

12 Steps to More Effectively Reaching Your Community for God.

As you know, there are many lost people in your community. While some of these people can best be reached by existing churches like yours, for a variety of reasons, most of these lost people can best be reached by new churches and often will only be reached by new churches.

Unless it is very sick, your church can be a church planting church.

Step 1. You, as a church leader, find God's church planting dream for your church. Do some research. (Effective Evangelism, a service to churches, can help with this.) Think big, really big. (Our God is a **big** God.) Think long term – five, ten, even twenty years out. Above all else, pray and listen while you pray. Keep paper and pencil handy while you pray. You may want to devote a day or more just to prayer.

Step 2. Make a personal commitment, with God's help, to begin the process of leading your church to begin a church planting ministry. This, along with step 1, are the most important steps, since, without your personal commitment to the process, it is very unlikely to happen.

Step 3. Inform Effective Evangelism of your commitment and agree to coaching by Effective Evangelism (no cost to you or your church). This step provides support for the following steps.

Step 4. Effective Evangelism will help you "sell" the idea of church planting to your leaders and the rest of the congregation.

Step 5. Church leaders make an official commitment for your church to become a church planting church. There is a large range of possibilities here. Some of the possibilities include 1) planting a church within the next three years, 2) planting at least three churches in the next ten years, 3) planting ten churches in the next ten years, 4) having twenty-five daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter churches in the next ten years. **How big is your faith?**

Step 6. Create a church planting ministry team (committee). The people on this team should be people who have shown they can work well together and are good workers. They also should be open to new ways of doing things. The leader of this team is especially important. It is important that this be someone that has demonstrated the ability to lead volunteers in completing a task. While you and your other church leaders will make this selection, Effective Evangelism may be able to help you select the best person for this critical position.

Step 7. Effective Evangelism will work with you and your church planting ministry team to develop a custom church planting strategy suited to your church. (There is no cost to your church for this.)

Step 8. Effective Evangelism will help you select your church planter. Selecting the right church planter is extremely important. In recent years we have learned some of the characteristics that are especially important for church planters to have. Many people who are quite effective in other ministries do not make good church planters because they lack one or more of these important (sometimes critical) characteristics. Effective Evangelism knows what these characteristics are and how to be reasonably sure that a prospective church planter has the required characteristics.

Step 9. Effective Evangelism will help you in selecting the location of your church plant. This step should begin before step 8 so you have a general idea of where you will plant the church before selecting the church planter. But it is usually good to include the church planter in determining more exactly where the church will be planted. Consequently it will usually not be completed until after step 8 is completed.

Step 10. Effective Evangelism will work with you and your church planter to develop a specific detailed plan for this church plant that fits both your church and your church planter. (Again, there is no cost for this service.)

Step 11. Effective Evangelism will work with you to coach/supervise your church planter both prior to and after the birth of your daughter church.

Step 12. Enjoy the birth (grand opening) of your daughter church.

Bonus step 1. Celebrate the birth of your daughter church.

Bonus step 2. Celebrate the first anniversary of your daughter church.

Bonus step 3. Celebrate the independence of your daughter church.

3 More Steps to Maximize Your Potential

Step 1. Encourage your daughter church to have her own daughter church. This should actually begin with the selection of your church planter.

Step 2. Give birth to another daughter church. Repeat the process above starting at step 7 (or earlier if necessary).

Step 3. Help other churches do what you have done. Especially after you have been thru the process a couple of times, you could lead other churches thru the process of reproduction, multiplying your effectiveness.

Because of the synergy involved, when possible, I like to bring mother churches together in a Parent Church Network and their daughter churches together in a New Church Incubator. Each of these will include between three and six or seven churches. During times together there will normally be some time spent on vision casting and instruction. However, probably the most important thing in the time together will be the mutual encouragement, mutual prayer support and learning from one another (swapping stories of success and failure).