor. 12:8  
**Example:** Acts 5: 1- 11

## BINDING AND LOOSING

- Jesus said, *"But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house".*  
**Matthew 12:28-29**
- *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*  
**Matthew 16:18-19**
- Bind the spirit verbally.
- Sometimes you need to spend time in prayer and fasting.  
**Matthew 17:14-21** *'And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a [certain] man, kneeling down to him, and saying, 15Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatic, and sore vexed; for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. 16And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. 17Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. 18And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. 19Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief- for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.*

## COMMANDING

- Demons understand authority and also know when you don't have it. Jesus said, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matthew 28:18*

**BUT** Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come Out. " 14Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 [One day] the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you? " 16Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. **Acts 19:13-16**

- You have to have faith in the name and power of Jesus.
- You must be secure in the authority Jesus gave you.
- Don't be intimidated by their stubbornness. They have to go.
- Remind them what Jesus did on the cross.

### **INNER HEALING**

- Often people would need healing of their memories (images of the past) in cases like child molestation.
- The inner healing process
- Agape therapy

*I learnt the following illustration from Mark Virkler:*

<b>NO.</b>	<b>STEP</b>	<b>BIBLICAL EXAMPLE (Peter: Matt 26:69-75; Jn 21:2-17)</b>
1.	Using Vision, go back and re-enter the hurt.	Fire, Twilight, Three-fold confession
2.	Using Vision bring Jesus into the scene.	"Jesus stood on the beach..." (John. 21:4-5)
3.	Using Vision, let Jesus move freely healing the hurt with his loving presence.	Jesus' statements of affirming love. "Feed My Lambs" "Take care of my Sheep" "Feed my Sheep"

**THIS MUST BE A LIVING EXPERIENCE –  
NOT AN ACADEMIC EXERCISE**

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER**

- The Bible is not a handbook on deliverance.
- Much is learnt through trial and error.
- What works for me may not work for you.
- Some precautions.

### **PRECAUTIONS**

- Do not be alone with the opposite sex unless it is in a professional setting.
- Do not rush through the session.
- Do not get frustrated or panic when nothing seems to happen.
- Do not scream and shake the person.
- Do not apply force.
- Do not break confidences.
- Do not be afraid to seek for help.

## HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF FREE FROM STRONGHOLDS

If you have been set free from strongholds (2 Cor 10:3-5), it is not the end of your war but the beginning. It is common sense that Satan would try his best to regain the ground he has lost. Our war is not only to become free, but also to **stay** free. The Satanic world is not disorganized. There are already worked-out schemes to recapture lost ground.

**2 Corinthians 2:11** *"...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."*

**Ephesians 6:11** *"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."*

I would like to share a few principles with you that will help you to stay free. Just remember, you have an enormous advantage in that *"greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."* (1 John 4:4)

### ***Put on the armour of God (Eph 6:11-18)***

This armour was given to you for your defence and offence against the devil. Most people only fight the devil when he attacks. I don't think that to be good strategy. No one can just defend and expect to win. It is not Satan who has declared war against us. It is our Kingdom that has declared war against him. 1 John 3:8 *"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."*

### ***Submit to God***

**James 4:7** *"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* When I submit to God, I place myself under His umbrella of protection. I am then open to His voice and commands. My obedience to Him guarantees my freedom from strongholds.

### ***Resist the devil***

*"... Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*

You cannot effectively resist the devil if you do not submit to God. But when you submit to God you can effectively resist the devil. We will all be subject to temptation for the rest of our lives but never above what we are able to handle. (1 Cor. 10: 13) Your resistance to the temptation will help you break the bad habits you have formed.

### ***Confess sin quickly***

If you sin do not leave it unattended so that the enemy could use it to build a stronghold. Be honest and prepared to repent. Your confession to God and those you offend will help you to stay free. **1 John 1:9** *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* **James 5:16** *"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."*

Do it quickly though, for the longer you wait the more difficult it becomes.

### ***Guard your heart and your mind***

Unforgiveness, bitterness and resentment are the major strongholds in people's lives. Such people don't have peace of heart and mind due to the conflict they are carrying. (Mark 11:25-26) Learn to forgive just as Jesus forgave us. When you do that, the peace of God will guard you. (Phil 4:6-8)

### ***Strengthen yourself***

Firstly, it is vitally important to spend time with God in reading and prayer. Read the following verses:

2 Tim 2:15; Acts 17:11; Matt 4:4; 1 Pet 2:2; Eph 4:12; Jam 1:22-25; Ps 119:105; 1 Cor 14:14-15; Jude 20; 1 Thes 5:17; Jam 5:16.

