

# Actions that Sustain a Church Planting Movement

George Patterson, July 2008 • [GPatterson@cvi2.org](mailto:GPatterson@cvi2.org) • [www.MentorAndMultiply.com](http://www.MentorAndMultiply.com) • [www.Paul-Timothy.net](http://www.Paul-Timothy.net)

Use the star below with its seven *interlocking* areas to recall seven essential arenas of action:



Rabbit and other large icons (chain, tent, crown, grid, group and hand) = essential activities.



= **The ratio** between *two valid but divergent aspects of the activity* that is needed to sustain a church planting movement. The effective proportion differs from field to field.



= **New Testament guidelines** to set a proportion that will sustain a movement.



= **Cause and effect** relationship with the other six main action arenas.



= **Common protests** against a valid balance between divergent aspects of the activity.



= **Helpful pointers** to do an activity with proper balance between its two aspects.



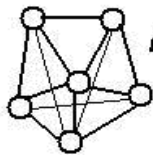
= Your **plan of action**, made carefully and prayerfully with your co-workers.

The following pages explain these icons. Study their meanings until you can recall them simply by looking at the star below. *On computer: the seven big icons link to the pages that explain them.*

Church planting movements need **seven areas of activity** (☆). Each area has two divergent facets that must be balanced in a proper ratio and relationship (⚖).



**It costs far less time and money** to start a church planting movement in a pioneer field than it does to start a non-reproductive, traditional church.



The gospel flows through **networks** of new believers' friends and kin, normally of the working class. Often church planters must 'shake the dust' and stop trying to push herds of camels through the needle's eye.



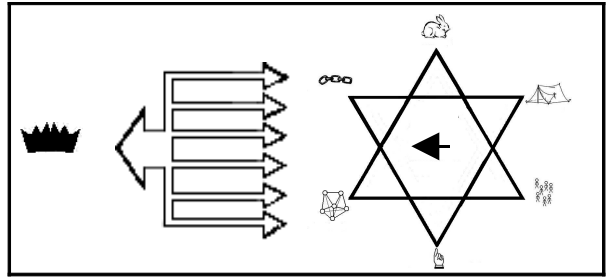
**Any God-given, spiritual gift** can be used to initiate and sustain a widespread church planting movement, if used in loving harmony with people who have complementary gifts.



# Mind our King

Be disciples and make disciples who obey Jesus' commands.

Notes:



**Obedience** to Christ balanced with, and in relation to, **accountability to human leaders and rules.**

📖 Matt. 28:18-20; 7:24-27; Acts 2:37-47

↔ All vital church activities stem from obeying Jesus in love, and help us believers to obey Him. Each of the seven activities of the star derives from, and leads to, the other six. God works this way in obedient churches.

☹ (*Objection*) “The foundation for church and Christian life is the whole Word of God.”

☞ What does the objection above (☹) overlook?<sup>1</sup>

Why use icons instead of numbers for the seven interlocking areas of the star?<sup>2</sup>

Where are we believers to make disciples, and what do most of the neglected fields have in common?<sup>3</sup>

Why use a crown instead of a cross as the icon for Christ in this activity section?<sup>4</sup>

What relationship does Jesus' crown have with the tablets of the Law icon and the dove icon?<sup>5</sup>

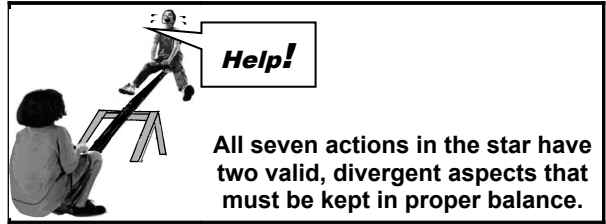
What seven basic commands of Jesus did the first church obey according to Acts 2:37-47?<sup>6</sup>

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

What often happens to seekers, if we believers delay their baptism because of legalistic rules, to take a doctrinal course, or because we have doubts about the seekers' sincerity?

