

**THE**

# **BASICS OF CHURCH PLANTING**



**Bob C. Green, D.Min.**

**THE BASICS OF  
CHURCH  
PLANTING**

By

**Bob C. Green, D.Min.**

**Copyright May, 2015  
by Bob C. Green D.Min.**

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other – except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version, Copyright © 1989 Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Published  
August 8, 2020

**ISBN: 978-1-7351454-5-7**

**THE OLD PATHS PUBLICATIONS, INC.  
142 GOLD FLUME WAY  
CLEVELAND, GA, USA 30528  
TOP@theoldpathspublications.com  
www.theoldpathspublications.com**

**DEDICATED TO:**

**PATSY, SUSAN, AND TIM**

SAMPLE PAGES

# PREFACE

## Planting Indigenous Churches

Churches that are established following the **biblical pattern** set forth by the Apostles and first century missionaries will manifest “**indigeneity.**” The term “indigenous” is a biological term used to describe a plant that thrives in a specific environment, type of soil, in a given location or climate. At present time there is much lip service given to the starting and establishing of “indigenous churches.” Unfortunately many times even those most adamant about this principle and philosophy, in every day practice undermine or violate the principle as set forth in Acts 14 and Ephesians 4:10. The failure to follow biblical guidelines and patterns has led to the establishment of mission churches that are not self-governing, self-supporting or self-propagating. Churches started and established according to New Testament teachings will be able **to exist and flourish without the foreign direction, subsidy and propping up which characterizes mission churches on so many fields.**

The missionary church planter needs to **beware of doing for the national church what they should do for themselves through faith in God.** Rapid results are often obtained through the utilization of **artificial means and short cuts** but in the long run irreparable damage can be done to the establishment of a truly indigenous church. The missionary must **avoid “perpetuating” his ministry.** He would do well to communicate from the beginning that his objective is indigeneity. He must serve and teach in such a way that the nationals participate in the decision to implement indigenous principles. He can thus cause the nationals to develop a sense of “ownership” over the decision to be indigenous or autonomous. Never is a second thought given to the possibility

of churches planted in America becoming “autonomous.” New American churches are expected to be autonomous and stand on their own at some point. **Why are churches planted in the rest of the world seen to be any different?**

The keys necessary to the establishment of a truly indigenous church are held by the missionary church planter and the nationals.

1. **The missionary church planter must be a soul winner and must train his converts to be soul winners** (Ephesians 4:10-12). The church planter may be “a one man team” in the beginning of his church planting ministry. This situation may be avoided if he is fortunate enough to have assistance from another church in the area. He will certainly be the Captain of the team until he can train and prepare others to lead in the soul winning efforts (II Timothy 2:2). As he wins souls and trains those he has won to become soul winners the team will grow and new team Captains will immerge.
2. **The church planter must “make disciples” or teach his converts the truths of God’s Word**. Spiritual growth and maturity necessary for their lives is the **objective**. The teaching of Bible doctrine is the **means**. The **result** will be the strengthening of the congregation with an eye toward organization and establishment and the day that the missionary can leave to begin another church.
3. **The church planter must train others to “make disciples.”** The church planter needs the help of others and the people of the new church need these opportunities to prepare for when he will no longer be present.

4. **The church planter must teach and train maturing disciples that can assume roles of leadership** (teachers, ushers, deacons, nursery workers, department leaders, treasurer, etc). **It is vital to communicate one's heart to these individuals.** This is what Jesus did as HE prepared the Disciples during His three year earthly ministry. The church planter must pray to the Father in Heaven and ask that the Holy Spirit give to them the same biblical vision and passion for the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. The leaders must be taught, **trained by allowing hands on practice** (even if the missionary can do it better he must allow them to gain experience), **entrusted with the work**, (even if they make mistakes) **and then commended to the Holy Ghost**, who alone can do the necessary work in their hearts. Needless to say much time will be spent in prayer for these folk. These leaders will make mistakes... but which of us hasn't? Pour your heart and life into them. Show them that you love them and have confidence in them. When a missionary doesn't trust the national, the national doesn't trust the missionary. The same can be said concerning respect.
6. **The leaders that have God's call on their lives for the ministry will need more extensive training** so they can serve as pastors, evangelists, teachers in the Bible Institute or Seminary and missionaries. This need can be met by the establishment of a Bible Institute in the church. In order for the new church to be fully indigenous it will need a national pastor or pastors (Acts 14:23). Ideally the Bible Institute will continue to function after the church planter has moved to a new location. The missionary might continue to be involved

with the Institute in a teaching role, recognizing the potential for additional laborers for new ministries.

