

What Every Pastor Can Do

Vision for Church Planting

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There is a cry of the Holy Spirit to plant churches around the world and scores of denominations and organizations are mobilizing leaders to start new congregations in every nation. MFI Pastors can be a part of this world wide effort in sending out church planters either directly or indirectly.

Jesus sending laborers

¹⁸ "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matt 16:18 (NKJV)

³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. ³⁸ "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Matt 9:37-38 (NKJV)

The Disciples sent out

¹ Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. ² He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Luke 9:1-2 (NKJV)

The Great Commission

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

John 20:21 (NKJV)

The Early Churches

¹ Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.

Acts 13:1-3 (NKJV)

²¹ And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." ²³ So when they had appointed

elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 14:21-23 (NKJV)

Levels of Sending Preachers

¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:13-15 (NKJV)

1. "Do the work of an evangelist"- 2 Tim. 4:5

- a. Gospel training for all
- b. Personal witness

2. "Make disciples of all nations"- Matt. 28:19

- a. Small group leadership
- b. Teaching classes

3. "Go, preach the Gospel to every creature"- Mark 16:15

- a. Short term teams
- b. Gospel events
- c. Take every opportunity

4. "I have sent Timothy to you"- 1 Cor. 4:17

- a. Assist in ministry
- b. Sent out on special projects

5. "How shall they preach unless they are sent?"- Rom. 10:15

- a. Church planting teams
- b. Preachers and Pastors
- c. Missionaries

Church Planting- What Every Pastor can Do

We all need to recognize our calling and gifting in the work of the ministry. Not all of us are called to be apostles or those who strategically raise up and send out church planters. But all of us can be committed to this apostolic mission and cooperate together in a gospel partnership that ensures that we are doing our part to plant churches in every nation in our generation.

For those called as Pastors or Teachers and those who do not feel equipped to raise up church planters or do apostolic work, there are other ways in which to be involved.

1. Grow a healthy church- Acts

²⁸ Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Acts 20:28 (KJV)

- a. Feed the church on the Word
- b. Develop balanced ministries
- c. Love people and shepherd them

2. Preach the Gospel

¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

1 Cor 9:16 (NKJV)

- a. Present a clear salvation message
- b. Have regular altar calls
- c. Follow up new converts

3. Make disciples

¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matt 28:19 (NKJV)

- a. Strong biblical foundations- Acts 2:38; Heb. 6:1-3
- b. Teach the whole Word
- c. Develop mature believers\

4. Equip and train leaders

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Eph 4:11-12 (NKJV)

- a. Basic training for leaders
- b. Develop local church leadership opportunities
- c. Provide direction for those leaders who feel called to church planting:
 - i. Bible College
 - ii. On line training
 - iii. Resources
 - iv. Conferences

5. Cooperate with Church Planting efforts

⁷ So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

Luke 5:7 (NKJV)

- a. Pray for new church plants
- b. Send teams to help start new churches
- c. Consider sending team members to join church plants
- d. Send financial support for new church plants
- e. Support new church plants publicly in local church