What characterizes good *small* group worship?<sup>7</sup>

[Demonstrations: Two builders. Effects of delaying baptism for wrong reasons. OT worship.]

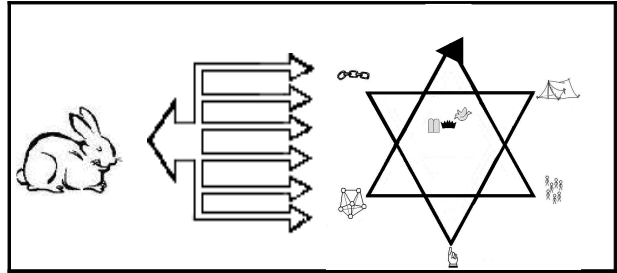


<sup>1</sup> The foundation, as it relates to believers, is obedience to the commands of Jesus, Matt. 7:24-27. Build Bible teaching on it.  
<sup>2</sup> The actions are done simultaneously; God works in this way, coordinating these actions in one work in the Body.  
<sup>3</sup> In all nations (people groups); most remaining neglected fields have hostile authorities that outlaw most Christian activity.  
<sup>4</sup> In reference to the cross, Jesus said “It is finished.” The crown icon denotes His current reign as King of Kings.  
<sup>5</sup> The stone tablets remind us of God the Father in the OT, the dove symbolizes God the Holy Spirit in the NT.  
<sup>6</sup> 1) Repent, believe & receive the Holy Spirit; 2) baptize; 3) break bread; 4) love; 5) pray; 6) give; 7) make disciples.  
<sup>7</sup> Edifying interaction, doing the New Testament *one anothers* and celebrating the Lord's Supper with entire families.

✍ Plan to make many disciples who lovingly obey the commands of our King:



## Multiply flocks



⚖ **Rabbit** churches, in an effective ratio and loving relationship with **elephant** churches, and **small groups** in a reasonable ratio and relationship with **large gatherings**.

📖 Mark 4:20; Acts 19:10

↔ Church **growth** focuses on adding new believers to a congregation, while church **multiplication** increases the number of the nuclei to which new believers are added, thus increasing the growth exponentially. The easiest way to evangelize a city or large rural region, and to edify the believers in them, is to multiply many small churches or cell groups.

⊗ (**Objections**) “Rapid multiplication causes disunity, false doctrine, loss of control and high costs.”  
“Our church needs to build a strong home base before it sends workers to start new flocks.”  
“Let us use the latest and most advanced technology to reach the world for Christ.”

☞ What is the quickest, easiest, and least expensive way to evangelize a city or large rural area?<sup>8</sup>

Under what conditions are ‘Rabbifant’ hybrid cell churches effective?<sup>9</sup>

To increase evangelistic effectiveness, what should be the ratio between traditional large churches and churches that are small enough to let everyone be heard during worship?

Why should church planters start several churches, in a pioneer field, instead of just one?<sup>10</sup>

What is the ideal, biblical relationship between new flocks in a region?<sup>11</sup>

What parts of a sending church’s life should its DNA carry to daughter churches in other cultures?<sup>12</sup>

What is the ‘filter’ to apply in order to remove heavy stuff and get a ‘light baton’?

What does God do to help a church planting movement when believers forget to pray?<sup>13</sup>

Why should workers draw maps that show churches, potential churches, and workers’ names?<sup>14</sup>

How can church planters *bond* with people and their culture when entering a pioneer field?<sup>15</sup>

Why should church planters avoid bonding with the middle class in the average pioneer field?<sup>16</sup>

What may be the role of some middle class believers in a people movement?<sup>17</sup>



[Role plays: Ruth 1; Acts 10]

✍ Plan to enable churches and cells to multiply in the biblical way:

<sup>8</sup> Start many little churches. Or start cells, provided they are genuine churches within a big church.

<sup>9</sup> In cities where authorities permit freedom of worship.

<sup>10</sup> One sole flock becomes ingrown, tries to ‘own’ the church planter, lacks a wider identity and has no sister church to strengthen it.