7. **When a congregation has sufficient number of faithful** (faithful in each of the vital areas of membership such as holy living, attendance, financial support, etc.), **biblically knowledgeable, spiritually maturing members it can be organized and “commended to the Lord Jesus Christ.”** The “sufficient number” may vary by field. A tribal village congregation would certainly not require the same amount of structure and organization as a congregation in a large metropolitan area. Once the missionary church planter has led the church to this stage, he should step back and move on and recognize the fact that this is now an independent, autonomous, New Testament Baptist church not belonging to him, a mission agency, or association of churches, but to the Lord. The missionary has reached his objective.

**Note:** A good policy to live by as a church planter is: **“Never invest anything in the establishment of a new church from which you are not willing to walk away.** This policy will keep one from retaining unscriptural power over the local church.

To recognize the supreme role of the Holy Spirit in the entire process of planting churches (evangelism, making disciples, training leaders, maturing the believers), to learn to trust the Spirit’s work in and through the new believers, to be willing to step away and relinquish leadership responsibilities and to promote a healthy independency, which should be in reality a dependency upon God taught by the church planter’s word and example, from the beginning, requires faith on the part of the church planter. He must recognize the inherent tendency to see weaknesses in others while ignoring his own.

He must remind himself that the Holy Spirit that has transformed him through the Word of God is faithful and almighty to transform peoples of all races, tongues, etc.

**In short:** Go about your church planting ministry biblically. Partner with the Holy Spirit, trusting Him to do what only He can do, and will do if given the opportunity. **Win, teach, train, and trust** the national. Christianize not Americanize. The result should be an indigenous or autonomous (I use the terms interchangeably because in some parts of the world the term indigenous does not give the same connotation) New Testament Baptist church.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DEDICATED TO:</b> .....	3
<b>PREFACE</b> .....	4
Planting Indigenous Churches .....	4
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	9
<b>COURSE DESCRIPTION</b> .....	15
<b>COURSE OBJECTIVE</b> .....	15
Some questions should we be asking? .....	16
<b>INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH PLANTING</b> .....	18
<b>CHAPTER ONE</b> .....	21
<b>CHURCH PLANTING</b> .....	21
Bible Basis: .....	21
New Testament Definition: .....	21
Practical Definition: .....	22
The Origin of the Church .....	23
The LORD PROMISES His PRESENCE always. ....	24
He promises His PROTECTION .....	24
He promises His POWER in verse 49. ....	25
Jesus promises His PEACE .....	25
Luke records the progression of the church in Acts chapters One and Two .....	25
<b>CHAPTER TWO</b> .....	30
<b>PRE-CHURCH PLANTING MINISTRY CONSIDERATIONS:</b> .....	30
<b>THE PERSON: THE CHURCH PLANTER</b> .....	30
<b>THE REQUIREMENT OF SALVATION</b> .....	30
The requirement of spiritual maturity .....	30
NOTE: .....	33
NOTE: .....	35
Note: Teach “accountability” by being accountable. ....	37
<b>CHAPTER THREE</b> .....	44
<b>WHERE SHOULD NEW CHURCHES BE PLANTED?</b> .....	44
<b>METROPOLITAN AREAS</b> .....	46
<b>THE SUBURBS</b> .....	48
<b>THE RURAL AREAS</b> .....	48
<b>QUESTIONS</b> .....	50
<b>VISIBILITY, access, etc.</b> .....	52
For the sake of emphasis: .....	53
Illustration: .....	54
<b>CHAPTER FOUR</b> .....	56
<b>PREPARATIONS FOR CHURCH PLANTING</b> .....	56
Differing Approaches .....	56
Differing Forms of Sponsorship .....	57

