

**MULTIPLYING CHURCHES**  
**on the**  
**FRONTIERS**

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# Contents

<i>Introduction</i> .....	4
<b>Planting Churches Among The Unreached:</b> Should We, Could We... Would We?.....	5
<b>Forming A Strategy:</b> Adopt Principles, Adapt Methods.....	7
<b>Church Planting:</b> Getting Started.....	8
<b>Church Planting:</b> Creating A Movement.....	10
<b>Guiding Principles:</b> Multiplying Churches Among The Unreached.....	13
I. Team Formation.....	13
II. Evangelism.....	14
III. Church Formation.....	15
IV. Leadership Development.....	16
<b>Church Planting Resources</b> .....	18

# INTRODUCTION

Since the early 1980s, Youth With A Mission has been actively planting churches among unreached people groups. We continue to make progress in this vital aspect of the Great Commission. Although this booklet was originally written for YWAM trainees and staff, we eagerly welcome opportunities to share these New Testament principles with individuals, churches and mission agencies outside our own sphere.

There are five sections to the booklet. The first section answers the questions: Should YWAM do church planting among the unreached? Is YWAM able to plant churches? *Would we* plant churches among the unreached, once we've been convinced *we should*, and have become confident *we could*? These questions are relevant to any group considering this kind of pioneer work.

The second section emphasizes the priority of Biblical principles over human methods in forming a church planting strategy. This is followed by an encouraging, two-part case study of a YWAM church planting team in Mongolia. It illustrates key principles from getting started in church planting to creating a movement.

Next, we have listed our **guiding principles** for team formation, evangelism, church formation and leadership development. The final section, "Church Planting Resources" contains information on books, training materials and field resources.

This booklet was compiled by the **YWAM Church Planting Coaches** coordinating office. The goal of YWAM Church Planting Coaches is to provide training, advice and practical resources to help YWAM church planting teams reach their goals of multiplying churches among unreached people groups. We are developing an international network of trained YWAM church planting coaches who serve teams in their various regions.

—Kevin Sutter

# **PLANTING CHURCHES AMONG THE UNREACHED: Should We, Could We...Would We?**

“Waves crashed onto the continents, advancing inland until all the nations were covered.” God gave Loren Cunningham an amazing vision back in 1960. Loren said, “As I watched, the waves became young people of all races...going from house to house. Helping the lonely and the hungry. Caring for people everywhere they went....”

Would these waves result in fellowships being established in areas where none existed before? In the 1980’s this became a big question for our mission.

***Planting churches among the unreached – we wondered if we should.***

Seeking answers we learned the following:

## ***Church Planting is Biblical***

In Acts we see the apostles and evangelists moving out to the frontiers in obedience to Jesus’ commission. Everywhere Paul went he preached the Gospel, made disciples and appointed elders to lead the new churches he’d planted.

Floyd McClung wrote, “It is essential we recognize the New Testament does not speak of just winning ‘sheep’ but also forming them into ‘flocks’ ...Church planting is a fulfillment of God’s desire to gather (His people) into kingdom communities.”

## ***Church Planting is Urgently Needed Among the Unreached***

About three billion people in the world do not yet know Jesus Christ. Almost two-thirds of them have no viable church in their culture -- no one in their midst to share the Gospel with them. The vast majority live within the “10/40 Window,” spanning from West Africa through East Asia.

Over two billion people will not come to Jesus unless someone moves into their culture with God’s love to evangelize, disciple and plant churches. The speed at which these people are won to Christ will be directly proportional to the speed at which churches are multiplied.

## ***Church Planting is Essential to Missions Strategy***

Dr. Peter Wagner, considered by many to be the foremost authority on church growth told us, “The best method under heaven for evangelism is church planting. There never was a better method and there never will be.”

## ***Church Planting is “the Word of the Lord”***

As a mission, we also heard God’s voice in prayer. The Holy Spirit stirred YWAMers to commit themselves to pioneer church planting. In obedience and faith teams were formed and launched. At the International Strategy Conference in December 1988, YWAM “officially” took on the goal of establishing church multiplication movements among unreached people groups.

**Once we knew *we should* plant churches, we wondered *if we could* plant churches.**

“Do we have what it takes to plant churches among the unreached?” many asked. We had little experience and no track record, only the confidence that God was leading.

God’s been faithful, YWAM is doing it! Working within the 10/40 Window, we are planting indigenous, self-multiplying churches from Senegal to Japan; Kazakhstan to Indonesia. People are turning to Jesus from Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and animistic tribal religions.

Take for example the South Asia Region where we have about 70 teams working among over 45 different unreached people groups. Scores of churches have already been planted.

One team works in villages near the Ganges River in North India. Upon arrival, the spiritual climate was so dark they decided to make spiritual warfare their top ministry priority for the first year. Short-term teams from many countries came to help in this prayer effort.

As the oppression began to lift and their understanding of the language and culture improved, small teams formed to combine primary health care and evangelistic Bible studies. They headed out to the villages.

Physical needs were met as simple gospel stories were told in the local language. Gradually people began experiencing the love of God. The ministries of health care, signs and wonders, and God's Word made an impact -- people were being healed and delivered. Many began turning from Hindu idols to faith in Jesus.

