

PACIFIC2NATIONS – Mission Training

CHURCH PLANTING

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To teach a biblical basis for Church planting
- To motivate students to effective Evangelism and Church Planting

1. *The Great Commission.*

Genesis 1: 28 This presents God’s commandment to man in the _____ *FIRST* _____ creation

Matt 28:18 - 20 This presents God’s command to man in the “ _____ *NEW* _____ creation”.

This command in Matthew 28 is called the “Great Commission”. [A commission is a duty or task or job that is given to us to do by someone in authority over us].

- The Great Commission is the _____ *WORK* _____ that Jesus has given to the Church to do for Him while He is away.
- It is the _____ *DUTY* _____ of the whole Church and everyone in the Church.
- It is the main _____ *GUIDELINE* _____ for the Church of every age for what we should be doing.

The Gospel must be taken to every “nation, tribe, people and language” (Rev 7: 9) around the whole world. This is the great work of the Church.

The Lord will not return until this job is completed – Matthew 24: 14.

The word used for “nation” in these two verses (Matt 24:14 & Rev 7:9) is the Greek word “ethnos”, which means _____ *PEOPLE GROUPS* _____.

It is God’s desire and plan that every people group, every culture, every part of the human family, will be represented in heaven when the Church is complete.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION IS THROUGH PLANTING NEW CHURCHES.

Church growth statistics show that the most effective way of extending the Kingdom of God is through planting new Churches.

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A new Church provides: -

- A new _____ *WITNESS* _____ in the new community.
People can see the church in action, they can hear the singing and the preaching. They can observe the lives of the members. They are constantly challenged by the existence of the Church in their village.
- A new point of _____ *CONTACT* _____ for the people of that community.
The kingdom of God is brought near them. It is easier for them to attend. The people in the Church can visit them and make friends with them.
- A new _____ *OPPORTUNITY* _____ for workers and leaders to be raised up for the Kingdom of God.
- A new _____ *CHANNEL* _____ for God's love into that village.
The Church members reach out to help the people in the village in a practical way.

Class Discussion: What are some ways a new Church can show God's love to the people in the village?

Making disciples

The Great Commission does not tell us to go and make _____ *CONVERTS* _____ of all nations, but _____ *DISCIPLES* _____.

We are not just trying to get people born again, but grounded in the Word of God and living out lifestyle that Jesus demonstrated and commanded. It is a lifestyle of: -

- _____ *HOLINESS* _____ 1 Peter 1: 15, 16
- _____ *LOVE* _____ John 13: 34, 35
- _____ *SERVING* _____ John 13: 14 – 17.
- _____ *GOOD WORKS* _____ Eph 2: 10
- _____ *WITNESS* _____ Acts 1: 8

These things can only be done effectively by Christians working together in a Church situation. Planting Churches is the only way to fulfill the command of the Great Commission - to make disciples.

Class discussion: Can we make disciples without having Churches?
Give some reasons for your answers.

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2. *The Kingdom of God*

Matthew 5:33. We are commanded to have Kingdom priorities. Jesus clearly tells us that doing the work of His Kingdom is to the most important thing in our lives.

The Lord Jesus came for three main reasons:-

- To _____ *SAVE SINNERS* _____ 1 Timothy 1: 15
- To _____ *DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL* _____ 1 John 3: 8
- To _____ *GIVE HIS PEOPLE ABUNDANT LIFE* _____ John 10: 10

See also John 9: 39; Luke 2:49 AV; Genesis 3: 15

So, following the example of Jesus (John 20: 21), we see that the business of the Kingdom is saving souls, destroying the devil's work and bringing the abundant life in Jesus to the lost people of the world.

Again, the best and most effective way of doing this is by planting new Churches where new converts can find encouragement and strength in their own villages and communities and where the overcoming life in Jesus can be demonstrated to everyone.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF EXTENDING GOD'S KINGDOM IS BY PLANTING NEW CHURCHES

Class discussion: What is the Kingdom of God?

How can unsaved people come in contact with or see the Kingdom of God?

Where is the Kingdom of God demonstrated to people in the best way?

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”

CHURCH PLANTING REQUIRES:-

1. A correct theology.

We are “great commission” Christians. This is part of what being a Christian means.

The great commission requires us to make **disciples**, not **converts**. The only way to do this is to plant churches.

Jesus calls us to be **followers**, not just **fans**. Commitment and involvement are needed. C.f. *Matt 28:20*

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The churches we plant are to be: -

- Self GOVERNING.

