

Lesson 10

CHURCH PLANTING

INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study:

- To understand the need to plant new churches
- To discover the biblical principles of church planting
- To study the process of church planting
- To understand current church planting methodologies
- To understand the stresses and struggles of church planting

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION
 - A. What is the church
 - B. Why plant new churches
 - C. The Practicality of Church Planting

- II. BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH PLANTING
 - A. The Church Planter's Assignment
 1. To do the work of the Great Commission
 2. To help people make three basic commitments
 3. To establish and organize a believer's church
 - B. General requirements of a church planter : Five Biblical Principles
 - C. Specific requirements of a church planter : Eleven Critical Qualities

- III. PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH PLANTING
 - A. Determine where the harvest is ripe or quickly ripening
 - B. You need to discover and concentrate on responsive groups
 - C. Church planting is best done in fertile soil
 - D. Church planting is best done in adults
 - E. Don't get side-tracked and become entangled in non-productive activities
 - F. Organise your approach
 - G. Keep things simple
 - H. Don't make too much noise if you are in restrictive areas or countries
 - I. Choose called, gifted and humble men and women to work beside you
 - J. Use your resources wisely

- IV. CURRENT CHURCH PLANTING METHODOLOGIES
 - A. Mother-Daughter Church Planting
 - B. The Bible Study Method Group
 - C. The Cell Group Multiplication Method
 - D. Through the Local Association
 - E. The Pioneer Church Planter
 - F. Outpost Preaching Points
 - G. A Second Congregation in the Same Building
 - H. A Church of Another Language in the Same Building
 - I. The Satellite Congregations

- V. FACING THE STRUGGLES AND STRESSES
 - A. Spiritual Stresses in Church Planting
 - B. Professional Stresses in Church Planting

- VI. PRINCIPLES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO CHURCH GROWTH
 - A. Spiritual Growth
 - B. Numerical Growth
 - C. Geographical Growth

- VII. INDIGENOUS RURAL CHURCH PLANTING
 - A. Indigenous Church Planting Principles
 - B. Difficulties in Church Planting

I. INTRODUCTION

Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Romans 1:16

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (New Addition)

Go, Go, Go

- **Traditional View**

Establish church first on a sound footing. Build up core ministry. Then plan missions. This is a fatal way for by then without a strong mission statement on the Great Commission as well as fulfilling it already in various ways, the other ministry competes rather than fulfill the Great Commission.

- **Biblical View**

The urgency of the field is well documented.

'Don't you not say, "There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! [36] 'And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.'

John 4:35-36

- The Great Commission must govern the entire church ministry or every department and individual.
- The 4-tiered command is not to be done layer by layer. It should be done simultaneously. Though the last tier takes longer, the first three tiers can be done quite easily with some sacrifices and faith. With the ease of travel, relative improvement in church finances and globalisation, there will be a multiplication effect in these last days as the urgency is felt in more and more churches.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8

A. What is a church?

The local church may be described by its four-fold function, namely:

1. It is an **assembly** of believers in a given locality gathered to the person of Jesus Christ for worship.
2. It is a family for **fellowship**.
3. It is a school for **discipleship**.
4. It is an organism for vigorous **evangelistic** outreach.

B. Why plant new churches?

1. The principle of **reproduction** - "according to their kinds"
Genesis 1:12.
 - a) Vegetation and animal kingdom.

The biblical account of the creation establishes a principle of REPRODUCTION - "according to their kinds" - that has broad application. It is true for vegetation (see 1:11). It holds true also for the animal Kingdom (1:24).
 - b) Churches reproduce churches.

This divinely established principle of "like begetting like" applies equally to the ministry of the gospel of Christ. Witnessing Christians, sowing the precious seed of the word of God, facilitate the conversion of additional souls to Christ. By the same token, churches reproduce churches!
2. It is the natural outcome of the **Great Commission**.
Matthews 28:18-20, Mark 16:15
3. It is an **effective means** of carrying out the Great Commission.
4. It provides an important strategy for "**community development**".
5. It is a necessity everywhere.
 - a) In **unreached** communities (new ground).
 - b) In **urban** centres (old ground).
6. It allows for new **leadership** to develop.

C. *The Practicality of Church Planting*

Not only biblical, but also practical.