The new believers came together to form simple churches because none existed. Meeting in a little house or under a tree, the believers committed to one another to lovingly obey Jesus' commands. New elders “learn by doing” while being trained in the background by the YWAMers.

These believers are stepping out in faith praying for needs and sharing the gospel with their families, friends and neighbors. The sick are being healed, the demon possessed delivered and even the dead raised to life! Hundreds of men, women and children have been born again. The churches follow the New Testament pattern, reproducing their own daughter churches. At last count, thirteen new churches have been established. All of this is happening among one of the largest and least evangelized peoples on earth.

**Knowing *we should*, aware *we could*, let’s ask *if we would*.**

God has blessed YWAM with a great diversity of ministries. The story above shows what can happen when these various gifts and ministries are brought to bear upon the goal of reaching an unreached people group. Intercessory prayer/spiritual warfare; teamwork; evangelism; mercy ministry; the training and discipling of leaders – all are important parts of the spiritual anointing God has given YWAM. When these are concentrated upon a common purpose, the results are powerful!

Diffused sunlight has very little power, but when concentrated through a magnifying glass, it can start a fire. Light concentrated at higher levels, such as a laser beam, can cut through a block of steel. What would happen if YWAM concentrated its energy, at an even more intensified level, upon multiplying churches among unreached peoples?

“I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing, forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead....” (Philippians 3:13 LB)

The God-given vision of the waves has become reality -- thousands of us are scattered throughout the earth -- and the waves *continue* to advance. What lies ahead?

The faith challenge now before YWAM is to mobilize 1,000 teams to reach unreached people groups! What will be our response? Many years back we learned *we should* plant churches, and we've since discovered that *we could* plant churches, what remains for each of us to decide now is if *we would* plant churches among the unreached, doing our part to complete the Great Commission.

## FORMING A STRATEGY: Adopt Principles, Adapt Methods

In our “YWAM Frontier Missions Values” we declare:

*“We accept the responsibility for planting self-reproducing, self-supporting and self-governing culturally relevant missionary sending churches among unreached peoples.”* (source: YWAM Frontier Missions Values – adopted in Pattaya Thailand 1992)

**AMEN! LET’S DO IT!**

Each team has to decide *how* they are going to accomplish this goal. What church planting strategy will they use?

In considering strategy, we need to be careful to avoid fads, “bandwagons” – the latest, winning method.... Methods are often non-transferable. What works in one culture may not work in another. We cannot force a particular method upon an unreached people group simply because the method succeeded among another people.

Reaching the lost is what *God* does. Methods don’t work, God works. We’ve got to rely upon the Spirit of God to do the work of pioneer church planting. In determining our strategy, we must seek His wisdom so we can discern between **principles** which apply universally and **methods** which will vary from culture to culture.

As we study the primitive, apostolic model in the Book of Acts, we glean key principles. We also learn that we must not try to imitate all the methods of the apostles. For example, Paul’s only method of travel was to go by land or sea, he never stepped aboard a 747. By adopting his method we’d sure limit our number of international conferences! Rather than running off with methods, we should first aim at becoming “experts” in Biblical principles, using them as our standard of reference from which we develop culturally specific methods. We must listen to God for the methods which He wants us to use in a given cultural setting.

For the past few years, one of my tasks has been developing and multiplying cell groups. It has been exciting to see the Lord lead the way. In addition to using church planting principles I have learned over the years from working along side my mentor, George Patterson, I have also gained insights from Ralph Neighbour’s materials, including his book Where Do We Go From Here?. I have used several other books and attended various seminars dealing with cell groups.

The **principles** put forth by these various leaders are basically the same. Their **methods** differ. The church I am working with now cannot possibly adopt *all* of the methods suggested by any of these men! Nor are we obliged to do so. We endeavor to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit and the principles in God’s Word.

A very important lesson I have learned through my involvement in cross-cultural church planting is that we must **“adopt principles and adapt methods.”** Biblical principles will work in every context, but methods must be adapted to the local situation. When we are careful to recognize and adopt the principles, we

experience a great freedom in knowing we can creatively adapt methods.

Above all, let's trust God to lead by His Word and His Spirit. He is the one who will help us *adopt principles and adapt methods* as we plant churches among the unreached.

## CHURCH PLANTING: Getting Started

*One of the best ways to grasp a principle is to see it in action. Many key principles for cross-cultural church planting are illustrated in this account of a YWAM team's pioneer work in Mongolia:*

**CATCH THE VISION** One night in the early 1980s, our YWAM staff heard stories of a "scouting" trip to the mysterious land of Mongolia. A team had just returned from what seemed to us "the remotest part of the earth."

Communists had successfully applied their cruel strategy of purging the land of religion. Tibetan Buddhism was nearly blotted out. Mongolia was a spiritual vacuum. In this country of 2.6 million, *a church had never been planted*. In fact, in modern history there had not even been a single convert to Christianity.

"Not one believer," our fellow YWAMer emphasized, "UNTIL NOW!" Eyes wide with excitement, he told how they led a Mongol man to Jesus Christ. Time to cheer!

Time to pray! Who'd help this new believer learn to walk as a faithful disciple? Where would he find fellowship? Who'd pray with him? With whom would he join for communion and worship? Who'd be his partners in spreading the leaven of God's kingdom throughout his needy community?

