

Frequently Asked Questions about Church Planting

Caleb Reed, Church Planting Catalyst

1. What are the best practices when it comes to church planting?

- Do you feel God is calling you to plant a new church? Just because you think church planting is a good idea doesn't mean that you are the person to do it. A clear vision, strategic plan, flexibility, and the willingness to go all in for the calling are important elements before getting started.
- Vance Pitman says, "The starting point is wrong when we start with the church. The starting point is the city and gospel engagement. The Great Commission is to make disciples. Jesus never said, "Go plant churches." Check out [this link](#) for the podcast with Vance Pitman. It's worth listening to.
- Pure Motives – Is God calling you to help meet a need in a city or neighborhood or is the underlying motive to "do church" your way?
- Build from a place of prayer. D.L. Moody is quoted saying, "Every great move of God can be traced to a kneeling figure."

2. Where are there needs?

- *City on a Hill Church* in Morgantown, WV (Scott and Crystal Miller) A church plant focusing on reaching international students who attend WVU. They are looking for people to join their core team.
- Utica, New York (Nate & Denise Olmstead) They are focused on connecting with unreached people groups in the city of Utica. Their current model is to live incarnationally within the city of Utica (59,000 people), where over 42 languages are spoken. Nate and Denise are looking for families to move into the city and join them as they share the gospel with their neighbors.

3. What is the best way to approach unchurched people today?

- Through Relationships - Get to know people and take time to listen to the story of their life's journey. It means approaching people without an agenda (the ultimate goal is to share the gospel) and taking it slow. It is important that they feel seen and heard by you prior to asking them to recognize they are a sinner and need Jesus.
- Build Trust - So many people in our world today are living life on the edge. The level of stress that people live with is unreal. Trust is huge; not only do we need to build trust with others, but we also need to show them that they can put their trust in Jesus and that He will be there for them.
- Be Vulnerable - Sharing some of your "skeletons in the closet" shows that you are human and deal with struggles, challenges, and trauma in life as well.

4. How can we build strong discipleship-oriented, disciplined bodies of believers with a passion for Jesus and compassion for the world?

- Discipleship needs to move past a good idea. It needs to be active within our churches and become more than just sitting down for coffee and talking about last weekend's football games. True life-changing discipleship is asking hard questions about life. It's looking at Scripture and seeing how to apply it to our daily life.

- Don't become distracted. There are countless things fighting for our attention. Jesus must be at the center of everything we do. Are we focused on earthly treasures or are we focused on living Kingdom-focused lives?

5. Is church planting, the way that it is currently structured, the best approach to advancing the gospel? If not, is there a better approach?

- Church planting is one of the best ways to reach the unchurched. I have found [this article](#) to be helpful in understanding questions like this.
- A new church plant has an opportunity to build a culture that reflects the community it is reaching. Established churches can have a hard time making changes or adjustments to their culture. This can make it challenging for new believers to connect with established churches. I'm not saying that it can't happen, but it is more challenging.

6. How does Rosedale Network support new church plants?

- **Monthly cohort via Zoom:** Some of the topics we will cover are: Being Kingdom Focused, Leadership Development, Community Engagement, and Thinking Beyond the Four Walls. Contact Caleb Reed at caleb@rosedalenetwork.org for more information on how to join this cohort.
- **Mentoring:** The current church planting catalyst (CP catalyst) will come alongside active planters and prospective planters (individuals or churches), coaching them where they are. The CP catalyst makes an effort to visit the actual location of the church plant to get a feel for things and see firsthand where we are planting churches.
- **Accountability:** This may vary based on who is planting the church. If there is a sending church, the church planter would be accountable to them first and then to the CP catalyst. Those that are being sent under Rosedale Network of Churches (RNoC) would be accountable to the CP catalyst and the CP Oversight Team. The CP Oversight Team is made up of leaders from Rosedale International, Rosedale Bible College, and Rosedale Network of Churches.
- **Financial Resources:** It is our desire to get behind and support those who are planting churches. If there is a sending church, we want to see them taking charge and investing in the plant financially. RNoC does have funds available. For more information, contact the RNoC church planting catalyst.

7. How do you propose to recruit and train a core team?

First and foremost, start with prayer.

- Create a prayer team committed to praying for a core team.
- When asking people to join your core team, ask them to prayerfully consider your request.
- A few things that make a good core team for a church plant (info from *Building Your Core Team: Models and Best Practices* by Ed Stetzer):
 - **A Shared Motive** - We are broken-hearted for those who have never heard and responded to the gospel of Jesus Christ and are zealous to see others experience God's love.
 - **A Shared Mission** - We want to work together to make disciples and see a church formed in a place where the Church doesn't exist.
 - **A Shared Place** - We sense God's Spirit directing us to be about the work in this location with this team.

- **A Shared Ecclesiology** - We understand and share biblical definitions of who the Church is and what they are to do as the people of God.
- **A Shared Commitment** - We are willing to sacrifice to be involved in this work together and commit to preserving the work.

8. What steps do you advise to take in order to determine who is capable of leading a core team?

- Do they have a proven track record?
- Do they have experience in leading teams or groups of people?
- Are they called?