This means that leadership for the Church comes from within the Church. We must *look for, train and release* leaders within the Churches we plant. (This is the goal we work towards. To start with we might need to appoint a leader from outside).

- Self SUPPORTING.

This means that money for supporting the Pastor and running the church comes from the people in the Church. We must train the people to give, to tithe and to work. We must teach them about the place and work of the Pastor and how to support him.

- Self PROPAGATING.

This means that the Church must be involved in planting other Churches. We must teach and train the people to witness and to **be** witnesses. Teach them about being “Great Commission” Christians. We must teach them the importance of reaching out to the lost and planting other Churches among those who are near, and those who are far away. Acts1:8. We must plant a “missionary vision” in the new Church right from the start. We must teach the people to have Kingdom priorities and to be involved in God’s work.

All of this must be settled in our minds before we start.

We are not just planting ONE Church.

We are planting a Church that will plant OTHER Churches.

We are involved in the work of **Church Planting**. That is the work that Jesus has commanded all of us to do. It is not just for some Christians – the command was given to all of us, to the Church. We must all be involved in this in some way. If we do not go ourselves, we must help to support those who do go. This is what we are here to do.

This “theology”, or principle, should be clearly taught to everyone in the Church. Our Churches must not just be places where people are happy to come on Sunday and then forget about for the rest of the week. We have work to do, a task to accomplish, a command to fulfill, a duty to carry out for our Lord Jesus.

The Churches we plant should always be **indigenous**. That means they should have the style, culture, language and leadership of the local people as long as they do not go against the Bible’s teachings.

2. A Correct Strategy.

PRAY - PLAN – PROCEED

PRAY

All successful Christian work begins here. Seek God’s leading, guidance, and blessing.

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PLAN

- Where are the _____ *NEEDS* _____?

Are there villages around yours that have no good Churches? Are there areas around your Island where there are no good Churches or only a few? Are there people close to you who are still heathen?

- Where are the _____ *OPEN DOORS* _____? [cf. Acts 16:6]

Are there villages you know of that are open to you to plant a Church? Have you received invitations to preach or plant a Church somewhere or even just to visit?

- What are the _____ *MEANS OF ACCESS* _____?

How are you going to get there? Do you have wantok in that place?

- What do you need to _____ *DO THE JOB* _____?

Do you need a team of people to help you? Do you need a house to live in? Do you need people who will promise to pray for you?

- What are your _____ *GOALS* _____?

You should have short, medium & long term goals.

PROCEED Remember the promise of God's presence (Matt 28:20) is given to those who **go**.

Class Exercise: -

1. Draw a map of Malaita with the main areas of population, main language groups, and mark all of the Assemblies of God Churches on it.

Where are the areas we still need to plant Churches in?

2. Draw a map of your area, with the villages around yours and each Church marked on it.

Where are the places that need to have a Church?

THE EXAMPLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS:-

Paul planted Churches

Paul did not just travel around holding outreaches and getting lots of people saved. He always established **churches**; local, indigenous churches;

- Self-supporting They gave to _____ *SUPPORT* _____ themselves.
- Self-governing They had their own _____ *LEADERS* _____.
- Self-propagating They planted _____ *OTHER CHURCHES* _____.

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He PREACHED, then gathered the converts together and TAUGHT them. When he left he would later return, if possible, or send others to encourage and appoint LEADERS.

A summary of Paul's method of founding and establishing churches can be seen in Acts 14:21-23.

- Preaching the good news EVANGELISM
- Strengthening and encouraging EDIFICATION
- Appointing leadership ORGANISATION

We can see the same approach is suggested in:-

- Philippi Acts 16:40, compare Phil. 1:1
- Corinth Acts 18:4,11 compare 1 Cor. 16:15,16
- Ephesus Acts 19:8-10; 20:17,28,

See also Acts 15:40-41; 20:1-6; 1Thess. 3:1-3; 1 Tim. 1:3; Titus 1:5.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth.”

WE MUST FOLLOW THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

God is Moving (Joel 2:28-32)

God is moving by His Spirit all over the world today. There are more people who are born again Christians than ever before — millions of people are coming into the Kingdom of God every week.

We have a responsibility to see that the harvest of souls continues, and that the new Christians have a place to be: -

- CARED FOR
- ESTABLISHED IN GOD
- GROW TO MATURITY

THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS IS TO PLANT CHURCHES.

Why plant churches?