No church in all of Mongolia. We prayed for an isolated disciple, among an isolated people, in an isolated land.

**PLAN FOR MOVEMENTS OF MULTIPLYING CHURCHES** Back then, YWAM began seeing the need to add church planting to our strategy for the unreached in places like Mongolia. Floyd McClung summed it up for us all: "It is not enough to do evangelism or to plant a single congregation. We have not done our job unless a movement of fully indigenous, missions-minded, multiplying churches is planted in a people group. Then they can evangelize their own people, city or nation."

Thus, YWAM's goal was not simply to plant *a church* within a people group, it was to plant *a movement* of multiplying churches. While this **goal** describes *what we want to do*, our **strategy** describes *how we intend to do it*. For our teams to choose effective strategies they had to learn to differentiate between principles and methods. This requires the understanding that Biblical principles apply universally; methods vary from culture to culture.

Missionaries who intentionally *adopt principles* can then enjoy liberty as they *adapt methods* fashioned especially to reach the people to whom God calls them. To see some of these key church planting principles, we'll look at how they were applied by a team in Mongolia....

**DO SPIRITUAL WARFARE** As years passed since the report of that first Mongol believer, international prayer movements grew. Intercessors stood in the gap for the Khalkha Mongol, Dariganga, Darkhan, and other peoples of Mongolia.

Finally in 1990 Communism released its weakening hold. The doors--closed for so long--opened. There were two known Mongol believers. Of the thousands who prayed for those doors to open, some were led through the

doors. A Swedish YWAM couple, Magnus and Maria were among them.

**BOND WITH THE PEOPLE** Magnus and Maria became familiar with Mongolia by traveling the country with a rock band doing outreach in the former Soviet realm. (Okay class--*principle* or *method*?) Eventually they settled in the capital, Ulaan Baatar.

To learn the language they lived among the people. This not only built vocabulary but built friendships. They befriended some of the growing number of local believers.

**TEACH THE GOSPEL** Partnering with Mongols, Magnus and Maria organized an outreach to Erdenet, the third largest city in Mongolia. The Mongols explained in their native tongue what the Gospel had come to mean in their lives. This allowed the basic truths of the Gospel to be communicated in ways that were immediately relevant to others born within the Mongol culture. A small number of teenage girls received Jesus. Later, confident the girls wanted to grow in the Lord, Magnus and Maria returned to disciple them. They brought along Bayaraa, a Mongol believer in her late teens who was becoming a particularly effective evangelist.

Reunited with the girls, they found more who were eager to learn about Jesus. After some teaching on faith and repentance, all decided to follow Him.

**BAPTIZE NEW BELIEVERS** In 1993, for the first time in this city's history, there was a baptism service. 14 baptized that day...all of them teenage girls!

A church was coming to birth...with an unusual congregation. Magnus, Maria and Bayaraa resettled in Erdenet.

**FORM CELL GROUPS** The new church of 14 was quickly organized into 3 "cell groups." They gathered for prayer, fellowship and teaching in an atmosphere of support and accountability. Together they learned and obeyed the Great Commandment to love God and their neighbors.

They began to obey the Great Commission too. While Magnus and Maria progressed in the language, Bayaraa did most of the initial evangelism and trained the girls to do likewise.

**MOBILIZE NEW LEADERS** Active, faithful believers were equipped to lead the cells. The cells began to grow and multiply. A weekly "celebration service" formed for all the cells to unite. A year passed: the number of believers grew to 120...still, mostly teenage girls!

At this point the embryonic church was not yet multi-generational or family based. It was more like a rapidly growing youth group. They increased their efforts to reach whole families. Additional workers were added to the missionary team. American YWAMers, Brian and Louise Hogan and their three young girls moved from Ulaan Baatar to help. They were later joined by a couple from Russia.

God blessed the team with more fruit among the Mongols, drawing men and women, young and old. They moved gradually to the background in order to give "on-the-job" training for potential Mongol leaders.

By early 1997, the celebration service had grown so that no building in the city could house the 750 people who attend! They held two services. Newly appointed Mongol pastor/elders lead their church made up of over 55 cell groups. A healthy church took root.

**EVALUATE PROGRESS** Was the job done? To stop with a *single church* in a city of 70,000 and a country of 2.6 million would mean we'd have gained almost no ground in the task of "discipling the nation." The goal is *an indigenous movement of multiplying churches* spreading throughout the once spiritually barren land of

Mongolia.

In summary, this YWAM team simply obeyed the Great Commission. Jesus said “go”--they went to an unreached nation with a clear vision and armed with prayer. Jesus said “make disciples”--they build friendships, shared the Gospel and made disciples. Jesus said “baptize”--they baptized believers and gathered them into cells. Jesus said “teach them to obey all I commanded”--they taught them to love God and one another, pray, give, worship, and evangelize.

## CHURCH PLANTING: Creating A Movement

In Genghis Khan’s homeland, the story above ended with a healthy church—dozens of cell groups, hundreds of new believers—growing in a Mongolian city where *no church had ever existed!* Though some missionaries may have considered the job done, this team knew they were just getting started. They saw the mathematics involved in discipling the nation, and were convinced they had to push beyond church planting to *church multiplication*. There was more to do....

