

# ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON CHURCH PLANTING

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**Addison, Steve. *Movements That Change the World*. Smyrna, DE: Missional Press, 2009.**

Shows that genuine missional movements that change the world—such as that founded by Jesus—are marked by: 1) white-hot faith, 2) commitment to a cause, 3) contagious leadership, 4) rapid mobilization, 5) and adaptive methods. As Jesus' followers, we are called to continue his missionary movement by the Spirit's enabling.

**Allen, Roland. *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church and the Causes which Hinder it*. London: World Dominion Press, 1956. [also Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1962].**

Every missionary and those involved in church planting should read and reread this classic text. Allen was an Oxford grad and Anglican missionary to China (1895-1903) whose ideas were far ahead of his time. He is one of the most seminal missiological and ecclesiological thinkers of the last century. His overriding concerns: church planting must preeminently be the work of the Spirit of God and planters must stick with the basic strategy of the Word of God. Notice his subtitle, "and the Causes which Hinder it." If we are not careful we can hinder rather than help the wonderful "spontaneous expansion" that God has built into his supernatural church. Those concerned with starting reproducing churches will need to heed Allen's call for deploying indigenous lay leaders. This entire book is available as a pdf file from this website: [www.nextreformation.com/html/resources/spontaneous.pdf](http://www.nextreformation.com/html/resources/spontaneous.pdf).

**Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1962.**

Another seminal and classic text by Allen (see above) on the missionary enterprise presented with careful analysis of how our mission practice should be shaped by the Apostle's practices in the New Testament. This is essential and compelling reading for urban church planters today. Allen's premise: "Paul's strategy" (using trained indigenous lay leadership, relying on the Holy Spirit, etc) is the key to world evangelization. His prescription should be applied to North American church planting if we're to see movements develop in our day.

**Becker, Paul. *Dynamic Church Planting Handbook*. Vista, CA: Multiplication Ministries, 1992.**

DCP is a three-ring binder/workbook (not a paperback or hardback). It is intended as a guide for a church planter to move through the planting process sequentially. It follows a five-stage model with dozens of steps to be fulfilled before going onto the next stage. This manual includes a large section of detailed checklists for each stage plus a timeline for the planter to fill out to keep the planting project on track and on time. Ten sample forms are in the appendix. This is a helpful resource for church planters looking for a step-by-step guide. A revised, downloadable improved version is now available online at [www.dcp.org](http://www.dcp.org). It is authored by Becker, Jim Carpenter, and Mark Williams and entitled *The New Dynamic Church Planting Handbook*. Oceanside, CA: Dynamic Church Planting International, 2003.

**Becker, Paul and Paul Williams. *The Dynamic Daughter Church Planting*. Vista, CA: Multiplication Ministries, 1996.**

This is the only book (actually a 3-ring binder) of its kind and is much needed. Sections 2 & 3 provides church planting churches with the step-by-step guide that they need to reproduce themselves. If you are planting a daughter church, you need this resource. Sections 3 & 4 are written from the perspective of church planters and are basically practical materials edited from Becker's earlier manual reviewed above. I recommend planters buy this version (from [www.dcp.org](http://www.dcp.org)) and get two manuals for the price of one!

**Breslin, Scott. 2007. "Church Planting Tracking and Analysis Tool." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*. October 2007: 43:4, 508-15.**

Here is a tool that I wished I had at hand when doing church planting along with a team. Breslin gives you a means of tracking what is happening in terms of 5 major areas that church planters work in: 1) Positioning (context), 2) Sowing (crowd), 3) Watering (community), 4) Reaping (congregation), and 5) Keeping (committed and core). He states, "This tool helps you take a snapshot of a team's progress in the church planting process. In a one to three-hour meeting the group facilitator can complete the chart with the team." (p. 515). You can download a blank copy free at <http://www.fcpt.org> but you will want to read and use the article to guide you. If you do not receive the EMQ, you can get this article online at [www.emqonline.com](http://www.emqonline.com) by paying a fee for an online subscription—well worth it for church planters.

**Brock, Charles. *Indigenous Church Planting*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1981.**

Brock's resources are time-tested and valuable. However, they do reflect a paradigm used more frequently in decades past. His ideas often come from his years of church planting in the Philippines among tribal people. As such, they will often relate well in a lower socio-economic bracket in North America, but not to all contexts. The greatest value will be for indigenous lay persons seeking to plant churches in center cities or rural North America.

**Chaney, Charles L. *Church Planting at the End of the Twentieth Century*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1993.**

In the early nineties, Chaney's book was the best available resource on the topic of North American church planting. It has now been largely replaced by Malphur's and Stetzer's church planting books. The most recent expanded revision adds contemporary methods like the "big start" and shows how to contextualize by using new technology like marketing demographics, psychographics and 'ekklegraphics.' His first two chapters on the biblical foundation for church planting are some of the best I've read. Chaney, a Southern Baptist, builds a strong case for developing both a congregational and associational planting strategy, and for reaching large cities and even inner cities. His discussion of how to create a corporate climate for new church planting is very helpful. Though dated this remains one of the better books specifically related to North American planting.

**Cheyney, Tom J., David Putnam, & Van Sanders, eds. *Seven Steps for Planting Churches*. Alphretta, GA: North American Mission Board of the SBC, 2000.**

This concise 30-page booklet has a seven step approach to church planting in a North American context. It provides you with the basic overall steps for planting a new church as well as other recommended resources for each step. The steps are principle driven ("enlist a team" rather than "start a cell group," etc.) It answers, in a simple and practical way, "how" to get started. A good starter resource yet the authors are clear that it is only intended as an introductory piece. Certain adjustments will need to be made for overseas planting. A church planter who knows how to contextualize could readily profit from this manual. It is also available as a free download from the following website: [www.churchplantingvillage.net](http://www.churchplantingvillage.net) (note the other great church planting resources on this website).

**Cole, Neil. *Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass, 2005.**

Cole is co-author with Bob Logan of *Beyond Church Planting*. He is also one of the key leaders in the Church Multiplication Associates (CMA), a movement that has planted some 700 new house churches in 23 states in the USA and 23 nations in the past 7 years (as of 2007). According to Bob Logan, each of these churches has an average attendance of 17 people but also have a 100% conversion growth. So they are not built on people moving from one church to another. Cole shows how to plant seeds of the Gospel in places where unchurched people hang out and culture is formed—restaurants, bars, coffeehouses, parks, neighborhoods, etc—rather than expecting them to show up at church. Cole's radical goal: "to lower the bar of how church is done [so that it so

simple even lay people can start new ones!] and raise the bar of what it means to be a disciple (p. 26).” His ideas on “Life Transformation Groups” [2 to 3 people who meet weekly to challenge one another to grow] are powerful. Though some will be stretched by his ideas and question his definition of the local church, his views on small being better, on finding a person of peace, on how to identify good soil, on discipleship, on developing leaders, on expecting God to provide the resources for building His church from the harvest, on the importance of carefully setting the church’s DNA, and on church multiplication need to be understood and practiced by all planters, no matter what model of church they use. Read this book if you want to reach the younger generation, the lost and unchurched! Lesson: we must go to where people gather.

**Comiskey, Joel. *Planting Churches that Reproduce: Starting a Network of Simple Churches*. Moreno Valley, CA: CCS Publishing, 2009.**

The author is an internationally recognized consultant on cell-based churches who has researched them all over the world. He was a C&MA missionary in Quito, Ecuador and has recently planted Wellspring, a cell-celebration church in southern CA. This practical book builds a strong case for Christ-honoring cell church planting in North America and starting new churches that intentionally multiply. Joel challenges all of us, even those not leading cell churches, to a more biblical ecclesiology. Unlike Ralph Neighbor, one of the earlier writers and advocates of the cell approach, he does so graciously without being overly critical of the traditional church. Comiskey gives timeless principles, numerous real life examples from his own experience and travels, and wise insights into how to start a cell (simple) church. Yet this practical and inspirational work can help those starting other types of churches as well. His chapters on prayer, relational evangelism, discipleship, developing leaders, learning culture and customs, are helpful for all planters. In post-Christian America of the future, the typical attractional suburban planting model may not be effective as it once was. All of us may need to take a long look at the simple church approach—moving away from buildings and events to people and more organic forms of outreach. If you’re concerned with reaching the Next Generation in North America, this book will challenge your assumptions! If you can buy and read but one book on the cell church, this is it! The six appendices alone will help you understand the modern cell church movement. Joel also shows how the cell church differs from and is an improvement over (in my opinion) the house church in key areas. Another key lesson we learn from Joel: simplicity leads to high reproducibility. Order: [www.joelcomiskeygroup.com](http://www.joelcomiskeygroup.com).

**Comiskey, Joel. *The Church that Multiplies: Growing a Healthy Cell Church in North America*. Moreno Valley, CA: CCS Publishing, 2005.**

This veteran cell church researcher and church planter shows how the cell church is working in North America, not just overseas. He has an entire chapter examining 40 No Am churches in 21 states that are successfully using cell strategy to grow quality and quantity. Joel provides the latest statistical research about the North American church and why the cell church may restore health and growth. Deals with six commonly suggested “obstacles” to the cell church in No Am., examines five cell models from overseas and which work best in our land, discusses the basic elements of successful cell churches (prayer, community, group evangelism, disciple making, leadership training, coaching, priesthood of all believers, and the need for large group celebration to balance out the house cells, etc). He has one solid and practical chapter on how to do cell church planting. Builds a convincing case!

**Conn, Harvie, M. ed. *Planting and Growing Urban Churches: From Dream to Reality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1996.**

Conn’s book is not a “how-to” resource for urban planting. It is an advocacy book, not a practitioner’s book. If taken as advocacy, it does well. Conn points out the importance of having an urban strategy to reach the burgeoning inner cities of the world. Top urban specialists from around the world contribute essays on four main themes: research, strategy planning, targeting and examples of successful urban ministry. Each section provides a list of further resources. Valuable resource on urban church planting that exposes readers to various models and strategies.