## THE BASICS OF CHURCH PLANTING

Two Requisites.....	57
<b>METHODS OF CHURCH PLANTING.....</b>	<b>58</b>
The Missionary Church Planter.....	58
The Advantages of the “Missionary Church Planter” Method.....	58
The Disadvantages.....	59
The Pioneer Church Planter.....	60
Advantages.....	60
Disadvantages.....	61
Note:.....	62
The Sponsoring Church Method.....	63
Advantages.....	63
Disadvantages.....	64
Variations.....	65
The Colonization Model.....	65
The Task Force.....	65
The Multi-congregational Model.....	65
The Satellite Church.....	65
The Adoption Model.....	66
<b>CHAPTER FIVE.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>TEACHING AND PREACHING.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>PREPARE YOUR PREACHING AND TEACHING MATERIALS</b>	
<b>BEFOREHAND.....</b>	<b>67</b>
Plan your church program.....	68
Sunday School.....	68
Worship Services.....	68
Training or Discipleship Classes.....	68
Teen and/or Youth Activities.....	69
<b>PREPARE A CHURCH CONSTITUTION, COVENANT, BY-LAWS, AND</b>	
<b>STATEMENT OF FAITH.....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>PREPARE PUBLICITY MATERIALS.....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>PREPARE A BROCHURE FOR VISITATION.....</b>	<b>70</b>
Three things to remember:.....	71
<b>DEVELOP A SIMPLE BUDGET.....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>SECURE THE NEEDED OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>ARRANGE FOR HOUSING FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>CHOOSE A NAME FOR THE CHURCH.....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>DECIDE ON A SUITABLE MEETING PLACE.....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>WHEN YOU HAVE A PLACE TO MEET, SET A DATE FOR YOUR</b>	
<b>FIRST SERVICES.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>FOLLOW UP ON ALL CONTACTS, MAKE PHONE CALLS, VISITS,</b>	
<b>WRITE LETTERS, AND SEND EMAILS.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>NO AMOUNT OF PREPARATION WILL SUFFICE IF YOU DO NOT</b>	
<b>BATHE ALL IN PRAYER.....</b>	<b>75</b>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>CHAPTER SIX.....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>THE PLAN FOR CHURCH PLANTING.....</b>	<b>77</b>
VISITATION AS A TEAM EFFORT.....	77
REMEMBER, PEOPLE ATTRACT PEOPLE .....	78
IDEAS: .....	78
YOU MAY MEET: .....	79
EVERY PERSON IN YOUR MINISTRY AREA IS A PROSPECT FOR TRUSTING CHRIST AND ATTENDING YOUR CHURCH -- UNTIL PROVEN OTHERWISE. ....	79
YOU MAY OBTAIN PROSPECTS THROUGH:.....	80
Note: .....	82
detailed preparation for public services.....	82
Note: .....	83
Make a checklist.....	83
Give thought to:.....	84
<b>CHAPTER SEVEN .....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>REPETITION AIDS IN LEARNING.....</b>	<b>86</b>
Building the Church on the Field.....	86
Considerations: .....	88
KEY NUMBER ONE:.....	89
A PERSONAL DAILY WALK with the Lord.....	89
The church planter must be a.....	91
KEY NUMBER TWO:.....	92
EVANGELISM.....	92
Soulwinning..... Considerations:.....	94
KEY NUMBER THREE:.....	97
Edification, or Instruction.....	97
BE A TEACHER.....	98
KEY NUMBER FOUR:.....	100
Training Leaders.....	100
Note: .....	103
<b>CHAPTER EIGHT.....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>THE ORGANIZATION OF THE LOCAL CHURCH.....</b>	<b>106</b>
The Charter of the Church .....	107
The Church Constitution .....	107
The Doctrinal Statement.....	107
Charter .....	109
Sample Document #1.....	110
Church Covenant .....	110
Sample Document #2.....	112
Membership Covenant.....	112
A Sample #3 .....	114
Doctrinal Statement .....	114