**DISCIPLE BELIEVERS** Jesus said, “Go and make disciples...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Jesus wants us to cover the earth with groups of believers who obey Him. How are *these* kinds of churches planted?

Magnus and the team recalled what they had learned in the School of Frontier Missions (SOFM) before coming to Mongolia. Veteran missionary George Patterson spoke on “The Spontaneous Multiplication of Churches.” He got to the heart of discipleship saying, “People are saved to *obey* the Lord Jesus Christ in love.”

Patterson asked that class, “What are the specific things that Jesus told His disciples to do? Let’s make a list.” Together they summed up Jesus’ main commands:

1. Repent, Believe and Receive the Holy Spirit;
2. Be Baptized;
3. Love God and Others;
4. Celebrate the Lord’s Supper;
5. Pray;
6. Give;
7. Make Disciples.

“Use this list,” he urged. “Make obedient disciples who do what Jesus ordered. Then you will see churches multiply.”

So in the new church, Jesus’ basic commands were taught in practical ways. The cells provided the atmosphere of loving support and accountability. Believers helped one another to “be doers of the word, not hearers only.”

**FACILITATE MEANINGFUL WORSHIP** Because of the new religious freedom in Mongolia, all the cells joined together weekly for the celebration service. (Among people groups without that freedom, cells must become interrelated underground house churches.) As the cells gathered, united in God’s presence, the believers were encouraged, seeing their numbers continue to grow.

They heard testimonies from young and old of healing and deliverance. There was a sense of awe...God was on the move among their people. Worship rose from their hearts as they sang new songs written by their own

people in their own language and unique musical style. The emerging Mongolian church looked far different from any of the team member's home churches back in Sweden, Russia or the U.S. This was no foreign fad or import!

***TRAIN LEADERS ON-THE-JOB*** More and more the team worked from *behind the scenes*, concentrating their efforts upon discipling, equipping and releasing Mongols to take the lead in building up the church and reaching the lost.

With the emphasis upon "learning by doing," new leaders were trained locally *in the ministry* rather than being sent away to be trained *for the ministry*. Leadership of the cells had been placed into their hands, and soon the local believers also carried the majority of the responsibility for the weekly services.

***MULTIPLY CELLS AND CHURCHES*** The team was committed to see the church grow not only through multiplying cells but also multiplying new cell churches. They made it their aim to help the new leaders catch this vision.

A church is not an organization but an organism. All healthy, living organisms grow and reproduce. The Mongols saw that their church should become a "mother church" giving birth to daughter churches. Daughter churches could reproduce granddaughter, great-granddaughter, great-great-granddaughter churches and so on. The local leaders cast the vision before their congregation: "God wants to work through our church to create another new church!"

In 1993 the church sent a team of Mongol deacons to a town 60 kilometers away. They were commissioned to plant a daughter church. An elder was then sent to lead it in 1994. Growth occurred more rapidly for them than it did for the foreign missionaries. Being fellow Mongolians, it was easy for them to relate to the people in the new community. God blessed their efforts as they shared the Gospel and disciplined new believers. Not only was a daughter church born but they have been so fruitful that two of the new leaders they trained are busy planting granddaughter churches in other, even more remote towns!

***PREPARE TO MOVE ON*** A new movement of churches began to form. The work progressed to such an extent that in 1996 the team realized they had reached an important landmark. Actually, the team had been anticipating their "phase-out" from the start and had kept it in the forefront of all their plans and activities. That bitter-sweet time had come.

They report: "We were blessed to hand over the authority in the church to the elders we had trained—this was the crowning moment for us." A special service was held on Easter Sunday, 1996. In the midst of worship and prayer the team followed the example of Paul's farewell to the Ephesian elders: "Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance...." Half of the missionary team left Mongolia that very day. The others remained as distant advisors.

***RELEASE AN INDIGENOUS MOVEMENT*** After a few more months Magnus officially and publicly ordained pastors and elders. The elders could no longer depend upon the hands-on assistance of their foreign friends, they were forced to press into God.

Stretching spiritual muscles, they moved ahead in faith and action as the Holy Spirit led. At Christmas 1996, 101 new believers were baptized! Easter 1997, the first anniversary of the passing of the baton of leadership from the missionaries to the Mongol leaders, saw 120 more baptized. Over 750 people attend the celebration services each week. Fifty five cell groups meet throughout the city.

The church developed their own mercy ministries. One outreach is to the city's street children, everyday feeding and providing clothes for cast-off kids. This project was completely initiated and carried out by

Mongol believers. A prison ministry is also flourishing as is a cell group among the garbage dwellers.

The movement continues. At last count, the mother church had given birth to thirteen daughter churches in towns scattered across the province. One of them has reproduced two granddaughter churches. Another church planted by these Mongol believers is in Darhan, Mongolia's second largest city. With over 100 members and a dozen cell groups, it is mostly made of families and older people. All of this is quite encouraging to a movement which began only five years earlier with a small group of teenage girls!

The church multiplication movement has also begun to work cross culturally having planted a least one church among a different ethnic group. Teams of Mongols have recently been sent to other strategic countries in their region as well as to remote Mongolian provinces. A missionary training school has formed in Erdenet to equip the church's emerging missions force.

