

# A Remedy for North American Churches that Have Stopped Growing

George Patterson, September 2014

Enough, already!

Let's plug the leak through which thousands are falling away from our declining churches and denominations in the West. The remedy is easy:

(a) See how church-planting movements are bringing thousands to Christ by doing what New Testament-era churches did to multiply like rabbits; and

(b) Imitate the simplicity by multiplying new churches on a "second track." Here's how...

## 1. **Stir up interest in launching 2<sup>nd</sup> tracks.**

Let's hear lots of chatter about a 2<sup>nd</sup> track, and not just from behind pulpits.

- Tell the stories of simple churches that are multiplying in many places, including in the West.
- Hold sessions among church leaders, members and youth, to discuss how a 2<sup>nd</sup> track would bring many to Christ in your city and region.

## 2. **Describe what 2<sup>nd</sup> track churches should do.**

- They normally gather in homes, as churches did in the first three centuries after Christ.
- They retain their "1<sup>st</sup> track," mother church's doctrine and historical identity.
- They require only what Jesus and His apostles required. This keeps church life simple, as in the New Testament, so that disciples can multiply rapidly and new churches be planted so easily that you would not have to budget for them.

## 3. **Release an eager few members to launch a 2<sup>nd</sup> track.**

- Most churches have a few dissatisfied, frustrated members who yearn to do much more for Christ but find important ministry positions already filled. A 2<sup>nd</sup> track frees these up to make disciples who obey Jesus and multiply.
- Ease two common fears.
  - a) No one will be forced to change; all may choose the track that they prefer.  
Very few members of conventional churches would opt to work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> track.
  - b) 2<sup>nd</sup> track churches maintain loving relationships with 1<sup>st</sup> track churches, and leaders on both tracks prohibit grumbling about the other track.

## 4. **Get the kind of training and coaching offered by [www.2ndtrack.com](http://www.2ndtrack.com)**

- View videos that show practitioners modeling easy, essential skills. These include:
  - 1) See "fields" that are ripe for harvest in your area.
  - 2) Help new believers witness, so that friends sense Jesus' presence and power.
  - 3) Let disciples and church bodies obey Jesus' basic commands before all else.
  - 4) Adopt worship styles that fit a tiny group; all serve each other using their gifts.
  - 5) Keep flocks tiny, rapidly-multiplying daughter and granddaughter churches.
  - 6) All shepherds coach apprentice leaders of their own new flocks.
  - 7) Heal in Jesus' name, and allow for other acts of the Holy Spirit's power.
  - 8) Provide party-like gatherings, such as Levi held, where friends can meet Jesus.
  - 9) In 2<sup>nd</sup> track churches, maintain intense interaction, heeding the many New Testament "one another" commands, such as "teach one another" (Col. 3:16).
- Let coaches help you track progress, through occasional interviews via Internet.