**Cray, Graham (?). *Mission-Shaped Church: Church Planting and Fresh Expressions of Church in a Changing Context*. London: Church House Publishing, 2009.**

This book is a report from a working group of the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Council seeking to offer lessons learned since the 1994 publication of *Breaking New Ground: Church Planting in the Church of England*. It assumes that the missionary context in Great Britain has changed enormously since then and thus requires "new inculturation of the gospel within our society"—i.e., contextualized church planting. It contains good discussions of the changing culture in the UK, lots of case studies of new planting efforts in England, and recommendations for successful planting in the future. This is a reaffirmation of the urgency of church planting and the need for "fresh expressions" of the church. Under this last heading, there is a good overview (chapter 4) of: alternative worship communities, base ecclesial communities, café churches, cell churches, "multiple congregations," network-focused churches, school-based churches, seeker churches, replants, new monasticism, youth-oriented congregations, and why many expressions are needed. Chapter 5 is a fair discussion of how to build an adequate ecclesiology as a base for lasting church planting; it particularly focuses on salvation history, *mission dei*, and the interaction of culture and gospel. Chapter 6 shows that good planting methodology must ask three vital questions: Who is the new church for (mission goal questions)? Who is it *by* (the mission resource questions)? And, who is the new church being planted with (mission partner questions)? This 175-page book does not contain how-to steps but is helpful for those seeking to lay a strong theological and missiological foundation for church planting, particularly in the UK and post-Christian settings.

**Dale, Felicity. *Getting Started: A Practical Guide to House Church Planting*. Woodland Park, CO: Karis, 2003.**

One of the better house church books because it is not primarily an advocacy book but a how-to manual. It provides a clear, simple and reproducible method for planting new churches that meet in homes. The author's goal is to show that *anyone can do it!*

**Dale, Felicity, Tony Dale, and George Barna. *The Rabbit and the Elephant: Releasing the Mega Impact of Micro Churches*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 2009.**

The authors believe the early church grew rapidly—like a litter of rabbits—primarily because they understood and practiced "simple church" principles. They contend churches today should seek to be simple and organic by not owning their own property but meeting in homes, office buildings, college dorms, coffee shops, factories, etc. Simple church approaches have great potential to impact the globe.

**Dever, Mark. *9 Marks of a Healthy Church*. 2004. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.**

Here is a healthy book on developing healthy churches. I call it a healthy book for it draws us back to Scripture. Dever, a Calvinistic Southern Baptist, is concerned about the wrong use of pragmatism in both church planting and church development. His understanding of church health is divided into nine chapters each one dealing with one of the "9 marks" as follows: "1) Expository Preaching; 2) Biblical Theology; 3) The Gospel; 4) A Biblical Understanding of Conversion; 5) A Biblical Understanding of Evangelism; 6) A Biblical Understanding of Church Membership; 7) Biblical Church Discipline; 8) A Concern for Discipleship and Growth; and 9) Biblical Church Leadership." Dever adds "If I had one more mark to what you're about to read, it wouldn't be missions or prayer or worship; but it would touch on all of those things. I think that I would add that we want our congregations to be outward-looking." (17) Dever explains that the first five marks major on preaching and the last four marks major on discipleship. (28) Here are two main areas for church planters to use as priorities. Church planters, it is important to soak yourself in a book like this that draws you back into a greater grasp of NT teaching. You might want to make a check list as you go through each chapter and ask yourself if you might be shoddy in any of these nine areas. As another pastor states in the foreword, Dever is "not enamored with size and growth. He wants to see God glorified. He wants to see the church faithfully representing the Gospel, not mirroring the culture." (10) Here I add my own comment agreeing with Herman Ridderbos who, commenting on John 17:17-19

states, “God must ‘protect’ the church from the ‘evil one,’ not only from open or violent hostility and ‘hatred’ but also from the world’s desire to squeeze the church into its secular patterns of life and to seduce it into solidarity...” (*The Gospel of John*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997, 558). Dever also warns, “This book isn’t a complete inventory of every sign of health. It is intended to be a list of crucial marks that will lead to such a full experience.” (12).

**Faircloth, Samuel D. *Church Planting for Reproduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991.**

Faircloth was an early planting missionary with the Conservative Baptists (CBFMS) in Portugal and so this book is written by a practitioner. His book starts as a survey oriented textbook but quickly becomes a cross cultural church planting strategy. This is one of the few principle-oriented books available and is very adaptable to North American planting. Faircloth uses a proven management system called PERT (Program Evaluation and Review Technique). He presents 45 steps in the process of planting a church capable of reproducing. Over 60 charts illustrate his process and principles. Those who are engineering types will like his very systematic approach. This is an important missiological resource for overseas planters and for discerning North American planters. Some may find this too analytical.

**Galloway, Dale and Warren Bird. *Starting a New Church: How to Plant a High Impact Church*. Kansas City, MO : Lifestream Resources, 2003.**

Galloway, a former church planter/pastor, is now dean of Asbury’s seminary and an authority on starting small groups. This how-to resource manual (a 3-ring notebook) has three sections: “1) Start on Solid Foundations, 2) Keep Focus on Your Strategies, and 3) Beyond the Status Quo.” It is more about planting “large” churches using contemporary methodologies. It includes a DVD with successful church planters sharing testimonies. It has a helpful appendix with lots of extra resources (web sites, church links, etc). Though published for a North American context, it contains material that, when contextualized, can be helpful in international church planting. For example, his recommendations on setting up small group ministry in a new church are very helpful. Because it is a little pricey (about \$100), I would buy this manual only if I was planning on using contemporary outreach methods like direct mail, seeker-sensitive worship, and contemporary worship. Available at [www.BeaconHillBooks.com](http://www.BeaconHillBooks.com).

**Garrison, David. *Church Planting Movements: How God is Redeeming a Lost World*. Midlothian, VA: WIGTake Resources, 2004.**

Garrison describes numerous and amazing case studies from almost every continent of rapidly multiplying indigenous church planting movements, mostly overseas. An exciting account of how God is growing new churches all around the world and the lessons we can all learn. Very insightful is his ten universal elements found in every CPM and ten qualities found in most. His perceptive insights help us understand how CPM’s start/grow and the obstacles which prevent them. He grapples with the question of why we don’t see but few CPMs in North America in our generation. Challenges traditional church planting strategy. Builds a strong case for unpaid, indigenous lay leadership and the rapid planting of small churches that are characterized by evangelism, prayer, persistent obedience to God’s Word and intentional reproduction. Destined to become a classic mission book in the 21st century. Order from SBC International Mission Board: <http://churchplantingmovements.com/download.php>.

**Gladwell, Malcom. *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*. New York: Little, Brown & Co, 2002.**

Here is a secular book (Augustine might call it “gold from Egypt”) with some amazing insights for those seeking to plant and multiply churches. The back cover of the book states, “The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire.” Isn’t that exactly what church planters and facilitators are seeking to do? I hope that is what you are seeking to do—make a difference! Well here are some great concepts. When does the Gospel spread like an epidemic in an area? You will want to read chapter one entitled, “The Three Rules of Epidemic” which deals with three elements of the “Tipping

Point—the Law of the Few, the Stickiness Factor, the Power of Context...” (p. 29) When one understands the concept of the “bridges of God” as seen in the book of Acts—key people who reach many other people, one can relate this to Gladwell’s concept of “Connectors”—that is to say people who have a lot of contact with other people. Some call these “persons of peace” as Jesus explained in the Gospels. For years I have been asked, “What is the maximum size for a church?” and struggled with the concept. Obviously there is no biblical data on this. But Gladwell speaks of the “Magic Number of One Hundred and Fifty”—a key number for effective working together of a body. (See chapter five). If your church is to have small groups, Gladwell speaks about the concept of “caring”—in other words how many other people can you care for and about? His answer is “somewhere between 10 and 15 people.” That is exactly what we teach in small group training and Jesus knew all about this when he chose 12 disciples.

**Gray, Stephen and Barry Smith. *Full Disclosure: Exposing Church Planting Blind Spots*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart, 2009.**

Like few church planting books available today, the authors frankly share their mistakes and failures in church planting. They deal with real-life, down-to-earth issues all planters face. Potential problems covered: workaholicism, too much focus on money, vision drift, dealing with difficult people, neglect one’s family, neglecting one’s personal walk with Christ, going public too soon, hastily selecting the wrong leaders, selecting the wrong facilities, no follow-up strategy, etc. Each issue is described and then helpful solutions are proposed to keep one from the danger. I wish I had reading this book before starting my first church—it would have saved me lots of heartache!

**Gray, Stephen and Franklin Dumond. *Legacy Churches*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2009.**

A one-of-a-kind book written to help dying and/or non-growing churches consider the viable option of leaving a lasting legacy by passing on to future generations something of eternal significance—a daughter church, one that could better carry forward their values, beliefs and mission. The authors, leading consultants with the General Baptists, discuss the reality that many small churches in America will one day close their doors over the next 10-20 years. Too many churches today are in denial about their impending death and could profit much from this reasonable and selfless plan for transferring assets to the next generation—from death to life. They offer to lay church leaders a fair discussion of the life cycle all churches pass through, alternatives leaders can consider, plus practical help for closing a church in a dignified way that does not waste resources but advances Christ’s Church. Excellent diagnostic tools are also provided—the self-test of the health of the church (page 80) and life cycle survey (pg 110-15) are worth the price of the 115-page book.

**Griffith, Jim and Bill Easum. *Ten Most Common Mistakes Made by New Church Starts*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2008.**

I’ve planted churches and coached dozens of new church planters, and can tell the authors know what they are talking about! I laughed and cried through the book because I’ve made many of these mistakes myself. The practical suggestions they discuss transcend culture and can be readily applied to most any situation. Issues discussed: 1) neglecting the great commandment in pursuit of the great commission; 2) failing to take spiritual warfare and opposition seriously; 3) loving one’s fantasy statement so that it blinds one to the real mission field; 4) premature launch; 5) evangelism ceases after launching; 6) no plan for the other six days of the week; 7) fear of talking about money until its too late; 8) failure of the church to act its age and its size; 9) formalizing leadership too soon; and 10) using a “superstar” model as the paradigm for all plants. The appendix, on taking a public offering, is also very helpful. This would be an excellent guide not only for planters but those coaching and supervising them.

**Gupta, Paul R. & Sherwood G. Lingenfelter. *Breaking Tradition to Accomplish Vision: Training Leaders for a Church-Planting Movement*. Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 2006. ISBN 10:088469-305-8. Paperback, 246 pages.**

This is not a book on church planting for those who are afraid of change, correction, and even shifting to a new paradigm for training leaders. It was forged in the furnace of failure to accomplish the goal of training leaders and shows the wisdom of course correction and the difference it makes. It is co-authored by Paul Gupta (of the Hindustan Bible Institute in India), who deals with his experience in seeing traditional formal leadership training in a new way, and Sherwood Lingenfelter (Senior VP at Fuller), who gives missiological explanations to explain what has happened. This is not a book written by arm-chair church planters but leaders who have seen thousands of new churches planted. The three major parts of this book are:

1. How can a school train church planters?
2. The birth of a national church-planting movement.
3. Challenges to accomplish the vision.