God seems to have made the spiritual soil of Mongolia especially fertile for church planting. A conservative estimate states that the number of believers in Mongolia has grown from 2 in 1990 to over 10,000 in 1998. The gospel continues to do its life-giving and community changing work. The churches continue to grow and reproduce. The country will never be the same. Given the zeal of these believers, Mongolia may eventually shift from being a mission field to a mission force. As in a previous age, Mongols will again thunder off to the nations beyond their barren hills--this time under the reign of King Jesus!

In summary, we've seen a team obey the Great Commission as outlined by Jesus in Matthew 28 and we've seen them follow the Apostle Paul's example. Paul considered proclaiming the gospel and planting churches his *primary* mission. His church planting team combined evangelism, discipleship and leadership training:

“And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples...and when they had appointed elders for them in every church...they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.” (Acts 14:21-23)

This is not the only example I could have used to illustrate effective church planting strategy. Other YWAM teams are seeing similar fruit in different parts of the 10/40 Window. As we see the *primacy of church planting* on the frontiers, equip teams with *Biblical principles* and trust the Holy Spirit to give *creative methods*, we'll move ever closer to our goal of reaching the unreached!

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES: Multiplying Churches Among The Unreached

Our goal for each unreached people group was summed up by Floyd McClung as he served as YWAM International Executive Director, "It is not enough to do evangelism or to plant a single congregation. We have not done our job unless a movement of fully indigenous, mission-minded, multiplying churches is planted in a people group. Then they can evangelize their own people, city or nation."

While our **goal** -- "a movement of fully indigenous, mission-minded, multiplying churches", describes what we want to achieve within a people group, our **strategy** describes how we intend to achieve it. As we formulate strategies for specific unreached people groups, we trust God to lead us by His Word and His Spirit. We realize we must **adopt principles and adapt methods**. Biblical principles will apply in every context, whereas methods will often differ from culture to culture.

Therefore we emphasize **principles** to guide each team as they develop their strategies to reach their goal.

We gratefully acknowledge the profound influence and impact of Dr. George Patterson, of Church Planting International, in the development of the following list of **guiding principles**.

## I. TEAM FORMATION

- A. We have faith in **the church's God-given power to reproduce** and cover the earth.  
(Acts 1:8)
- B. We insure that team members know exactly what they are planting-- a **church** defined as "a group of believers of any size, committed to one another to obey Jesus' commands."  
(Matt. 28:18-20)
- C. We continually **seek the Lord**, to know the Scriptures and to hear His voice, trusting Him to lead us step by step, rather than relying upon human methods.  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)
- D. We **pray regularly** for the lost and for the team.  
(Ephesians 6:18-20)
- E. We foster love, joy, fellowship, and **spiritual vitality** within our team knowing that this is the only way to bear the eternal fruit we seek.  
(John 15:4-5)
- F. We keep up regular **communication with our sending church(es)**.  
(Acts 13:1-3, 14:24-28)
- G. We may use "low profile" methods in fields where authorities are hostile. This may involve bi-vocational/"**tent making**" ministry to gain access as well as the use of methods of evangelism, worship, and training suited to **small underground house churches**.  
(Acts 18:1-3, Acts 20:19-20)

- H. We work in **teams** made of people with a good **balance of spiritual gifts** (evangelism, teaching, leadership, mercy, healing, etc).  
(Acts 10:23, 11:12, Romans 12:4-8)
- I. We commit to reaching the **goals** God gives, in spite of how many years it takes.  
(Luke 9:62)
- J. We **target** one specific unreached people group per team.  
(Acts 10)
- K. We affirm that in the same way the Holy Spirit separated Paul and Barnabas from the Antioch church, **the Holy Spirit separates** church planting teams from YWAM bases (training centers) and base responsibilities to do the work to which He calls them.  
(Acts 13:1-3)
- L. We **bond with the people** by living with them from the beginning, gaining a good grasp of the language and appreciating their culture, in an attitude of servanthood and humility.  
(II Cor.1:13-14; Phil. 2:5-8; Ruth 1:16-17)
- M. We accept **spiritual warfare** as a daily reality, seeking to grow in our skills of worship, warfare and intercession to more effectively resist the devil and establish Christ's victory.  
(Eph.6:10-12)

## **II. EVANGELISM**

- A. We rely upon God for **signs and wonders**.  
(Matt. 10:7-8)
- B. We build **relationships with local people**, seeking **potential leaders** from the start.  
(Luke 10:6-7)
- C. We normally aim at reaching **heads of households**, knowing that they are potential leaders who can share the gospel with their families and friends.  
(Acts 16:31)
- D. We seek a **receptive segment** of the people group, who are **content with their own culture**.  
(As foreigners, we may attract people eager merely for cultural change and material gain.)  
(Acts 10:1-2 ; Acts 8:18-23)
- E. We proclaim the **essentials of the gospel** (especially the death and resurrection of Christ and the need for repentance) in **culturally relevant** ways.  
(Luke 24:46-48)
- F. We only use evangelistic **methods** that the local people can quickly **imitate**--simple enough for new believers, affordable, technologically appropriate, etc.  
(I Cor. 2:3-5; John 4:39)
- G. We **integrate evangelism and mercy ministry**-- serving people through both word and deed.  
(Luke 10:25-37; Gal. 2:9-10)