- It is the Biblical PATTERN.
- The new Christians can be DISCIPLED.
- Churches preserve the FRUIT of evangelism.
- Churches are a base for FURTHER evangelism.
- Churches can SUPPORT themselves.

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- Churches have the resources to _____ *REPRODUCE* _____ themselves.

What is a church?

In the New Testament 'church' always means the people, not buildings or places. A Church is a group of born-again people meeting together regularly for:-

- _____ *WORSHIP* _____
- _____ *FELLOWSHIP* _____
- _____ *EVANGELISM* _____

New Testament church life

What should be happening in the Churches we plant? We can see from the book of Acts:-

- They continued in the Apostles _____ *DOCTRINE* _____ (Acts 2:42).

God's word is to be preached, taught, studied, and demonstrated in the Churches we plant.

- They concentrated on _____ *FELLOWSHIP* _____ (Acts 2:42)

First with the Lord (1Cor 1:9), secondly with other Christians - 'In the temple' (public worship) and 'from house to house' (home fellowship).

- They practiced the Church _____ *ORDINANCES* _____

The breaking of bread (Acts 2:46), The Lord's table, Holy Communion (Acts 20:7, Matt 26:26, 1 Cor 10:15-21, 11:23-24), and Baptism.

- They continued strong in _____ *PRAYER* _____

A prayer-less church is a powerless church (1Thess 5:17). A praying church is a powerful church. The church was born in prayer (Acts 2). God's house is a "house of prayer" (Matt 21:13).

- They continued strong in _____ *WORSHIP* _____

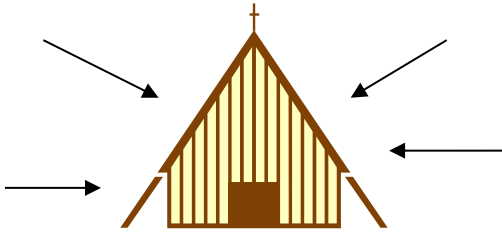
The church is called together by God to worship Him, that He might come to reveal Himself to His people. Worship is the first duty of the church. Worship brings the presence of God. Worship is singing, clapping, dancing etc. Worship releases the gifts of the spirit.

- They continued strong in _____ *EVANGELISM* _____

The Church is always to be a base for further evangelism and Church planting. The Church is a living thing and must grow. We must teach Christians to always be looking outward to the lost, not inwards to their own needs all the time.

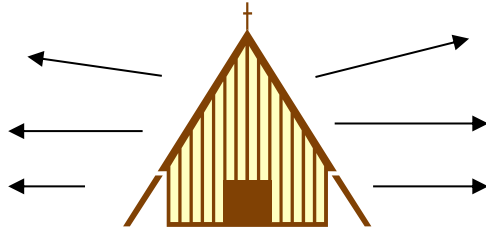
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Two ideas about the Church.¹



1. The Church as a building.

In this model, the building is the “holy place”. Everything that the Church does must happen in the building, including prayer, fellowship and evangelism. The Church is *inward* looking.



2. The Church as the people.

The Church (the people) meet in the building for worship and teaching but then go out into the world to do the work of God. This is the true Biblical model. The Church is *outward* looking.

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH PLANTERS

1) Hearing from God.

The main motivations for church planting are:-

- A ___ *PASSION* _____ (strong desire) to see people saved.
- ___ *OBEDIENCE* _____ to the Great Commission
- The ___ *CALL* _____ of God

We plant churches in obedience to the command of God to go and make disciples. It is the call of God that determines where we plant the church.

2) The Team

Who is going to plant the church? E.g.: -

- ___ *ONE* _____ man and his family
- ___ *MORE THAN ONE* _____ family
- ___ *TWO* _____ men or women working together.

It is easier when there is more than one person because they can share the work and encourage each other.

¹ From Pastor Jerry Cook.

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3) Strategy

- _____ *WHERE* _____ are you going to plant the church?

Where are the needs, the open doors, the invitations? You need to decide on a suitable place. You should pray about this, research it, talk to other leaders about it. You should ask some questions:-

- Is there a need for a new Church in this place?
- Are there any other good Churches nearby?
- Are there enough people to reach out to so the church will grow?
- Is the door open into that village?
- Will there be opposition and how will you deal with it?

- _____ *HOW* _____ are you going to plant it?