This book is a gold mine of information on seeing an indigenous church planting movement take place. The main means were by the use of non-formal training, being willing to constantly assess and correct the trajectory of a movement, and by teaching church planters to be cross-cultural missionaries. You will really want to look at p. 206 where there are Five “Lessons about God’s Mission.” The late Paul Hiebert writes, “This is essential reading for those around the world who are involved in higher Christian education and church planting.” p. 246.

**Harris, Richard H., compiler. *Reaching a Nation through Church Planting*. Alpharetta, GA: North American Mission Board, SBC, 2002.**

Harris is the VP of Church Planting for the North American Mission Board (Southern Baptist). For this book, he assembled several high profile SBC leaders and several church planting experts and asked them to “write what they know.” Thus, the book covers a broad landscape from town and country planting, to postmodern, to being a mother church, to mentoring planters. Since the authors are so diverse, they bring a great spread of knowledge and experience. This was not intended as a “how-to book,” but rather is a “why we should” book that does a good job answering that question in a multitude of contexts. The book is also available for download from [www.churchplantingvillage.net](http://www.churchplantingvillage.net).

**Harrison, Rodney, Tom Cheyney, and Don Overstreet. *Spin-Off Churches: How One Church Successfully Plants Another*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2008.**

A solid resource that shows how one established church can successfully sponsor or parent a new church into sustainable existence. *Spin-Off Churches* is written by a team of veteran missional church planters whose access to current church sponsorship data through the SBC North American Mission Board is second to none. Their experience and teaching guides readers through the church sponsorship process from its biblical basis to the nuts, bolts, and resource basics of implementation and follow through. The authors discuss funding options and current parenting models (such as multisite, ethnically diverse churches, church splits, and multiple sponsorship approaches, etc). This book has 8 helpful appendices with sample forms for parenting churches to use (such as a sponsor church agreement). Recommended: possibly the best parenting book available today.

**Herron, Fred. *Expanding God’s Kingdom through Church Planting*. Lincoln, NE: iUniverse, 2003.**

Herron is from a Vineyard background and so power theology is reflected in his writing. The Vineyard folks have done a good job in North American church planting and Herron demonstrates why with this effective book. He lays out a thorough church planting strategy with lots of detail and helpful suggestions.

**Hesselgrave, David. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.**

This is the most recent edition of the classic church planting book based on the “Pauline Cycle” (10-phases) written by an experienced missionary to Japan, later Trinity Evangelical Divinity School mission prof. It is full of insights for all cultures. Using the NT record, Hesselgrave has developed a pattern for church planting based on the “Pauline Cycle”. Without discounting the prerogatives of the Holy Spirit, he asserts that successful church growth requires careful planning and structure. He documents each segment of the Pauline Cycle with scriptures, appropriate theory, research and examples. Hesselgrave is practical, thorough and biblical; he incorporates relevant sociological, anthropological and historical insights. This has been a standard text for college and seminary classes for over 20 years. The 340-page 2nd edition draws on more recent literature and refines his arguments. Excellent charts and graphs add to his step-by-step approach. *Highly recommended*. The best cross cultural planting book available.

**Hiebert, Paul G. and Eloise Hiebert Meneses. *Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing House, 1995.**

On the surface, this book seems to have little to offer North American church planters. Understandably, its primary focus is planting in the developing world. It is not a book about methods or biblical underpinnings. It is about the sociological structures that make up a society. Since the book’s primary focus is urban societies, it provides great insights and discernment for inner-city planters seeking to understand the urban context.

**Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2006.**

This book is too full of seminal thinking that one can only touch the surface in reviewing it. Let me whet your church planter’s appetite. The book is divided into two main sections: 1) “The Making of a Missionary” and 2) “A Journey to the Heart of Apostolic Genius.” The book’s title *The Forgotten Ways* refers to two movements of God that Hirsch would like to see “reactivated” and they are the ways of the apostolic church and the ways of the house churches in China. He sees in both these movements what he calls “Apostolic Genius (the built-in life force and guiding mechanism of God’s people) and the living components or elements that make it up.” (18). He calls these components “missional DNA, or mDNA, for short.” (18). He states that the goal of his book “is to explore Apostolic Genius and to try to interpret it for our own missional context and situation in the West.” (20). He sees what he calls “Apostolic Genius” composed of “passionate love of God, prayer, and incarnational practice” (21) along with the Ephesians 4:11 leadership ministry, true discipleship, structures that relate to the culture, and “appropriate conditions for these to be able to catalyze.” (21).

Hirsch, an Australian house church planter and now global strategist, rightly acknowledges that change will only come as the story that is at the core of our paradigm changes. He discusses six elements of “Jesus movements” that can bring hyperbolic growth through spontaneous expansion. He states, “The movement that Jesus initiated was an organic people movement; it was never meant to be a religious institution” (54). He quotes Bill Easum: “following Jesus into the mission field is either impossible or extremely difficult for the vast majority of congregations in the Western world because of one thing: They have a systems story that will not allow them to take the first step out of the institution into the mission field, even though the mission field is just outside the door of the congregation” (54). Other writers such as Bob Roberts state the same thing—just changing the way we do things will never work until a true Jesus movement begins.

Along with other present writers, Hirsch talks about seeing a more organic reproductive church, emphasizing the need to see Jesus as Lord of all (chap. 3) and then to see true disciple making take place. He quotes Neil Cole’s vision, “We want to lower the bar of how church is done and raise the bar of what it means to be a disciple” (104). Hirsch’s comment on this is “If this is right, then many of our current practices seem to be the wrong

way around... we seem to make church complex and discipleship too easy" (104). Ouch! Then Hirsch develops in four more chapters how this works out in practice by having a "Missional-Incarnational Impulse" (chap 5), an "Apostolic Environment" (chap 6), "Organic Systems" (chap 7) and what he calls "Communitas, Not Community" (chap 8). You may not agree with Hirsch as you work your way through his book but you will certainly be challenged in your status quo thinking and stimulated to answer some of his concerns.

**Hirsch, Alan and Darryn Altclass. *The Forgotten Ways Handbook: A Practical Guide for Developing Missional Churches*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2009.**

A follow-up practical handbook to the above book showing how to implement some of the ideas explored in the 2006 more theoretical edition. The authors explain : "Our main purpose is to stir innovative missional action for Jesus." They believe this is something lay people can be involved in.

**Hurn, Raymond W. *The Rising Tide: New Churches for the New Millennium*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1997.**

The book is primarily an advocacy work. Hurn is former superintendent of the Nazarene denomination and this text is geared toward Nazarenes. One strength of the book is the historical overview of Nazarene church planting.

**Ingebretson, Ben and Tom Nebel. *Parenting Church Landmines: Ten Mistakes a Multiplying Church Should Avoid*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2009.**

The writers rightly assume the engine for a true church planting movement must be a parenting church. Thus they seek to fan the flames and assist local churches in this grand task by focusing on ten potential obstacles which can be overcome: paralyzing fear; values disconnect; lack of trust and accountability; choosing the wrong launch model (with a good discussion of the multi-site option); poor planter selection; underestimating 'environmental' risk; coaching collisions; funding issues; launching misfires; and after-birth neglect. The authors, veteran church planting coach-consultants in their respective denominations, not only clearly analyze each parenting challenge but then offer lots of practical insights to help one avoid these pitfalls. The six appendices offer helpful forms covering: a values assessment for potential parent churches; a sample planter/parent covenant; sample expectations interview for the recruited planter; a risk factor analysis; coaching pointers; and an agenda/values survey for potential teammates and core group members. Though only 120 pages, this is a one-of-a-kind handbook, essential reading for parenting churches.

**Jackson, J. David, editor. *PlantLIFE: Principles and Practices in Church Planting*. Smyrna, DE: Missional Press, 2008.**

Words of experience and counsel from over 40 practitioners who have served as church planters in the [Southern] Baptist Convention of Maryland/ Delaware. Most of these articles originally appeared in the BaptistLIFE news journal. These personal testimonies would give insights and encouragement for those considering planting in the challenging field of the east coast.

**Jackson, John. *High Impact Church Planting: You Can Lead a Harvest Directed Ministry*. Visionquest Ministries, 2000.**

I had mixed feelings about this short book (less than 95 pages). It was self-published and has too many errors in it (for example, Gallup never said there were 195 million unchurched, etc). It lacks proper footnotes (no reference on many stats), and I disagree with several parts (you don't need \$100-200K to start a high impact church). However, it is a good primer to help church planters who want to plant churches that start with over 200 (Jackson's idea of a high impact church plant). The book includes a large number of appendices (examples from the author's church).

**Johnston, Tom and Mike Chong Perkinson. *The Kingdom Quest: Preparing to Church Plant in the Post-Christian West*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2007.**

Don't be turned off by the sub-title if you are not planting churches in the Western world. This book is applicable, if truly understood, to church planting anywhere in the world. The basic thrust of this book on church planting is not on technique or "how to" do church. It is more on what the church is supposed to be by nature. The authors state right at the beginning, "we believe the process of 'doing' church, particularly in the Western world, has been more focused on developing people who attend church rather than developing disciples who *are* the church" (p. 9). Ouch! I want to quote even more from the first section called "Clarifying Comments" because it is so relevant to our situation today in the Western world which, if we are not careful, we will import into other parts of the world as we plant churches: "...our concern is that when you adopt an entrepreneurial launch model or incorporate a strategic plan without thinking through one's ecclesiology or philosophy of ministry, then it presumes a model. You will tend to assume the launching of a public service ('going public') as your pathway, tend to staff to the mission (product creation and sales) rather than loving God, loving others, and making disciples (developing people) as the mission and tend to be consumer driven, seeking to attract people to a service rather than be a blessing and service to the community, spending most of your time, energy, and money on the big weekend service." (pp. 10-11)

"We believe the issue of church growth is not about the size of a church. That is, big is not better, nor is small better. Dan Hawkins, the head coach of the football program at the University of Colorado, says, 'Big is not better. Better is better.' There are a lot of large and small churches that are healthy and vibrant and plenty that are not." (p. 11)

The two authors explain that to be an effective church planter you need to answer such questions as, 1) Who Are You? 2) What Do You Have to Say? 3) Are you ready? 4) What is Your Quest? (chapters 3 -6). Their vision is simple: "love God, love others, and make disciples."

**Jones, Ezra E. *Strategies for New Churches*. New York: Harper and Row, 1976.**

Jones writes about church planting from a mainline somewhat liberal denominational perspective. The book was ahead of its time, particularly in its attempts to quantify personality characteristics in effective planters (as Ridley has done today). Unfortunately, it is not up to date with today's technologies and methods.