- H. We and our converts **willingly face persecution**.  
(Acts 4:13-20)
- I. We **model** the Christian walk and ministry skills we teach as we mobilize the local people.  
(Mark 3:13-19)
- J. We regularly and prayerfully **review** our God-given goals and **evaluate** the results. We change our methods accordingly.  
(Eph. 5:15-17; I Cor. 9:19-27)
- K. We call people to **repent**.  
(Acts 2:37-38)
- L. We **baptize** sincerely repentant sinners without unnecessary delays and serve them the Lord's Supper. When possible we baptize whole families.  
(Acts 2:37-41; Acts 18:8)

### **III. CHURCH FORMATION**

- A. We bring the converts together into "**cell groups**" (small groups) to encourage love, fellowship and accountability.  
(Acts 2:41-47)
- B. We enable the people to create their own **culturally relevant worship forms** based upon apostolic models rather than "importing" forms from our culture.  
(I Cor. 9:22; Rom. 14:4-6)
- C. We do not build the church around the team, instead the **team serves as "scaffolding"** which is quickly removed as the indigenous church emerges.  
(Acts 14:23)
- D. We establish churches from the beginning, **avoiding mere "preaching points"** where people simply come to hear a sermon, prayer, and music.  
(Acts 2:41-42; James 1:22)
- E. We make disciples who are obedient to **Jesus' basic commands** (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:37-47):
- 1) **repent, believe, receive the Holy Spirit** (these go together, we can't do one without the others) Mark 1:15,  
John 20:22
  - 2) **be baptized** (this includes living forever the new, holy life it signifies)  
Matt. 28:19-20
  - 3) **love** God, family, fellow disciples, neighbors and even enemies (forgiveness).  
Luke 10:25-37
  - 4) **celebrate the Lord's Supper** (including cultivating the communion with Christ *and* His people which the Eucharist affirms) Luke 22:14-20
  - 5) **pray** daily, Matt. 6:5-13
  - 6) **give** generously, Matt 6:19-21
  - 7) **make disciples**, (witness, teach, train leaders, etc.) Matt 28:18-19,  
Luke 24:46-48.

- F. We consider teaming-up (partnering) locally with **existing churches or denominations** only if they put Jesus' commands (John 14:15) and church reproduction above all human policies. (For Example, we avoid planting churches with those who prefer man-made requirements which are not in the New Testament for: baptism, officiating the Lord's Supper, becoming a pastor, starting near-by daughter churches.) We have the Biblical and organizational freedom to **start new church movements** and associations. (Rom. 15:20)
- G. We recognize the priesthood of all believers and mobilize each one for **gift-based ministry**. We urge all God's people to minister one to another using their spiritual gifts. (Eph.4:11-16; I Cor. 12:7, 14:26)

#### **IV. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

- A. We model and develop non-authoritarian **servant leaders**, who lead rather than drive their flocks. (Matt. 20:25-28; I Peter 5:1-4)
- B. We teach emerging leaders to discern **three levels of authority** for the activities of the church:
- 1st Level: New Testament Commands** (of Jesus and His Apostles) They are required of all disciples; we practice them under any circumstances; we never prohibit them. They are listed above. (See III.E.)
  - 2nd Level: New Testament Practices** (things done by the apostles but not commanded) We do not have the authority to require nor prohibit their practice. Examples include: worship on Sunday, baptizing immediately, fasting, using one communion cup, etc.
  - 3rd Level: Human Customs** (traditions or practices with no basis in the New Testament) Their only authority is our voluntary agreement within a local congregation; we cannot force them on other congregations; we must prohibit them when they impede obedience. Examples include: choir, church buildings, pulpits, any non-Biblical requirement for ordination, etc. (Matt. 15:1-20)
- C. We, as foreigners, avoid pastoring the new church. Only **local "elders" lead meetings** to which the *public* is invited. (Titus 1:5)
- D. We **avoid dependency upon foreign finances** in the development of new churches. (II Cor. 8:2-3, 9:10-11)
- E. We **"work ourselves out of a job"** as we mobilize potential leaders who model evangelism, disciple new converts, lead cell groups and churches, etc. (Exodus 18:13-27)
- F. We train local leaders **"behind the scenes"** allowing them to lead their own people. (Acts 18:26)
- G. We **multiply clusters** of closely-knit cell groups and churches. One lone church seldom survives long. Where possible, we encourage regular united gatherings of these groups. (Acts 2:46, 20:20)

- H. We **coach leaders locally, on-the-job**, developing "Paul-Timothy" relationships for training elders, pastors, cell-group leaders, local church planters, etc. We bring the teaching to them, rather than sending them away to outside institutions (i.e. we introduce teachings from YWAM's Discipleship Training School into a new church instead of sending its leaders away. The only local people who should go to YWAM are those like us—called as cross-cultural missionaries).  
(II Chronicles 17:7-9; II Tim 2:2)
- I. We emphasize "**learning by doing**" as we train leaders to build up the church and to reach the lost.  
(Eph. 4:11-16)
- J. We enable each church to reproduce cell groups internally and also to **reproduce into daughter and granddaughter churches**, resulting in a movement of church multiplication.  
(as seen in Acts 13, 14 etc.)
- K. We, as our final aim, encourage the new churches to form their own "**church-based missionary teams**" to reproduce cross-culturally.  
(Acts 10)
- L. As the Holy Spirit leads and empowers us, we continue, at any cost, to reproduce leaders and churches until **a church movement is led by indigenous leaders**.  
(Acts 20:17-38)

