

PARENT
A
CHURCH!

Is the Pastor
Insane?

Swim Lesson Stream One



SWIM LESSON STREAM ONE

First Time or Potential
Parent Church Pastors

For Presentation PowerPoint:

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Workshop Leaders

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- ✓ Member of the RCA Church Parenting Network since 2004
- ✓ Chair of Southwest Classis Church Multiplication Team
- ✓ Involved with a number of new church plants

▣ Randy Rowland

Three Key Issues

We will cover in this session

- ▣ Help pastors communicate to their council/consistory, leaders, and congregation the vision for church planting.
- ▣ What bench marks do you need to plant?
- ▣ Answering questions about financial concerns.

FIRST KEY ISSUE

HELPING
PASTORS COMMUNICATE
THE VISION
FOR CHURCH PARENTING

Barriers to Church Parenting



What barriers do you face in your church as
you consider church planting?
(list top three)

Overcoming Barriers

1. Planting will hurt the parent church
 - Seldom true - in fact the opposite is often the case if the parent church has a long term perspective.
 - Luke 6:38 – *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with measurer you use it, it will be measured to you.”*
 - In Genesis 12 God tells Abraham that through him “all peoples on earth will be blessed.” But Biblical history shows us that Israel desired blessing without being a blessing to others.
 - Faithfulness is overcoming the short-term impact in order to experience the long-term blessing.

Overcoming Barriers

2. Planting hurts existing churches.
 - Again, the opposite often happens.
 - New churches can set a new standard of quality and effectiveness.
 - Typically new church plants are not attractive to long-term church members because it means starting over.
 - New churches seek to reach the unchurched.
 - In most communities well over half the population are unchurched.
 - Many more churches are needed to reach them!

Overcoming Barriers

3. Planting usually fails.
 - The Bad News: Estimates are that four out of five churches fail and only one in ten sustain at larger than 100 people in worship.
 - The Good News: The success rate increases to nine of ten when a church planter accepts the advantage of training and coaching from experienced planters.
- The key is:
 - ✓ Leveraging the wisdom of experienced planters.
 - ✓ Following proven principles and systems.
 - ✓ Having a committed parent church.

Overcoming Barriers

4. We're too small to plant
 - Small churches have successfully started new churches.
 - Partnering with other parent churches reduces the risk for a small church.
 - Large churches sometimes have a more difficult time persuading people to leave than do medium-size churches.
 - The health and vision of the parent church , not the size, is the key factor in successful planting.

Overcoming Barriers

5. Parenting breaks churches apart.
 - In some cases church plant are the result of a church split – not a healthy purpose for a church plant.
 - If there is a kingdom vision, the parenting church blesses those leaving to join the new church and greatly values the sacrifice made by those who leave.
 - The process of planting and growth of the church plant encourages and blesses the parent church.

Overcoming Barriers

6. New churches end up replacing existing churches.
 - New churches typically reach people new to the community, people in transition for other reasons, and the unchurched.
 - The systemic reasons for churches closing are typically very unrelated to new church plants in the community.
 - Some argue that new churches should intentionally be started to replace churches that are ineffective – for many reasons this is not a good approach to church planting.

Overcoming Barriers

7. Church parenting creates a leadership drain.
 - Why not give some of your best leaders to such a significant kingdom cause?
 - Starting churches can actually give talented younger leaders a opportunity to move into a ministry leadership.

WHY START NEW CHURCHES?

Why Start New Churches?

1. The Theological Imperative

■ A Kingdom Vision

- **John 12:24-25** – “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be.”

■ A Kingdom Vision (continued)

- Matt. 28:19-20 – “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name 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.”
- Jesus intended the great commission not only as an individual command but to be carried out as the whole body – the Church.
- Jesus’ vision was to reach an ever growing concentric circles – Acts 1:8 – “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Why Start New Churches?

1. The Theological Imperative (continued)

■ Function of the Body

- Luke 14:23 – “Then the master told his servant ‘go out to the country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.’”
- Luke 19:10 – “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”
- I Cor. 12:27 – “Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it.”

Why Start New Churches?

2. The Pragmatic Reality

- Historical record of church growth
 - Acts 2:47b – The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
 - Acts 6:7 – So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.
 - Romans 15:20 – It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known.

Why Start New Churches?

2. The Pragmatic Reality - Historical record of church growth (continued)

- Paul's model / strategy for church growth.



- He preached where the gospel was not known.
- His strategy was to start a self-sustaining witnessing church that reached unbelievers.
- The growth and spread of the gospel of the early church was through creation of new churches.

Why Start New Churches?

2. The Pragmatic Reality (continued)

- Modern reality – nationally

- Number of church closings.
- Number of churches are not growing.
- Evangelistic success of new churches.

New Churches:

- a) Attract the unchurched.
- b) Have evangelistic zeal.
- c) Have the freedom to pursue alternative ministry models.

“The single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting new churches.” – Peter Wagner

“We are either building or dying.
There is no such thing as maintaining.”

Rich DeVos

“He who is not busy being born is busy dying.”

Bob Dylan

Nature:

Birth is the way of things. It is a vital part; indeed the beginning part, of the lifecycle. It is the natural place to assume for and account for the growth and renewal of the church.

How can we be productive and fruitful for the future?

SECOND KEY ISSUE

WHAT BENCH MARKS DO
YOU NEED TO PLANT?