**Jones, Juha (pseudonym). 2008. "Four Ways to Mentor Church Planters." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* No. 44, 4 (October): 488-491.**

Here is a succinct overview of four ways to help church planters in their ministry on the field. The author (pseudonym) challenges church planters who say, "In principle, I would be willing to mentor someone in church planting; however, I don't have time, and anyway, we never got mentored, so surely it can't be that important." (488) If church planters don't always say this I sense that often they think this. But surely we can do a more effective job by multiplying those who are mentored and who mentor others. The author gives four times in church planters' lives when mentoring is important: 1) when they need to develop their vision; 2) when they need to develop skills as the ministry progresses; 3) when they need what he calls "peer mentoring" so as to apply those skills in a context, and finally 4) when they need "mature mentoring" to "help overcome the personal and community barriers to ministry." (489-491). I'd like to challenge church planters to look at these four "times" in lives when church planters need mentoring and when mentors need to help other church planters. Who is doing this in your ministry area? Why not give some feedback so that what you are doing might help others. This fine article can be found online by subscribing to EMQ on the internet if you do not receive EMQ.

**Jones, Tom, ed. *Church Planting from the Ground Up*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004.**

This is the how-to manual for those within the independent (evangelical) Christian Church movement. I don't usually like multiple authors—they tend to say the same things over and over—but I like this book. I appreciate

it because it is not a group of theorists giving their opinions. Instead, it is a series of veteran church planters writing on well defined and practical themes. An excellent resource for church planters.

**Keller, Timothy J. and J. Allen Thompson. *Church Planter Manual*. New York, NY. Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2002.**

This 245-page manual is a gold mine for urban church planters including missionaries. Keller and Thompson realize that in urban ministry in the USA we are dealing more and more with cross-cultural communication. And they have been very successful in planting churches in an urban context. Quoting from the preface: “But most books on new church development are either too general (telling us why to do church planting but not how to do it) or too specific (telling us how to reproduce just one particular kind of church model). Our contribution is to equip the reader to think creatively about how to start churches in *any* context, culture, or people group” (p. 3). The authors are also strongly committed to three elements: the Gospel, effective contextualization, and what they call “serving the peace/*shalom* of the city.” They are not armchair theoreticians since Thompson was a missionary in Latin America for a number of years and has written about church planting movements for years. Keller has been very successful in planting Redeemer Presbyterian in Manhattan and leads a movement to transform cities globally. Redeemer now runs around 5,000 in four Sunday services and its church planting center has helped to plant over one hundred new churches. The case studies that fill this book are very helpful as well as worksheets, projects, and suggestions. An excellent resource. You can order this recommended manual through their website: [www.redeemer2.com/the\\_movement/](http://www.redeemer2.com/the_movement/).

**King, Fred G. *The Church Planter’s Training Manual*. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1992.**

This is a manual / book primarily geared at church planters in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church with a small amount of universally applicable material. It consists of articles, forms and examples. It will not be of great value to the non-CMA planter.

**Lewis, Larry L. *The Church Planter’s Handbook*. Nashville: Broadman Press,**

1993. Lewis is former president of the SBC Home Mission Board and an experienced planter. Though the book is out of date technologically and methodologically, it provides excellent resources related to time management and the priority of evangelism in church planting.

**Logan, Robert E. *Be Fruitful and Multiply: Embracing God’s Heart for Church Multiplication*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2006.**

This newest book by Logan is a condensation of the C2M2 (Cultivating Church Multiplication Movement) seminars that he conducts regularly and helps us to grasp the essential elements of true church multiplication. Bob Logan, a veteran planter, coach and international consultant, has a special gift for clarifying the key issues involved in church planting. This short book (only 180 pages) deals more with general principles rather than a mono-cultural approach to church multiplication; thus it will be especially helpful to those planting churches cross-culturally. Logan cites many examples of church multiplication in various parts of the world. The book is in two parts. Part one deals with the question, “Why Multiplication?” and in six chapters casts a vision for multiplication, showing its biblical roots, etc. Part two deals with ten elements of an effective church multiplication movement. Logan finely balances the spontaneous and spiritual aspects of an effective CMM with the strategic and planned aspects. Every church planter, facilitator, mission leader, and ministry leader needs to read and begin to work through how to implement what Logan aptly presents in this book. This book helps us move to a more effective church multiplication model. How many more people might come to Christ if there was a shift from just planting one church to a church multiplication movement—particularly one that had a missionary sending capacity?

**Logan, Robert E. *Beyond Church Growth*. Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1989.**

Though the title can be misleading, the book is a great resource for church planting. It provides resources for all churches, but is a great supplement for Logan's "Church Planter's Toolkit" available from [www.churchsmart.com](http://www.churchsmart.com) (one of the best widely available how-to planting resources). Bob Logan is one of the most significant church planting leaders in the last 50 years and every church planter needs to be aware of his writings and his basic toolkit (see below).

**Logan, Robert E. and Steven L. Ogne. *Church Planter's Toolkit*. Pasadena, CA: ChurchSmart Resources, 1995.**

The *Toolkit* is a 3-ring binder manual, the most widely known and used resource in North American church planting today. It was a twelve-tape (now in CD's) series that provides guidance through each step of planting a high impact North American church. There is probably no other resource as effective for practical preparation. Its one disadvantage is that Logan is a bit dry in his presentation (though the content makes up for that). Logan follows a five-stage planting model: conception, prenatal, birth, growth and reproduction. His manual has detailed checklists and action planning worksheets after each of the 12 sections. He covers: knowing if you're qualified; mobilizing a team and verifying roles; clarifying vision and values; developing your church planting strategy; evangelism and core group development; facilities, finances and organizational issues; getting systems ready for birth; planning dynamic seeker sensitive worship; expanding networks of cell groups; empowering and equipping leaders; lay mobilization; and starting churches that reproduce. Order from [www.churchsmart.com](http://www.churchsmart.com).

**Logan, Bob and Neil Cole. *Beyond Church Planting*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2005.**

This is workbook in eight sections accompanied by 7 audio CDs dealing with the main elements in what the authors call an "organic" approach to church planting. It is a gold mine of material and includes worksheets, power point presentations, and further resources. It offers helpful insights on growing healthy churches, doing effective evangelism (via redemptive relationships), reproducing disciples, multiplying leaders, planning for strategic growth, spawning movements, etc. Rather than copying models, the authors properly advocate a principle-driven approach which allows churches to emerge within each culture. Order directly from [www.churchsmart.com](http://www.churchsmart.com) or phone: 800-253-4276.

**Logan, Robert E. and Tara Miller. *From Followers to Leaders*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2007.**

Every church planter should major in what Bob Logan deals with in this book—the path from following to leading. This book develops the simple metaphor of a path from the parking lot to the summit and all that is involved in between those points of finding leaders and seeing them arrive at their God-given ministry. Logan's metaphor of developing leaders in this way goes against many myths. It is a very helpful and simple way of giving us a path. To see how this applies to what Logan calls "The Path of Church Multiplication" and see the importance of steps in developing leaders, go to [www.coachnet.org](http://www.coachnet.org) where you can download this study to help you multiply churches by multiplying leaders.

**MacNair, Donald J. *The Birth, Care and Feeding of a Local Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1976.**

An early Presbyterian book written by a non-practitioner. As can be guessed from the publishing date, this book is much out of date. The section on "Locating Seed Families" is probably the only part of the book that would be helpful for planting today.

**Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21 Century: A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and Those Desiring Renewal*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1998.**

This book was for years the most commonly used church planting text in academia. (Today, Ed Stetzer's new book seems to have overtaken it). Malphurs stresses the importance of core values, mission and strategy. He presents a comprehensive guide for North American church planting, covering essential ingredients for success:

Great Commission vision, strong servant leadership, a mobilized lay army, culturally relevant ministry and evangelism, authentic worship and a robust network of small groups. He deals also with the planter's personal qualification and preparation, as well as the entire process of church planting (following a six stage model). The book includes 16 accompanying worksheets chapter-end checklists for review. Though Malphurs is often accused of being too focused on large church planting with large mother churches, this is still one of the best resources available. (Ed Stetzer has written a study guide for this book, available at [www.seminaryextension.org](http://www.seminaryextension.org)). Recommended!

**Mannonia, Kevin W. *Church Planting: The Next Generation*. Indianapolis, IN: Light and Life Press, 1994.**

This book introduces the "Century 21 Church Planting System" used by his denomination, the Free Methodists, and mirrors that used by other groups impacted by Logan. His "system" has ten components: "1) Parent Church Network, 2) Profile Assessment System, 3) New Church Incubator, 4) Recruitment Network, 5) Pastor Factory, 6) Church Planter's Summit, 7) Maturing Church Cluster, 8) Strategic Planning Network, 9) Harvest 1000, and 10) Meta-Church Network " These ten components help in effectively developing a multiplication of churches within a given region. In many ways this is similar to Bob Logan's ten elements of a church multiplication movement. Because it identifies key areas where resources and processes must be developed, it is most helpful for associational and denominational leaders who long to see churches multiplied in their state or fellowship.

**McKinley, Mike. *Church Planting Is For Wimps: How God Uses Messed-up People to Plant Ordinary Churches That Do Extraordinary Things*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.**

The author, a Westminster Seminary grad, tells his personal story of how he was sent out by Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, DC to revitalize a dying Southern Baptist Church in Sterling, VA. Not a how-to book, Mike honestly and humorously shares the ups and downs of church planting. He shows that: 1) it is possible to plant a church that takes the Bible seriously and uses expository preaching; 2) that caring Anglos can build a multi-ethnic church even in the suburbs; 3) one doesn't need to throw out biblical faithfulness to be culturally relevant; and 4) new churches that aim for just one demographic group ultimately weaken their community witness and go against the biblical ideal of being a Gospel-centered church reconciling diverse peoples together. His open confession that in his zeal (and sinfulness) he almost lost his wife and family (chapter 6), is a much needed warning that the stresses of planting can wreck a marriage unless one is working hard at marital priorities. Chapter 7 warns about pursuing church growth at the expense of also developing leaders and learning to delegate the ministry out to other trusted leaders. The book's subtitle gives the basic theme of this small but helpful 120-pager. My only critique: his equation of contextualization with the now repudiated "homogeneous unit principle" (pg 19-22), doesn't seem to recognize valid forms of contextualization.

