Trouble Shooting for Church Reproduction By George Patterson January 2003

Common Snags	Common Causes	Common Cures (plan the activities)
Evangelism fails to bring people to Christ or to reach entire families.	Workers lack power for evangelism.	Enlist serious intercessors and share the vision .
		Pray for healing of the people with childlike faith.
		Proclaim the good news as the apostles did, relating the death <i>AND</i> life giving resurrection of Jesus.
	Expatriate workers fail to bond properly with the people and their culture, spending time mainly with each other.	Form task groups with workers who bond with the people and their culture and, as seen in Acts, who focus on a specific community and relate to it.
		Live among the people, let them meet your deepest social needs.
		Learn the language without a painful accent .
		Commit to go and simply do what Jesus says , not for a limited term (avoid having teams with <i>only</i> short-term workers).
	Expatriate workers mobilize few nationals for task groups.	Form task groups mainly with nationals or culturally close persons.
		Aim not for permanent teams but temporary task groups with a task focus.
	Worship style or evangelistic methods do not fit the culture.	Nationals write and lead music in their style, avoiding Western <i>performance</i> .
		Celebrate the Lord's Supper regularly.
	Workers extract converts from family and friends, overdoing the personal (private) aspect of faith.	Rely on a ' man of peace ' in a community; work with his contacts—Luke 10.
		Start with heads of familiesActs 16:31.
		See seekers as God does part of a social unit <i>not</i> as isolated individuals.
	Converts fall back.	Call seekers to repent , not simply to make decisions.
		Baptize repentant believers without undue delay.
		Help converts love family and friends in useful ways.
Church or cell multiplication lags.	Leaders encourage work only if they control it, failing to plan for granddaughter churches or cells.	Model servant leadership for new leaders, outside of classrooms.
		Train and install new leaders fasterat least as fast as Paul did in Acts 14.
	Methods or equipment are too costly, high-tech or Western.	Limit equipment and methods to what all potential workers in a '2 Timothy 2:2 training chain' can easily obtain or grasp.
	Workers lack focus on a specific, cohesive society.	Let the gospel flow where the Holy Spirit leads it. Don't kill a culture by forcing it to mix with another in a church. See Appendix B, in the T&M <i>Workshop Workbook</i> for guidelines.
	Leaders fear that false doctrine or bad practices	Clarify what history shows: heresy comes from old, stagnant churches , not new ones. Simply train new leaders in the biblical way and relax.

	will creep in if churches multiply rapidly.	Remind workers that where the apostles made disciples churches or urban cells resulted and reproduced . Teach obedience, not <i>fear!</i>
Legalistic policies deter new leaders from obeying Jesus' commands.	Leaders attribute more authority to human organization than to Christ, including for rules for baptism and Communion .	Make disciples as Jesus said, teaching to obey His commands in love, before all else. Found ministries on His commands, discerning between New Testament commands, mere apostolic practices that were not commanded and human traditions. Discern between the essential purpose of commands and the various external forms that their practice can take.
Students fail to carry out field-work or studies.	Trainers enroll immature pupils.	Enroll only leaders that qualify biblically as 'elders.'
	Too many attend sessions.	Gather no more than you can listen to and help plan.
	Plans are too much or impractical.	Plan fieldwork that students can realistically do and agree to, noting specific people and places as you record their plans.
	Accountability is weak.	Review work done. Give recognition for good work, note current needs .
	Assignments do not fit current needs and opportunities.	Use the <i>Student Activity Guide's</i> Activity Menu to select Activities that fit current needs. Look up activities to select options that fit.
	Students find it hard to read.	See if students need inexpensive reading glasses.
	Students work through books in a linear way, not as they need them.	Use the Study Options listed under each Activity in the <i>Student Activity Guide</i> to select books that fit current needs and opportunities.
	Books are too costly or too big to carry around to read conveniently.	Reproduce books in their small size as T&M recommends. Do not bind them in larger volumes simply for the convenience of printers or secretaries.
Western	Leaders work only if	Halt subsidies that create dependency on foreign subsidy. Be
funding stifles initiative.	paid.	<i>firm.</i> Teach Christian stewardship .
Translation	Translation is hard to read.	Review translation guidelines in T&M Translator's Manual.
gives problems.	Translation drags .	Communicate more with translators, encourage them, and test books <i>soon</i> .
Books are	Trainers cannot get a book	Set up book deposits within reach of all Trainers.
unavailable.	when a particular church need calls for it.	Inspect quantities of books on hand regularly to replace low stocks.