## THE BASICS OF CHURCH PLANTING

---

Sample Document #4 .....	117
Articles of Incorporation .....	117
SAMPLE CONSTITUTION .....	121
Sample Document #5 .....	129
Sample Letter Calling for a Recognition Council .....	129
Recognition Service .....	131
<b>CHAPTER NINE .....</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>THE ADMINISTRATION OF A NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST CHURCH. 132</b>	
SET GOALS .....	133
Things that help: .....	134
Business Meetings .....	136
The proper order: .....	138
PASTORS and DEACONS .....	139
The Duties of a Deacon .....	143
CHURCH WORKERS .....	145
Guidelines: .....	145
THE “TEAM” CONCEPT IN CHURCH PLANTING .....	146
Guidelines: .....	146
SAMPLE #6 .....	149
A Leadership Covenant .....	149
THE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH .....	151
(Worship, Prayer Meetings, etc.) .....	151
Note: .....	152
Note: .....	154
SAMPLE #7 .....	157
Suggested Guidelines for the Nursery Workers .....	157
SAMPLE #8 .....	160
Suggested Guidelines for the Nursery Leader .....	160
SUGGESTED SAMPLE #9 .....	162
Sunday School Worker’s Covenant .....	162
SAMPLE #10 .....	164
A Service Questionnaire for Christian Workers .....	164
The Sunday School .....	166
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS .....	168
<b>CHAPTER TEN .....</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>MISSIONS: WORLD EVANGELIZATION .....</b>	<b>170</b>
Developing a Written Church Missions Policy .....	172
Note: .....	175
THE SENDING CHURCH .....	175
Suggestions for the sending church: .....	177
<b>Be involved as much as is possible in their ministry .....</b>	<b>177</b>
Note: .....	181
A Suggested Missionary Policy .....	181

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

A Suggested List of Items for the Missionary Closet.....	186
FAITH PROMISE OFFERINGS .....	188
FOR WORLD EVANGELIZATION.....	188
HERE’S HOW FAITH PROMISE GIVING WORKS: .....	189
THE BLESSINGS ARE ABUNDANT .....	189
WHY SHOULD I MAKE A FAITH PROMISE OFFERING?.....	190
SAMPLE FAITH PROMISE CARD .....	192
FAITH PROMISE .....	192
Hospitality and Missions .....	193
<b>CHAPTER ELEVEN.....</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>THE LOCAL CHURCH FINANCES &amp; STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM .....</b>	<b>201</b>
Note: .....	201
A List of Financial Priorities Should Be Established .....	202
CONSIDERATIONS: .....	203
<b>CHAPTER TWELVE.....</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>THE CHURCH FACILITIES .....</b>	<b>205</b>
Establish a “Building Fund” account.....	207
DANGERS: .....	207
Note: .....	208
Note: .....	208
<b>CHAPTER THIRTEEN.....</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>PITFALLS OR DANGERS IN THE CHURCH PLANTING MINISTRY .....</b>	<b>209</b>
Note: .....	210
Discouragement .....	210
Burnout .....	211
The Success Syndrome .....	211
Note: .....	212
<b>CHAPTER FOURTEEN.....</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>THE FINISHED TASK: A NEW CHURCH PLANTED .....</b>	<b>215</b>
NOTES: .....	216
<b>QUESTIONS – STUDY GUIDE .....</b>	<b>222</b>
Chapter One.....	222
Chapter Two .....	222
Chapter Three .....	223
Chapter Four.....	223
Chapter Five .....	224
Chapter Six .....	225
Chapter Seven.....	225
Chapter Eight...Part One.....	226
Chapter Eight...Part Two .....	226
Chapter Eight...Part Three .....	226
Chapter Eight...Part Four .....	227
Chapter Nine.....	228

## THE BASICS OF CHURCH PLANTING

---

Chapter Ten.....	228
Chapter Eleven.....	229
Chapter Twelve.....	229
Chapter Thirteen .....	230
<b>RECOMMENDED READING:.....</b>	<b>231</b>
<b>INDEX.....</b>	<b>233</b>
<b>ABOUT THE AUTHOR:.....</b>	<b>237</b>

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

CHURCH PLANTING is a study of the biblical and practical principles that are basic to the establishment of new local independent Baptist churches.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this course is to challenge the student with the commands of Christ so that he becomes involved at some level in church planting, but also to provide biblical guidance and practical information concerning the what, why, where, and how of church planting.

# SOME QUESTIONS SHOULD WE BE ASKING?

1. How can we greatly accelerate the beginning of new churches all across America and the entire world?
2. How can we penetrate ethnic America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
3. Why is America not seen, by some, as a part of the “Mission Field,” a place in which to fulfill Matthew 28:19-20?
4. How can we stimulate vitality among churches that have plateaued, stagnated in growth, or have declined numerically?
5. Have we identified and targeted the needy areas in this country and the world for missionary strategy and action?
6. America is a plural, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, diverse, perverse, openly pagan, secular society. What implications are there for “strategy”?
7. Is the goal of church-planting efforts world-wide the propagation of churches that have a form of “middle-class American Christianity” or the fulfillment of the Great Commission?