Church planting is not only biblical, but it is eminently practical; it works!

Charles Chaney maintains that *“Church planting is crucial not only because of its biblical basis but also because of its evangelistic effectiveness.”*

Elmer Towns asserts that *“all forms of evangelism have their place, but the most effective method is to plant a New Testament church in every section of every city.”*

1. The Church’s Challenge:

- a) The **growing population** of unreached people!
- b) The increasing number of **professing christians!** Otherwise known as nominal, marginal christians.
- c) Those who make **no christian claim** whatsoever. There are the atheists, humanists, Marxists, materialists, etc ..

2. Demographic Factors:

There are demographic factors occurring around the world – factors that have profound impact upon the church’s strategy for church planting.

a) Urbanization

One of the major factors is the rush of people from rural areas to the cities. According to Asiaweek, by 2020 two-thirds of the world population will live in urban areas.

The cities are one of the greatest frontiers facing the evangelical church today. Yet in many areas the churches are deserting the cities and retreating to the affluent suburbs, or impoverished rural. If ever there was in our lifetime a mission field for new church plantings, it is in the great cities, the metropolitan areas.

b) Population Mobility

Another demographic factor in our society is the population mobility of our cities.

Ezra Jones considers this to be a prime factor to be evaluated in the targetting of areas for new churches. He says, “as long as people are moving, new churches will be needed.”

Hodges : “probably there is no time when an individual is more open to receive the gospel than at the particular period when he has left his friends and relatives of his hometown and finds himself in a completely new environment. He may now feel free to accept the gospel when perhaps previously social ties may have hindered him. At any rate, we have found that our churches multiply rapidly as they minister the gospel to these ‘displaced’ persons.”

II. BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH PLANTING

A. *The Church Planter’s Assignment*

1. To do the work of the **Great Commission**
 - a) Moving into a designated new area
 - b) Relating to the people in witness
 - c) Preaching the gospel of Christ
 - d) Salvation for non-believers
 - e) Baptizing them in the Holy Spirit and water
 - f) Teaching them to observe Christ’s commands
 - g) making them disciples
2. To help people make **three basic commitments**
 - a) The commitment to Christ for salvation
 - b) The commitment to the body of Christ for growth
 - c) The commitment to the work of Christ in obedience

3. To **establish and organize** a believer's church
 - a) Adding converts to the membership
 - b) Establishing a meaningful worship
 - c) Facilitating fellowship events
 - d) Providing opportunity for service
 - e) Finding suitable facilities

B. General Requirements of a Church Planter : Five Biblical Principles

Not everyone is equipped nor intended to plant a church. To have someone who is not qualified for church planting actually go out and try to start a church could produce some very negative results. Not only is it a mismanagement of resources, it is also an effective way to crush someone with the weight of unwarranted guilt, frustration and depression.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

19 *For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;*²⁰ *and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;*²¹ *to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;*²² *to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.*²³ *Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you. (New Addition)*

GOAL: TO WIN AS MANY AS POSSIBLE v.19

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THE GOAL?

1. **SERVANTHOOD** – Willingness to **surrender** personal rights.

“Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone.” v.19

2. **IDENTIFICATION** – Strive to become **one** with those you wish to win.

*“To the Jews
To those under the law
To those not having the law
To the weak
I have become all things to all men”* v.20-22

3. **CONTEXTUALISATION** – Do **whatever** needs to be done to reach the goal.

“I have become all things to all men.” v.22

4. **METHODOLOGY** – Use all possible means to accomplish the goal.

“so that by all possible means I might save some.” v.22

5. **MOTIVATION** – Have a pure **motive**

*“I do all of this for the sake of **the gospel**.”* v.23a

C. Specific requirements of a church planter : Eleven Critical Qualities

The following **eleven critical qualities** are selected from a larger list of forty-six qualities in a study conducted by the Charles E. Fuller Institute of Evangelism and Church Growth in 1984.

Although all of the qualities are important these eleven are considered to be critical, if not essential.