<sup>11</sup> ‘One another’ interaction is just as important between congregations as within them, especially among daughter churches.

<sup>12</sup> Only what the New Testament requires of a church: loving obedience to Jesus’ and the apostles’ commands, and vital doctrines.

<sup>13</sup> Nothing!

<sup>14</sup> Maps help clarify plans, vision and awareness of neglected areas. Maps can also move new workers to take initiative.

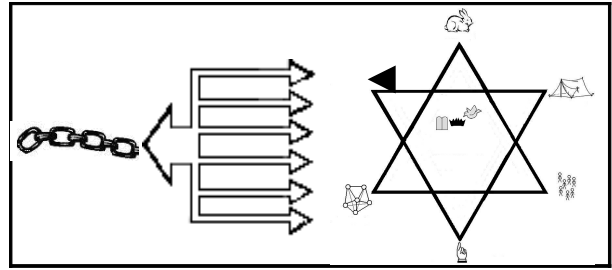
<sup>15</sup> Live among the people and form loving relationships with them. Limit your contact with fellow expatriates until bonding is complete.

<sup>16</sup> Church planting movements seldom, if ever, start with the middle class. Don’t keep trying to push camels through a needle’s eye!

<sup>17</sup> Middle class believers can lead church planting movements among a lower class, provided that they have no condescending attitude.

# **Mentor leaders**

like Jesus and Paul did.  
Set up training *chains*.



**Mentoring**, balanced with **lecturing** in effective, biblical proportions



2 Tim. 2:2; Matt. 13:52; Luke 10:17-20. Jesus would listen to His disciples' reports before beginning to teach them, and He related His teaching to an immediate need and interest.



Mentoring enhances all other action areas, and it is essential for maximal effectiveness in mobilizing workers and in multiplying flocks.



(*Objection*) "I prefer to deliver lectures in a standard classroom."



Why is a good menu a great help to new mentors, and what should its main headings list?<sup>18</sup>

## **Menu Headings for Training New Church Leaders in a Church Planting Movement**

Mentor a leader until his flock is doing all these activities that the New Testament requires of a church:

1) **Evangelism (including baptism)**, 2) **Prayer, family devotions, intercession and spiritual warfare**, 3) **Stewardship**, 4) **Caring for the needy**, 5) **Teaching the Word**, 6) **Counseling the troubled and pastoral care**, 7) **Developing fellowship**, 8) **organizing and overseeing so that all believers use their gifts**, 9) **Strengthening home and family life**, 10) **Training leaders**, 11) **Planting daughter churches**, 12) **Foreign missions**, 13) **Watching over the flock's spiritual life and Christian character**, and 14) **Group worship (including Communion)**.

Download the complete menu and corresponding studies free from [www.Paul-Timothy.net](http://www.Paul-Timothy.net).

How should a mentor measure the progress of a trainee's new flock?<sup>19</sup>

What should the focus of the training be normally—on the student or on his flock?<sup>20</sup>

What are the duties of a regional training *coordinator*?<sup>21</sup>

What must a mentor do, besides meeting in a training session with his trainees?<sup>22</sup>

What, besides prayer, must a mentor do normally, before instructing trainees?<sup>23</sup>

What other things should a mentor do during a training session?<sup>24</sup>

Why do we not define mentoring as done *one on one*? How many trainees should meet together with a mentor?<sup>25</sup>

How should a mentor hold a trainee accountable?<sup>26</sup>

In what way does 'good' teaching often stifle the mentoring that is needed to sustain a movement?<sup>27</sup>

**[Demonstrations: Relay race & light baton, Jethro, wolves. Four cities. An actual mentoring session. Menu.]**



Plan to mentor new leaders who mentor other newer leaders, etc.

<sup>18</sup> A new mentor, after listening to a trainee's report, can find help for a new church's needs under the corresponding menu heading.

<sup>19</sup> Use the menu as a progress check list. Note the date when the church is doing an activity well, and review all activities periodically.

<sup>20</sup> God commands trainers to edify their trainee's *church*. Doing so will also edify the trainee since he is part of that church.