**McNamara, Roger and Ken Davis. *The Y-B-H (Yes, But How?) Handbook of Church Planting*. Xulon Press, 2005.**

*(Full disclosure: this reviewer is one of the co-authors of this book.)* This 650-page comprehensive handbook is a practical step-by-step guide for church planters and their coaches. It covers everything they need to know to start healthy, growing churches that are biblically faithful and yet culturally relevant. While addressing the who, why, and where of planting new congregations, this comprehensive manual focuses primarily on the "how-to's." The authors use a five-stage "life cycle"—conception, pre-natal development, birth/infancy, adolescent growth, and adult reproduction—to flesh out the entire process of starting and growing a new church. Under each of these stages, a host of essential ministry and planning tasks is addressed so the planter can keep his "baby" church on course and can have the joy of watching the new church grow to maturity and eventually reproduce itself. Written particularly for the independent Baptist movement, it is yet helpful for others outside their tradition. According to missiologist Ed Stetzer, "You won't find a more detailed resource on the mechanics of church planting." Available in paperback or hardback from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

**Miller, H. Joseph. *Building the Church: A Comprehensive Manual for Church Administration*. Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press, 2003. 2 vol.**

This comprehensive 2-volume set contains over 1,100 pages of practical assistance for church development. These manuals give guidance for church planting, facility development, and stewardship training that espouses a Biblical world and life view. Most of the information in this set was written by church consultant Joseph Miller who has completed over 40 years of ministry, including 27 years in church consultation. During this time he has traveled to hundreds of churches providing Bible-based, conservative assistance in ministry, facility, and stewardship development. The learning experiences of these travels are reflected in the practical content of the manual. He also led in planting a new church. Many of these articles were originally published in THE CHURCH PLANTER and have been edited, reorganized, and supplemented for inclusion in this set. Several other writers (including an architect, accountant, attorney, pastors, and music minister) have contributed articles to make this textbook a valuable resource for training future pastors and church planters.

**Moore, Ralph. *Starting a New Church*. Ventura, CA: Regal, 2002.**

This is one of the most refreshing books on church planting that I have read. It is full of life and has many wonderful examples. It is biblically based and gives practical help from someone who has been there. He has planted numerous churches and birthed a multiplying movement. The majority of church plants Moore speaks of are in the U.S.—mostly Hawaii. Ralph is the founder of the Hope Chapel movement and currently pastors a Hope Chapel in Hawaii. He gives us hope that the church can reach lost people and rapidly plant other churches. The cover of the book has a good quote: “It’s not about fitting more people into an existing model—it’s all about new models and multiplication.” Amen! The book is in four parts 1) “Thinking Through a Church Plant,” 2) “Designing the New Church,” 3) “Planting the New Church,” and 4) “Anticipating the Future.” The first chapter gives eleven reasons why new churches should be planted. For example, he deals with the common complaint, “Why start new churches? Shouldn’t we just help existing churches to grow?” Moore counters by stating, “New churches provide superior results.” He explains that when they were considering church planting in Hawaii, two churches there stated that new churches were not needed. Moore and colleagues planted 30 churches in two decades from one church plant and saw thousands come to Christ whereas the two original churches only grew by about 200 new people. (pp. 23-4). Read the book to find out the other 10 reasons—especially if in your area you hear “Why start new churches?” Moore gives some great warnings, “never try to merely copy any other church.” Listen to this one, “Church growth can become a game for clones and copycats. Many leaders use business models and build churches around the recent success of others. Unfortunately, they usually introduce a market-based competition for the already saved” (p. 71). The author also shows the three impediments to rapid multiplication: requiring seminary training for pastors; a dedicated building for church services; and full-time remuneration for planting pastors (p. 102).

**Moore, Ralph. *How to Multiply Your Church: The Most Effective Way to Grow*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2009. (Paperback, 254 pages).**

Another fine book by the founder of the Hope Chapel Movement, whose ministry involves some 700 churches around the world. Moore has earned the right to be heard! This book does not deal with methodology but with the theology of church multiplication as we see it in the New Testament. Therein lies its greatest value for planters and pastors. This is a motivational book that gets one excited about seeing multiplication of churches take place. The book is in six parts: 1) “To Add, Multiply or Both?” ; 2) “Inside the Walls of our Minds”; 3) “In Search of Scripture”; 4) “Opportunity is Where You Make It”; 5) “You Can Do this!” and 6) “Stand and Deliver.” I would particularly urge planters to read chapter six entitled “Why Don’t Our Churches Multiply?” where Moore answers this tough question. Another issue that Moore deals with is the fact that there are many models of church planting in the NT and we do well to learn from each one of them (see his chapter 17 entitled “Education”). One of the best current books on parenting and church multiplication.

**Murray, Stuart. *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2001.**

The author, Director of Church Planting and Evangelism at Spurgeon's College in London, writes from an Anabaptist Mennonite tradition. He explains his goal: "This book is not a training manual. It does not engage with all the practicalities of church planting. But it is written for practitioners rather than hearers." This is a solid work that will help prompt us to think missiologically and theologically about church planting. The book was originally (1998) available only in Great Britain but now has a North American version. It is one of the few books that analyzes the criticisms of church planting and gives solid answers (not just refutations). There are some excellent references to Post-Christendom and postmodern church planting without the typical obsession with "nifty" ideas and methods. Has insightful overviews of current planting models and the shapes contemporary church plants are taking. The theology is off in several ways (see Timmons below; Murray places his theology of church planting within an overall kingdom of God context) but it is still a helpful resource.

**Nebel, Tom. *Big Dreams in Small Places: Church Planting in Smaller Communities*. St Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2002.**

The author writes from Baptist General Conference church planting experience. The BGC has one of the best planting records in North America today. Most church planting books tell the story of church planting in suburban areas and a few address urban contexts. This is the first that address rural and small town areas and it does it well. The book points out some of the unique challenges and opportunities in small town church planting and provides numerous helpful principles for successful ministry.

**Nebel, Tom and Gary Rohrmayer. *Church Planting Landmines: Mistakes to Avoid in Years 2 through 10* by Tom Nebel & Gary Rohrmayer. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart, 2005.**

No one likes to talk about failure but probably 30% of church plants today fail to survive past their 3rd anniversary. This practical and insightful book is unique because it focuses on how to overcome common obstacles to health and growth in new churches. The authors are veteran General Conference Baptist (now Converge) church planters and experienced planting coaches. The ten common landmines they deal with are seen in many North American plants but are applicable in other cultures as well. They deal with topics such as: lack of leadership development, leadership backlash, evangelism entropy, fear of money, underestimating spiritual warfare, misfiring on hiring, delaying missions engagement, ignoring personal health and growth, etc. Recommended reading for planters!

**Nevius, John L. *Planting and Development of Missionary Churches*. Nutley, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1958.**

This is an old classic. Nevius is not well known today in North American church planting for good reason. His influence is primarily found in Korea. However, his ideas influence North American planting. His emphasis on indigenous ministry (three-selves) helped spark the remarkable growth of the Korean church.

**Patterson, George and Richard Scoggins. *Church Multiplication Guide: The Miracle of Church Reproduction*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Press, rev, 2002.**

This insightful manual is by respected overseas coach/ planters and is built around the idea of corporate reproduction. The authors state: "We emphasize *church multiplication* because church growth by multiplication is more strategic and biblical than growth by addition only." They speak of "exponential increase as daughter and granddaughter churches are born and reproduce like the grain in the planter's parable, thirty, sixty and a hundred times" (p.12). In the first nine chapters the authors teach that simple obedience to Christ leads to church multiplication. They then look at church reproduction from the viewpoint of the non believer, the evangelist, the mission task group, the field supervisor, the cell or house church, the mother church, the trainers of pastors, a church leader, and a mission career advisor. If you are any one of these or form a team of these, this book should be of help to you. Helpful for both overseas and North American planters.

**Payne, J. D. *The Barnabas Factors: Eight Essential Practices of Church Planting Team Members*. Smyrna, DE: Missional Press, 2008.**

One of the few books focusing on church planting team dynamics. Sets forth the godly personal characteristics needed by teammates. Full of inter-personal relationship stuff, using the life of Barnabas, the glue from Paul's first team. A good guide to help church planters be more proactive in recruiting and selecting planting teammates. Has a diagnostic tool at the conclusion of the book to help one evaluate potential team members. J. D. is a friend of mine from Indpls days (he used to teach part-time at Crossroads Bible College) and now is an associate prof in church planting at Southern Seminary. An easy read.

**Payne, Jervis David. *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys and Hows of Global Church Planting*. Colorado Springs, CO: Authentic Publishing, 2009.**

The author is an associate professor of church planting and evangelism at Southern Seminary and a missionary with the SBC's NAMB. Years ago I met him when he was just beginning to plant in Indiana and invited him to teach part-time at Crossroads Bible College in Indy. Payne's almost encyclopedic book on church planting builds the theme of discovery into four main sections: 1) Discovering Biblical and Theological Foundations; 2) Discovering Missiological Principles; 3) Discovering Historical Paradigms, and 4) Discovering Contemporary Issues. One of the pioneers in training and writing on church planting, David Hesselgrave, states in the foreword that this work is "one of the finest books on church planting to appear in recent years" (xxi). I agree. This reviewer appreciates the fact that Payne does not start with the practice of church planting but rather its biblical and theological foundations. Nevertheless, having laid that foundation, he deals with what we can learn about church planting in missiology, history, and then speaks to current issues in church planting. At the end of each chapter there is a helpful summary, questions for reflection, and a list of important terms discussed in church planting. This book should be a standard text on church planting for years to come since it deals with the major issues and yet seeks to be practical. I will use this at BBS in classes.

**Rainey, Joel. *Church Planting in the Real World*. Smyrna, DE: Missional Press, 2008.**

Most church planting conference speakers and book writers tell stories of reaching hundreds after just a few short years—a reality few church planters experience. Rainey uses his own church planting experience in Greenville, SC to paint a picture of reality, showing both the difficulties involved in starting a new church as well as the rewards. If you're a planter drunk with your own vision and idealism, this book will sober you. The author shares many of his mistakes and lots of common sense biblical wisdom that can help church planters from failure and frustration.

**Reddin, Opal. *Planting Churches that Grow*. Springfield, MO: Central Bible College Press, 1990.**

One of few women (or Pentecostals) writing on the topic of church planting, Reddin provides an interesting resource. First, she provides insight into some of the growth in the Pentecostal movement by emphasizing spiritual gifts and the power of the Spirit. Second, she provides some interesting insights into planting churches targeted at cults and new-agers.

**Redford, Jack. *Planting New Churches*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1978.**

This older work was, at one time, the most influential book on Southern Baptist Church planting. His "Nine Steps" were the paradigm adopted by the Home Mission Board of the SBC. Though dated, the book is still a valuable resource today for the mother church seeking to start a daughter congregation. Its "steps" should not be followed by the pioneer pastor but are intended to be followed by the involved mother church starting a daughter congregation.

