

A Church Planting Checklist

Adapted from *Seven Seasons of Church Planting* by Steven L. Childers

Season One: *Preparing to Plant the Church*

1. Confirm the planter's call to church planting

- ___ I have set aside extended times to pray and plan for this ministry.
- ___ I meet the biblical qualifications for a church planter (1 Tim 3, Titus 1).
- ___ My spiritual life qualifies me to lead the church by example.
- ___ My family life qualifies me to lead the church by example.
- ___ My spiritual gifts and ministry skills give evidence of my call.
- ___ My desires and motivations are for God' kingdom and glory.
- ___ I am deeply concerned for the needs of those in my ministry focus area.
- ___ My church authorities and spiritual leaders have confirmed my call.
- ___ My spouse, family and trusted friends have confirmed my call.
- ___ I have received confirmation from an objective assessment/evaluation.
- ___ I have received the necessary financial support to plant a church.
- ___ I have received the necessary ministry support (coaching structure).

2. Determine the Ministry Focus Group(s) and Area(s)

___ I grasp the necessity and difficulty of understanding their culture.

___ I have utilized recent demographic studies and resources.

___ I have studied carefully their behavior, values, beliefs and worldview.

___ I have exegeted their culture by personal observation, networking and interviewing.

___ I have experienced “incarnational insight” by living and serving among them.

___ I have developed a “People Profile” including a description of their behaviors, values, beliefs, worldview, felt needs and primary idols.

___ I have determined their greatest (3-5) specific felt-needs

___ I have determined how the ministry of the Gospel, in both word and deed, is the ultimate solution to all their real needs, both personal and social.

3. Establish Prayer Support and Communication Plans

___ I grasp the necessity and high priority of establishing and maintaining a strong prayer support base

___ I have recruited and mobilized a prayer support team of 50-100 intercessors (Levels One, Two and Three).

___ I have established an effective means of regular communication with my prayer support team

___ I am developing a deeper, personal prayer life (Reading, Meditating, Interceding, Contemplating)

___ I am regularly praying “Frontline Kingdom Prayers” with others for the powerful advancement of God’s Kingdom through this church.

___ I am regularly setting aside days (or half-days) for prayer and fasting.

___ I am beginning to cultivate a corporate prayer culture in the emerging church.

4. Begin Church Planter Training and Coaching

___ I have completed and/or I am receiving church planting training

___ Formal Training: Church Planting Basic Training--5 Days in Residence or Virtual.

___ Non-Formal Training: Church Planting Seminar, Church Planting Conference, Church Planting Apprenticeship, New Church Network Coaching, Personal Study Kits.

___ I have developed a *Personal Learning Contract* that identifies vital personal and ministry competencies that need to be developed, including learning objectives, resources, strategies and measurable outcomes.

___ I have established a personal coaching relationship that includes regular meetings (minimum once a month) for personal encouragement, learning contract accountability, reflection, refocusing and planning.

___ I have committed to a New Church Network that includes regular meetings (minimum once a month) with other church planters, church planter wives and coaches for mutual support, training and prayer.

5. **Develop a Preliminary Philosophy of Ministry**

___ I have written a preliminary philosophy of ministry clarifying the initial church vision, ministry purposes, ministry styles and core values.

___ I have written an initial church mission statement that includes a detailed description of the ministry focus group, their 3-5 greatest felt/real needs and the emerging church's specific ministry plans to meet those needs.

___ I have designed a Ministry Flowchart that depicts all the church's essential future ministries I envision being in place within approximately 1 year from the time of my first public worship.

___ I have designed a detailed discipleship strategy that describes how the church ministries will take someone from being an unbeliever to being a fully devoted follower of Christ and responsible, growing member of the church.

___ I have determined the church planting start up model (Pioneering, Branching, Colonizing, Segregating, Satelliting, ReStarting, Transplanting, Seeding)

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6. Create a Church Planting Proposal

___ I have organized and placed in one document (Church Planting Proposal) all my preliminary conceptual work and planning regarding the new church.

___ I have formatted the proposal to include answers to the questions: Why start a new church? Who will be impacted by this church? What are their needs? What kind of church will it be? How will you start this church? Who will be starting this church? How will this church plant be supported? How can someone support this church plant in prayer and giving?

___ I have designed the proposal to be attractive, clear and compelling.

___ I am using the proposal (or portions of it) for vision casting, goal setting, recruiting and support raising.

7. Establish the Financial Support Base

___ I have developed a personal financial budget for the next 2-3 years.

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___ I have determined my financial ministry support model (Personal fund raising, Denomination support, Sponsor Church, Core Group).

___ I have developed and implemented a fund raising strategy including the development of a brochure and pledge card.

___ I have received all the necessary funds and pledges.

8. Design a Church Planting Action Plan

___ I have determined the initial *Gathering Strategy* (Front door event strategy, Side door cell group strategy, Timeline VS milestones strategy)

___ I have developed a detailed *Ministry Timeline* depicting all the important ministry milestones (*Essential Ministry Systems*) that lie ahead over the next twelve months

___ I have written the specific objectives (*Action Plan*) needed to reach each milestone.

___ I have given these written objectives to my coach for his review, revisions, and support for me to accomplish them.