



# PLANT 50 CHURCHES



## STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL CHURCH PLANTING

### OVERVIEW

Starting a new church is a challenging but rewarding venture with many peaks and valleys. However, the Apostle Paul made it his aim because this was at the heart of God. He said, *“My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, “Those who have never been told about him will see, and those who have never heard of him will understand.”* Romans 15:20-21NLT

The Church of God by Faith is committed to fulfilling this charge by planting 50 new churches by 2025. The following checklist gives helpful hints to church planters intended to assure a successful plant.

#### 1. Know you are called by God to lead or plant a church

Prayer and fasting are your ultimate guarantors here. Abraham was chosen by God and told to “GO” get away from your father’s people; Know God, Sense God, Hear God Seek the Lord for guidance regularly and prayerfully. Pray about the best location, funding strategies and consult with your district superintendent and or Executive Council. Do not try to do it alone.

#### 2. Understand our mandate to expand the Body of Christ

Planting a church is fulfilling Jesus’ biblical mandate as articulated in Matthew 28:18-20: *“Then Jesus came to them and said, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

#### 3. Study Paul’s church planting journey

- a. He prayed, fasted, and was guided by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:1-2, 4; 16:6, 9)
- b. He was connected to or sent by another group of believers (Acts 13:3)
- c. He found other believers to start churches (Acts 13:2; 15:36-16:3)
- d. He planted in new areas where Jesus was not known (Acts 13:4; Romans 15:20)
- e. People believed in Jesus (Acts 13:48)
- f. The word of the Lord continued to spread (Acts 13:49)
- g. They traveled to new places to plant more churches (Acts 14:1, 6, 20)
- h. They returned to strengthen and encourage the disciples (Acts 14:22)
- i. They appointed leaders and committed them to the Lord (Acts 14:23)

#### 4. Make sure you have spousal support

The first members of your church will likely be your spouse and any children. Please minister to them before you ever launch and make sure you have them on board. An article posted by Clark's Summit University Seminary states, *"Church planting will likely take a greater toll on your spouse and kids than you. If you have one, make sure your spouse is 100 percent behind the effort and that you bring them along in the decision-making and journey."*

<https://www.clarkssummitu.edu/2017/01/17/18-things-every-pastor-needs-know-planting-church/>

#### 5. Contact the Church of God by Faith Director of New Church Ministries

The New Church Ministry Director is employed by COGBF and is responsible to teach, equip, and assist you in getting your church plant off the ground.

#### 6. Establish your Prayer Support Network

Successfully planting a church must be bathed in prayer. Jesus said, *"...for without Me, ye can do nothing"* (John 15:5). Therefore, you should create an intercessory team that will be in covenant with you to keep the new plant lifted before the Lord.

#### 7. Write a Mission Statement

- a. Philippians 4:8 might be a good starting place in helping to write a mission statement that targets why you feel called to plant. It says, *"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."*
- b. What are your true intentions? Dream about what is admirable, lovely, and excellent. Think about your goals, write them down, then pray on those things.
- c. After completing your study, write a short and clear mission statement.

#### 8. Write your strategic plan

After much thought, research, and prayer, create your strategic master plan. Here are several examples you may use to create your own: <http://www.nutsandbolts.org/sample-master-plans/>. These helpful hints were drawn from the article listed above: *"When all the pieces are completed and written, organize them into a master plan that is visually appealing."*

- a. After a comprehensive study of your targeted community, identify the culture and most prevalent needs. Develop your plan to help address those needs.

- b. Include pictures and graphics depicting the city and community.
- c. Do not overload it with text. Leave enough white space to make the text easily read.
- d. Make the budget and timeline stand out graphically.
- e. Keep the length 8-10 pages. <https://www.nutsandbolts.org/your-church-plant-master-plan/>

### **9. Develop your support system**

Proverbs 11:14 says, *“For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.”* Be thoughtful about adding advisors to your support team. Research the right locations and talk with your leaders about your strategy.