*“The fruit of the righteous  
is a tree of life:  
and he that winneth  
souls is wise.”*

Proverbs 11:30

*“I must work the works of him that  
sent me, while it is day: the night  
cometh, when no man can work.”*

John 9:4

# INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH PLANTING

There are numerous biblical principles necessary to the process of planting and growing strong indigenous or autonomous New Testament Baptist churches.

A. Local N.T. Baptist Churches should be at the center of all church planting activities, both domestic and foreign.

Established **churches** should be involved directly and indirectly in the **starting and the establishment of new churches**. Churches that follow the New Testament example (Acts 13; Phil. 4) will share their resources, both human and financial. They will **send forth** their members with their **guidance, encouragement, prayers, and finances**. As the late missionary statesman **Dr. Ray Thompson** has said so often:

**“The mission of the church is missions and the mission of missions is church planting.”**

B. The places and peoples targeted for church planting activities should be selected carefully and prayerfully. The Apostle Paul reveals a guiding principle in his church planting missionary ministry in the words of Romans 15:20. **He sought to preach the gospel where Christ had not been named, or in essence where there was not a gospel preaching church.** Because the gospel of Christ is the only way of salvation it only stands that folks must hear the gospel if they are to be saved. Millions live in places having no witness, no preacher, and no gospel proclaiming church. Even in America there are communities without a gospel witness.

C. A point worth mentioning is the **principle taught by the Lord Jesus Christ** in Matthew 10:33. The ultimate form of rejection of the gospel and Jesus Christ is seen in the persecution of His messengers. **Christ states that when people reject the message, the messengers are to “go to another city.”** Should we not understand from His statement that He would have us “**continue on**” to places in need of the message? An awareness of the difference in the response to the gospel message of Christ should enable the church planting team to decide wisely in the matter of where to concentrate its efforts. As the Apostles, the modern day church planter needs definite direction from the Holy Spirit in the matter of **where** to begin a new church. We are talking about response, not rapid results. **There are places in the world that require a special strategy, an underground church.**

D. It is also necessary that the **message be communicated effectively.** **The message, God’s Holy Word, is eternal and unchanging** but the means of communication can vary to insure relevance. The early church planters **preached** (Acts 2), they **taught**, they gave **witness** to individuals (Acts 8), at times their style was that of **proclamation**, at other times it was **apologetic** (Acts 17). The gospel messenger must give consideration to the culture, language, religious environment and other factors in seeking to win souls and establish new churches. **Above all else the message should be presented with Holy Ghost power.**

E. **Acts 14:21-28** gives a pattern for church planting. The initial activity was **evangelism.** In verse 21 we are told the Apostles “preached the gospel to that city.” The gospel is the message necessary to salvation. The church planter as a soul winner presents to the lost the three main points of the gospel each time he witnesses. The Apostle Paul, under divine direction and inspiration, outlined the points of the gospel in I Corinthians 15:1-4. It goes as follows: **Christ died for our**

**sins according to the Scripture, He was buried, and then He arose after three days, according to the Scripture.** This is the basic gospel message.

In verse 21 we are also told that they **“taught many.”** This is the “teaching” aspect of church planting. **The church planter must “make disciples” by the teaching of the Word of God.** It is by these efforts that the new believers are edified and begin to mature spiritually. Thus far the sequence found in these verses is that of evangelism or soul winning and the making of disciples.

The third aspect of church planting is that of **training leaders**. This is seen in verse 23. The church planter should balance his time and energies between soul winning, making disciples, and the **training of the members of the congregation so that they can assume places of service and leadership.** The Lord Jesus Christ commands us to “teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

The local congregation involved in “church planting” and the pioneer missionary church planter alike will do well to follow this biblical pattern. The course of study in this syllabus will emphasize this pattern and hopefully provide valuable information for the accomplishing of the goal.

# Chapter One

## Church Planting

### Bible Basis:

The first reference to the CHURCH is found in 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.”*

Jesus promises to **“build” his church** and that it will be endowed with conquering power.

**THE PROMISE: “I WILL BUILD”**

**THE POSSESSION: “MY CHURCH”**

**THE POWER: “THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL...”**

### New Testament Definition:

The word **church**, or ***ecclesia***, is used predominately in two ways in the New Testament. It is used about **30 times** to refer to the **universal church**. This universal church is the invisible church made up of all believers from Christ’s ministry to the Rapture. **The universal church is the Body of Christ** (Ephesians 5:29, 30, I Corinthians 12:13).

