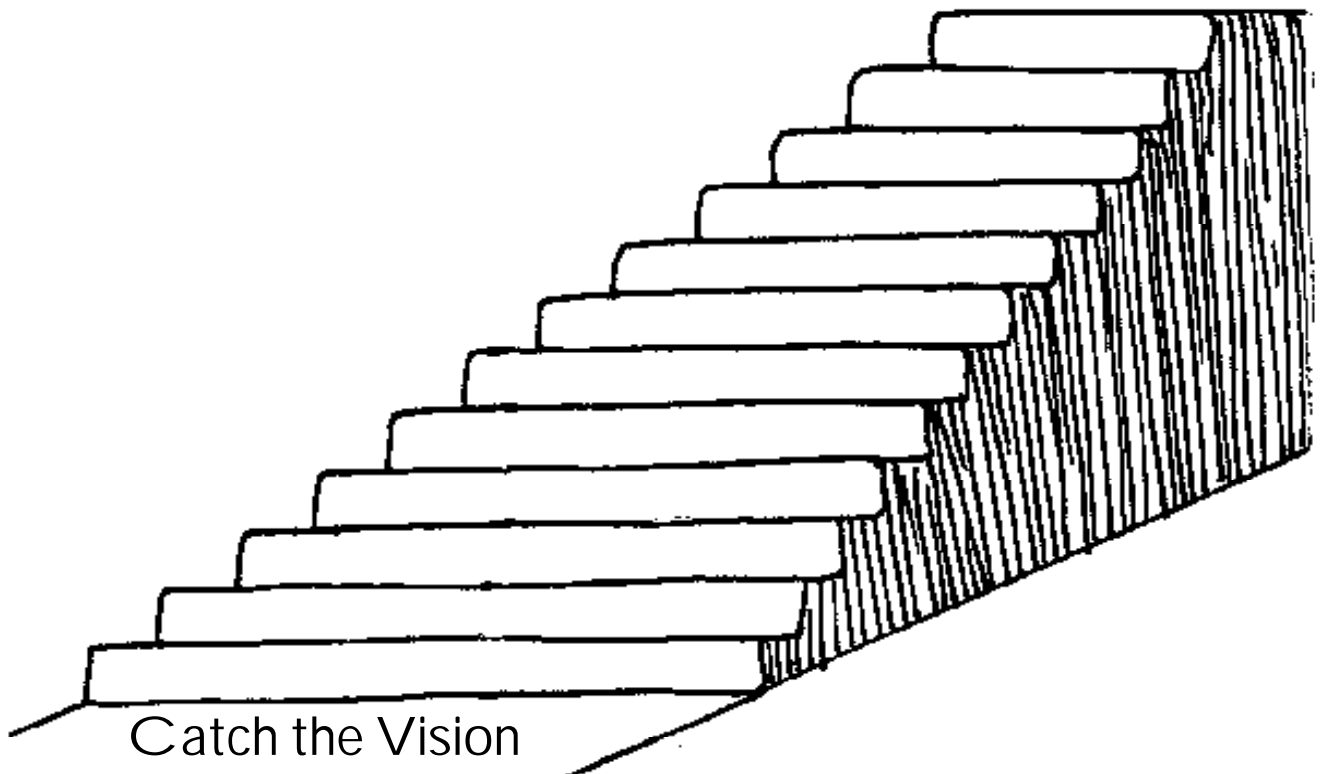


MULTIPLYING CHURCHES AMONG THE UNREACHED

TWELVE STEPS TO A CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENT



INTRODUCTION: CATCH THE VISION

A. **SEE** the need for all nations to be reached with the Gospel ¹

1. Matthew 24:14 communicates God's determination in accomplishing His central purpose of reaching every people. "And this gospel of the

¹Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commissioned us to go to all nations. The word "nations" comes from the Greek word "ethne." He was referring to ethnic groups or "people groups" rather than geopolitical countries.

(a) A "people group" is defined as: "A significantly large ethno-linguistic grouping of people who perceive themselves to have a common affinity to one another. From the viewpoint of world evangelization, this is the largest group within which the gospel can spread as a church planting movement (people movement) without encountering barriers of understanding."

(b) An "unreached people group" is defined as: "A people group within which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize the people group without requiring outside (cross-cultural) assistance."

kingdom will be preached in the whole world as witness to all nations (peoples) and then the end will come."

2. How close are we to fulfilling God's goal? It is calculated that there are about 24,000 people groups in the world today. We have reached 14,000 with the gospel, but 10,000 people groups are still unreached. YWAM leader, Fred Markert, says that this gives us 10,000 reasons why Jesus has not yet returned.
3. Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commissioned us to go to all nations and do what?

Jesus Said

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

4. Acts 14:21-24 shows Paul doing three things as he obeyed the great commission:

Paul Did

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

B. **BELIEVE** in the Church's potential to reproduce and cover the earth.





1. If we plant a church, we will gain almost no ground in reaching a nation. We want to plant churches which reproduce, namely a Church Planting Movement (CPM).
2. How is a church like a single grain of rice? (Acts 1:8)
3. Parable of the Growing Seed -- Mark 4:26-29.
 - ❖ Who scatters seed?
 - ❖ The seed contains what power within?

- ❖ Once the seed is planted, what must the farmer do to cause growth?
- ❖ The power to reproduce is IN the _____ - it is a like a _____ _____!

