

# The Billy Graham School COMPASS

## Navigating Ministry & Missions

Volume 1 • Issue 4

October 2007

### Multiplying Congregations

Dear church leader,

I had the privilege of pastoring for fourteen years prior to my joining the faculty at Southern Seminary. As I look back across those years, I have many great memories—and some regrets. For example, I regret that I did not mentor young men then like I try to do now. I regret that I did not fully understand how important my leadership was in guiding my church to do personal evangelism. More specifically, I regret that I did not lead my church to get directly involved in planting other churches. Were I pastoring again, here's what I hope I would do:



*"I regret that I did not lead my church to get directly involved in planting other churches."*

1. Begin "planting" the idea

of church planting in the minds of my new congregation from the first time that I meet with a search committee. I would want them to know from the beginning that I want them to be a church planting church.

2. Intentionally mentor young men who might sense a call to ministry—and who might become the church planters

from our congregation. I would allow myself to say no to other responsibilities in order to free up time for mentoring.

3. Get more involved with the church-planting directors in the local association and state denominational offices. If church planting often requires partnering, I would want to know the partners well.

4. Be aware of the demographics of my county and state to determine where more churches are needed. Perhaps in the process God would lay on my heart a location for a new congregation.

5. Grow comfortable with trusting God to meet the church's needs when we send out people and dollars to start another congregation. I would not want fears to get in the way of my supporting a church plant.

6. Rejoice mightily when God blesses the new congregation with growth!

As you might guess, the focus of this *Compass* is church planting. I pray that the ideas, articles, and resources in this edition will increase your burden to be a part of a church planting church.

Chuck Lawless  
Dean, The Billy Graham School of  
Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth

#### Inside this issue:

<i>Multiplying Congregations</i> .....	1
<i>The Other Wing of the Airplane</i> .....	2
<i>Book Review</i> .....	2
<i>Recommended Resources</i> .....	2
<i>Church Health 101</i> .....	3
<i>Purpose Six (Prayer)</i> .....	3
<i>Research Shows</i> .....	3
<i>Missionary Matters</i> .....	4
<i>BGS Helps</i> .....	4
<i>Contact Us</i> .....	4



The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

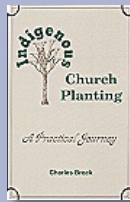
2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, KY 40280 • (800) 626-5525 • www.sbts.edu

FOR THE TRUTH. FOR THE CHURCH. FOR THE WORLD. FOR THE GLORY OF GOD



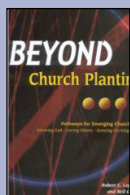
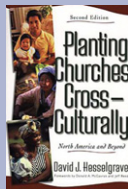
## Recommended Resources

Topic of the Month:  
Church Planting



Brock, Charles.  
*Indigenous Church Planting—A Practical Journey.*

Hesselgrave, David J.  
*Planting Churches Cross-Culturally.*



Logan, Robert E. and Neil Cole.  
*Beyond Church Planting.*

Stetzer, Ed.  
*Planting Missional Churches.*



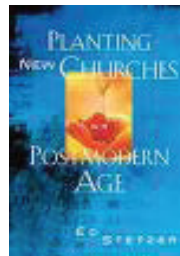
Jones, Tom, ed.  
*Church Planting From the Ground Up*

Next Edition:  
Church Growth

Books can be found at:  
Lifeway.com or Amazon.com

## Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age Book Review

Ed Stetzer uses research and experience to explain how to begin planting churches in a postmodern age. Stetzer provides a practical guide to church planting. He gives answers to questions that only a veteran church planter would know would come up. He works through the biblical basis and missiological



aspects of church planting. He helpfully works through all the stages of planting a church. Very informative and extremely practical, this book is a must read for anyone planning on planting a church.

By: Kevin Hall

**Ed Stetzer. *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age.* Nashville, TN: B&H Pub., 2003.**

## The Other Wing of the Airplane

Every time I board a plane, I am thankful that there are two wings attached to the craft. In fact, the laws of physics and aerodynamics demand that both wings be in their proper places before the airplane will fly correctly.

One of my concerns in North America today is that the Church, figuratively speaking, attempting to fly a plane with one wing. When church growth studies began to impact the North America Church in the early 1970s, the focus was on expansion growth (i.e., numerical growth), and to a lesser degree internal growth (i.e., spiritual growth and campus expansion). Little did we know at that time the church growth principles and methods for the North American Church had been primarily codified. Yet, there was a problem: expansion and internal growth was only one wing of the airplane. For the Church to maintain proper health, another wing must be in its proper place.