*“For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the*

*church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones” (Ephesians 5:29, 30).*

*“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (I Corinthians 12:13).*

**Ninety times** the word church is used to refer to **an assembly of believers in a given locality** (Romans 16:1, Revelation 3:1).

*“I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of **the church which is at Cenchrea...**” (Romans 16:1).*

*“And unto the angel of the **church in Sardis...**” (Revelation 3:1).*

## **Practical Definition:**

A LOCAL CHURCH PATTERNED AFTER THE NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE IS A BODY OF BELIEVERS, POSSESSING CHRIST AS PERSONAL SAVIOUR, HAVING CONFESSED THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST PUBLICALLY THROUGH BIBLICAL BAPTISM (IMMERSION, SUBMERSION, EMERSION) IN WATER IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, BEING UNITED IN FELLOWSHIP BY COMMON DOCTRINE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF WORSHIP, THE OBSERVANCE OF THE TWO ORDINANCES, WATER BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER, FOR EDIFICATION AND PREPARATION FOR SERVICE AND WORLD EVANGELIZATION.

The terms **“to build”** or **“to plant churches”** are used in the scripture to refer to the action of beginning and establishing local churches.

*“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom **ye believed**, even as the Lord gave to every man? **I have planted**, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but **God that giveth the increase**” (1 Corinthians 3:5-7).*

*“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, **ye are God's building**. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, **I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon**. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:9-11).*

*“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).*

When an individual, such as missionary or church planter, or group of individuals, in a locality where a New Testament Baptist church does not exist, **leads lost people to faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and then begin to teach them and make disciples of the Lord**, the natural result, biblically speaking, should and can be the establishment of **a new local church**.

## **The Origin of the Church**

The Lord gave the Great Commission to His disciples. The fact that it is recorded in all four of the Gospels serves to emphasize its importance.

The most “**Inclusive**” statement of the Commission is found in Matthew 28:19-20.

*“Go ye therefore, and teach **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe **all things** whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you **always**, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20).*

The expression “all nations” means “all ethnic groups” and is not limited to geographical boundaries.

## **The LORD PROMISES His PRESENCE always.**

The most “**Emphatic**” statement of the Commission is found in Mark 16:15-18.

*“And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but **he that believeth not shall be damned.**... they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them...” (Believe and be saved, believe not and be condemned).*

The Lord gives an emphatic statement concerning the consequences of not believing as does John in 1 John 5:10-12.

## **He promises His PROTECTION.**

The most “**Explicative**” statement of the Commission is found in Luke 24:46-47.

*“And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that **repentance and remission of sins** should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at JerUSAlem.”*

Jesus explains the message...repentance and remission.

## **He promises His POWER in verse 49.**

*“And, behold I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry you in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49.*

The most “**Enabling**” statement of the Commission is found in John 20:21

*“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**”*

## **Jesus promises His PEACE.**

The late Dr. Stinnett Bellue (Evangelist) said: “God has given to us the humanly impossible task of evangelizing the world. He has given to us **the preserved Word of God** and the **power of the Holy Ghost**, thus enabling us to do the task. When all is said and done, and He has, in reality, done the task, He will reward us as if we did it.” HALLELUJAH!

## **Luke records the progression of the church in Acts chapters One and Two.**

Initially the **church was composed of 120 Jews**. God's plan was that the feast of Pentecost would be the time for the descent of the Holy Ghost (see Leviticus 23:15-22 for the O.T. typology). The Lord Jesus promised (Matthew 3:11) that the disciples would be baptized with the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:5). Luke records this in Acts Chapter Two. Though verse four makes specific reference to the "filling", it is evident from the passage that the disciples were both "baptized" with the Holy Ghost" and "filled", or controlled by Him (1 Corinthians 12:13, Acts 2:4). The Lord promised to personally begin and establish His church. He did this while still on earth with the Apostles and those followers that made up the **120 in the upper room**.

There may be disagreement concerning the beginning date of the church but: It is extremely important for the church planter to recognize and associate the **BEGINNING OF A NEW LOCAL CHURCH WITH THE PERSON AND POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST.**

The Lord Jesus Christ states in John 16:7-11,

*"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment..."*

The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts sinners of their sin, shows them the righteousness of Christ and coming judgment (John 16:7-11). He regenerates by the Word and transforms believers into the image of Christ.