1. A Biblical Theology

- ▣ Parent church must have a clear, biblical vision of what it is being called by God to accomplish.

2. A Godly Desire

3. A Heart for Lost and Church-Disenfranchised People

4. A Willingness to Risk

- ▣ Commitment to give up some of the best people.
- ▣ Empower the planter to recruit high quality people.

5. Key Leaders

- ✓ Entrepreneurial types
- ✓ Young couples
- ✓ Recent new comers to the target community.
- ✓ Kingdom minded people looking for a place to make a difference
- ✓ Younger families in transition

6. Systems Approach

- ▣ A Key Point Person
- ▣ Assemble a Church Multiplication Team
- ▣ Create systems or structure to facilitate planting process.
- ▣ Ensure that systems link with each other and that accountability is clear

7. Patience

The How To's of Starting New Churches

1. Assess and recruit the church planter
 - Become a student of church planting.
 - Build an effective recruiting and assessment process (or rely on others).
 - Understand the key predictors of effective church planters.
 - ✓ Leadership gifts
 - ✓ Entrepreneurial experiences
 - ✓ Supportive spouse
 - ✓ Passion for reaching people

The How To's of Starting New Churches

2. Identify the target community.

- Basic community profile
 - Demographics (age, income, marital status, years in the community).
 - Community growth potential
 - Sources for Demographics (Percept Report)
- Community religious profile.
- Be a student of the local culture:
 - Interests, activities, mindset
 - Community activities, focus groups
 - Write a description of the culture in the community

The How To's of Starting New Churches

3. Hold the church planter accountable for defining a clear ministry vision.
 - What would the church look like if the mission is fulfilled?
 - ✓ How would people behave and believe.
 - ✓ Who would be reached.
 - ✓ How would the community perceive the church.
 - ✓ What ministries would be functioning?

The How To's of Starting New Churches

4. Establish a comprehensive action plan.
 - Lay out exactly what steps the team and the church planter are going to follow.
(However, make room for the Holy Spirit.)
- Consider these issues for new churches:
 - ✓ Clear determination of core ministries.
 - Worship and worship support
 - Hospitality and assimilation
 - Children
 - Small groups
 - Outreach
 - ✓ Church name.
 - ✓ Worship space/ office space.
 - ✓ Staff (assuming multiples staff)– worship leader is critical.

The How To's of Starting New Churches

5. Determine Church Parenting Model
 - For example, church planter serves as a resident in a parenting or teaching church.
 - ✓ Planter learns from a healthy church.
 - ✓ Planter grasps a vision for “what can be”.
 - ✓ Planter builds relationships with parent church staff.
 - ✓ Planter benefits from expertise of specialists.
 - ✓ Planter feels connected & supported.

The How To's of Starting New Churches

6. Planter develops a core group.
 - Begins with recruiting:
 - ✓ Public presentations of mission & vision – introduce the planter.
 - ✓ One-on-one meetings – building relationship & trust.

The How To's of Starting New Churches

6. Planter develops a core group. (continued)
 - Sources of core group members – Concentric circles of influence:
 - ✓ Key leaders from a healthy parent.
 - ✓ Interested people from the target community
 - ✓ Early core group members or members of the parent church identify additional members from the community.
 - Core group meetings:
 - ✓ Identify and recruit ministry leaders.
 - ✓ Train leaders in ministry philosophy & equip them for ministry.
 - ✓ Organize prayer effort (Matt. 9:8, 2 Thess. 1:11-12).
 - ✓ Identify and appoint a launch leadership team .
 - ✓ Help the core group understand the financial needs of a plant.

The How To's of Starting New Churches

7. Market to the community.

- ✓ Clear identification of target.
- ✓ Key target and cultural insights (beliefs, motivations, & attitudes)
- ✓ Format and execution considerations.
- ✓ Tactics:
 - Direct mail
 - Inviter pieces – preview services & launch
 - Events – preview services

The How To's of Starting New Churches

8. Launch.

- Multiple preview services
 - ✓ Provides practice for core group.
 - ✓ Proto-type for working out the bugs over time.
 - ✓ Conserves core group energy and builds morale.
 - ✓ Experience the facility & work out the fit.
- Private worship
 - ✓ Unadvertised services – core group plus prospects.
 - ✓ No advertising – private core group member invitations.
 - ✓ Additional practice & testing.
- Grand Opening
 - ✓ Follow a marketing campaign
 - ✓ Allow people several weeks to test church.
 - ✓ Topical Sermon Series

The How To's of Starting New Churches

9. Priorities for early growth

- Focus exclusively on critical success factors.
 - ✓ Worship and teaching.
 - ✓ Hospitality and assimilation.
 - ✓ Children's ministry.
 - ✓ Small groups.
 - ✓ Staff and leadership development.
 - ✓ Outreach / evangelism.

THIRD KEY ISSUE

ANSWERING QUESTIONS
ABOUT FINANCIAL
CONCERNS

*Every area, region and
denomination is different.*

*However,
there are some things we do know*

- ▣ Church planters find the resources for planting in the harvest!
- ▣ Church planters can raise missionary funding.
- ▣ Denominations and Classes can help some.
- ▣ A church should plan on sustainability by about 3 years.
 - Typically a three-year step down structure.

Resources

- ▣ Tim Keller – Why Plant Churches?