

Church Planting Ministries

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Rickie Bradshaw, Street Talk, Houston, TX (www.streetlifeworldwide.tv)

Starting Churches that Transform the World

We will transform the world from the inside out by empowering God's people to see themselves as disciple-making disciples.

If we want to fill the earth with the glory of God, the best way to do it is church planting with *ordinary* people. Jesus took 12 ordinary people. The disciples were young, probably in their 20-30s. They were simple, unlearned people.

In the Western world we find success in complexity. You need a 2-year seminary degree before you can even get started. So we hire folks to help us do it.

But every day, ordinary people carry the gospel with them. Jesus meant it to be such a movement that ordinary people can take it wherever they go, wherever they are.

I help ordinary people become carriers of the gospel, and *that* is church planting.

Every believer is a church planter. Jesus wanted every Christian to make disciples.

Lessons I had to learn:

1. Every member is a missionary. Discover where they have been sent.
2. Every believer is an ambassador for Christ to the worlds in which they live, work & play.
3. Every believer is a priest. You can be an intercessor all around the city.
4. Every believer is a leader. Influence your world in which you live.
5. Every believer is a minister.

Brian Bloye, Westridge Church, Dallas, GA (www.westridge.com)

Strategically Targeting an Unchurched Community through Church Planting and Community Partnerships

Max Lucado said, "God does not exist to make much of us; we exist to make much of him."

How did I start? I tried throwing money at church plants. Then I started bringing in interns. Then I developed a school of church planting. I sent out people from my own church, including some big givers. But it's not about me, it's a kingdom mindset.

Putting together a network of churches means collaborating with other networks.

Things you need to do:

1. Must have a clear God-given vision. Only way to capture that is through prayer.
2. Regularly share it with your staff and your overall leadership. It costs them. A mindset shift. Also have to share it with your church. Most people don't care what's going on 10 miles away from them. Have to constantly remind ourselves "It's not about me."
3. You need a strong financial commitment. It's not cheap.
4. You need to have a buy-in from the senior leadership, staff, board & elders. Have to own it for yourself. You may lose some of them over it.
5. Have a clear understanding of the cost.
6. Have a clear understanding of staff expectations. Always training people to go out.
7. Must have focused intensity. *You must own the lostness of your community.*

Brokenness + a God-given vision + strategy + faith in a very big God = amazing things!

Tim Hawks, Hill Country Bible Church, Austin, TX (www.hcbc.com)
Beyond Church Planting

We are interested less in the concept of church planting and more in the concept of reaching cities. We're thinking strategically of how we can take ownership of our city for the gospel.

Our Vision: That every man, woman & child in the greater Austin area will have a chance to experience the life-changing reality of Jesus Christ because they hear the gospel from the lips of someone at Hill Country Bible Church.

How will this happen? We came up with a 10% strategy: If we had 10% of the city involved with us, our goal could be reached. But we are working with all the churches.

Each church has a "Jerusalem," as in Acts 1:8. Currently we partner with 100 churches on strategizing how to reach the city. Each church has a 5-year plan for what they will do to plant missional churches.

When we plant a new church, we let them take 10 Missional families to start.

These Missional families commit to:

- breaking all relationships with Christians – no time to hang out with believers
- getting out of any ministry that they're currently involved in
- getting out of any small group that they're currently involved in
- living in the community and meet at least 3 people every week

The church planting couple spends 50 hours per week in the community meeting people, sharing the gospel, leading them to faith and forming them into groups.

It plants people coming to faith within the DNA of the church. The church emerges from the harvest rather than gathering saints from other churches.