## CONCLUSION

Let us all walk in the fear of God as we plant churches, knowing that we will incur the stricter judgment (James 3:1). How desperately we each need an **intimate relationship with the living God!** Out of that relationship will come the eternal fruit of His great love and labor: the Bride of Christ -- the Church.

**God Himself must be the Source and His Word the Foundation for all that we do.** Knowing God and His ways gives us a context and a perspective from which to apply these principles. We must always **keep our focus upon Him** rather than on that which *we* want to do for Him.

# CHURCH PLANTING RESOURCES

We highly recommend the following training materials and field resources. In addition, YWAM Church Planting Coaches are available to offer advice and answer questions on how to adapt and apply these materials.

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION GUIDE: *Helping Churches to Reproduce Locally and Abroad*, by George Patterson and Richard Scoggins. Brings into focus those Biblical discipling principles that have been used by the Holy Spirit for church growth by conversion and reproduction. The theory is combined with practical steps to start and maintain a movement of church reproduction. Dr. Ralph D. Winter highly recommends this book.

Price: \$6.50

Order From: WILLIAM CAREY LIBRARY

CHURCH PLANTING GUIDE, a practical field manual outlining the steps leading to the birth of the kind of churches that soon reproduce daughter churches, especially in the two-thirds world. This guide has been produced by CHURCH PLANTING INTERNATIONAL in collaboration with SEAN (Study by Extension to All Nations) along with help from YWAM. Good results have been reported from teams working among various people groups, including Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Tribals. It is widely used by YWAM teams and has been translated into about 15 languages.

Price: \$8.50

Order From: MISSIONARY TRAINING SERVICE

*"CHURCH PLANTING PHASES Checklist"* This booklet includes the checklist which FRONTIERS originally developed for their teams working among Muslims. They have kindly allowed YWAM to adapt it for use by our teams working among a variety of people groups. The checklist identifies the kinds of activities which help the church planter to progress through the various phases of planting reproducing churches.

Price: \$2.00

Order From: CHURCH PLANTING COACHES

"EE-TAOW" This award-winning video movie tells the true story of the Mouk tribe of Papua New Guinea who responded dramatically to the Gospel presented by today's most up-to-date missions methods. The sequel, "EE-TAOW, The Next Chapter" graphically illustrates the power of Paul's model (II Tim 2:2) of training and releasing indigenous leaders as pastors and church planters.

Price: VHS \$20.00 each; PAL \$22.00 each

Order From: New Tribes Mission; 407 323-3430 or  
1 800 321-5375 (in the US, credit cards only)

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION VIDEO WORKSHOP George Patterson and Kevin Sutter team-teach this *interactive* video workshop designed to equip pioneer church planters. A "workshop leaders guide" provides a simple, step-by-step process for leading groups through this workshop. It includes learning activities, skits, role-plays, small group discussions, etc.--all to help make the teaching relevant. This video workshop is adaptable and well suited to training individuals and teams both in mission training schools (in YWAM this would include: SOFM, SOSM, SOE, SOM, FCD) as well as in local churches.

*This video course is due in mid-2000.*  
Contact CHURCH PLANTING COACHES for details.

#### THE MISSIONARY TRAINING SERIES

The Missionary Training Service has developed training booklets which can be of significant help to mission agencies as well as local churches which want to train and send church planters.

- "The Missionary Training Guide" -- an activity based approach to preparing missionaries
- "Unreached Peoples of the World" -- the largest unreached peoples of the world, key prayer requests, and guidance on how to adopt one
- "The Missionary Team" -- guidelines for a missionary team
- "How to Make Disciples in Other Cultures"
- "How to Learn Another Language" -- a summary of the LAMP method of language learning
- "The Effective Missionary Sending Church" -- real participation of churches with missionary agencies in the sending of missionaries
- "Tentmaking Missionaries" -- concentrating on starting businesses in the unevangelized world
- "Evangelizing Muslims"
- "Evangelizing Hindus and Buddhists"

Price: \$50.00 for full set (also available separately)  
Order From: MISSIONARY TRAINING SERVICE

**MULTIPLYING CHURCHES AMONG THE UNREACHED (Audio Series)** A practical "how to" seminar by Kevin Sutter on planting multiplying churches. Taped at YWAM-Harpenden, England in 1998, this 8-hour series is filled with stories from the field. The cassette package is designed especially for individual study. Syllabus included.

Price: \$15.00 (plus postage)  
Order From: CHURCH PLANTING COACHES

**"THE SPONTANEOUS MULTIPLICATION OF CHURCHES"** An outstanding article written by Dr. George Patterson, adapted from PERSPECTIVES ON THE WORLD CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT. It gives an example of a missionary who studied the New Testament, adopted the principles, and then adapted methods to his particular target people. YWAM has seen these same principles for church planting and church reproduction successfully used among scores of different people groups. Churches have been planted in large urban centers, small towns and remote villages throughout the world.