The ideal church planter is one who:

1. **Prays** fervently. He is one who:
 - a) Places a high priority on his prayer life
 - b) Prays regularly through scheduled and consistent devotional times
 - c) Prays for specific concerns regarding personal life and ministry
2. Exercises **faith**. He is one who:
 - a) Possesses a conviction regarding one’s call to church planting ministry

- b) Believes in God's action
 - c) Is marked by expectation and hope
 - d) Is willing to wait for answers to specific prayer requests
3. Has a **"visionizing" capacity**. He is one who:
- a) Projects into the future beyond the present
 - b) Develops a theme which highlights the vision and philosophy of ministry
 - c) Persuasively sells the vision to the people
 - d) Approaches challenges as opportunities instead of obstacles
 - e) Copes effectively with non-visionizing elements
 - f) Does not limit the capacities of God, self or others
 - g) Establishes a clear church identity related to the theme and vision
 - h) Believes God for great things
4. Is committed to church **growth**. He is one who:
- a) Believes church growth is a theologically valid principle
 - b) Appreciates steady and consistent growth without looking for "quick success"
 - c) Is committed to numerical growth within the context of spiritual and relational growth
 - d) Recognizes the nongrowth is threatening and self-defeating
 - e) Establishes the goal of becoming a financially self-supporting church with in a specified period of time
 - f) Does not fall into a ministry of mere maintenance
 - g) Sees the church project within the large context of God's kingdom

- h) Gains “hands-on” church planting experience
5. Is intrinsically **motivated**. He is one who:
- a) Is committed to excellence
 - b) Is relentlessly persistent
 - c) Aggressively (yet positively) takes the initiative
 - d) Is a self-starter and is willing to build from nothing
 - e) Is willing to work long and hard
6. Creates **ownership** of ministry. He is one who:
- a) Helps others feel responsible for the growth and success of ministry
 - b) Wins the commitment of the people to the vision
 - c) Establishes a congregational identity
 - d) Avoids imposing unrealistic goals on the congregation
7. Utilizes **giftedness** of other. He is one who:
- a) Equips people to do the task of ministry
 - b) Discerns the spiritual gifts of others
 - c) Matches people with ministry needs and opportunities according to giftedness
 - d) Delegates effectively in areas of personal limitation
 - e) Avoids assigning ministry responsibilities before others are adequately prepared
 - f) Does not place unwarranted restrictions on the spiritual giftedness of others
8. Effectively builds **relationships**. He is one who:
- a) Responds with urgency to expressed needs and concerns of others

- b) Displays godly love and compassion to others
 - c) Gets to know others personally
 - d) Makes others feel secure and comfortable in one's presence
 - e) Does not respond judgmentally or prejudicially to new people
 - f) Appreciates and accepts a variety of persons
 - g) Spends quality time with parishioners
9. Is **flexible** and **adaptable**. He is one who:
- a) copes effectively with ambiguity
 - b) copes effectively with constant and abrupt change
 - c) adapts oneself and one's methods to the uniqueness of the respective church planting project
 - d) readily shifts priorities and emphases during various stages of church growth
 - e) does "whatever" is necessary "whenever" necessary
10. Have spousal **cooperation**. He is one who:
- a) has an explicit agreement regarding each partner's respective role and involvement in ministry
 - b) has explicit rules regarding the use of home as an office
 - c) evaluates the consequences of ministry demands upon children
 - d) functions as a team with spouse through individual and corporate action
 - e) has a strategy for dealing with strangers
 - f) models wholesome family life before church and community
 - g) agrees upon and shares ministry vision with spouse
 - h) deliberately plans and protects private family life

11. Builds a **cohesive** church body. He is one who:
 - a) develops a nucleus group or groups as a foundation
 - b) quickly includes new comers into a network of relationships or meaningful church activities
 - c) monitors the morale of the people
 - d) use groups effectively

III. PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH PLANTING

A. Determine where the harvest is ripe or quickly ripening.

Matthew 9:37-38

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.38 "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (New Addition)

Keys to choose the best place to start a new Church.