*"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it..."* (Psalm 127:1).

We see the small congregation of 120 disciples grow in one day to 3120. Even with the new additions, the number is

relatively small compared to the estimated 250,000,000 people that populated the world in the first century A.D. There is progress in number but also a progression in other specific areas. The first disciples were **Jews** and only Jews. For Pentecost there were “devout men out of **every nation** under heaven.” In addition to serving as a sign gift to later convince the Jews that the Gentiles had truly been saved and accepted by God (Acts 15:8-11), **the gift of tongues was given to solve the problem of the “language barrier”** (Acts 2:8). Language continues to this day as a barrier to the preaching of the gospel to many people.

The amazing fact is that God had brought to Jerusalem **representatives from “all the world” to hear the gospel, to be saved, and to become a part of the Church** at Jerusalem. Soon, most if not all of these multitudes, would return to their lands of origin because of the persecution they would experience in Jerusalem. They took their “faith in Christ” with them (Acts 8:1-4). What is even more amazing is that **local churches were established wherever these first disciples went.**

It seems worth noting that it took between 13 and 14 years after Pentecost for a local church to commission and send its first **official** missionaries. They were sent from Antioch and not from Jerusalem. It has been suggested by Dr. Bellue that their vision and burden for world evangelization had been dimmed by **the multitude** or numbers syndrome, **the material wealth** (Acts 4:32-37) coming into the coffers of the local congregation in Jerusalem, or by the desire to remain where so many **miracles** were being performed (Acts 3:6, 5; 5, 10).

In addition to the **progress numerically**, there was **progress in propagation or the extension of the gospel into new areas**. The Apostles, the first officials of the fledgling

Church, would see changes in their message. They came to understand more clearly the nature of the Church as a new creation composed both of Jews and Gentiles. The conversion of Cornelius forced them (the Apostles) to accept the fact that **all men** could be saved and that salvation is not bound to the keeping of the law or becoming a Jew (Acts 10, 15).

It is in the **Book of Acts** that we find the seed forms of the **church, its organization, officials, ordinances, theology, practice, extension, etc.** Of course, the doctrine of the church is more fully developed in the part of the Scripture known as the Epistles.

The local churches were established first in Jerusalem and then out to the uttermost. Though there is evidence of local congregations being established in places where the Apostles had not been, most of the known world benefited from the church-planting ministry of the Apostle Paul and those who accompanied him (Acts 8:1-4, Romans 16). May we emphasize that the Lord did not send His disciples into the world just to **get people saved**. He sent them with a broader task, the task of **making disciples. This task can best be completed by the establishment of local New Testament Baptist churches.**

The implications of **Romans 10:13-17** can only be implemented in the context of a local church. It should be remembered that “sending” is also a part of this text. **Evangelism without church planting is not Biblical nor does it lead to the self-propagation that is so vital to the continuance of New Testament Christianity.**

*“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a*

*preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:13-17)*

**The ultimate goal of the church planter is the establishment of local, indigenous or autonomous, independent, New Testament, Baptist churches.**

This means that through soul winning (Psalm 126:5-6, Proverbs 11:30), discipleship (Matthew 28:19-20), and the training of new leaders (2 Timothy 2:2) a new, self-governing (Acts 6:1-7), self-supporting (Acts 4:34, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 1 Timothy 5:17), and self-propagating (Ephesians 4:12-13) church is started and established.

## CHAPTER TWO

# PRE-CHURCH PLANTING MINISTRY CONSIDERATIONS:

## THE PERSON: THE CHURCH PLANTER

### THE REQUIREMENT OF SALVATION

It would seem unnecessary to mention this point, but the church planter must have total assurance concerning his relationship with Jesus Christ as Personal Saviour. The writer of Hebrews states that believers are to follow the faith of those that have rule over them. If the church planter/pastor is not sure and secure in his faith neither will his followers be. The assurance of salvation comes when one believes what God says in His Word. One knows that he is saved because God's word says so (1 John 5:9-12, Romans 10:13,17).

*“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.**” (1 John 5:13)*

### THE REQUIREMENT OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY

*“Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride, he fall into the condemnation of the devil.” (1 Timothy 3:6)*

*“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou **an example** of the believers, in word, in*