<sup>21</sup> Provide materials geared to mentoring and church multiplication. Orient new mentors and keep records to verify progress.

<sup>22</sup> Model all pastoral skills that a trainee needs. Trainees should accompany their mentor while dealing with people.

<sup>23</sup> Listen to each trainee's report, to discover what issues they should deal with.

<sup>24</sup> Help trainees plan what each flock will do; verify if they did the studies and field work that they previously planned to do; always pray.

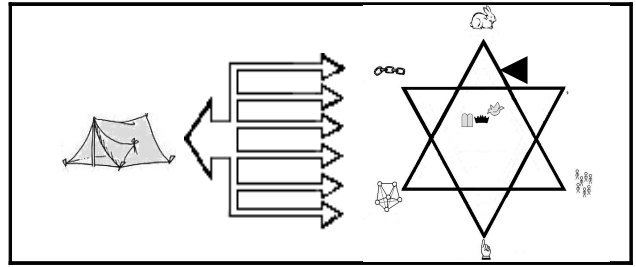
<sup>25</sup> No more than what the mentor can deal with during the session. Jesus mentored 12 normally, and sometimes only 3 at a time.

<sup>26</sup> Record each trainee's plans and check to make sure he has completed those plans, during your next meeting.

<sup>27</sup> Teachers who deliver enjoyable messages often create passive students who merely listen; such teaching often ignores current needs.



## Make tents



Keep *self-supported* lay workers, in the ratio with *paid workers* that sustains the movement.



Acts 18:1-4; Eph. 4:11-12



Church planting movements require hundreds of volunteer workers for every paid one.



*(Objections)* “We need the highest standards of academic excellence to train God’s leaders.”

“Extension training is fine for lay workers, but real pastors need an academic preparation.”

“Our by-laws stipulate that we elect shepherding elders for a term of two years.”



What is currently the most challenging mission frontier, from a historical perspective?<sup>28</sup>

What characterizes most tentmaker vocations that God uses to sustain a movement?<sup>29</sup>

Why must most of the work in a church planting movement be *non-budgeted*, performed by volunteer workers who do not ask for funds from outsiders?<sup>30</sup>

Why should church planters appoint as shepherds all who have a God-given pastoral gift?<sup>31</sup>

[Demonstration: Eph. 4:11-12]



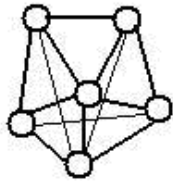
Plan to mobilize many self-supporting leaders (Paul chose to work bi-vocationally in Thessalonica in order to set the example for others):

<sup>28</sup> People groups living where authorities are hostile to the Gospel. Only a ‘criminal’ can plant churches under such laws.

<sup>29</sup> Good ‘tent-maker’ vocations are those that allow workers to mix with the common people and converse easily with them.

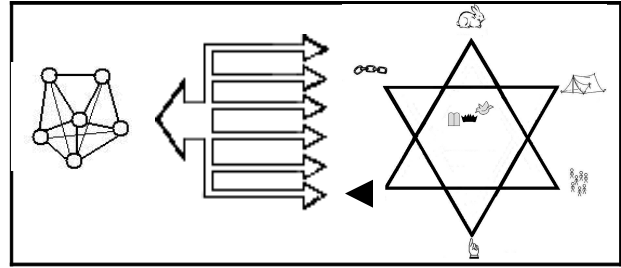
<sup>30</sup> Church planting movements that grow until they reach the entire people group depend largely on volunteer (non-salaried) workers.

<sup>31</sup> To name as pastors only those who meet man-made requirements denies the use of God-given gifts, thereby stifling the movement.



## Maintain relationships

between seekers and their friends and relatives, evangelizing within existing social networks.



*New believers witnessing* for Jesus in a working ratio with *mass evangelism and media*.



Acts 10:24; 16:14-15, 31



Evangelizing through relationships produces healthy churches that remain active in all ministry areas.