**Ridley, Charles R. *How to Select Church Planters*. Pasadena: Fuller Evangelistic Association, 1988.**

Ridley's writing and training have become the standard used in North America to evaluate potential church planters. This book, though difficult to find, is the standard writing and should be required reading for everyone who selects church planters. Some of his assessment training manuals are available today from ChurchSmart Resources (800-253-4276).

**Roberts, Bob, Jr. *The Multiplying Church: The New Math for Starting New Churches*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.**

In this third work in a series published by Zondervan, Roberts seeks to show how local churches must see their primary vision as multiplying churches. Churches should not merely strive to plant another local church here or there; they should actually multiply them through the proven methods of Roberts and others for church planting. The author seeks to answer the question of why we are not seeing the rapid expansion of church planting in the West as in other parts of the globe. He discusses principles from the early church and their applications for today. The author pastors NorthWood Church in Fort Worth, Texas, a large reproducing church that has started daughter churches all over the globe; thus he is no arm-chair theoretician. He writes clearly and with wit, humor and wisdom. However, the book has several weaknesses. Roberts writes much about the "Kingdom of God" and our need to minister in light of it (pp. 73-81), but does not define it with precision; his view of the kingdom is at best amorphous as he casts vision for how society can be transformed by Jesus Christ. Also, Roberts appeals to sociological and business principles of success, which he gets from non-biblical, secular sources rather than any apparent exegesis of biblical texts. He doesn't really consider the Bible's framework for understanding the purposes of the church and mandate for spreading the gospel.

At times, in his exuberance for catalyzing a global planting movement (one that's "cataclysmic" and "exponential"), Roberts makes rather grandiose claims. For example: "A global church planting movement will be necessary for the bride of Christ to be prepared for the coming of Christ" (p. 47). Notice that his movement is "necessary." Yet all in all, planters should read this. Roberts certainly cannot be faulted for his obvious and infectious desire to see the gospel of Jesus pervade and transform a godless society. The book's last chapter, "Living as a Missional Family" provides very helpful practical advice, encouraging those in ministry to be open to criticism, to correct character flaws, to deal with past hurts, and to grow into the next dimension of leadership.

**Robinson, Martin. *Planting Mission-Shaped Churches Today*. Oxford, UK: Monarch Books, 2006. ISBN 13: 978-0-8254-6103-3 (USA).**

The author shows how to move from a "mechanistic" to a "mission shaped" approach to church planting. Robinson is a minister in the Churches of Christ and a national director of Together in Mission, a mission organization in England. He has experience in church planting in Australia and the USA. Desiring at first to revise *Planting Tomorrow's Churches Today* (1992), which he co-authored earlier, he ending up writing an entirely new book, stating, "My major criticism of the book is that it is too mechanistic in style. It seems to suggest that there is a fixed process or method that one can employ that leads to a successful church plant"(8). He also states that this book is a more "organic" approach needed for a present church planting context that is between the paradigms of modernity and post-modernity. Chapter one recommends dealing with the "what" question before one deals with the "how" question in church planting. For example: "what is the essence of Christianity, what is the church, what is the gospel, what is mission, what is evangelism, what do we mean by church planting, what kind of churches should we be planting, what is leadership and what do we mean by ministry?" (13). This reviewer agrees strongly since planting that does not think through these questions will sooner or later weaken because of an inadequate biblical foundation.

Though critical of those who set lofty and unrealistic goals, Robinson is firmly committed to church planting giving five clear bases for the planting of new churches. He shows how a statistical study of a mainstream

denomination in the UK demonstrates this by showing how it declined from 192,136 in 1972 to 81,638 in 2004 whereas a newer denomination went from 28,000 to 68,000 in that same period because it was dynamically active in planting new churches. Again this shows us that every denomination that is vibrant in planting new churches grows whereas a denomination that is only concerned about maintenance diminishes. All denominations or networks of churches need to learn this vital lesson. In chapters 3 to 7, the author discusses six practical issues in church planting moving from what he calls “The Art of Church Planting” (chapter 3) to “Gathering” (chapter 4) to “Building the Team” (chapter 5) “Discipleship” (chapter 6) and “The Spiritual Life” (chapter 7). Church planters and those working with them will find help in the planting and the development of churches in these practical chapters. I would particularly recommend the seven characteristics of effective teams following an acrostic PERFORM (91).

Robinson also has insightful discussions on two current issues: church planting movements (ch. 8), and house or “simple churches (ch. 9). In his last chapter, “Going Public,” Robinson deals with the question of the use of church buildings and the message projected by publicly meeting in this context. He gives four needs that must be met before launching and going public: 1) at least 50 people, 2) resource people for the church plant, 3) leaders for home groups, and 4) solid connections with the community where the church is planted. (179-180). I recommend this book to those who want to think through vital issues before planting a new church. Robinson gives a more organic/ reproductive approach than many books on the subject.

**Romo, Oscar I. *American Mosaic Church Planting in Ethnic America*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993.**

Romo describes the ethnic church planting system in place for years among Southern Baptists. This system includes ethnic specific fellowships and intentional ethnic planting and training. He does advocate the need for ethnic specific planting by describing an increasingly pluralistic society. He then provides suggestions and worksheets to develop an ethnic planting strategy. Today the emphasis has rightly shifted toward multi-ethnic church planting.

**Sanchez, Daniel R., Ebbie C. Smith, and Curtis E. Watke. *Reproducing Congregations: A Guidebook for Contextual New Church Development*. Cumming, GA: Church Starting Network. 2001.**

This book is a textbook with great value for academic use. The authors show a strong grasp of the available literature and it is heavily footnoted. Because this text is geared toward an academic setting, it may be too detailed for the average North American church planter. The 435-page book covers all of church planting, not just the North American side, so it moves from starting one church, to catalytic roles, to numerous other topics. It presents a solid biblical foundation for planting, meets objections, overviews models of church planting, funding issues, and the entire planting process. It could easily be two books. Must be ordered from: [www.ChurchStarting.net](http://www.ChurchStarting.net).

**Schaller, Lyle E. *Forty-Four Questions for Church Planters*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1991.**

The author is well known United Methodist church consultant and writer who has much to teach us all. In Schaller’s typical 44 question format, he addresses many surprisingly contemporary issues related to church planting. (The book was published in 1991.) Unlike many how-to books, Schaller uses his question format to explore in-depth the background of many issues and answer many of the important questions on the topic of church planting. His wisdom and practicality prevail in this classic text.

**Schnabel, Eckhard J. *Paul the Missionary: Realities, Strategies and Methods*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008.**

This recent book follows on from the author’s two volume work *Early Christian Mission* and hones in on Paul as a missionary. It is a goldmine for missionaries as they seek to look at Paul and then apply his methodology today. After an Introduction which deals with how this book is going to approach relating Paul and missionary

work, it has five major sections dealing with Paul`s missionary work, task, message, goals, and methods. Then the sixth chapter deals with “The Task of Missionary Work in the Twenty-First Century” and thus relating what has been dealt with to present day missionary work.

This is no short book to be breezed through easily. However, working through this book could produce a better understanding of missions and, in particular, church planting. Church planters would particularly do well to read section 6.3 on “The Proclamation of the Gospel and Church Planting.” This is no simple book on Paul’s methods and ministry but it will pay the church planter in encouragement and depth to work through Schnabel’s book.

**Schwarz, Christian A. *Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2005.**

German-born Schwarz has had global impact surveying now over 40,000 churches throughout the world. Many struggle with the question of the relation between quality and quantity in church planting and growth. The author shows the two are definitely related and that the real issue is not church growth but church health. From research with churches in over 35 countries and all six continents, he shows the true causes of church growth. He identifies and describes 8 essential qualities of healthy, reproducing churches: empowering leadership, gift-oriented ministry, passionate spirituality, functional structures, inspiring worship services, holistic small groups, need-oriented evangelism, and loving relationships. No quality may be missing. He advocates “biotic” principles of growth as opposed to technocratic thinking and shows that many “church growth dogmas” are merely myths. This refreshing book can help churches of all ages be revitalized and is now available in most major languages.

**Scoggins, Richard. “Building Effective Church Planting Teams: A Handbook for Team Leaders and Mentors.” Fellowship of Church Planters International.**

“The purpose of this book is to share our experience in how the Fellowship of Church Planters have built and used teams of church planters.” If you are interested in building more effective teams to plant churches, go online to download this free manual from their website [www.fcpt.org]. This manual is divided into four sections: 1) Foundations for Teams; 2) Forming Teams; 3) Developing and Reproducing Teams and 4) Applications. There are nine appendices. The ninth is entitled “Church Planter’s Skills Check List” (pp. 123-135) and could be invaluable in dealing with many issues. Appendix 2 is entitled “Guidelines for Developing a Covenant of Team Understandings ” (pp. 98-100) and should serve as a model for building coherence in a church planting team. Scoggins is not an armchair theorist but has had successful ministry experience in planting many churches in Rhode Island and now serves as a respected consultant in resistant areas of the world.

**Scoggins, Dick. *Handbook for House Churches*. [on-line], accessed 1 December 1999, <http://genesis.acu.edu/cplant/archive/contro36>; Internet.**

Dick Scoggins and the Rhode Island house churches are the best known home-based church planting movement in North America. The book describes the indigenous church planting methods of Fellowship of Church Planters, a network of house churches in Rhode Island and southern New England. It is one of a few solid resources dealing with indigenous house churches from a North American perspective.

**Searcy, Nelson and Kerrick Thomas. *Launch*. Ventura, CA: Regal, 2006.**

The co-pastors of The Journey church in Manhattan, N.Y. (which was launched right after 9/11 and now runs around 1000 in attendance), share their experiences and insights in this very practical guide to church planting. Their counsel covers everything from checks to chairs, and includes advice on maintaining a focus on the unchurched; designing promotional materials with no more than 50% text; and choosing buildings based on target demographics (i.e., don’t expect farmers to meet for lunch in an art gallery). The name of the book comes from their main proposition: that ‘launching’ a new church large and quickly is often a better approach than slowing growing a core group and ‘planting.’ This reviewer finds this to be true in most North American settings.

**Shenk, David W. and Ervin R. Stutzman. *Creating Communities of the Kingdom: New Testament Models of Church Planting*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1988.**

The authors, who come from the Mennonite tradition, consistently look to the same place as they explain planting models: the Scriptures. This resource is one of the best in dealing with scriptural issues and application in church planting. The model is thoroughly biblical while remaining practical.

