

# ~ CHAPTER 1 ~

## *Establishing a New Church*

### **17 STEPS TO PLANTING A NEW CHURCH**

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, which 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 complete 17-Steps to COGBF Church Planting are listed on [www.ministries.cogbf.org](http://www.ministries.cogbf.org).

#### **1.0 KNOW GOD CALLS YOU 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 for the best location and funding strategies and consult with your district superintendent and Executive Council. Do not try to do it alone.

#### **2.0 UNDERSTAND OUR MANDATE TO EXPAND THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Planting a church fulfills Jesus’ biblical mandate as articulated in Matt 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 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.”

#### **3.0 STUDY PAUL’S CHURCH PLANTING JOURNEY**

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

#### **4.0 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.

#### **5.0 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.

#### **6.0 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.

#### **7.0 WRITE A MISSION STATEMENT**

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.”

#### **8.0 WRITE YOUR STRATEGIC PLAN**

After much thought, research, and prayer, create your strategic master plan.

#### **9.0 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.

#### **10.0 PROSPECT WHERE TO PLANT**

God will lead you on this! Determine how you will go about planting. Consider these options:

- .01 Small Group Prayer Meeting Plant: Start a prayer meeting in your home that may become a mission, then a church.
- .02 Church Plant: Starting or planting a new church from scratch.
- .03 District Plant: Leading a plant that was coordinated by your district.
- .04 Church Restart: Reopening and restarting a formally operating church in or out of the Church of God by Faith.

- .05 Determine where you will plant... what city, county, region, state, country.
- .06 Research your prospective church planting location: population, education, industry, churches/denominations, census reports of the number of non-church affiliated residents, political perspectives, and local commemorations (festivals, celebrations, traditions.)
- .07 Do not try to gather the church; stay focused on the unchurched.
- .08 Explore cities where possible church plants are ripe and right to occur.

### **11.0 SELECT A STRATEGIC LAUNCH DATE**

Before you choose your launch date, please read this article<sup>1</sup> called Church Planting Part 1: Picking the launch date. Excerpts from the article reveal:

*“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.”*

### **12.0 CREATE A BUDGET AND FUNDRAISE**

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

### **13.0 FOLLOW THE NEW PLANT GUIDANCE**

Follow the guidance in this document<sup>2</sup> 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 the Ritual carefully.

### **14.0 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.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://outreachmagazine.com/features/4668-picking-the-date.html>

<sup>2</sup> Establishing an EIN Page #17