4. What can we learn from I Corinthians 3:6 ?

I. SEEK THE LORD'S GUIDANCE

A. **PRAY** and ask God what your role should be in planting the church among the unreached

1. Prayer is a fundamental pillar in every Church Planting Movement. It is one of the 10 Universal Elements that have been identified. It must be a keystone in your master plan for reaching the unreached, but also the vitality of your prayer life is modeled to the emerging leaders you will be discipling and training.
2. A survey of YWAM church planters in South Asia revealed that many of them feel that a clear call from God was one of the most essential elements in their preparation for ministry.
3. God speaks through:
 Bible  prayer  circumstances  His Church
-- to reveal Himself, His Purpose, and His Ways. ²

4. **The Three Levels of Guidance.** Jim Stier, YWAM's President, points out that our guidance paradigm is incomplete. Many seem stuck at waiting to hear the next thing God wants them to do. This amounts to little more than "Christian Mysticism". The Apostle Paul, a fairly accomplished church planter in his own right, offers us by example a more complete guidance paradigm; one consisting of three levels, each supporting and giving direction to the next. Paul was informed in his guidance by:

²EXPERIENCING GOD: Knowing and Doing the Will of God, by veteran church planter Henry Blackaby is a must for all YWAM church planters. This study helps you to: know when God is speaking, find out where God is working and join Him and experience God doing through you what only God can do! Order EXPERIENCING GOD from LifeWay Press, 127 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, Tennessee 37234 USA. or call 1 800 458 2772.

- a) The Bible and flow of redemptive history. God's unchanging purpose.³
- b) A life mission statement. His life's purpose.⁴
- c) Hearing God's voice. What God said to do next. Day to day guidance.

If you attempt to only exist at the third level of day to day guidance, without the foundational levels of God's purpose and your own mission statement, you will not make long term progress.

B. **PLAN** for a Church Planting Movement

1. Churches don't just happen! In every Church Planting Movement, someone implemented a strategy of deliberate church planting.
2. As we go to an unreached people our goal is "an indigenous movement of spontaneously multiplying churches." Let's define these terms:
 - a) indigenous
 - b) movement
 - c) spontaneously multiplying
 - d) $v\{\acute{a}\lambda\lambda\upsilon\{\acute{x}\acute{\alpha}$
3. *A simple, concise definition of a Church Planting Movement (CPM) is a rapid and multiplicative increase of indigenous churches planting churches within a given people group or population segment.*
4. "It is not enough to do evangelism or to plant a single congregation. We have not done our job unless a movement of fully indigenous, mission-minded, multiplying churches is planted in a people group. Then they can evangelize their own people, city or nation."

-Floyd McClung as he served as YWAM International Executive Director

³Romans 15:8-12 - Paul uses Scripture to justify his guidance to work among the nations. A pamphlet on this level of guidance entitled "*The Unchanging Purpose of God*" is available through **YWAM Church Planting Coaches** for \$0.50.

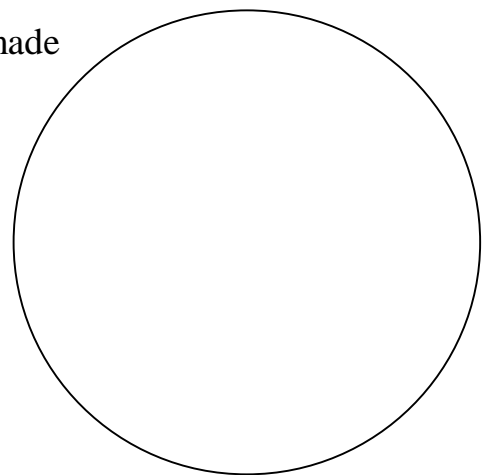
⁴Paul gives his life mission statement in Romans 15:16 (from Is. 66:19-20). Paul lived to present the nations to God as a sanctified offering.

5. While our goal describes what we want to achieve within a people group, our strategy describes how we intend to achieve it. As we formulate strategies for specific unreached people groups, we trust God to lead us by His Word and His Spirit. **We must adopt _____ and adapt _____.** **Biblical principles will apply in every context, whereas methods will differ from culture to culture.** Continually seek the Lord, to know the Scriptures and to hear His voice, trusting Him to lead us step-by-step, rather than relying upon human methods.⁵
6. A basic strategy should be:
 - 📖 Biblical
 - 👁️ Low-profile (especially where authorities are hostile)
 - 👄 Inexpensive (most of the unreached are also quite poor)
 - 🏠 Non-institutional (not bogged down by organizational structure)
 - 🚲 Easy to imitate and pass on
7. "Restricted Access Countries" may require bi-vocational / **"tent making"** ministry to gain entry and the use of methods of evangelism, worship, and training suited to **small _____ house churches.** ⁶
8. "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."

II. ORGANIZE YOUR TEAM

A. **FORM** an "apostolic team" made of people with various gifts

1. YWAM church planters work in **teams** made of people with a good **balance** of _____ ⁷
2. Brainstorm various gifts needed for a strong team (use circle).
3. Raise financial support.
4. Raise prayer support



⁵Proverb 3:5-6

⁶Acts 18:1-3, 20:20

⁷Acts 10:23, 11:12; Romans 12:4-8, Guiding Principle 1.H.