### **CONCLUSION**

The church must become militant against the strongholds instead of one another. We are not fighting flesh and blood.

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# **The Church Planting Process**

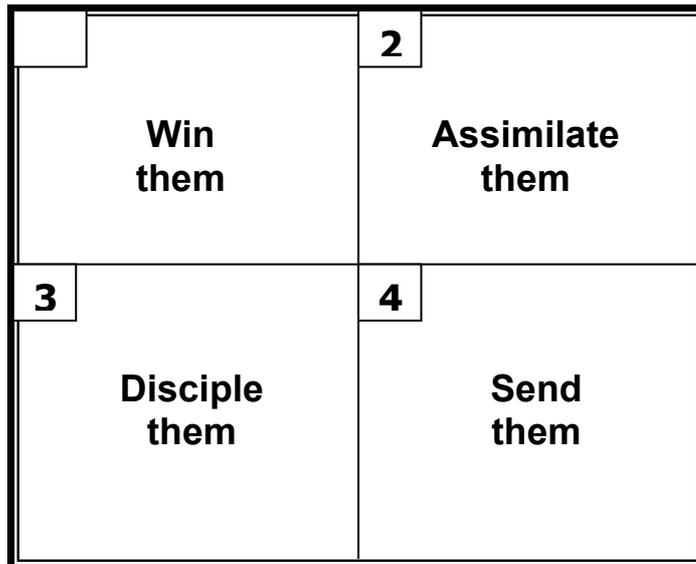
## **7. Preparing for Harvest**

## 7. HARVESTING

The whole purpose of planting a crop is to have a harvest. A church should be planted with the view that it will reproduce itself into more congregations. Otherwise we are planting sterile churches. Converts must learn that they are to reproduce themselves in becoming soul winners themselves.

### 7.1 THE EQUIPPING SQUARE

I like the equipping square that Larry Stockstill uses in his church. It looks like this:



Converts must know they are on a journey, that they are not just saved to go to heaven but that they have a destiny in their lives here on earth. God has a plan to use them for the kingdom. Hence - the priesthood of believers.

Equipping goes beyond teaching. It involves mentoring – on-the-job-training – showing how it is done. That is why the cell church movement is producing far more leaders than any other church model. Unfortunately many churches lose their best leaders to para-church organisations and the like because there is no opportunity for them to grow into a ministry in the church. The tendency today is to have homegrown pastors.

### 7.2 KEEP A CHURCH PLANTING VISION BEFORE THE CONGREGATION

If church multiplication is not a value, the vision will fade. Let me explain by asking you a question: Why do you brush your teeth? To have healthy teeth of course! But where did it all start? It started with parents that told you to brush your teeth daily and held you accountable on a daily basis. Now, you are doing it because it has become a value.

### 7.3 MULTIPLICATION

Make church multiplication a value in your church. The moment you plant another church, make sure you keep them accountable for reproduction. Remember that the harvest produces seed for growth.

Ellis and Mitchell say *“if a church exists which never thinks about reproducing itself...never expects or anticipates that this is the natural business of growing up, then it is actually sterile.”*

*“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it...’ (Genesis 1:28) - KJV*

*“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” (Habakkuk 2:14) - KJV*

#### **7.4 BECOMING A MOVEMENT**

Think of your surname, you belong to a family that may be several generations of the same name. You have ancestors you don't even know about. It started with a husband and wife that produced children, who in turn produced children, who in turn produced children until we get down to your existence. That is a multiplication movement. Denominations started like that. You can see this example in the Wesleyan revival through John Wesley. He started a movement that touched just about the whole world and exists even to this day.

#### **Essential ingredients of a church planting movement**

- **Vision**

So often pastors only see the little flock they have and for them “the ministry” means looking after these souls. That is noble but not visionary. We need men like John Knox who prayed, *“Lord, give me Scotland or I die!”* We need visionaries that are prepared to take the challenge of Acts 1:8 - Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. We need pioneers that will not give themselves rest until there is a church within easy access of every person in their community. We need visionaries that see churches where there are no churches. However it is not good enough that the leader is a visionary. The whole movement must be passionate about the vision.

- **Strategy**

Every farmer has a strategy. Every General has a war strategy. Every good business entrepreneur has a strategy. Anyone who wants to spearhead a church planting movement needs a strategy from above. Without a clearly prayed through plan of action and a vision based on values it will never succeed. Every one on the team of church planters must know what the strategy is and follow it unanimously.