*(Objections)* “A new believer’s circle of friends and kin will drag him back into the world.”  
 “A simple decision to accept Christ is sufficient. Avoid talking about repentance from sin.”  
 “Accept Jesus as your *personal* savior” (This implies a *private* relationship with Him).



Why should new believers maintain relationships with their friends and relatives?<sup>32</sup>  
 Under what conditions might a new believer rightly avoid a former friend?<sup>33</sup>  
 What does it mean to ‘mine the vein’ of gold that God has prepared?<sup>34</sup>  
 Why should new churches normally avoid trying to mix people of two cultures?<sup>35</sup>  
 Who are the “children of peace” whom Christ commanded His disciples to seek out?<sup>36</sup>  
 What must many Westerners stop doing by ‘shaking the dust,’ to see churches multiply?<sup>37</sup>  
 Why should church planters let new believers host *exclusive* evangelistic meetings?<sup>38</sup>  
 Why should one evangelize in a way that new believers can imitate and pass on to others?<sup>39</sup>

[Demonstration: avoid extraction]



Plan to do evangelism by *networking*:

<sup>32</sup> People movements for Christ normally follow existing kinship lines and friendship ties. Evangelism by *extraction* stops the movement.

<sup>33</sup> When the friend supplies an addict with drugs, alcohol, immoral sexual liaisons or other serious stumbling blocks.

<sup>34</sup> God prepares ‘sons of peace’ who introduce church planters to new networks of friends and kin who readily respond to Christ.

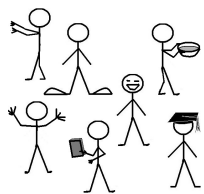
<sup>35</sup> New churches that mix cultures that normally fail to get along well almost never win many new believers nor do they multiply well.

<sup>36</sup> Hospitable seekers like Cornelius, Zacheus and Lydia, who introduce church planters to other members of the community.

<sup>37</sup> Westerners, being educated, often bond with the middle class and waste time trying to push camels through a needle’s eye.

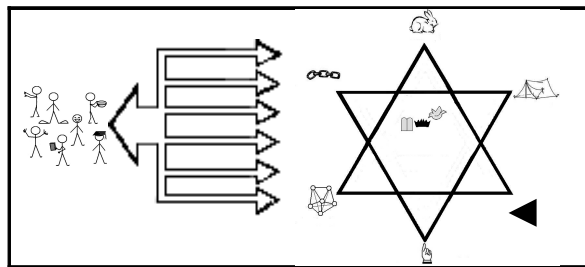
<sup>38</sup> When a son of peace calls a gathering, like Cornelius did, seekers feel comfortable and less afraid of having to do weird things.

<sup>39</sup> In a church planting movement new believers win almost all who come to Jesus, using available methods affordable for them.



## Mix folks with different gifts

by obeying the New Testament 'one another' commands.



Keep *interaction* between believers with different gifts in proper ratio with *specialized ministries* that gather individuals who have the same gift.



Col. 3:16 (teach one another) and the many other such 'one anothers,' and 1 Cor. 12



Interaction among believers with different gifts enhances all areas of ministry.



(*Objections*) "I know more Bible than the others. Why listen to them? I'll handle things!"



Why should there be more dialog and less monologue in worship and teaching sessions?<sup>40</sup>

Why do church planting teams need people with different gifts for best results?<sup>41</sup>

Who are normally the best team members for starting a new church?<sup>42</sup>

What did 'church' mean in the New Testament, besides the universal and local body?<sup>43</sup>

What damage comes from excessive segregation by age?<sup>44</sup>

How can older children prepare younger children to help with teaching during worship?<sup>45</sup>

[Role-play: do the 'one anothers' in small groups]



Plan to link folks with different gifts within and *between* flocks:

<sup>40</sup> God never intended the exclusive use of monologue during teaching times. Scripture requires dialogue, which enables all to learn more and apply it. The Holy Spirit uses interaction powerfully (1 Cor. 14:3, 24-25).