5. Keep up _____ with your sending church(es).⁸
6. Pray regularly for the lost and for the _____ .⁹

B. **COMMIT** to reaching the goals God gives

1. The team must commit to the _____ rather than to a _____ . Our aim must be to reach the goals God gives, in spite of how many years it takes.¹⁰
2. Acts 13:1-3. In the same way the Holy Spirit separated Paul and Barnabas from the Antioch church, the Holy Spirit _____ YWAM church planting teams. Teams need to be sent away from YWAM bases and base responsibilities to do the work to which He calls them. However teams obviously must maintain fellowship and accountability with the base.
3. What about short-term outreach teams? Your team will need to think through a policy for evaluating and receiving those who want to work with you short-term. The key to an effective outreach that is a blessing to the long-term work is attitude. The heart to serve is crucial. Proper orientation and appropriate goals¹¹ can make these teams of volunteers a blessing.

III. GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE

A. **FOCUS** upon a specific people group

1. It is more effective to target _____ unreached people group per team. The gospel will spread with the least barriers within a people group with common affinity to one another.^{12 13}

⁸Acts 13:1-3; 14:24-28

⁹Ephesians 6:18-20

¹⁰Luke 9:62

¹¹Prayer walks, spiritual warfare, appropriate and sensitive evangelism, literature distribution, pastoral mentoring, mercy ministry, logistical support and encouragement to the team, and an influx of fresh vision and passion.

¹²Acts 10.

¹³An analogy for this point is Minnesota - "Land of 10,000 Lakes". If you go to Minnesota and throw a stone into one of the lakes, ripples spread out from where the stone hit. How far will those ripples go? Through all 10,000 lakes?

No, they will spread to the shore of the lake the stone was cast into – and no further. To get ripples going in every lake, you would need a separate stone for each lake – just as we need a separate church planting penetration for each unreached people.

2. If there are other receptive people groups in the area, organize more teams.
3. The aim is a "people movement to Christ." We want to reach the whole people not just a few individuals. Avoid one-by-one extraction.
4. Seek a _____ segment of the people group -- those who are content with their own culture. (As foreigners, we may attract people eager merely for cultural change and material gain.)¹⁴
5. Watch to see where God is already at work among the people.

B. **LEARN** the language and culture

1. _____ by living with them from the beginning, gaining a good grasp of the language and appreciating their culture, in an attitude of servanthood and humility.
2. A very helpful guide for learning a new language is Language Acquisition Made Practical by Tom and Elizabeth Brewster.¹⁵
3. To enter immediately into the community -- learn the language from the people. Becoming a _____ is the first of the three viable roles for a missionary. Those who fail to adopt the roles _____ of: _____ **Trader Storyteller** are most often perceived as: **Teacher** _____. The role that works at all times and in all places is that of **Servant**.
4. Minimize the social and cultural _____ between yourself and those to whom God calls you. As much as possible, do things their way.

IV. **BIND SATAN**

A. **RECOGNIZE** you have entered Satan's turf.

¹⁴Acts 10:1-2; Acts 8:18-23

¹⁵The book may be ordered through: William Carey Library; P.O. Box 40129; Pasadena, CA 91114 USA 1-(800) MISSION
The U.S. Center for World Mission says, "No single book has done so much to dispel the fear of foreign language learning. It banishes the mystery and tells you HOW to learn step by step, on your own, in an amazingly simple, east-to-follow guide."

1. Accept _____ as a daily reality, seeking to grow in your skills of worship, warfare and intercession to wage war more effectively.¹⁶

B. **RESIST** the devil and establish Christ's victory

1. During the language learning time, while evangelism is at a minimum, take on Spiritual Warfare as your main outreach.
2. Don't make the mistake of assuming that Christ's victory means that you or those on your team will not endure suffering. A list of missionaries engaged in CPM's reads like a catalog of calamity. This may be related to a higher spiritual price from pushing back the darkness (Rev. 12:12). Whatever the cause, missionary suffering is a common factor in these movements.
3. Missionaries intent on planting a CPM would be well-advised to be on their guard, to watch, fight, and _____.

V. **FIND RESPONSIVE PEOPLE**

A. **AIM** at heads of households

1. Build relationships with local people, seeking _____ from the start.¹⁷
2. Minimize evangelistic outreach until you have at least one team member who speaks the language well enough to disciple the new believers.
3. Normally you should aim at reaching _____, knowing that they are potential leaders who can share the gospel with their families and friends.¹⁸ Who is the "decision maker" in the culture's family dynamic?

B. **USE** imitable methods

¹⁶Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁷Luke 10:6-7

¹⁸Acts 16:31

1. Only use evangelistic methods that the local people can quickly _____ -- simple enough for new believers, affordable, appropriate technology, etc.¹⁹

VI. TEACH THE GOSPEL

A. **PROCLAIM** the essentials of the gospel in understandable ways

1. Our proclamation of the good news must be done in a manner that is both _____ and intelligible to the target community.
2. Luke 24:46-48 and I Corinthians 15:1-4 point out the essentials of the gospel of Jesus Christ:
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
3. Rely upon God for _____. "For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power...." (I Thessalonians 1:5)
4. Integrate evangelism and _____ -- serving people through both word and deed. Compassionately meeting practical needs is an important part of outreach. As the team models "ministry to the whole person", the new churches will begin to do the same.²⁰
5. "Abundant Gospel Sowing" is a universal element in Church Planting Movements. Where evangelism is rare or absent, CPMs do not emerge.

