

The Church Planter's Toolbox

Ideas and Helps for Great Commission Workers • May 2007

The Value of Team Ministry

Team ministries - Who needs them? If you are a church planter, you do. Yes, team ministries can be challenging, and there are often hurdles to be cleared, but they are also rewarding, helpful, stimulating, and can make the difference between success and failure in your ministry.

Team ministries are biblical. From the time God said, "Let US create man in OUR image," God has used team ministries to accomplish his work on earth. Moses had Aaron and Joshua as team partners. Elijah had Elisha. Jesus chose twelve to partner with him. John and Peter teamed up in Acts 3 while Barnabas chose Saul of Tarsus and John Mark. Paul added Timothy, Silas, Titus and a host of others to his church planting team. While God often uses individuals to accomplish his purposes, team ministries play a prominent role in spreading the gospel and planting churches throughout the New Testament era.

Team ministries enhance effectiveness. No one church planter has all the skills and talents needed to develop a new church. Wise planters select team partners who are strong in the areas in which they are weak. Doing so improves the overall effectiveness of the church plant.

Team ministries allow for expanded ministries. Church planting teams need a lead planter, a good music man (worship leader), a children's ministry director, an

continued on the next page

The New Kid on the Block

Having received this pdf. file in your e-mail, you may be thinking, "*The Church Planter's Toolbox* - What is it and why do I need to read it?"

The Church Planter's Toolbox is the new kid on the block, but it's editors come with over sixty years of church-planting experience. In these days of cultural upheaval many church planters are struggling to adjust to our post-modern world. They are searching for new ideas and encouragement as they implement our Lord's Great Commission command to make disciples and to plant churches.

Our goal is to help church planters enhance their ministry skills, clarify their philosophy of ministry, develop stronger core groups, do a better job launching their public services, develop more effective and balanced ministries, and grow more rapidly so they can graduate sooner, finish stronger, and be better equipped for successful and reproductive ministry.

If you are a church planter or a pastor, we want to help you by providing helpful hints, new ideas, and Bible-centered articles on church planting and pastoral ministry.

The Church Planter's Toolbox will be sent free of charge to anyone interested in church planting four to six times a year. Please send us the e-mail address of anyone interested in church planting or who might benefit from receiving *The Church Planter's Toolbox*.

If you should decide that you do not wish to receive this ministry tool, simply drop us an e-mail and we'll remove your name. Our address is on the last page.

Do the Work of an Evangelist

God gives each believer spiritual gifts to be used for his glory and the good of the Body of Christ. In addition, our Creator has designed each one with a distinct personality and unique temperament. Normally, there are aspects of ministry with which we feel more comfortable than others. We have more confidence and are seemingly more effective when our ministry assignment lines up with who we are and the way we are equipped.

In Scripture, God gives us some insight into the personalities of the characters he records. Take Timothy, for example—from the Bible record what can we conclude about his temperament? He was young (1 Tim. 4:12) and sickly (1 Tim. 5:23), and appears to be given to timidity and fear (2 Tim. 1:6-7; 1 Cor. 16:10). He was not the temperament type that would seem to make a good evangelist. And yet his coworker and mentor tells him that he must "Do the work of an evangelist" (2 Tim. 4:5).

continued on the next page

Team Ministry continued

evangelism coordinator, an assimilation networker, and a ministry mobilizer. Because there are more people with more ministry skills, more ministries can be implemented.

Team ministries reach more people. Ed Stetzer's research reveals attendance is higher (almost double) in plants with more than one church planting couple on the team. Not only do teams produce a better quality of ministry, but there are more individuals to reach out to unchurched people in the community.

Team ministries provide encouragement. Ecclesiastes 4:9,10 says, "Two are better than one . . . for if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." Ministry is tough business, and discouragements are many. Having a team partner can keep you out of the depths of despair when the going gets tough and the inevitable disappointments come.

Team ministries provide more resources. Not only do teams provide more workers and more skills, but they also make more funding available. You have two or three couples giving to the start up fund rather than just one couple. The prayer basis is also expanded through the network of supporting churches each team partner has.

Team ministries relieve stress. Moses was stressed out by all the responsibilities of leading the nation of Israel in Exodus 18. His father-in-law, Jethro, pointed out that he couldn't do the job alone and counseled him to gather a team of men around him who would "bear the burden with thee." Moses followed this wise advice and was able to continue an effective ministry for years to come.

Team ministries graduate sooner. The church planter's job is to work himself out of a job in a timely fashion. Church plants started by ministry teams start stronger, grow faster, are better equipped, and graduate sooner than those started by Lone Ranger planters.

Virtually all the examples of church planting in the New Testament involved teams of church planters rather than solo planters. Shouldn't you consider partnering with another planter and thereby enhance both of your ministries?

A Great Idea

Here's a great idea for anyone planning to start a new church within the next year. A three and a half day *School of Church Planting* seminar will be held at Trinity Baptist Church in Riverton, Utah (Salt Lake City) **June 18th - 21st.**



Class sessions are taught by three experienced church planters who have "been there and done that" successfully. A partial listing of courses includes:

- Why Plant Churches?*
- The Man God Uses*
- Developing an Effective Philosophy of Ministry*
- Deciding Where to Plant a Church*
- Financial Integrity*
- Organizing the New Church*
- Ethnic Church Planting*
- Twelve Steps to a Growing Church*
- and much, much more

The seminar is sponsored by the *Church Planting Ministry Team* of Baptist Mid-Missions and has a proven track record of 21 years. Costs are reasonable - just \$250 per person or \$275 per couple, and that includes meals and lodging in private homes on a first come, first served basis. Learn more by going to: <http://bmm.org/BMM/WhereWeServe/NorthAmerica/cpandd.htm>. You can also contact Dan Whitcher at: dan4bmm@aol.com or call: (515) 554-2470.

Evangelist continued

In a church, many aspects of ministry need to be taking place at the same time: contact making, relationship building, evangelism, discipleship, counseling, teaching, training of workers, orchestration of the work force, administration . . . and more.

When a local church body is fully functional, there are a variety of spiritual gifts at work through multiple personalities. In such a setting it is easier for each believer to minister within his comfort zone. But in pioneer church planting, all aspects of the ministry have to be done by just a few. The church planter at best has to see that they all get done, and often must be able to effectively work at them all.

Has God gifted you to do certain things? Yes! But when the need arises, he is able to help you to do even more. As a church planter, don't be content to stay within your comfort zone—it will result in a ministry that is imbalanced and ineffective. Like Timothy, allow God to stretch you and use you in ways you may not have thought possible. His work will move forward, and he will get the glory (1 Cor. 1:26-31).

60% of unchurched people in the United States live in multihousing communities.

They constitute the largest unreached people group in North America.

The *Church Planter's Toolbox* is published four to six times a year. © 2007 Baptist Mid-Missions. All rights reserved. For reprint requests, contact one of the editors.

Editors

Roger McNamara
Church Planting Training Specialist
E-mail: RNMcNamara@juno.com

Dan Whitcher
Church Planting Coordinator
E-mail: dan4bmm@aol.com

Baptist Mid-Missions
P.O. Box 308011
Cleveland, Ohio 44130-8011
www.bmm.org

187 McLaughlin Drive
Moncton, NB E1A 4P4
Canada

