



Center for United States Missions

Mission Moments



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5 Ways to Ignite a Church Multiplication Movement

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A Church Planting Movement is a rapid multiplication of indigenous churches planting churches that sweeps across a people or group or population segment. (David Garrison, Church Planting Movements)

Mission begins in the heart of God. We know for a fact that God wants all people to be saved, that He desires every blood-bought man and woman, boy and girl from every tribe, language, people and nation to join Him eternally at His throne. We know that God has chosen His church, His people using His Word and Sacraments as the means for making disciples.

Assuming we want what God wants, how can we ignite a church multiplication movement in our contexts so that we can reach more people with the Gospel in more locations using a variety of church multiplication methodologies?

1. Pray

First of all, *we can't do it! Only God can ignite such a movement.* That's why the first thing we do is to pray. Jesus invites us to ask the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into the harvest fields. Church multiplication always begins with a movement of prayer. Those who see the harvest and are moved by the multitudes that are like sheep without a shepherd will get on their knees and pray. They will invite others to join them. They will pray that God will align their heart, their vision, their mind with His. They will pray for those whom they know who are

unconnected or disconnected. They will pray for the Holy Spirit to use their church. They will pray for a kingdom movement. And they will pray without ceasing.

2. Tell your stories.

Begin practicing multiplication in your own life and in your own church. Join Jesus on His mission, preparing and telling your own story of the difference Jesus has made in your own life. Can you share His transformational work in your own life in 3 minutes? Prepare your story, keeping it simple and real. Practice it with two others who are also preparing their own story. Identify a list of family members, neighbors, co-workers, others within your own network of friends who are not following Jesus. Ask the Lord to identify five people from that list with whom you will share your story in the coming week. Pray for them, asking God to prepare their hearts that they might respond positively. Share your story. Gather the following week to share what God did. Invite two others to join you; everyone becomes a potential participant. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat.

3. Train healthy churches

Church Planting movements intentionally plant churches that are able and compelled to reproduce. Identify healthy churches and church leaders who will respond positively to church multiplication training, and schedule or attend training such as our two-day intensive **Churches Planting Churches** or our one-day **Mobilizing the Mission of God**. These offer church leaders basic reproduction principles and “best practices” which are essential for successful multiplication of any size in any context or culture. They prepare leaders to prepare and lead their churches in multiplying.

4. Embrace a kingdom perspective

While not everyone will join your church, surely God desires everyone to be saved. Church planting movements never content themselves with merely adding one or more new members to a church. Church planting movements have an expansive vision – to see everyone in the community come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Who are the churches and organizations in your community with whom you can partner toward that end? Rather than seeing yourself in “competition” with neighboring churches for scarce resources, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to “collaborate” with neighboring churches and organizations to make best use of the assets God has given for Kingdom results.

5. Pray.

Yes, pray some more. Prepare yourself and your church/circuit/district spiritually for church multiplication. Pray for hearts aligned with God’s, yearning to seek and to save the lost. Know who the real enemy is, and prepare yourself for battle against Satan and his forces of evil. Satan will see you as a threat. Don’t be surprised when unusual distractions, threats, temptations, and trials come your way. Do be spiritually prepared by putting on the whole armor of God, Ephesians 6:10-18. Pray that God will give you the spiritual commitment, stamina and wisdom to walk in His strength, and that He will bless your efforts with abundant fruit.



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Moment Extras

Questions to Consider

1. Do you believe that church planting movements are possible where you live, and among the people you serve?
2. How much time do you spend in prayer asking God to give you His vision? His heart and His mind? How much time do you spend in prayer for the unchurched and dechurched in your community, or whom you personally know?
3. Have you developed your own faith story? With whom have you shared it? With whom can you share it? If you haven't developed your own faith story, why not do it now?
4. Who are local churches and organizations in your community with whom you could collaborate to identify and utilize kingdom assets?
5. What training would be helpful to you and your church so that you can more effectively engage in multiplication?

Resources You Can Use

[*Churches Planting Churches*](#) is an intensive two-day seminar offered by the Center for US Missions for church leaders and their teams to explore a variety of scenarios for church multiplication. Using a principle-based approach, participants learn best practices to help them develop an initial plan for multiplication in their context.

Mobilizing the Mission is a one-day Mission Convocation, designed to call congregation leaders to engage in the mission of God through consideration of church multiplication. Contact the [Center for US Missions](#) for information on how you can arrange for this seminar.

David Garrison, [*Church Planting Movements*](#), examines more than two-dozen movements of multiplying churches on five continents. After presenting these case studies, Garrison identifies ten universal elements present in each movement. He then broadens the circle of examination to identify a further ten common characteristics, factors identified in most, but not all, of the movements. He concludes his examination with a list of "Seven Deadly Sins," i.e. harmful practices that stifle or impede Church Planting Movements. ***Church Planting Movements*** contains case studies, maps, graphs, a selected bibliography, a biblical index, along with a topical index. Learn more about Church Planting Movements from the book's website: www.ChurchPlantingMovements.com. The website includes many free downloadable resources, including free booklets, PowerPoints, case studies, and articles.

Steve Addison, [***Movements that Change the World***](#), draws from Biblical, historical and contemporary case studies to isolate the essential elements of a dynamic missionary movement.

Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird, [***Viral Churches***](#). A guide for multiplying the impact of church plants. Based on a study that was commissioned by the Leadership Network, this book reveals the best practices in church planting and uncovers the common threads among them. The authors clearly show leaders how to plant churches that create a multiplication movement and offer inspiration for them to do so.

Geoff Surratt's free e-book, [***Measuring the Orchard – Changing the Scorecard on Church Growth***](#), lays out a “begin with the end in mind” view of church health and growth that leads to maximum Kingdom impact.

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