Price: \$3.00  
Order From: CHURCH PLANTING COACHES

**TRAIN & MULTIPLY** An on-the-job training course for raising up indigenous pastors, elders, cell group leaders, etc. in pioneer situations. The leaders are trained through personal discipling techniques to plant and pastor new churches. This course includes 62 Pastoral Training booklets, the Church Planting Guide, Pastoral Trainer's Manual, and Student Activity Guide. Translated into many languages, T&M is being used to disciple and mobilize indigenous leaders in about 25 countries. YWAM teams have found it to be *very helpful* for the multiplication of leaders and churches among the unreached.

Price: \$ 95.00  
(a license from the publisher granting limited production and translation rights is also available)  
Order From: MISSIONARY TRAINING SERVICE

“*THE UNCHANGING PURPOSE OF GOD*” this pamphlet explains the Biblical foundation and priority of frontier missions. It is a wonderful tool for sharing with churches and supporters, the vision of reaching the remaining unreached peoples of the world. (Available in English and Spanish)

Price: 5 for \$1.00

Order From: CHURCH PLANTING COACHES

## RECOMMENDED READING:

The following is a brief list of books and periodicals dealing with various issues related to planting and multiplying cells and churches among the unreached.

### Books

Experiencing God: *Knowing and Doing the Will of God*; Henry Blackaby

House to House; Larry Kreider

Language Acquisition Made Practical; Brewster and Brewster

Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?; Roland Allen\*

Passing the Baton: *Church Planting that Empowers*; Tom Steffen \*

Perspectives On the World Christian Movement, A Reader; (1999) Winter / Hawthorne \*

Planting Churches Cross-Culturally; David Hesselgrave\*

Planting Churches in Muslim Cities; Greg Livingstone \*

The Indigenous Church; Melvin L. Hodges \*

The Master Plan of Evangelism; Robert E. Coleman

Where Do We Go From Here?; Ralph Neighbour \*

\*available at discount prices through WILLIAM CAREY LIBRARY

### Periodicals

*Evangelical Missions Quarterly* -- to subscribe, 630 752-7158, e-mail: Emqjournal@aol.com

*Mission Frontiers* – to subscribe, 626 398-2249, e-mail: mission.frontiers@uscwm.org

## E-mail Resources:

**YWAM FM Network Bulletin** is a weekly e-mail bulletin for anyone interested in YWAM Frontier Missions. The bulletin gives up-to-date news on events, opportunities, resources as well as reports from the field. The FMNet Bulletin helps YWAM Frontier Missions do what it was created to do - helping people from all

over the world find a place to fulfill their calling to bring the gospel to the unreached.

To subscribe: send e-mail to <cpcoaches@xc.org> with the following text in the message: subscribe ywam-fmnet

**YWAM FM-MM Training Forum** is an international e-mail forum for YWAMers involved in training for Frontier Missions and Mercy Ministry. It's purpose is to facilitate cooperation in improving the quality and quantity of our missions training worldwide.

To subscribe: send an e-mail to <subscribe-ywam-fm-mm-training@egroups.com> no message needed in the subject or body.

**YWAM Church Planting Network E-mail Conference** is an online, ongoing consultation for YWAMers involved in cross-cultural church planting. We discuss issues vital to our workers on the field. If you are interested in participating, send a description of your church planting involvement and connection with YWAM to:

<CPCoaches@xc.org>.

Due to security, applications are reviewed individually.

**YWAM Church Planting Coaches Web Site** is available to help you learn more about Youth With A Mission, YWAM Frontier Missions, training schools, missions opportunities, YWAM's church planting coaching network, helpful links to other organizations, etc. Several of the resources listed above are also available as free downloads.

Visit our web site: [www.byhisgrace.com/cpcoaches](http://www.byhisgrace.com/cpcoaches)

## Addresses:

### CHURCH PLANTING COACHES

YWAM Church Planting Coaches  
381 Bayside Road  
Arcata, CA 95521, USA  
Tel.: 1 (707) 822-4226  
Fax: 1 (707) 822-8952  
E-mail: [CPCoaches@xc.org](mailto:CPCoaches@xc.org)  
[www.byhisgrace.com/cpcoaches](http://www.byhisgrace.com/cpcoaches)

### MISSIONARY TRAINING SERVICE

The Missionary Training Service  
18 Aston Way  
Oswestry  
Shropshire SY11 2XY  
United Kingdom  
Tel./Fax +44 1691 653619  
E-mail: [coordmts@xc.org](mailto:coordmts@xc.org)

### WILLIAM CAREY LIBRARY

William Carey Library  
P.O. Box 40129  
Pasadena, CA 91114, USA  
Credit Card orders within USA: 1-800-MISSION  
Tel: 1 (818) 798-0819 Fax: 1 (818) 794-0477

(be sure to ask for their Mission Resource Catalog)

If you want something to last a season  
plant flowers

If you want something to last a lifetime  
plant trees

If you want something to last for eternity  
**plant churches!**

**NOTES**