Ironically, the contemporary Church Growth Movement was birthed out

of a missiology that included both wings of the airplane. Donald McGavran, the father of the Movement, noted on more than one occasion that churches were to grow via expansion and internal growth but “today’s paramount task, opportunity, and imperative in missions is to multiply churches in the increasing numbers of receptive peoples of the earth” (*Understanding Church Growth*, 63). Though this was the desire of McGavran’s heart, the North American Church has for the most part removed the church planting wing of the airplane.

McGavran penned his words in 1970, yet they are still relevant today. The biblical, historical, evangelistic, cultural, religious, denominational, and economic evidence all point to the need for the North American Church to significantly multiply herself among the multiple people groups and population segments on this continent and beyond.

As you consider leading your church to make disciples of all nations, beginning in your Jerusalem,

and all of Judea and Samaria, let me suggest the following ways to get started in making sure the other wing of the airplane is in its proper place:

- Expose yourself to resources related to North American missions like podcasts, articles, book reviews, and other links at [www.northamericanmissions.org](http://www.northamericanmissions.org)
- Read the article, “The Mother Church and Church Planting” at <http://northamericanmissions.org/files/Mother-Church-JASCG.pdf>.
- Contact the Church Planting Center at Southern Seminary and allow us to assist you in the journey ([churchplanting@sbs.edu](mailto:churchplanting@sbs.edu)).
- Take your church on a short-term mission trip to work with church planters.
- Lead your church to partner long-term with a church planting team and assist them with the ministry.
- Do a study of the book of Acts specifically noting the church planting activities of the Apostolic Church and ask yourself the question: “Does any of this material apply to my church today?”

By: Dr. J.D. Payne, Assistant Professor of Church Planting and Evangelism; Director, Church Planting Center; The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; National Missionary, North American Mission Board

WING #1	WING #2
<b>Internal Growth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spiritual Growth of Members</li> <li>• Construction on Church’s Property</li> <li>• Enlarging Parking/Classroom Space</li> </ul>	<b>Extension Growth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evangelistic Church Planting Among the Same People as the Mother Church</li> </ul>
<b>Expansion Growth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerical Growth</li> <li>• Biological, Transfer, Conversion Growth</li> </ul>	<b>Bridging Growth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evangelistic Church Planting Among Different Peoples/Segments as the Mother Church</li> </ul>

# CHURCH HEALTH 101



## Reproducing Believers, Starting New Churches

Part of church planting is growing disciples of Christ who then reproduce themselves through discipling other believers. Here are some questions to ask in evaluating your church's discipleship strategy:

- Do you have a systematic plan to make disciples? That is, if a member is in your church for three years, do you have an intentional strategy to give him the information, tools, and training he needs to be a devoted disciple of Christ?
- If God were to send a great harvest to your church, would your structure and programs be ready to fold those new members into the church?
- Of the new members who joined your church within the last two years, how many are now clearly involved in the ministries of the church?
- How many new members typically disappear from your church within six months of their joining?
- Are you personally mentoring anyone in the church? If not, that may be the place to start.

# PURPOSE SIX

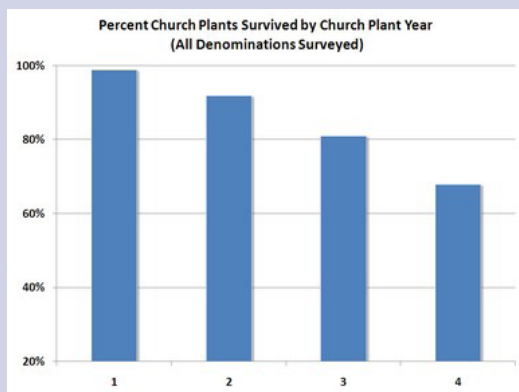
## Prioritizing Prayer in Your Church

- **Set the Agenda** – Pastors must lead the church to be a praying church.
- **Staff for Prayer** – Most effective evangelistic churches have a churchwide prayer ministry, led by a staff member or a designated layperson.
- **Calendar for Prayer** – Proper planning is key to getting the task accomplished.
- **Budget for Prayer** – Prayer-driven churches plan prayer events and make sure that the budget reflects a commitment to prayer.
- **Provide Space for Prayer** – Set aside a place specifically for prayer.
- **Publicize Prayer** – People in your church and community can support and utilize your ministry only if they know it exists.