- Do you have wantok in that village you can go to?
- Can you get a job there, or nearby?
- Will you move there or just hold outreaches for a while?
- Will you start it as a home group?
- Will you send one of your leaders?
- Will you start with a big crusade, or just start quietly?

Class discussion: - Are there some other ways to start a new Church? Is there a “best” way?

- _____ *WHEN* _____ are you going to start?

- When is the most suitable time to start your new Church?
- Are there special dates or events that might help or hinder your plans?
- Is this a short term goal or a long-term goal?

- Where will you hold your _____ *MEETINGS* _____?

- Is there a suitable house to meet in or do you have to build something?

- What kind of _____ *LEADERSHIP* _____ will you have?

- Is there anybody there who is suitable to come on a Church Board with you?
- What does the Constitution say about this?

- Who will _____ *HELP* _____ you?

- Are there people who have promised to pray for your new work?
- Is there anyone who will come with you to plant the new Church?
- Is there a Church who will help to support you?

- What about _____ *FINANCE* _____?

- Will you need money for travel?
- How will you support yourself while pioneering?

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4) Prayer

This is essential.

- Your work must be prayed about from the very first thought you have about it.
- Pray about every single thing to do with your plans, big or small
- Carefully try to know and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

5) Include the Holy Spirit!

Right from the first meetings you must work in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Have the _____ *GIFTS* _____ of the Spirit
- Have good _____ *PRAISE AND WORSHIP* _____
- Pray for _____ *THE SICK* _____ in every meeting
- Have _____ *ALTAR CALLS* _____
- Preach for _____ *SOULS* _____ to be saved
- Preach for _____ *NEEDS* _____ to be met
- Expect God to _____ *MOVE IN POWER* _____ by His Spirit

EIGHT CHARACTERISTICS OF A GROWING CHURCH

1) A Strong Commitment to _____ *OUTREACH* _____

This does not just mean preaching the gospel inside the church building; it means going out into the community.

A fisherman does not stay at home and throw his line out the window. He goes to where the fish are.

The church at Antioch was born this way (Acts 11: 20-21). Paul used the same idea in Acts 20:20, Acts 17:17.

Evangelism is the way a local church grows. The Church should have a vision and a plan to reach those close by and should also be involved in reaching out to those far away – even overseas (Acts 1: 8)

A growing church is a church with a strong commitment to mission world-wide, starting with those next door.

2) A Strong Commitment to _____ *PEOPLE* _____

When a visitor, or new person, walks into the church he must feel that the people in the congregation love the Lord, love each other, and love him.

There must be an atmosphere of caring about the physical and social needs of people in addition to their spiritual needs. C.f. the church at Antioch Acts 11:29, James 2:15-16.

The Holy Spirit through Jesus is showing that a living body of believers must care for one another in a very human and real way.

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The Church leaders should concentrate on building big **people**, not just a big **Church**. If people feel their needs are being met, they will come.

3) A Strong Commitment to _____ *GROWTH* _____

The church at Antioch fasted, prayed and sent out missionaries. They were interested in the result of the missionary ministry of Saul and Barnabas. Later they sent Silas and John Mark.

This shows that they had made growth an important part of their goal as a church. Note Paul's words in Romans 15:20.

There should be a vision for the local Church to grow, together with a vision to plant other Churches.

4) A Strong Commitment to _____ *WORSHIP* _____

The Antioch church was deeply committed to offering the praise of their hearts to God. Acts 13:2-3 "*As they ministered to the Lord and fasted...*"

It was said of the Church in Macedonia in 2 Corinthians 8:5 they "*first gave themselves to the Lord*".

Our first ministry as Christians and as a Church is to God in worship.

- Worship brings the _____ *MANIFEST PRESENCE* _____ of God.
- Worship builds _____ *FAITH* _____ and expectancy.
- Worship releases the _____ *POWER OF THE SPIRIT* _____ to heal.
- Worship releases the _____ *GIFTS* _____ of the Spirit.
- Worship releases _____ *JOY* _____.
- Worship attracts _____ *PEOPLE* _____.

The Church leaders must take care to build up this part of Church life. Have good praise and worship.

5) A Strong Commitment to the _____ *BUILDING UP* _____ of the Saints

Some call it discipleship, others call it Christian Education, and some call it edification.

Whatever the name, it means to build the spiritual strength of the body of believers. Inward growth goes together with outward growth.