B. **MODEL** everything you teach

1. **Model** the Christian walk and ministry skills we teach as we mobilize the local people.²¹

¹⁹I Cor. 2:2:3-5; John 4:39

²⁰Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 2:9-10

²¹Mark 3:13-19

2. What does I Thessalonians 1:5-8 have to say about being an example for others to imitate?
3. We and our converts must be prepared to _____
_____.²² Church Planting Movements often emerge in difficult settings where conversion is not popular or socially advantageous - in fact it often leads to severe persecution or even martyrdom.²³

VII. EVALUATE RESULTS

A. **REVIEW** your goals regularly

1. Regularly and prayerfully review our God-given goals and _____ the results. The "YWAM Church Planting Phases List"²⁴ is a helpful tool for reviewing progress.²⁵
2. Evaluate everything to achieve the end-vision. Discard everything that will not lead to a Church Planting Movement.
3. Look at your team's activities and ask these simple questions:
 - a) "What is going right?"
 - b) "What is going wrong?"
 - (1) "What is missing?"
 - (2) "What is confusing?"
 - c) "What could we do better?"

B. **REORGANIZE** priorities according to needs, results, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

1. Change ineffective methods.
2. Consider these quotes:

"Still I am learning." Michelangelo--at the peak of his career.

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

²²Acts 4:13-20

²³Matt. 10:17-25

²⁴Order from YWAM Church Planting Coaches (address at end).

²⁵Eph. 5:15-17; I Cor. 9:19-27

Will Rogers

“Success is never final; failure is never fatal; it is courage that counts.”

Winston Churchill

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

The Lord to Joshua.

VIII. BAPTIZE

A. **CALL** people to repent and be baptized

1. Jesus commands people to “repent and believe the gospel.”²⁶
2. Seek disciples not merely _____.
3. Baptize sincerely repentant sinners without unnecessary delays, when possible baptizing whole families.²⁷ New converts must be rapidly incorporated into the life and ministry of the church. Discipleship typically precedes conversion and continues indefinitely.

B. **BRING** the converts together

1. Serve the **Lord's Supper** to the newly baptized believers.
2. The "nucleus" of the new church is forming. Even with just two or three people, it has the God-given potential to grow and reproduce!
3. Avoid the temptation of bringing the people into the church planting team. The team serves as _____, helping in the birth to an indigenous church.
4. Following the example of the early church,²⁸ use home _____ (small groups) to encourage love, prayer, accountability, giving, evangelism, etc.
5. Cells are the basic building blocks of all living things. As they multiply the body grows.