1. Pray and be sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Acts 16:1-15

- a) Pray before beginning. **Acts 13:3**

Acts 13:3

3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. (New Addition)

- b) Recognize God's leadership through circumstances. **Acts 13:49-51**

Acts 13:49-51

49 And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. (New Addition)

- c) Be aware that God closes some doors to open other doors.
Acts 16:6

Acts 16:6

*6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.
(New Addition)*

2. **Study** the area under consideration.
- a) Secure a map or sketch if possible.
 - b) Visit with people living in the area.
 - (i) Talk with them.
 - (ii) Give them tracts.
 - (iii) Tell them you are a Bible teacher and are available to lead group Bible studies.
3. Do a **Survey**.
- a) List places in the area under discussion where there are no churches that preach the Gospel.
 - b) Meet with the pastor and leaders of the church or group which plans to sponsor the new work.
 - c) List the names and locations of the places where there is no work or where there have been invitations to open new work.
 - d) Ask church members to give names and addresses of their relatives who live in these places.
 - e) Meet with those members who have relatives living in any of these places.
 - f) If no members have relatives in these places, survey neighboring churches to find members who have relatives in the places being considered for opening new work.
 - g) In meeting with those who have relatives living in any of these places ask them if their relationship with these relatives is good and what their relatives' attitude is toward the Gospel.

- h) Plan a witness or cultivation program for these members and their relatives who live in places where new work can be begun.
4. **Visit** the most likely places where work will be started.
- a) The pastor and member who has relatives in the area and the one who will lead the Bible study should be ones to visit.
 - b) Visit prayerfully, carefully, and tactfully.
 - c) Do not commit yourself
5. Important factors for selecting the specific place. **Acts 16:9**

Acts 16:9

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." (New Addition)

- a) Holy Spirit's direction to a specific place.
 - b) Open door/ opportunities/ invitations to being in a specific place.
 - c) Suitable to the method to be used in opening new work.
 - d) Economic limitations of the sponsoring church or group.
 - e) Distance from other evangelical churches.
 - (i) Goal of a church in every (community)
 - (ii) A church within walking distance of each person.
 - (iii) A church for every kilometer in cities.
6. Deciding **where** the church will meet.
- a) Many groups began by meeting in a home.
 - (i) Need to meet people where they are, in their own setting.
 - (ii) People will come to a friend's house who would not come to a church building.

- (iii) Readily available with rent or construction expense.
 - (iv) Need to meet regularly in the same place.
 - (v) Place where groups meet is not determining factor in the development of that group into a church.
- b) Should be centrally located in the community if possible.

B. You need to discover and concentrate on responsive groups

1. Some groups are more **responsive** than others.

a) Jews were more responsive than the Gentiles.

Matthew 10:6, 15:24; Acts 11:19

Acts 11:19

19 Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. (New Addition)

b) Bereans were more responsive than the Thessalonians.

Acts 17:11

c) Ordinary common people were more responsive than powerful and wise people.

1 Corinthians 1:27

1 Corinthians 1:27

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; (New Addition)

2. Examples of responsive groups today.

a) Tribal groups.

b) Displaced groups (such as refugees, new arrivals, etc.)

c) Illiterates and new readers.

d) Groups beginning to question traditional beliefs.

e) List responsive groups in your area.

3. Factors indicating responsiveness.
 - a) Good response experiences by other evangelical groups.
 - b) Invitations to begin new work.
 - c) Places where tribal groups live.
 - d) Places where there is transition in social and economic status.
 - e) Positive response to, evangelistic meetings, witnessing, door-to-door surveys.

C. Church planting is best done in fertile soil

1. Comparative **response** taught in Jesus' parable of the soils. **Matthew 13:3-9**
2. Shaking off the dust of **resistant** groups. **Matthew 10:14**
3. Avoiding **useless efforts** when response is unlikely. **Matthew 7:6**
4. Giving **priority** to responsive areas. **Acts 16:9-10**

Acts 16:9-10

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them. (New Addition)

D. Church planting is best done with adults first

1. Adults have more **influence** on children than children have on adults.
 - (a) If we win the parents, we usually win the family.
 - (b) Children find it difficult to continue when parents oppose.
2. Adults are able to **understand**, receive Christ, and be baptized.
3. Adults are able to support the work **financially**.

E. *Don't get side-tracked and become entangled in non-productive activities*

1. Plans and programs that have worked somewhere else may not work for you.
2. Building buildings is not necessarily building the Kingdom of God.
3. Avoid religious attacks.

F. *Organize your approach*

After a period of testing, sit down and lay out some steps.
The plans may initially be tentative.

