

I AM SENT TO MY NATION

In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper."

Acts 13:1-5 (NIV)

❖ The Power of Church Planting

"But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (TEV)

1. Church Planting was INITIATED and is SUSTAINED by God.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

1 Corinthians 3:6 (NIV)

"God did not create the church for those who are already a part of it. God created the church to do whatever it takes to reach those who have never heard."

2. Church Planting is the most EFFECTIVE way to impact LOSTNESS.

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

Acts 16:5 (NIV)

3. Church Planting best helps us fulfill the GREAT COMMISSION.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

❖ The Priority of Church Planting

For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 10:13-15 (NIV)

1. It's a priority because... less than 18% of Americans faithfully ATTEND CHURCH.

2. It's a priority because... new churches add 60% + of its members by CONVERSION.
3. It's a priority because... churches that plant churches also GROW THEMSELVES.

❖ The Principles Behind Effective Church Planting

1. The importance of PRE-PLANTING PRAYER.

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 16:9-10 (NIV)

2. The decision to follow a STRATEGIC PLAN.

"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first getting estimates and then checking to see if there is enough money to pay the bills?"

Luke 14:28 (NLT)

3. The willingness to DISCOVER and to SEND the right PEOPLE.

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Luke 10:2 (NIV)

4. Making sure you are willing to PAY for it... being GENEROUS.

Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NIV)