# RESEARCH SHOWS

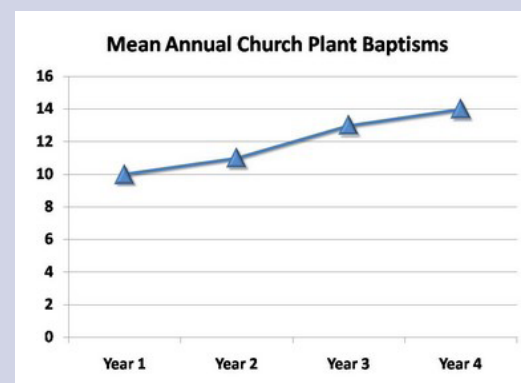
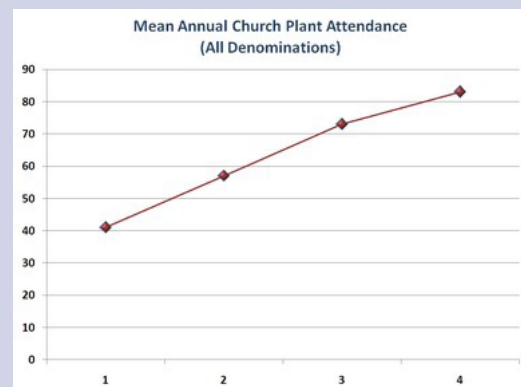
## Church Planting Statistics

Surveyors surveyed more than 2000 churches planted from 2000 to 2005, determined the status of 1000 of them, and interviewed 500. Below are the graphs resultant of the research.



Research by Ed Stetzer and Phillip Conner.

[http://www.namb.net/site/c.9qKILUOzEPh/b.1835745/apps/nl/content3.asp?content\\_id={EBFACBFF-3FA5-4FFD-A1C6-707900CE0016}&notoc=1](http://www.namb.net/site/c.9qKILUOzEPh/b.1835745/apps/nl/content3.asp?content_id={EBFACBFF-3FA5-4FFD-A1C6-707900CE0016}&notoc=1)



## Missionary Matters

### NYC Church Plant

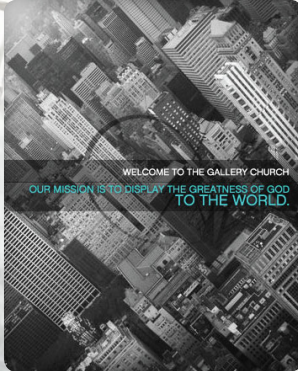


Aaron Coe, along with his wife Carmen and son Ezra James, planted The Gallery Church of New York City in September 2006.

Aaron is an Mdiv candidate at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. To date, the church has three locations and 250 regular attendees. The church has seen many people coming to know Christ and has a vision for reaching New York City. They currently have

two Manhattan locations and one location in Brooklyn. Their vision is to launch 100 gatherings throughout NYC in the next ten years. In the spring of 2008 they are launching a church plant in Baltimore, Maryland. They recognize that their vision will only be accomplished through prayer. Thus, as you lead your church in prayer, please pray for Aaron and The Gallery Church.

[www.gallerychurch.com](http://www.gallerychurch.com), [www.theleadershipjourney.org](http://www.theleadershipjourney.org).



**BGS HELPS**

### Interested in further study in church planting?

Consider taking an on-line class through Southern Seminary.

[http://www.sbts.edu/academics/online\\_education.aspx](http://www.sbts.edu/academics/online_education.aspx)

### Might God be calling you and your church to plant a church?

[http://www.sbts.edu/campus\\_life/Church\\_Planting\\_Center.aspx](http://www.sbts.edu/campus_life/Church_Planting_Center.aspx)

### Interested in the mission needs of New York City??

Contact the Metro New York Baptist Association: [www.mnyba.org](http://www.mnyba.org).

### Need a good evangelistic tract?

<http://www.sbts.edu/pdf/GRACE.pdf>

### Know others who might be interested in receiving this e-newsletter?

Send their contact information to [bgsinfo@sbts.edu](mailto:bgsinfo@sbts.edu).

### Know college students who might want to receive a new Graham School collegiate newsletter that is now available?

Send their contact information to [bgsinfo@sbts.edu](mailto:bgsinfo@sbts.edu), or invite them to join the Facebook group, "Students for Global Impact."

### Contact Us:

**The Billy Graham School • 2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, Kentucky 40280  
(502) 897-4108 • 1-800-626-5525 Ext. 4108 • Email: [BGSchool@sbts.edu](mailto:BGSchool@sbts.edu)**

*Compass* is a production of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

For more information about The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary go to: [www.sbts.edu](http://www.sbts.edu).

Executive Editor: Kevin S. Hall

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Chuck Lawless