**Sjogren, Steve. *Conspiracy of Kindness: A Unique Approach to Sharing the Love of Jesus*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2003.**

This is one of those key books on evangelism in this post-modern age. Sjogren (pronounced Sho-grin) has been involved in church planting in three areas of the U.S. and overseas in Oslo, Norway. He is presently launching a new church plant in Tampa. He shows how a church can make a unique impact by the simplicity of being kind and doing things for people. Sjogren's concern is that the church be a servant in spirit and live like the good Samaritan, he clarifies, "In other words, the way *we* (the Church) *treat them* (the unchurched) serves as a litmus test of our spiritual health." (p. 86). The key is "servant evangelism" which means demonstrating the kindness of God by offering to do some act of humble service with no strings attached." p. 18. Chapter five is called "Five Discoveries That Empower Evangelism" and they are simple and yet needy. Sjogren is not an armchair evangelist but someone who has effectively done and taught evangelism. He shares his past failures and his present experiences. In Appendix 1, he lists a number of practical ways that Christians and churches can do servant evangelism and make a difference in their communities. These various projects will need to be contextualized for your region or culture but they do give some great ideas that you may not have thought about for being servant-evangelists in your area. This book has changed the way I see my own neighborhood and what I am to do to make a difference here.

**Sjogren, Steve and Rob Lewin. *Community of Kindness: A Relational Approach to Planting and Growing a Church*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2003.**

Steve Sjogren is probably better known for his servant evangelism (community acts of kindness) strategies as described in *Conspiracy of Kindness* (see above). However, Steve is also an experienced Vineyard church planter and church planting mentor. His approach here is dialogical—with 106 thought provoking individual ideas (like small chapters). The authors say that the book might be subtitled, "Church Planting Through Servant Evangelism." Lots of practical insights.

**Steffan, Tom. *Passing the Baton: Church Planting that Empowers*. LaHabra, CA: Center for Organizational and Ministry Development, 1993/ 1997.**

Though this book is about international church planting, it has application to North American planting, particularly in the inner city and urban settings. The author is a former New Tribes missionary among the animistic Ifugao tribe for 15 years in the Philippines and now teaches at Biola University. He also does training for World Impact, a pace setter in planting indigenous churches among the urban poor. Steffen lays out an insightful five-stage planting model which would be helpful in any cross-cultural context. He shows that planters must have a solid plan to carefully release leadership to nationals. More importantly, Steffen shows how the missionary planter's role must change at each stage as he progresses toward the goal of empowering national leadership. Bottom line: effective cross-cultural planters start with the end in mind and plan a phased-out strategy from there. Too many missionaries sow the seeds of ineffectiveness from the beginning by failing to think through a phase-out strategy even before they enter a field! This book includes very helpful chapters on team formation/preparation, pre-evangelism in oral societies, designing an evangelistic-discipleship model, developing curricula, etc. The 15 appendices offer a comprehensive 5-stage checklist, chronological Bible teaching evaluations, helpful charts for understanding tribal societies, etc. This is a goldmine of material for all missionaries and is definitely not for those who want to perpetuate paternalistic church planting!

**Stetzer, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches: Planting a Church That's Biblically Sound and Reaching People in Culture*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2006.**

This is a rewrite and updating of Stetzer's 2003 title, *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*; of the two, this one is the better! It will be the new standard in this decade for North American church planting with its 'nuts and bolts' approach. Stetzer helps planters think missiologically, theologically as well as practically about the entire process of starting a new work. He has insightful suggestions on reaching post-moderns and the younger generations. The book has particularly helpful chapters on "Models of Church Plants and Church Planters" and "What Makes a Church Planter?" Stetzer has become the leading church planting researcher for the SBC and possibly for all evangelicals. For example, he confirms, "the attendance of a new church with an involved mother church is higher than those without the participation of a sponsoring/mother church" (p. 76). He has an excellent chapter evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of house churches. He gives lots of current web and book resources for planters and the best annotated bibliography on church planting books. *If I could buy only one book on church planting, this would be my first choice today.*

**Stetzer, Ed and Warren Bird. *Viral Churches: Helping Church Planters Become Movement Makers*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, Leadership Network Series, 2010.**

Based on a national, cross-denominational study commissioned by the Leadership Network, this book reveals the best practices in church planting movements and uncovers the common threads among them. A much-needed resource, this book should inform, guide, and even catalyze church planting leaders who seek to plant exponentially reproducing churches. The authors, both with doctorates in research and veteran church planters, clearly show leaders how to launch new churches that create a multiplication movement; they also offer inspiration for leaders to do so. They point to numerous illustrative case studies of North American churches and planting networks that are successfully multiplying new churches in our day. Includes helpful chapters on keeping the focus on evangelism; recruiting, assessing and deploying planters; increasing survivability on new churches; using a multisite strategy effectively; funding options; overcoming obstacles; and facing challenges. Because this work is so missiologically hefty and well-researched, it will be a definitive book for years. Must read for leaders!

**Stevenson, Phil. *The Ripple Church: Multiply Your Ministry by Parenting New Churches*. Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Pub House, 2004. (Paperback, 186 pages).**

One of the best books on church parenting available today. It explains the why, what and how of starting churches through an existing congregation. *Ripple Church* is an easy read featuring "13 Ripple Principles" important to church parenting. Based on his own ministry experience, Stevenson presents a compelling case (chaps 2-3) for parenting. He offers a menu of nine parenting models (chap 4) for any ministry setting. The last five chapters reveals some great insights about financing, leadership, core teams and working with a denomination or association of churches. Stevenson starts each chapter with what he calls a "Ripple Principle" and each of these are succinct and powerful. For example the ripple principle in chapter four ("Models of Parenting") is: "There are many ways to parent churches." I agree—too often we're limited to only one way of parenting a new church. To his credit, this author shows us how to plant churches in ever-increasing concentric circles. This book is not ivory tower theory but written by a pastor whose church has not only parented but gone the extra mile by building reproducibility into the churches they have started. The mother church is now credited with six daughter churches and three granddaughter congregations. The author also gives nine appendices with helpful examples of documents for planting daughter churches.

I like the title of this book because it encourages us to see our churches making *ripples* in the right sense—by parenting new churches. The author rejects the idea of one church in one place and says: "We must reject the model of success that simply measures the number of people gathered in one place. Genuine success is when men and women fulfill their God-given vision by creating new churches where there were none before" (p. 33). Stevenson contends that too many leaders settle for simply growing a *regional church*. It gathers together a large

number of people to worship in a single place. This limits kingdom growth to a *ministry by influx*. Instead, he argues, “Why not pursue a regional ministry which also starts churches!” They can reach a variety of people through a diversity of church ministries. This raises the level of kingdom impact to a *ministry by influence*.

**Sullivan, Bill M. *Starting Strong New Churches*. Kansas City, MO: New Start, 1997.**

This small book is intended primarily as an advocacy book geared toward Nazarenes. The strength of the book is the chapter that deals with objections to planting.

**Suarez, Gustavo V. *Connections: Linking People and Principles for Dynamic Church Multiplication*. Friendswood, Texas: Baxter Press, 2004.**

Gus is the State Director of Missions for the New Mexico (Southern) Baptist Convention. His book is available in both Spanish and English and is a worthwhile read. The title is very descriptive—it is about making the right connections for church multiplication. As such, it has a lot of direction about how to involve partners in the work (the strength of the book). It is primarily geared toward Southern Baptists, but not exclusively so.

**Sylvia, Ron. *Starting High Definition Churches*. Ocala, FL: High Definition Resources, 2004.**

The author is committed to the Saddleback Purpose Driven church planting approach. His book is about how to plant Purpose Driven churches that make a high impact. Ron draws heavily on his own experience as the founding pastor of Church @ The Springs in Ocala, FL (which grew to 2000 in 10 years!) He also borrows lots of ideas from Rick Warren, Andy Stanley, and Ed Young, Jr. The book’s title is very descriptive—this is a great resource to know how to plant large distinct churches that reach the lost. It is immensely practical as one starts from scratch. This older book has now been replaced by his newer and better work, *Starting New Churches on Purpose: Strategies for the 21st Century*, Purpose Driven Publishing, 2006. (order it at: [www.purposedriven.com](http://www.purposedriven.com)). Recommended.

**Thomasson, George. *The Church Blueprint: Practical Helps for Building the Body*. Columbus, GA: Brentwood Christian Press, 2002.**

This book is a compilation of resources that will assist the new church in the effective establishment of its ministry program. It takes a church from inception through the first three years of early development. The book includes contributions from 15 different authors, all who are Southern Baptist and relating to the SBC context. A strength of the book is the included practical worksheets for implementing the steps in the book. The book can be ordered by e-mailing [blueprint@bellsouth.net](mailto:blueprint@bellsouth.net).

**Tidsworth, Floyd, Jr. *Life Cycle of a New Congregation*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1992.**

The author is former director of the SBC Home Mission Board’s church planting department. He has provided a basic planting handbook. The title is misleading since the text deals little with the actual life cycle. Instead, it primarily focuses on the birth of a new church and then its reproduction—with little about the life cycle in the middle.

**Timmis, Stephen, ed. *Multiplying Churches: Reaching Communities Through Church Planting*. Hearn, Ross-shire, UK: Christian Focus Publications, 2000.**

This is an advocacy (not a “how-to”) book for church planting and the strategies for planting churches. It is written from the experiences of planters in the UK. The strength of this work is its recognition of the unique centrality of the local church in God’s purposes. It has fine discussions of the nature of both the church and the gospel. It properly critiques Stuart Murray’s *Church Planting: Laying Foundation* by showing how he sets up false polarities between church planting and the mission of God and church planting and the kingdom of God. Has

a good historical overview of church planting by (Particular) Baptists and Methodists in the Britain beginning with the 7th century. Documents that C. H. Spurgeon's ministry in the 1870s was dominated by church planting—he was responsible (through the Tabernacle and his preacher's College) for the starting for some 187 of the 682 Baptist churches planted in Britain from 1855-97! This reviewer has one critique: the authors say they are seeking to “move church planting up the church agenda, and focus upon the principles rather than the practice.” They seem to accomplish the former but not the latter goal. This book is strong on encouraging people toward church planting but is really too small (128 pages) to address the principles. The chapter on ecclesiology is excellent as is Timmons closing chapter on key success principles.

**Tinsley, William C. *Upon This Rock: Dimensions of Church Planting*. Atlanta, GA: Baptist Home Mission Board, 1985.**

Tinsley's book is an advocacy book for Southern Baptists. Long before other denominations began to promote planting, Tinsley (and Redford) promoted planting among SBC churches. The book is out of date, but was a genuine forerunner that still contains some helpful principles.