²⁶Mark 1:15

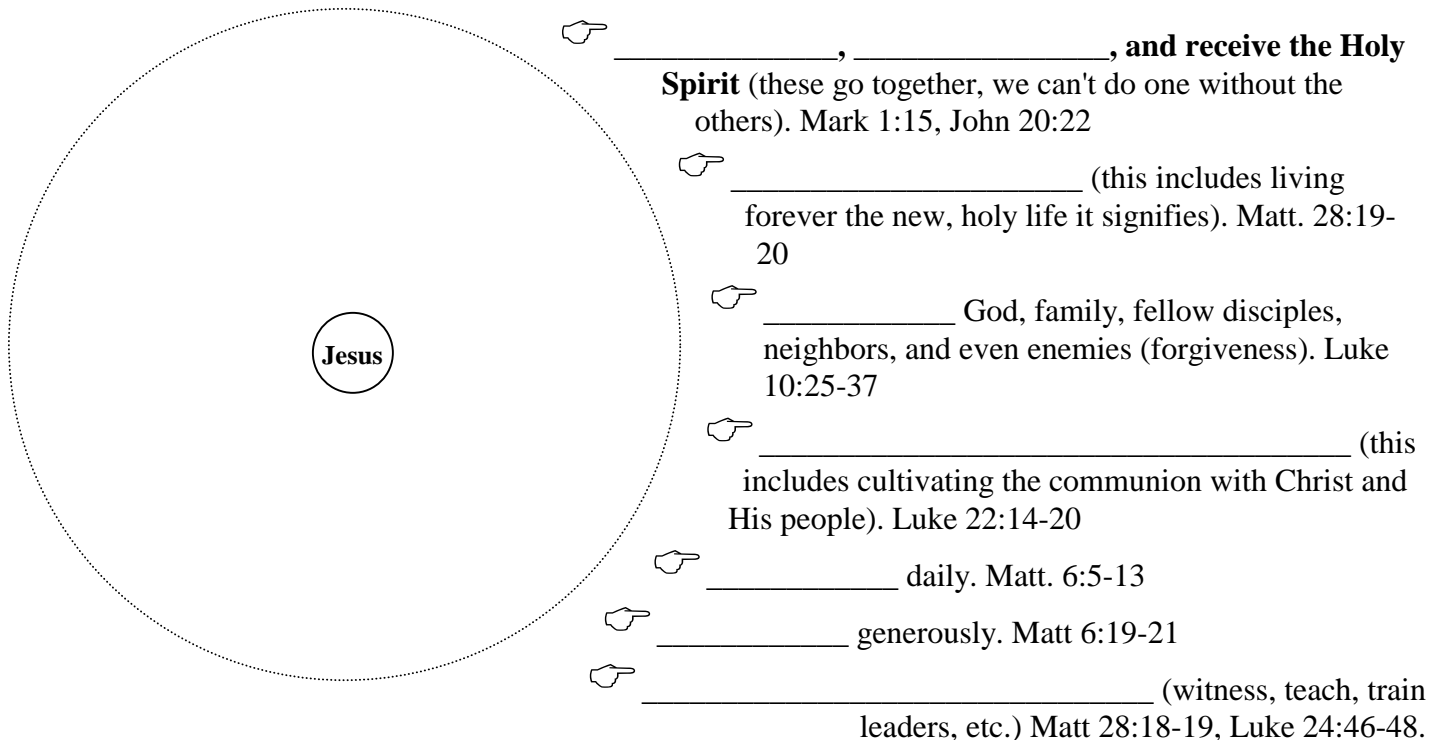
²⁷Acts 2:37-42; Acts 18:8

²⁸Acts 2:41-47

IX. URGE ALL TO OBEY CHRIST

A. **EQUIP** people to be obedient to Christ's commands

1. Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will _____." ²⁹
2. Stress obedience to the commands of Jesus. Yet obedience must come from a motive of love. Any other motivation for obedience leads a church to fall into _____.
3. Teach the disciples to obey Jesus' basic commands ³⁰



4. Help the people learn from and apply the Bible to their lives. God blesses simple obedience to His Word! Churches grow and multiply when Jesus is obeyed. ³¹
5. "Scriptural Authority" is a Universal Element in CPM's. Even among non-literate groups, the Bible has been rudder and guiding source for the church's life, and its authority is unquestioned.

²⁹John 14:15

³⁰Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:37-47

³¹A very practical book that addresses church multiplication arising from obeying Jesus' commands is Church Multiplication Guide by George Patterson and Richard Scoggins. Available from William Carey Library, address listed previously.

6. Teach emerging leaders to discern _____ of **authority** for the activities of the church:
- I. _____ (in the New Testament) They are required of all disciples; we practice them under any circumstances; we never prohibit them. (listed above)
 - II. _____ (not commanded) We do not have the authority to require nor prohibit their practice. List examples below:
 - III. _____ (no mention in the New Testament) Their only authority is our voluntary agreement within a local congregation; we cannot force them on other congregations; we must prohibit them when they impede obedience.³² List examples below:
7. Never allow any human authority to prevent you or your disciples from simple, loving obedience to the commands of the Lord Jesus.³³

B. **ENCOURAGE** loving fellowship and evangelism

1. Help the converts bond together in love. They need to know that they belong to God's family. Foster a community of believers who have right relationships with God, with one another, and with non-believers.
2. Keep encouraging evangelism. Help believers reach their extended families and to follow the web of their own relationships.³⁴

X. **WORSHIP**

A. **FACILITATE** culturally relevant worship forms

1. Examine the New Testament model in Acts 2:37-47. What are the basics that hold true for every culture?

³²Matt. 15:1-20

³³Acts 4:19

³⁴Acts 16:31-32

2. Healthy churches carry out the following five purposes:

- 1) worship
- 2) evangelistic and missionary outreach
- 3) education and discipleship
- 4) gifts-based ministry
- 5) fellowship

CPM's grow "all by themselves" when these core functions are strongly present.

3. Enable the people to create their own **culturally relevant worship forms** based upon apostolic models rather than _____ forms from our culture.³⁵

4. Advice from YWAM church planters on the field: To avoid imposing our own culture upon the new church--

- ❖ discern the difference between Biblical truths (divine commands) and cultural preferences;
- ❖ follow the local cultural ways as much as possible. Do not alienate the people;
- ❖ let the people create their own music and use their own style. Don't import foreign worship forms, including translations of hymns and choruses.
- ❖ Encourage the new church to celebrate special local holidays and rites of passage in creative and God-honoring ways.

B. **GIVE** opportunities for all to actively participate

1. I Corinthians 14:26 describes a simple service designed to edify the believers and inspire worship of God.

2. Recognize the priesthood of all believers and mobilize each one for _____ - _____ ministry. Urge all God's people to minister one to another using their spiritual gifts.³⁶

³⁵I Cor. 9:22; Romans 14:4-6

³⁶Eph.4:11-16; I Cor. 12:7, 14:26

3. Establish churches from the beginning, avoiding mere _____ where people simply come to hear a sermon, prayer, and music.³⁷
4. Only _____ lead meetings to which the public is invited. As foreigners, avoid pastoring the new church.³⁸

XI. MOBILIZE ALL

A. **CONCENTRATE** efforts on mobilizing potential leaders

1. Avoid _____ upon foreign finances in the development of new churches.^{39 40}
2. Do not build the church around the team, instead **the team serves as** _____ which is quickly removed as the indigenous church emerges.⁴¹
3. As the church(es) form, the church planting team will need to reorganize. It will soon be time to withdraw. If not, the local leaders may not want to take responsibility, thinking that the team will do everything.^{42 43}
4. Model and develop non-authoritarian _____, who lead rather than drive their flocks.⁴⁴
5. Church Planting Movements are led by lay leaders, not paid clergy. These people are typically bi-vocational and resemble the general profile of their people group.
6. **"Work yourself out of a job"** mobilizing potential leaders who model evangelism, disciple new converts, lead cell groups and house churches, etc.⁴⁵

³⁷Acts 2:41-42; James 1:22

³⁸Titus 1:5

³⁹II Cor. 8:2-3, 9:10-11

⁴⁰For information and practical assistance with the thorny problem of dependency contact: World Mission Associates; 825 Darby Lane; Lancaster, PA 17601-2009 USA. Ph: 800-230-5265. WMUSA@xc.org

⁴¹Acts 14:23

⁴²John 12:24

⁴³For an excellent guide to closure and planned withdrawal read: Passing the Baton: Church Planting that Empowers by Tom Steffen. Available from William Carey Library (address given previously).