- **Leadership**

Any church planter who is not training other church planters is short sighted and will never spearhead a movement. In 1994 God brought a Malawian pastor across my path. Henry Mkhomanya was the pastor of a small struggling congregation meeting in a reed structure. He felt that he was called to be a church planter. I took him under my wing and mentored him. Henry had to make a choice whether he wanted to just grow his church or spearhead a movement. He chose the latter.

Today Henry heads up a movement called Antioch Ministries. Every year he trains a certain amount of church planters for nine months. Their concentration is the Yao tribe in Malawi who is 95% Muslim. The reason they have seen such growth is because he constantly imparts his heart and knowledge into other men. The churches they planted have now produced other churches that have produced even more churches.

Leaders must constantly reproduce themselves. They must make way for other gifted ministries that will come through them. Even Jesus made room for that when he said that others will come after him who will do greater things he had done.

- **Sacrifice**

*God will not give you* a nation if you are not prepared to *give yourself* to the nation. Church planting is not for the faint-hearted. It takes faith and sacrifice. It is hard work.

In Africa I often hear pastors using the excuse of a lack of funds. They are waiting for some rich American to come and give them the money that will do the miraculous. With that mentality you will never succeed. God will meet you at your level of faith. With every church I planted there were never enough funds, yet God supplied in every situation.

Church planting takes a lot of time and energy. Someone who spearheads a movement must be willing to sacrifice himself to see the vision come to pass. Teach everyone in the movement to give sacrificially to the vision. But don't stop there. Involve them.

- **A Respect for the greater Body of Christ**

I have often seen movements become sectarian because they think that they are the totality of the Kingdom of God. A wise movement leader will look for strategic partners. You can never reach a nation on your own. Learn to bless other ministries and God will bless yours. Do not see other church planters as opposition but as co-labourers.

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# **The Characteristics of a Church Planter**

# Characteristics of a Church Planter

## 1. PASSION FOR THE LOST

It goes without saying that unless a church planter has a passion for the lost, he will plant a church that will grow through transfer growth from other churches. Such a pastor will concentrate on programs to attract people and his pulpit ministry will be mainly a “topical preaching style” that entertains the crowds. Christians dissatisfied with their own churches are easily attracted to such a church. Although this church is growing, the Kingdom is not growing.

The kind of church planters we need are ones that have the spirit of Paul. He said, “It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation.” (Romans 15:20) We need pastors with such a passion for the lost that they will aggressively target those who have been blinded from the gospel.

### **1 Timothy 2:3-4**

*“This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”*

## 2. KINGDOM MENTALITY

I have heard people say that “denominations are from the devil.” How sad! How ignorant! When God created a flower, He did not just create on white flower with one fragrance. He created thousands of different ones with different fragrances and different structures. Which one is right? Which one is more “flower” than the other? When they are together in a bouquet they enhance one another, never denying the other an existence.

### **Ephesians 4:3**

*“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*

We have been called to unity not uniformity. There is a huge difference between the two.

A church planter that is respected by God is one that will not hurt the body of Christ. Visit the other pastors in town and tell them of your intentions.

## 3. A VISIONARY

**Proverbs 29:18** *“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”* A church planter must be a visionary in the sense that he gets his vision from the Lord.

It is necessary that he wait on the Lord for vision. It must never be a quick idea he received in his mind. Take Habakkuk as an example.

### **Habakkuk 2:1-3**

*"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. [2] And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. [3] For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."* (KJV)

## **4. A LOVE FOR PEOPLE**

This almost goes without saying. No church planter will ever be effective if he does not have a love for people. Why plant a church if it isn't motivated by the love of Christ Jesus. Paul said, *"For Christ's love compels us because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died."* (2 Corinthians 5:14 NIV) To the Thessalonians he said: *"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers."* (NIV)

## **5. WILLING TO SACRIFICE**

Sacrifice is part of the church planter's life. Pioneering is far more difficult than maintaining. Often the church planter has to sacrifice the comfort of an established church or ministry to start this new church from scratch. Most of the times, there is a financial sacrifice until the church is fully established. Listen to what Paul, the church planter says:

### **2 Corinthians 4:7-12**

*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup>We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup>We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup>For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. <sup>12</sup>So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you."* (NIV) This scripture verse is the motto of the church planter.