**Tinsley, William C. *Breaking the Mold: Church Planting in the 21st Century*. Dallas: Creative Church Consultations, Inc., 1996.**

This book is more up to date than *Upon This Rock* (and a better book, I believe). Tinsley displays a strong grasp of church planting principles but also deals with some of the new issues that began to emerge in the late 90s. He has planted churches all his life and is now director of a new missions agency, WorldConnex.

**Towns, Elmer L. *Getting A Church Started: A Student Manual for the Theological Foundation and Practical Techniques of Planting a Church*. Lynchburg, VA: Church Growth Institute, 1985.**

Towns' early book is geared toward independent Baptists. It is one of the first and only books on church planting I could find when I came out of school and started in church planting years ago. It is highly sequential and provides an effective list of tasks that will provide the planter direction. It has been published in various forms through the years and is now available as a free download online at: [www.elmertowns.com/books/online/](http://www.elmertowns.com/books/online/).

**Towns, Elmer L. and Douglas Porter. *Churches that Multiply*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2003.**

The strength of this little book is that it is a series of Bible studies written in a down-to-earth style for lay people. It is not a “how-to” book. Instead, it is studies primarily from Acts geared toward showing churches the rationale of parenting a daughter church. It shows how lay people can help in the planting initial research, provide prayer support, do evangelistic outreach for the new church, coordinate resources, etc. Good for a Sunday School class to study.

**Wagner, C. Peter. *Church Planting For a Greater Harvest*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1990.**

Wagner's book is an early advocacy book used to stir up interest in many denominational circles. It is an excellent resource for the person seeking to convince a church or denominational leader why church planting is important. It has limited methodology, but contains a good amount of denominational research.

**Vajko, Robert J. Sr. “Why Do Some Churches Reproduce?” *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* for July 2005.**

This excellent EMQ article lists 14 qualities of a reproducing church based on the author's research in France as well as other cross-cultural experiences in Switzerland, Taiwan, and Australia. These are applicable to churches in any culture. Write the author, a veteran with TEAM, and ask for a reprint; he'll be glad to send you one: Robert J. Vajko 5395 N Darlene Court, Bloomington IN 47404 USA.

**Woodberry, J. Dudley. Editor. *Reaching the Resistant: Barriers and Bridges for Mission*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey, 1998.**

A composite study by some fourteen mission scholars writing on the issues involved in, as the title states, "Reaching the Resistant." The book has four parts: 1) "Foundational Issues: Reflecting on the Barriers; 2) "Case Studies: Encountering the Barriers; 3) "Means of Overcoming: Finding and Building Bridges," and 4) "Preparing for the Future: Planning Bridges." Questions, assumptions, and theological issues are dealt with in the first part and four groups showing resistance to the gospel are dealt with in the second part: Jewish, Muslim, Japanese, and Post-Christendom groups. Part three gives us four means of overcoming resistance and part four deals with two areas: equipping for resistance and planning globally. A seminal book on a neglected area that church planters need to think through. I would encourage church planting teams working in resistant areas to read through this book and begin to see how bridges might be built to the resistant by God's grace/ working.

**Woodford, Brian. 2007. *Master Plan: Biblical Foundations for Living Churches*. Taupiri, New Zealand: East-west College of Intercultural Studies.**

Here is an experienced church planter who worked among an unreached people group and now works to help other church planters. He states his concern in the introduction, "Although we have had many books about church planting strategies, I and many of my fellow church planters struggled with knowing exactly what it is we are trying to plant. When all the cultural specifics are stripped away, what are the universals of the church? That is what this book seeks to answer." (p. xiii). So if you are looking for a model for a church plant, Woodford gives you an image of "A Five-Room Model of the Church." He has the following rooms: Family, Household, Worship, Message, and Service. After introducing the model he deals with each one of these rooms in a chapter giving principles for each room with a resume at the end of each chapter. If you are looking for a more clear foundation for biblical church-planting, here is the book. Mike Barnett, Professor of Missionary Church Planting at Columbia International University recommends this book stating "Woodford answers the most vital strategic question of church planting teams—what are the essentials of church?"

#### **MULTICULTURAL CHURCH PLANTING BOOKS**

**Cox, Michael J. and Joe Samuel Ratliff. *Church Planting in the African American Community*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1993.**

In this valuable resource, widely regarded church planting authorities Joe Ratliff and Michael Cox ask the question, "How did we get all of these black churches in the inner city, anyway?" What they uncover is the greatest untold church planting story of the twenty-first century. The authors offer a road map for intentional church planting, navigating case study milestones that offer successful models and highlighting the dynamics that distinguish church planting in the African American community from church planting in general.

**DeYmaz, Mark. *Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church: Mandates, Commitments and Practices of a Diverse Congregation*. Leadership Network/Jossey-Bass, 2007.**

DeYmaz is founding pastor of Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas (in Little Rock), a multi-ethnic and economically diverse church where people from thirty nations currently worship together as one. He is also co-founder of Mosaic Global Network, an org dedicated to helping leaders develop multiethnic churches. I've met Mark and share his passion; he is a grad of Liberty Baptist Seminary and so holds our ecclesiology. In this excellent book, he organizes his examination of multi-ethnic churches into three distinct parts. First, he develops a biblical-theological apologetic for the priority of pursuing multi-ethnicity in a church. Next, he discusses seven specific strategies that a church pursuing healthy multi-ethnicity should employ. Finally, he examines each of those seven strategies in three different contexts: new church plants, unhealthy church revitalizations, and healthy church transformations.

Mark gives three main biblical reasons for m/e churches: the prayer of Christ in John 17, the pattern at Antioch found in Acts, and the Pauline mystery from Ephesians. He knows how to exegete Scripture better than most writers on this subject, but at times, in his zeal as an advocate, does overstate the case. For example, after discussing relevant passages in Acts, he acknowledges that most would argue Acts is *only* descriptive. He states, “However, I do not believe this to be the case... such passages are both descriptive and *indirectly prescriptive* in nature” (25). Yet he fails to present evidence to prove this to my satisfaction. I might also question when he proposes that the “first love” which the Ephesians abandoned was the prior love they had for all the saints in their diverse congregation. When Jesus confronted the Ephesian church about leaving its “first love” (Rev. 2:4-5), was he really talking about their passion for multi-ethnicity (pp. 36-37)? Mark at times sees multi-ethnicity in texts that seem suspect. Despite this weakness, he builds a strong biblical case for m/e churches—one of the best, I’ve seen. The strength of grounding his discussion in these three passages is that it combines the biblical-theological themes of Christ’s high priestly prayer, a live example in the young church, and an explanation of the theological foundation for these developments. Also, by placing his theological arguments for diversity in the universal church next to a specific example of diversity in one local church, DeYmaz bridges the gap from theory to practice quite effectively.

In part 2, Mark offers wise and insightful strategies for pursuing multi-ethnicity in the church. His presupposition is that multi-ethnicity doesn’t happen by accident. He says that a church should pursue seven practical commitments:

- + Embrace dependence: only God can bring the goal to fruition.
- + Take intentional steps: don’t expect to stumble into multi-ethnicity.
- + Empower diverse leadership: don’t establish quotas or recognize unqualified leaders, but recognize that a component of biblical qualification is a leadership team that reflects the ethnic diversity of God’s kingdom.
- + Develop cross-cultural relationships: take personal steps to get outside the box of what is most natural, convenient and comfortable.
- + Pursue cross-cultural competence: get to know the cultures you’re ministering to in order to make the message clear and avoid unnecessary miscommunication.
- + Promote a spirit of inclusion: by surrendering personal preferences in order to serve others.
- + Mobilize for impact: leverage multi-ethnicity to effect transformation both culturally and spiritually, both locally and globally.

These strategies broadly demonstrate a healthy balance between dependence on God and an awareness of the role of the church in presenting an accurate picture of the glory of God. The concluding three chapters consider multi-ethnic church plants, revitalizations, and transitioning a church from mono-cultural to multicultural. They don’t answer all the questions, but they do help the reader to apply the seven strategies from three distinct perspectives. One of the better books on this subject. Recommended.

**Fong, Ken Uyeda. *Pursuing the Pearl: A Comprehensive Resource for Multi-Asian Ministry*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1999.**

In what is probably a foundational work for future Asian-American ministry resources, Fong presents a simple and clear model of the flow of generations which calls into question prevalent models of Asian church growth, e.g., “umbrella” (multi-lingual congregations under one roof) and “parallel” (at least 2 sister congregations with separate pastors, budgets, etc.). Says Fong, “I challenge a good number of things about the typical Asian church in North America that must be changed if we are to be relevant and acculturated to Asian North Americans. I tried to make this book practical, prophetic, and easy to grasp.” Though not writing solely on church planting, anyone wanting to plant churches among Asian-Americans should work through Fong’s advice. He deal with practical information on worship, evangelism, Asian culture, reaching 2nd and 3rd generations, church growth, etc.

**Francis, Hozell C. *Church Planting in the African American Context*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.**

One in every six churches in the United States is African-American. So, given the church's central role in the black community, why is the number of unchurched African-Americans increasing? How can you plant a church that proclaims with power and relevance the unchanging Gospel to our changing African-American culture? An experienced church planter, Hozell Francis presents basic theory and practice for raising up a church in today's black community. Unlike the other texts dealing with African-American church planting, Hozell actually focuses less on the mechanics of planting and more on the sociology of the African-American church (preaching, ministry, leadership, etc.). These are helpful materials, but further study of "how to" plant in the African-American context would add to the strength of the book.

**Ortiz, Manuel. *One New People: Models for Developing a Multiethnic Church*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1996.**

In *One New People* Ortiz persuades us of the benefits in fellowship and outreach that we can experience in church planting across racial, ethnic and cultural lines. To that end, he offers a wide variety of models for creating and sustaining a multiethnic church. Church planters will appreciate his effort to help planters find the best model for their particular situation—Ortiz has questions for thought and discussion points included throughout the book. Finally, you'll find here ideas and principles to guide you through the process of change and growth: improving communication, managing conflict, encouraging and training new leaders, and much more.

**Ratliff, Joe S. and Michael J. Cox. *Church Planting in the African-American Community*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1993.**

Church planting is always difficult, but (according to Ratliff and Cox) it is even more so in the African-American community. In the African-American context, church planting is often perceived as an insult to the established church and its pastor. This work is intended for Southern Baptists, but is widely applicable in other situations. It provides advocacy, examples, and practical suggestions.

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