Of the church at Antioch we read:

- They _____ *PREACHED THE LORD JESUS* _____ Acts 11:2
- They _____ *TAUGHT THE WORD* _____ Acts 11:26, 15:35
- They were _____ *ENCOURAGED* _____ Acts 11:23
- Paul and Barnabas continued in Antioch _____ *PREACHING AND TEACHING* _____ the word of the Lord with many others. Acts 15:35

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Bible preaching, study and education are the foundations for internal growth and development of Spirit controlled men and women.

The Timothy Principle - 2 Tim 2:2

The result of this was found in Acts 11:26. The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch. The world looked at these saints and said "they are Christians". They not only spoke of Christ but they reflected the life of Christ. The priority of outreach and evangelism is DISCIPLESHIP according to Matthew 28:19, through reaching out, baptizing, and teaching.

6) A Openness to _____ CHANGE _____

The church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to investigate what was happening in Antioch (Acts 11:22) where some new things were being done. The Council of Jerusalem included reports of the tendency on the part of the Antioch church to do things differently! All that the saints at Antioch were doing was responding to God's revelation of Christ, which was given to Paul to preach.

The Apostle Paul was a man who did things in new ways, not just to be different, but because he wanted to reach people for Christ (1 Corinthians 9:22-23).

A local church needs to be able to adjust and change as the needs arise. We should not be like those people who always say things like: -

- "We have never done it that way before".
- "We are not ready for that".
- "We tried that once before".
- "We're doing alright without it".
- "It costs too much".
- "That's not our responsibility".
- "It just won't work".

We must be open for the Holy Spirit to give us new ideas for how to win the lost and worship God.

Seven steps to this kind of openness are given in 1Thess 5:16-22. The key verse is 14 *"Do not put out the Spirit's fire"*.

7) A Strong Commitment to ___SACRIFICE_____ & ___FAITHFULNESS_____.

Faithfulness is important to the Lord as we see in 1Cor 4: 2 *"It is required that those who have been given trust must prove faithful"*.

A growing church is characterized by men and women who are freely giving: -

- Their _____ TIME _____ - faithfully attending
- Their _____ RESOURCES _____ - faithfully helping however they can.
- Their _____ SUBSTANCE _____ - faithfully and sacrificially giving.

They do this so that Christ might be honoured and His ministry advanced.

Where there is a growing church there is a church where members give freely and lovingly. There is a spirit of faithfulness and stewardship of time and talents. C.f. Paul in Acts 15:36

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8) A Strong Commitment to PRAYER.

A living, growing church is a praying church; a church that believes in and practices PRAYER.

The commitment to prayer must include the whole congregation. It is not just selecting one night of the week as prayer meeting night. Rather it involves the leaders and the members of the church in their commitment to growth through personal prayer.

It involves small prayer core groups, instruction and study on prayer, daily involvement in regular prayer for one another and for the growth of the church. Public sharing in prayer based on this will develop a strong commitment to growth.

SOME WORDS ABOUT CHURCH PLANTING.

1. Our aim in Church planting is to get NEW people into the Church.

We are not trying to get people from **other** Churches to change and come to **our** Church. Often when this happens, these people bring their problems with them. Also, this is not building the Kingdom of God.

We want to plant Churches where there are no good Churches. We want to get new people saved and make disciples of them.

We are not against other Churches. Do not preach against other Churches – this will close many doors for you and your message. Preach the Gospel – the good news about Jesus Christ.

2. Church planting is HARD WORK.

But it is well worth it in the end as we see people getting saved and becoming disciples. Remember too, there are rewards in heaven.

3. Every pastor and every Church should have a VISION for Church Planting.

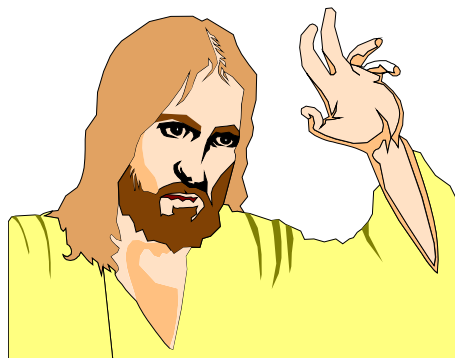
Every pastor and every Church should have a COMMITMENT to Church planting.

4. Church Planting is EXCITING.

Every Pastor should prove his ministry by planting at least one Church himself and then encourage people in his Church to go on planting churches.

5. The doors are WIDE OPEN to Church Planting in the Solomon Islands at present.

6. Don't just sit in your Church and pray for revival. Do that, but also get out and plant Churches.



Go... And I will be with you