



## **“Church Planting Passion” Workshop Hosted by: Larry Neville**

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In **1820**, there was **one Christian church for every 875 U.S. residents.**

From **1860 to 1906**, U.S. Protestant churches planted one new church for every increase of **350** in the population, bringing the ratio by the start of World War I to just **one church for every 430 persons.** In **1906** over a third of all the congregations in the country were less than twenty-five years old. Result, the percentage of the U.S. population involved in the life of the church rose steadily.

In **1776**, just **17 percent of persons** in the United States were categorized as “religious adherents,” By **1916** that figure had risen to **53 percent.** After World War I, especially among mainline Protestants, church planting plummeted for a variety of reasons. **One of the main reasons was the issue of turf.**

Once the continental United States was covered by towns and settlements, with churches and church buildings in each one, **there was strong resistance from older churches to any new churches being planted in “our neighborhood.”**

**That has carried over to our time.**

**In this workshop we will focus on three things critical to church planting passion.**

**The WHY**

**The PURPOSE**

**The MOTIVE**

**1. Why is church planting so vitally important?**

**The fundamental call of Jesus was to plant churches.**

**Matthew 28:18-19 (ESV),** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 **Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Three Components: GO = (1.) Evangelism, (2.) Make disciples, (3.) Baptize them.**

Baptism means incorporation into a worshiping community with accountability and boundaries, (Acts 2:41-47).

### **Church Planting is a Command**

“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. 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.**” Then, having fasted and prayed, and **laid hands on them, they sent them away.** Acts 13:1-4, NKJV

A **Divine mandate** from the Holy Spirit

A **Clear calling** to individuals

A **Pattern** of the local church sending

### **2. The PURPOSE = Obeying the Great Commission to reach unchurched, lost people.**

“Planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under heaven.” C. Peter Wagner, *Strategies for Growth* (Glendale, CA: Regal, 1987), 168.

Nothing else—not crusades, outreach programs, parachurch ministries, growing megachurches, church renewal processes—will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. Tim Keller

Dozens of denominational studies have confirmed that the average new church gains most of its new members (60–80%) from the ranks of people who are not attending any worshiping body, while churches over ten to fifteen years of age gain 80–90 percent of new members by transfer from other congregations.

Lyle Schaller, quoted in D. McGavran and G. Hunter, *Church Growth: Strategies That Work* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1980), 100. See also C. Kirk Hadaway, *New Churches and Church Growth in the Southern Baptist Convention* (Nashville: Broadman, 1987).

New churches best reach new generations, new residents, new people groups. Younger adults are drawn to newer congregations. New churches best reach the unchurched; **if they plant with the right motive.**

### **3. The MOTIVE**

**2 Corinthians 10:16 ((TPT), Then we can go and preach the good news in the **regions beyond you without trespassing on the ministry sphere of other laborers** and what they have already done.**

#### **VISION FOR CHURCH PLANTING IN 2020+**

New church plants should be the Research and Development Department body of Christ.

**The Creative Church Plant**

**The Agile Church Plant**

**The Bi-vocational Church Plant**

**The Collaborative Church Plant**

**The Strategic Church Plant**

**The One Church Multiple Locations Church Plant**

**The Restart / Re-launch–Church Plant**