## **6. FAMILY SUPPORT**

It is so important that the church planter has the support of his family. If the devil is going to attack the church planter, it is going to be in his family. It is an old tactic of his. That is why Paul gives these instructions to Timothy:

### **1 Timothy 3:1-7**

*"Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer,<sup>A</sup> he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>**He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.** <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap."* (NIV)

## 7. SERVANT

One of the major problems in Christian ministry is “position seeking”. Even Jesus encountered this in His ministry.

### **Mark 10:35-45**

*“Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him.”Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”*

*36“What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.*

*37They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.”*

*38“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”*

*39“We can,” they answered.*

*Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, <sup>40</sup>but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”*

*41When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. <sup>42</sup>Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup>Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup>For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (NIV)*

Servanthood is the highest position in a church. A pastor can soulishly run his church by lording it over the people.

### **1 Peter 5:2-4**

*“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup>not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.” (NIV)*

## 8. HARD WORKER

A church planter must be an anointed person but I have discovered that anointing does not make up for laziness. Anointing kicks in when hard work is done. But you can also not substitute anointing with hard work. They go hand in hand. It is very easy to be lazy in the ministry but believe me, it eventually shows.

## 9. INTEGRITY

People will follow leaders with integrity. If a church planter wants the community to accept him and respect him, it will be because of the integrity he displayed in the planting of the church and how he leads his church. If you solicit other members away from their churches it will tarnish your integrity. Why could they point no finger at Jesus and find him guilty of anything? It was His integrity.

## 10. HUMILITY

A church planter must have the attitude of Jesus. (Philippians 2:5-11) Jesus humbled himself. Unless we humble ourselves God has to use measures to work humility into our characters. That can become very painful and sometimes very embarrassing. Rather humble yourself than to be humbled by God.

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# **Pitfalls to Avoid**

# PITFALLS TO AVOID

Sometimes we stumble upon pitfalls, which depending various factors, could immobilise us temporarily or permanently. It is important to be aware and alert of the pitfalls along the road that we may avoid them. A few of these are:

- **THE CHURCH PLANTER TAKES PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE TOO LIGHTLY**

If prayer is taken too lightly it will result in a lot of decisions made according to human reasoning and delete the possibility of miracles and divine provisions. Remember God always pays for His vision.

If the church planter ignores spiritual warfare he will sit with a church full of strongholds and he becomes an open target for the enemy. You have to bring divine weapons into the battle.

- **THE CHURCH PLANTER ATTEMPTS TO PLANT A CHURCH THAT REACHES EVERYONE RATHER THAN A SPECIFIC TARGET.**

Your church cannot reach everyone, regardless of culture, social structures and community. Wealthy people won't come to a church that is full of very poor people. We can get very spiritual about it and say it is pride, but the fact remains that "birds of a feather flock together." For people to have close relationships they have to have a lot in common. It is called "homogeneous units."

Target a certain community of people that feel comfortable with each other and that could share a lot in common.

- **LAUNCHES THE CHURCH PREMATURELY**

When the church planter gets impatient and takes shortcuts in planting the church it could be fatal in the end. God works in seasons and times. Don't ignore that!

- **CHURCH IS A SUNDAY EVENT**

If the church planter creates an ethos of church on Sunday, his church will live their commitment to "one day a week Christianity." It is then a matter of going to church instead of being the church – going to listen to a sermon instead of being a sermon.

- **FEAR OF TALKING ABOUT MONEY WITH PEOPLE UNTIL IT IS URGENT.**

Yes, Christians have been exploited by ministers pleading for money. But, we cannot throw the baby out with the bathwater. There are many scripture verses that encourage the believer to give. There are promises that can only become real when we give.

Tithing and giving is as part of the Christian experience as prayer! We need to tell the people this, not to get money out of them, but so that they can be blessed!

- **APPOINTING PEOPLE TO LEADERSHIP TOO EARLY.**

Paul says that a leader should not be a recent convert lest he becomes proud. (1 Timothy 3:6). It is much easier to appoint someone than to get rid of him. Don't appoint someone because he has a prominent position in society. Don't appoint someone because of his financial ability.

- **DOING THE RIGHT THING AT THE WRONG TIME**

Don't implement things until everyone understands why and will follow you. A good leader will take his people with him.

- **FAIL TO REMIND THE CHURCH THAT THEY WILL MULTIPLY FROM THERE.**

Vision must be kept fresh before people otherwise they are prone to forget. Vision must be based, as I said, on value. Right from the beginning, the people must understand that multiplication is a non-negotiable value from God's Word. Plan your church accordingly.

There are other pitfalls that you will discover as you start planting churches. But if you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and are attentive to His voice, you will not be tripped by them.

***“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”***

(Isaiah 11:9)