1. **Where** you want to go
2. **How** you plan on getting there
3. **What** you plan to accomplish

G. *Keep things simple*

1 Corinthians 2: 1-2

1 Corinthians 2:1-2

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.² For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (New Addition)

1. Complicated plans will entangle and frustrate.
2. Don't be afraid to lay aside plans and programs (even people at times) that are not productive.
3. Attempting to resurrect a plan that has died.
4. Don't be locked in to "sacred" methods and traditions that no longer work. Be flexible.
5. Constantly evaluate and allow change and growth.

H. *Don't make too much noise if you are in restrictive areas or countries*

1. Do not attack established religious groups (New Addition)

The established religions are too entrenched in society, government, and the minds of the people to start attacking and blowing a trumpet when someone comes to the Lord.

2. Governments that have Religious Restrictions (New Addition)

A low profile must be maintained. Other restricted Asian countries fall into this category.

I. *Choose called, gifted and humble men and women to work beside you*

1. The selection of people to serve with you can mean success or failure.
2. Pay close attention to the gifts of each person and carefully guide them to their gifted areas of ministry.
3. Carefully watch for self-grandeur in any worker (and yourself).

J. *Use your resources wisely*

1. Buildings are expensive to purchase and maintain. Sometimes you don't need them.
2. Be careful that you don't justify enriching yourself with God's money. Maintain a constant and real method of accountability.

IV. CURRENT CHURCH PLANTING METHODOLOGIES

A. Mother-Daughter Church Planting

In this method, one congregation breaks off part of its members and sends them to another section of town, and constitutes them into a New Testament church.

Timothy Starr espouses that this is strategy without question is the best way. Just as the mother gives birth to a child, so a church gives birth to a new church. It is the best method because the support and experience of a stronger church are available to the new work.

Using this method, the parent church commissions several families to launch a new church several kilometers from the parent work. This is done by taking a survey of church families and finding clusters in a needy area.

B. *The Bible Study Method Group*

The church planter goes to an area and begins a bible study in his home or a neutral location. His long range goal is to build a church, but his immediate goal is to gather a nucleus of people, win them to the Lord, and nurture them in the word of God. In essence, the bible study is a 'half-way' house to a church. When the bible study is large enough, the church turns it into a church.

C. *The Cell Group Multiplication Method*

By establishing a cell group for evangelism and discipleship until Christians multiply in numbers. Then a church can be established among the growing Christians.

D. *Through the Local Association*

This is otherwise known as the partnership method, in which an association of churches work together to form a new church.

E. *The Pioneer Church Planter*

The pioneer church planter goes into an area for the purpose of planting a church. This is the method used by many young men and women who sense a need and develop a burden for a particular place. Or they observe that there is a large number of unevangelised people there. So the pioneer church planter goes into a place as an innovator, a 'change agent,' one who make things happen.

When, the pioneer method is used a denomination's or church's home mission board may provide full support or partial support in the launching of the new church, if there are not churches/ denomination nearby to assist.

F. *Outpost Preaching Points*

An established church may open a number of 'outpost preaching points' in such places as restaurants, motels, town halls, etc. Those won and nurtured often go on to become strong congregations.

G. *A Second Congregation in the Same Building*

The distinctive of the new congregations might be an alternate worship form or liturgical style.

H. *A Church of Another Language in the Same Building*

Some churches start congregations of a second, third or fourth language in their own building.

I. *The Satellite Congregations*

The model has been pioneered in places like Korea, Chile and Malaysia. It is to establish semi-autonomous satellite churches where people can hold dual membership – both in the central church and in one satellite congregation. Usually two Sundays a month the people meet in their satellite house-church and the other two Sundays at one of the multi-services of the central church.

V. FACING THE STRUGGLES AND STRESSES

A. *Spiritual Stresses in Church Planting*

1. *Stress of Open Doors* **2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 1 Corinthians 16:9**

Paul talks about having no rest in his spirit or peace of mind about the opposition he faced despite many open doors. Opportunity doors with road blocks create much stress.

1 Corinthians 16:9

9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. (New Addition)

2. **Stress of an Earthen Vessel** **2 Corinthians 4:7-10; 7:3-6**

There are always limitations to our ministry because of our weakness. The answer is his sufficiency.

2 Corinthians 4:7-10; 7:3-6

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.8 We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. (New Addition)

3. **Stress of Daily Caring** **2 Corinthians 11:27-29; Colossians 2:1-2**

There is the constant pressure that comes from carrying the concern and responsibility for the church.