### **10. Prospect “Where to Plant?” – God will lead you on this!**

Determine how you will go about planting:

- a. Small Group Prayer Meeting Plant: Start a prayer meeting in your home that may become a mission, then a church.
- b. Church Plant: Starting or planting a new church from scratch.
- c. District Plant: Leading a plant that was coordinated by your district.
- d. Church Restart: Reopening and restarting a formally operating church in or out of the Church of God by Faith.
- e. Determine where you will plant... what city, county, region, state, country.
- f. Research your prospective church planting location: population, education, industry, churches/denominations, census reports of number of non-church affiliated residents, political perspectives, local commemorations (festivals, celebrations, traditions)
- g. Do not try to gather the church; stay focused on unchurched.
- h. Explore cities where possible church plants are ripe and right to occur.
- i. Consider personal adaptability (i.e. climate, employment, residency)

### **11. Select a Strategic Launch Date**

Before you choose your launch date, please read this article called Church Planting Part 1: Picking the launch date. Excerpts from the article reveals:

*“Church planters must consider and plan for a wide variety of factors as they prepare to launch and lead their new churches. One of the most important decisions affecting whether a new church starts well is choosing when to hold the launch service itself. Here, eight church planters from diverse settings nationwide share some of their prelaunch experiences and explain that weather, holiday timing, culture and other factors influence whether the timing is right.”* <https://outreachmagazine.com/features/4668-picking-the-date.html>

## **12. Create a budget and fundraise**

Establish a start-up budget as well as a budget for monthly operating costs. Plan for both. Collaborate with your support team on budgeting and fundraising needs.

## **13. Follow the guidance in the COGBF Ritual for registering your new plant with COGBF and establishing an EIN**

Every COGBF ministry must have an employer identification number (EIN), even if it will not have employees. The EIN is a unique number that identifies each local assembly with the Internal Revenue Service. The COGBF Ritual gives guidance in obtaining an EIN number and your Letter of Resolution before launching a new church. Please study these pages of the Ritual carefully:

- a. Naming your church: Page 173
- b. Completing a Consent and Acknowledgement Form: Page 173
- c. Employee Identification Number (EIN Number) Instructions: Page 173
- d. Letter of Resolution: Page 175

## **14. Contact your State to get a Tax-Exempt Certificate**

State laws grant certain nonprofit organizations that meet the criteria an exemption from sales and use tax. To be eligible for the exemption, states require nonprofit organizations to obtain a sales tax exemption certificate. Organizations holding a Certificate of Exemption may present a copy of the certificate to a selling dealer to purchase or rent taxable items or services tax-exempt as authorized by their state's law. Payment for the purchase must be made with the organization's funds.

## **15. Getting the Word Out**

One of your largest challenges will be in getting that second member. Hopefully, if you are married, your spouse is already on board. Work on engaging others in your community because we know that a group can form when access meets opportunity. In other words, you cannot expect your ministry to grow unless you have some access to the people you are trying to reach. So, you should target:

- a. The low hanging fruit including those who cut your hair or repair your car.
- b. Your co-workers.
- c. Your small prayer-group.
- d. Join ministerial alliances.
- e. Hit the streets.
- f. Pass out tracts.
- g. Reach out to college students if a school is in the area.

- h. Use social media like Facebook and YouTube to broadcast your services.
- i. Be wise but fearless because God is with you.
- j. Get assistance from the National Office with logo design.

Remember the goal is not to solely focus on current believers but to reach out to the lost.

## 16. Tips for continued Success

It is essential that you continue to grow during your entire ministry. CTI offers several continuing education classes that are highly recommended to every church planter:

- **TPC403 – The Preaching Class:** This course reviews the work of John Piper—co-founder of Desiring God, former preaching pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church, and author of *The Supremacy of God in Preaching and Expository Exultation: Christian Preaching as Worship*.
- **COM201 - Community Outreach Mission:** Students will learn the purpose of community outreach, how to organize a project specifically for those in prison, nursing homes, home-bound, college and high school. Students will identify and collaborate with agencies that promote Christian values to effectively minister to the needy and lost within the community.
- **DOC201 - Church of God by Faith Doctrine and Practices:** This course provides students with an in-debt study of the Ritual of the Church of God by Faith.

Please note that these continuing education courses are suggestions that can be completed in one year and are not required before you launch your church. The recommended books below are also featured in other CTI courses.

## 17. Recommended Resources

- *Nut and Bolts of Church Planting* - <https://cogbf-store3.mybigcommerce.com/nuts-bolts-of-church-planting/>
- *Why Men Hate Going to Church* - <https://cogbf-store3.mybigcommerce.com/why-men-hate-going-to-church/>
- *Governing Instruments* - <https://cogbf-store3.mybigcommerce.com/7-governing-instrument/>
- *Church of God by Faith Ritual* - <https://cogbf-store3.mybigcommerce.com/cogbf-ritual/>