⁴⁴Matt. 20:25-28; I Peter 5:1-4

⁴⁵Exodus 18:13-27

B. MULTIPLY clusters of cell groups and churches

1. Help converts to win friends or relatives in _____ communities. Daughter churches may begin at once. Some of the best church planters are new converts!
2. Consider teaming-up or partnering with **existing churches or denominations** only if they put Jesus' commands⁴⁶ and church reproduction above all human policies. We do have the Biblical and organizational freedom to **start new church** _____ and associations.⁴⁷
3. Organize for multiplication. Compare the "hub" and the "vine"

THE HUB



Centralized structure

structures:

THE VINE



Decentralized structure

4. Multiply _____ of closely-knit cell groups and/or house churches. One lone church seldom survives long. Where possible, encourage regular united gatherings of these groups.^{48 49}
5. Enable each church to reproduce cell groups internally and also to **reproduce into** _____ **churches**, resulting in a church planting movement.⁵⁰

⁴⁶John 14:15

⁴⁷Rom. 15:20

⁴⁸Acts 2:46, 20:20

⁴⁹Cell / House Church distinction: Cells are linked to one another in some type of structured network. House churches may look the same at ground-level, but are more autonomous and lack the hierarchy of authority or single authority that cells have. Each has its own advantages and liabilities. Both types are common in CPMs and often both appear within a single CPM.

⁵⁰as seen in Acts 13, 14, etc.

6. To plant churches, there must be a balance of ongoing evangelism, discipleship and leadership training. Create a symbol below to show this balance:

XII. TRAIN LEADERS

A. **COACH** new leaders through on-the-job training

1. **Coach leaders locally**, _____, developing "Paul-Timothy" relationships for training elders, pastors, cell-group leaders, local church planters, etc. rather than sending them away to outside institutions.
2. The Pastoral Trainer trains local leaders as pastors, elders, cell-group leaders and church planters from _____ allowing them to lead their own people.⁵¹
3. Titus 1:5 -- Paul considers his churches finished until local elders are appointed.
4. Emphasize “_____ - _____” -- training leaders to build up the church and to reach the lost.⁵²
5. Follow this simple training model:

I DO, YOU WATCH.
WE DO, WE WATCH.
YOU DO, I WATCH.
YOU DO

Remember to “**MAWL**” them. **M**odel, **A**ssist, **W**atch, and **L**eave.

B. **DEPART**, as local leaders continue -- *at any cost* -- to reproduce leaders and churches.

1. Reliance upon locally-trained lay leaders ensures your movement the largest possible pool of potential church planters and cell church leaders. Dependence upon seminary-trained ---- or in non-literate societies, even

⁵¹Acts 18:26




⁵²Eph. 4:11-16

educated --- pastoral leaders means the work will always face a leadership deficit.^{53 54}

2. II Tim 2:2. The “2-2-2 Rule” is “**NEVER DO ANYTHING ALONE!**” Paul-Timothy relationship are personal, loving and edifying.

 Draw the Paul-Timothy Training Chain in the space below:

3. **TRAIN & MULTIPLY** is an effective on-the-job training course designed to help reproduce indigenous leaders and churches. It combines three important elements:

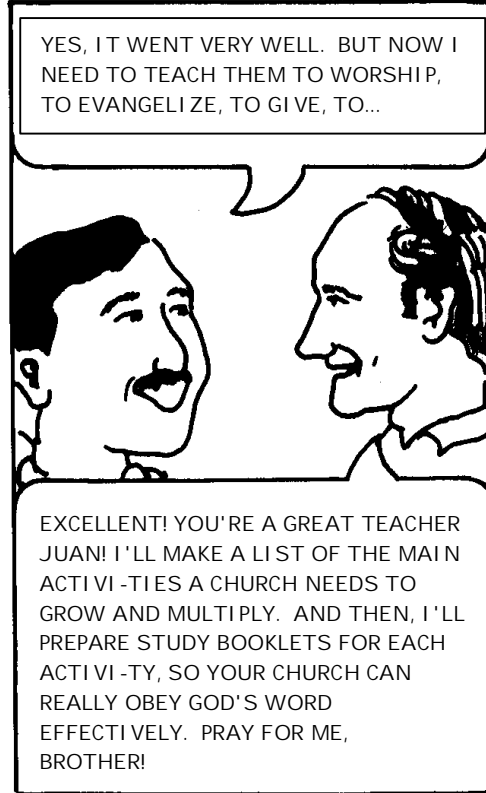
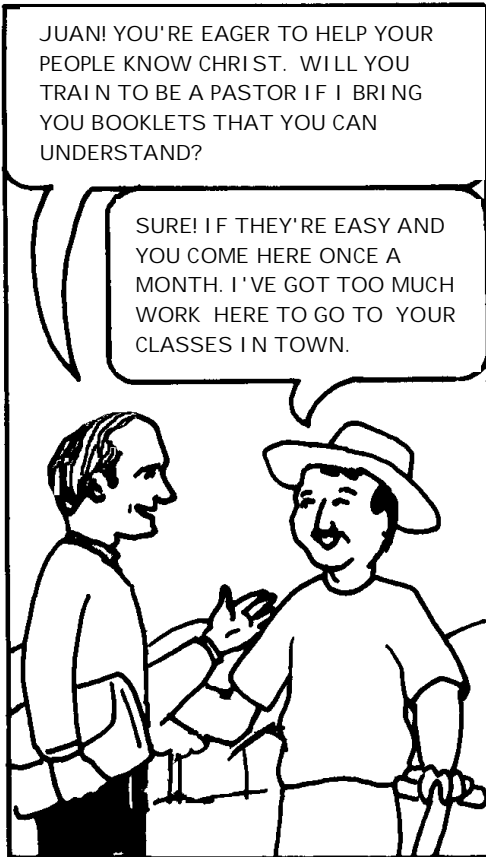
-  Evangelism/pastoring in real life situations
-  Home study with simple practical studies
-  Regular meetings between the pastoral trainer and his trainees.