<sup>41</sup> No one has all the gifts needed to develop all the ministries that the New Testament requires of a new church. (See the ministries listed in the box entitled *Menu Headings for Training New Church Leaders*, under the Mentoring activity having the chain icon.

<sup>42</sup> New believers from a nearby church of the same culture. To penetrate other cultures, foreigners should not outnumber nationals nor should foreigners have a high profile. This would stigmatize the faith as a foreign religion.

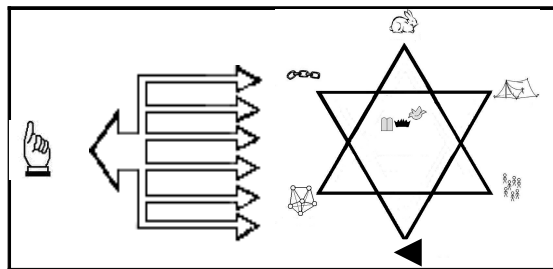
<sup>43</sup> All the churches in a region interacting closely. All New Testament city churches were clusters of house churches; no church building appeared in church history until almost 300 years after Christ.

<sup>44</sup> Children of all cultures crave the friendship of older children. Older children can easily lead, disciple and win younger children to Christ.

<sup>45</sup> Let them prepare younger ones to act out parts of Bible stories briefly during worship. Thus the tots know they are an important part of the church body.



## Meet the risen, living Christ



Keep *experiencing* Jesus, balanced with *learning truths* about how His redemption works.



Matt. 18:20; 1 Cor. 14:3, 24-25; Luke 24:46-48



Experiencing the presence and Headship of Christ is spiritual chiropractic for the church body, enabling it to do all vital activities more joyfully.



*(Objections)* “The most important way to receive Christ is to understand the atonement.”  
“Believers must learn vital theological concepts before they can do serious ministry.”



What does the Holy Spirit do during worship and teaching times in a dynamic movement?<sup>46</sup>

What historical truths did Jesus command His followers to recount to all nations, in His Great Commission in Luke 24:46-48? (His Great Commission appears with different forms in all four gospels and Acts 1).<sup>47</sup>

What emphasis did the apostles always give to Christ’s resurrection when they witnessed?<sup>48</sup>

Why should believers often act out Bible stories to teach God’s Word?<sup>49</sup>

How can a leader move a church or cell group out of a rut of passivity?<sup>50</sup>

What actions can believers do during worship to experience the Presence of Christ?<sup>51</sup>

**[Demonstrations: Mona Lisa. Propheying. Small groups find the presence of Christ. Role-play planting churches]**



Plan to let people meet the Risen, Ascended and Present Lord Jesus Christ:

<sup>46</sup> He makes seekers aware of the Presence of Christ, and convicts seekers of sin, especially when all are edifying one another (1 Cor. 14).

<sup>47</sup> His death, resurrection, and promise of forgiveness to all who repent,

<sup>48</sup> Jesus’ resurrection was always a main point of the message that God used to convince hearers. The New Testament reveals that our eternal life depends entirely on our being raised with Christ.

<sup>49</sup> It helps to deal with God’s Word and think about Jesus in a more active and experiential way.

<sup>50</sup> Completely stop teaching as it has been done, and use the time to pray for the lost by name and make specific plans to evangelize and do other vital ministries, until the group is freed from its rut.

<sup>51</sup> Emphasize His resurrection and ascension.

Ask God in Jesus’ name for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13),

Let all prophesy as God prompts, as in 1 Cor. 14:24,

Let the Holy Spirit help us to feel His Presence,

Let seekers know how much we love Him and why,

Pray for healing in His name,

Make other bold requests in prayer,

Celebrate His supper in a meaningful way,

Accept persecution for His sake with joy, Praise Him joyfully, and thank Him for what He has done,

Obey His commands (Acts 5:32),

Let all use their spiritual gifts,

Talk to Him, and about Him and His Presence, in small groups,

Anoint and pray for believers who plan to do specific tasks,

Let all participate freely, but avoid letting visitors teach until you know their doctrine is sound; avoid strange ‘manifestations’ that distract from obeying Jesus.