

Template for a Cross-Cultural Church Planting Ministry Plan

Every Church Planting effort should start with a detailed written ministry plan. Here is an outline for a cross-cultural church planting ministry plan (sometimes called “proposal”). Catalysts are encouraged to have church planters and their teams use this guide and discuss with them. By asking questions help them discover weaknesses, clarify their vision, and unite around a plan.

Call and Vision

1. What is God leading you and your team to start?
 - Describe what the church or church movement would look like in 10 years.
 - How has God called you to this vision?
 - Why more churches in this city or region?
 - Does your vision include multiplication and transformation?

Ministry Focus People

2. How would you describe the Ministry Focus People?
 - Describe in detail the ministry focus people
 - Support with data – demographics and cultural/worldview observations
 - Vividly describe the location of the target group.
 - What are the felt needs of the people of the focus group?
 - What unique opportunities exist to penetrate this group?
 - What special challenges exist to penetrate this group?

Contextualized Churches

3. What kind of churches are we going to plant?

- State your core values as an apostolic team.
- State and expand your mission statement as an apostolic team.
- What needs to be done to preserve the indigenous nature of the first churches?
- Describe the key elements of existing contextualized or indigenous church among this ministry focus group.

What alternatives can you foresee?

- What will be your role and what will be the role of national believers in deciding the shape of the churches and ministry?

Things that can be decided beforehand

Things that should be decided by national believers

Team identity and Role

4. With whom will you plant this church?

- Describe your role in the process
 - Is it pioneer? Expatriates laying a foundation for new church(es)?
 - Is it a bi-cultural role? Expatriates serving on the same team with nationals and allowing them to have the “up front.”
 - Is it a support role? Expatriates advising, encouraging and equipping church planting teams?
 - Is it as a church planting catalyst, coming alongside and developing local planters?
 - Is it a combination of these?
 - Is it something else not mentioned here?

<i>Vision statement for our team:</i>
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Roles on Team

- Describe your ideal team -- included gift mix.

Define the specific roles you need to fill in order to launch.

Identify the ones that could be added later.

- Describe the primary team leader responsibilities and skills.
- What will be the profile of a ministry partner?
- List the team members you currently have and those you will need.
- Describe how others can best come along side of you.

Evangelism and Discipleship

5. How will you be involved in making disciples?

- Describe how you will meet people and build relationships.

Seekers or prepared people

People of peace (Luke 10)

Local disciples who share the vision (if there are any)

- How will you share the gospel?
- How will you make disciples and foster spiritual growth toward real transformation?
- How will you help disciples become disciple-makers and form other disciples? What will the pattern of reproduction look like?
- Describe how you will gather people to form a core group or assist others in doing so.

Types of gatherings or groups

Selection process

Small Groups

6. What kind of small groups will be needed?

- Describe the groups
 - Bible studies
 - Cell groups
 - Other
- Who will lead them initially?
- How will local facilitators be equipped?
- How will they reproduce?

Leadership Development

7. How will cell group leaders be developed?

- Selection process
- Initial Training
- Coaching as they begin to serve
- Helping them to reproduce

Gatherings for Worship

8. Will the church go public?

- How will worship take place? In cells? In larger celebration gatherings? In both?
- What are the 5 to 8 critical success indicators that must be fulfilled before the church goes public so that the church is really a church?

- Months from conception to birth
- What can be done to encourage the quality spiritual worship (in Spirit and in truth)?
- What can be done to encourage indigenous worship (congruent with culture)?
- What can be done to encourage a vital, dynamic worship experience?

Church Organization

9. What role will be play in the naming of elders, deacons and other ministry leaders?

- How can we contribute to a healthy church DNA?
- How can we contribute to a vision to reproduce?
- How can we contribute to a holistic mindset that aims at transformation?

Resources and Evaluation

10. How much will it cost?

(Keep in mind that the goal is locally funded church planting that is sustainable and leads to reproducing disciples and churches. Start-up funds are often needed until faithful stewards are developed.)

- Define funding strategy
- What kind of a seed fund needed?
 - Start-up funds for team for first year?
 - Potential funding streams?
 - Champions to help promote work?
- How will progress be evaluated?

Next Steps (Use another sheet of paper and describe in as much detail as possible.)

- Present Reality- Where are we at?
- Direction- Where do we want to be in 5 years?
- Options- What must we do this year to move in that direction?
- Obstacles- What must be overcome?
- Partnerships- Who do we believe God is calling us to journey alongside?
- Research- What more do we need to find out?
- Resources – What is needed at this time
- Responsibilities- Who will do what?