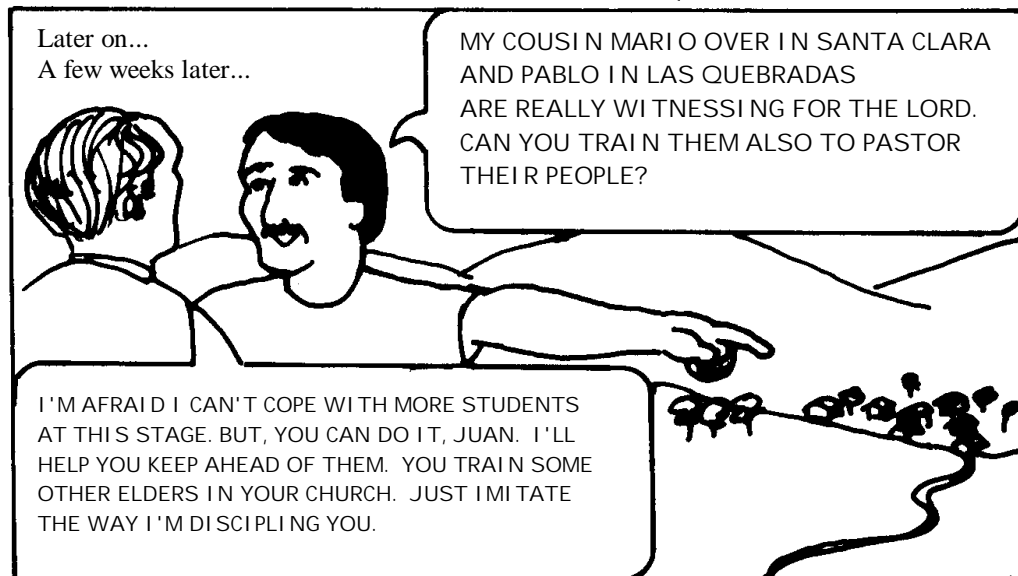
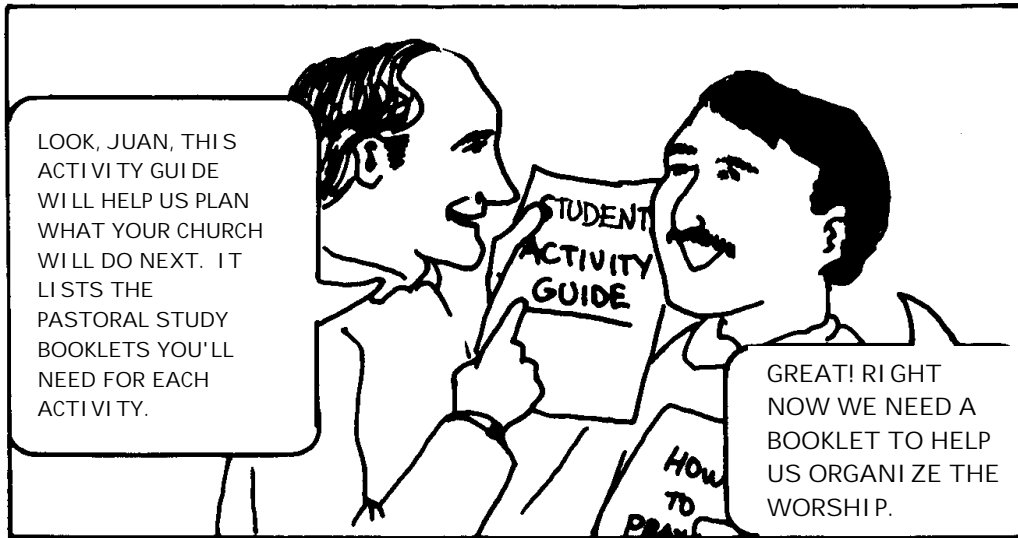
⁵³II Chronicles 17:7-9; II Tim 2:2

⁵⁴Regarding the training of indigenous leaders for new churches, YWAM church planters in South Asia say, “The church planting team should do the training. Local training and mentoring is the best. Those who travel away from rural to urban settings (or developing countries to developed countries) often do not return or do not easily fit back into the culture.”

