

New Works Action Plans for First Steps

I. Develop vision and core values.

1. Massive personal prayer by church planter for clarity of vision and of call to serve as a church start pastor, suggested at least one event 10 hours in length.

2. Recruit massive prayer support for this phase and each new phase as church start progress.

Please, please do not make any decisions before prayer support is in place.

3. Clarify vision and core values.

3.a. Commit to vision and put into written form. Follow only God's plan from this step on.

3.b. Clarify core values and write them down. Divorce issues, biblical inerrancy issues, who participates in sacraments, etc.

II. Team roles development and recruitment:

4. Positions in leadership team assessed.

4.a. Job description written out.

4.b. Spiritual qualifications/gifts defined for each role.

4.c. A written training manual and time schedule for training for each role.

4.d. Pray **Matt. 9:37-38** and write an action plan to recruit leadership start team. Two or more leaders statistically is a sign God is at work and the church start will progress.

4.e. Written vision and core values is explained and committed to among potential leadership.

4.f. Gifts test of new leaders and then matching them with roles.

4.g. Then training of leaders for roles.

5. Design evangelism plan and training manual for target area souls.

5.a. Take leadership team through evangelism training manual and test in target population (**1st Thess. 5.21**) to see if God blesses with salvations. If not, do not impose on core group.

5.b. Time line for evaluation of evangelism results and adjusting plan if God is not blessing.

6. Plan with leadership team for core group.

6.a. Write roles, training manual and gifts requirements for each role in new work.

6.b. Develop a manual to train group in vision and core values (often called a 101 course).

6.c. Action plan for recruiting core group (who trains and time line for training).

6.d. Ask in local bible studies you are holding for interest.

6.e. Spiritual gifts testing and commitment of core to vision and core values.

6.f. Then training of core group for roles, pray **Matt. 9:37-38** if gaps.

7. Repeat step 6 for reaching the next goal in line.

7.a. Action plan for reaching 10, 25, 50, 100, 200, 400 and more new souls for Christ and service in the church start. A general long-term goal for all phases is encouraged at the outset, but focus with specifics on the goal next in line.

7.b. The determining criteria for when to start a mission church. New works are more evangelistic. One option is when the baptisms per each 10 members ratio has leveled off and is now dropping off. This is an indicator the evangelism training needs adjusting or the church has become inward in focus. New works help make churches outward focused.

7.c. The Holy Spirit has veto power and modification rights over all plans of men.

II. Financial areas:

III. Location:

1. Tillie Bergman recommends going to areas and ask God if he wants you to plant a church there. She has facilitated 100 starts in the Houston area, she obviously rarely gets a no. An alternate question may be, "God is this where you want me to be a church plant pastor?"

2. Locate and pray about 20 sights near target area. The starting site may not be the final site of the church. Narrow your options to 10, with prayer and repeat visits. Ask the local people of each site about what you are planning and see if God is already at work in one site. Repeat this process to get to 5, then 1.

3. Prayer walking based on Acts 17:16-34

4. Start Bible studies in potential target areas and test for spiritual response. This is also a fishing pool for core group members.