4. **Stress of Desertion and Hypocrisy** **Galatians 1:6; 2:13**

The discouragement can be very disheartening when people turn away or against you after endless time has been spent on their behalf.

5. **Stress of Sleepless Nights** **1 Thessalonians 3:10, 2 Timothy 4:5**

Paul talks about praying night and day for their spiritual welfare and encourages Timothy to endure hardship.

6. **Stress of Evangelism Warfare** **Ephesians 6:12, 2 Timothy 4:5**

The work of evangelism is hard work, and requires much endurance. It is flight against the powers of darkness.

B. Professional Stresses in Church Planting

1. **Stress of the Caring Profession**

Caring for people, keeping confidences and resisting manipulation makes for a stressful workday.

2. **Stress of Emotional Ministry**

Caring for the emotional concerns of the poor, the despairing, hurting, sick and dying creates much stress.

3. **Stress of Congregational Insensitivity**

Working overtime to keep unity, harmony and satisfaction within the body with out appreciation is discouraged.

4. **Stress of Evening and Weekend Work**

Being on call constantly and working evenings and weekends creates constant stress for the family.

5. **Stress of Social Vulnerability**

Working and living often with few friends but many critics and advisors on the pastor's family roles is especially stressful.

6. **Stress of Spiritual Fitness**

There is the expectation to always be strong and spiritually fit because you are the pastor.

7. **Stress of Denominational Expectation**

Answering questions on progress and giving conference reports can be very burdensome.

8. **Stress of Isolation and Separation**

A church planter can feel very much alone and deserted by the conference and misunderstood by other pastors.

VI. PRINCIPLES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO CHURCH GROWTH

A. Spiritual Growth

1. **Obedience** to God's Plans

The biblical pattern for the church is self-support (by tithes and offerings), self-government, and self-propagation.

2. Sense of **Responsibility**

Responsibility in support, government, and outreach help Christians grow. The tithing plan distributes financial responsibility equitably among all.

3. Relationship with the **Pastor**

Support of the pastor by the congregation strengthens their sense of responsibility toward each other. As they grow, even the poorest can support a pastor according to their own standard of living if there are ten or more faithful tithing families in the congregation.

4. **Faith** and sacrifice

The struggles involved in following indigenous principles help both the leaders and the church to develop the spirit of faith and sacrifice which leads to a vigorous spiritual ministry.

5. Learning by **Doing**

People grow as they study God's word and teach it to others. God helps them develop leadership, talents and ministry.

B. Numerical Growth

1. Care for **Small** Groups

Local lay leadership makes pastoral care available to many small groups and helps them grow numerically as well as spiritually.

2. **Cultural** Acceptance

Indigenous principles make the church more culturally acceptable to the community. They do not view the church as a foreign organization or its representatives as the paid agents of a foreign power. A cultural barrier to the acceptance of the gospel is removed.

3. Natural **Witness**

With spiritual growth and a sense of responsibility, Christians witness to and win families, friends and neighbours to Christ.

C. Geographical Growth

1. Mission: Church Planting

When the local church sees its mission as church planting, its outreach at home and abroad will cause the church to grow geographically as well as numerically.

2. Unlimited Expansion

New churches in unevangelized areas may be started by missionary help from abroad, from the national church, or from a mother church. But as they grow their self-support and development of local leaders make them the bases for further unlimited expansion.

VII. INDIGENIOUS CHURCH PLANTING

A. *Indigenous Church Planting Principles*

1. Taking the gospel to their **own people**.
2. Using the right **cultural patterns** for them.
3. Using arguments that **appeal** to their people.
4. Meeting in buildings **appropriate** for them.
5. **Local persons** leading the congregation.
6. **Self-support, self-government, self-propagation**.
7. Depending on the power of the **Holy Spirit**.

B. *Difficulties in Church Planting*

1. **Missionaries' reluctance** to give up authority.
2. **Workers' reluctance** to give up mission support.
3. **Churches' reluctance** to accept financial burden.
4. Small and poor churches **unable to support** their pastor.

5. **Comparing** with neighbouring workers support.
6. **Fear** of persecution, secret Christians, non-growing church. Resistant and hostile areas.
7. **Over-emphasis** on a method whether indigenous or foreign. Inflexible criticism.

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