Let us talk to you in the simple yet successful presentation that forms the TRAIN & MULTIPLY © concept and approach:







In this way the program extended throughout the country, forming a chain of some 100 new flourishing congregations!

TRAIN & MULTIPLY is being successfully used in large urban centers, small towns and rural areas in many parts of the world. The Lord has used it to raise up hundreds of pastors, leaders, missionaries and new churches. Contact *YWAM Church Planting Coaches* for information on how to order this program.

4. The "baton" of leadership must be passed on to the local leaders.⁵⁵
5. As your final aim, encourage new churches to form their own "**church-based** _____" to reproduce cross-culturally.⁵⁶
6. As the Holy Spirit leads and empowers, continue, at any cost, to reproduce leaders and churches **until a church planting movement is led by** _____.⁵⁷

CONCLUSION

Let us all walk in the fear of God as we plant churches, knowing that we will incur the stricter judgment (James 3:1). How desperately we each need **an intimate relationship with the living God!** Out of that relationship will come the eternal fruit of His great love and labor: the Bride of Christ -- the Church.

God Himself must be the Source and His Word the Foundation for all that we do. Knowing God and His ways gives us a context and a perspective from which to apply these principles. We must always keep our focus upon Him rather than on that which we want to do for Him.

If you have questions in the future or need church planting resources, please contact:

YWAM CHURCH PLANTING COACHES

381 Bayside Rd.

Arcata, CA 95521 USA

Phone: (707) 822-4662 Fax: (707) 822-8952

E-mail: <mailto:CPCoaches@cpcoaches.com> Web: <http://cpcoaches.com/>

Church Planting Coaches wish to offer our profound gratitude to George Patterson, our mentor and friend, and to David Garrison of the International Mission Board (Southern Baptist Convention) for their insights and research so freely quoted herein.⁵⁸ As Gruffy Bear said, "*If you're going to borrow --- borrow from the best!*"

⁵⁵"In many ways, the formation and training (of local leaders) is the most important aspect of church planting." David Hesselgrave, Planting Churches Cross-Culturally (William Carey Library also stocks this title).

⁵⁶Acts 10

⁵⁷Acts 20:17:38

⁵⁸ Call 1-800-866-3621 to order your copy of the excellent booklet "*Church Planting Movements*".

Exercise: Gospel and Culture

This exercise will help you to test your own theological consistency on a number of issues that Protestants in various denominations have felt important. As a Christian in a cross-cultural setting, you will need to learn the differences between those elements essential to the church in every culture, and those elements which are not.

Part One

Separate all the items that follow into two categories, based on these definitions:

Essential: These items (commands, practices, customs) are essential to the church in every age. [Check under "E" on the list]

Negotiable: These items (commands, practices, customs) may or may not be valid for the church in any given place or time. [Check under "N" on the list]

E or N

1. Greet each other with a holy kiss.
2. Do not go to court to settle issues between Christians.
3. Do not eat meat used in pagan ceremonies.
4. Women in the assembly should be veiled when praying or speaking.
5. Wash feet at the Lord's Supper.
6. Lay on hands for ordination.
7. Sing without musical accompaniment.
8. Abstain from eating blood.
9. Abstain from fornication.
10. Share the Lord's Supper together.
11. Use only real wine and unleavened bread for Communion.
12. Use only grape juice for Communion.
13. Anoint with oil for healing.
14. Women are not to teach men.
15. Women are not to wear braided hair, gold or pearls.
16. Men are not to have long hair.
17. Do not drink wine at all.
18. Slavery is permissible if you treat slaves well.
19. Remain single.
20. Seek the gift of tongues.
21. Seek the gift of healing.
22. Lift your hands when you pray.
23. People who don't work don't eat.
24. Have a private "devotional time" every day.
25. Say Amen at the end of prayers.
26. Appoint elders and deacons in every congregation.
27. Elect the leaders.

28. Confess sins one to another.
29. Confess sins privately to God.
30. Give at least 10% of your income/goods/crops to God.
31. Construct a building for worship.
32. Confess Christ publicly by means of baptism.
33. Be baptized by immersion.
34. Be baptized as an adult.
35. Be baptized as a child/infant.
36. Do not be a polygamist.
37. Do not divorce your spouse for any reason.
38. Do not divorce your spouse except for adultery.

Part Two

Think about the process you used to distinguish "essential" from "negotiable" item. What principle or principles governed your decisions? Write out the method you used, in a simple concise statement. Be completely honest with yourself and accurately describe how you arrive at these decisions. Your principles should account for every decision.

Part Three

Review your decisions again, and answer the following:

Are your "essential" items so important to you that you could not associate with a group that did not practice all of them?

Are there some "essential" items that are a little more "essential" than others?

Are there any items that have nothing explicitly to do with Scripture at all?

Part Four

Try to divide the items up into the following three levels of authority (from George Patterson):

New Testament Commands. Clear commands of Christ to his disciples (us). We practice them under all circumstances; we never prohibit them.

Numbers:

Apostolic practices (not commanded). We don't have the authority to require or prohibit the practice of these things that the apostles did, but that God himself neither commanded nor prohibited.

Numbers:

Human customs (no mention in NT). Human traditions that only have authority in a local assembly in voluntary agreement.

Numbers: