

Case study

Church planting in the Franco-Haitian Ministries of the Greater New York Conference

Church planting challenges in Franco Haitian Ministries

In the Franco-Haitian Ministries, we want to develop a strategy for Church planting over a 4-year period. But we facing some resistance to this idea. The vast majority of our members feel comfortable in their church. For them, there is no need to leave their actual church to plan a new one.

(Boshart 2009)affirms that Beyond the theological and internal organizational issues that pose challenges to developing missional congregations, denominational and conference leaders identify certain social pressures that may negatively impact church-planting initiatives

Paas (2018) declares that in fact, especially among evangelical Protestants, it is widely believed that church planting furthers numerical growth, including conversion growth.

Niebauer (2016) affirms that Church planting as it developed in the West can be seen as a development within the broader context of the church growth movement pioneered by missiologist Donald McGavran in the 1950s through the 1990s.

Boshart (2009) affirms that we are in a current stage where there doesn't seem to be a concerted effort in church planting.

Niebauer (2016) argues that McGavran advocated the development of monoethnic congregations in order to enable a more contextually appropriate and comfortable environment for sharing the gospel—an environment proven by analytical research to increase conversion.

Biblical foundation for Church planting

Christ loves the church and promised to build it (Matthew 16:18).

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

The majority of Christians I meet like the idea of church planting conceptually but would never give serious consideration planting one themselves. One reason many Christians do not more readily consider planting churches is that they are unable to pinpoint a biblical foundation for church planting. They simply do not know the Bible commands Christians to start new churches.

Consider how the great preacher Charles Spurgeon urged his congregation in a sermon titled “The Waterer Watered” on April 23, 1865:

“We encourage our members to leave us to found other Churches; nay, we seek to persuade them to do it. We ask them to scatter through—out the land to become the goodly seed, which God shall bless. I believe that so long as we do this we shall prosper.” ¹

Who misunderstood the Great Commission?

Virtually every evangelical church in North America would agree that the Great Commission applies to all churches, and all churches and all Christians should endeavor to fulfill the Great Commission. Yet, far fewer are able to accept that every church and every Christian should be involved in church planting. This perspective contradicts Scripture. It is important to realize the Great Commission is fulfilled by church planting, and the Great Commission cannot be properly fulfilled without planting churches.²

The Great Commission is a call to plant churches - Spoken by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission is essentially a call to plant new churches. We can say this because baptizing, teaching and making disciples are exactly what churches are commanded to do throughout the rest of the New Testament! Additionally, the dozen men who originally heard Jesus say the words “baptize, teach and make disciples” responded by spending the rest of their lives planting new churches.

The Apostles were church planters - The Apostles themselves were church planters, and the book of Acts is an account of their church planting ministry. They planted churches with little support from other churches and against great political and religious opposition. Ultimately, their commitment to obey the Great Commission by planting churches cost them their lives. The Apostles were church planters - The Apostles themselves were church planters, and the book of Acts is an account of their church planting ministry. They planted churches with little support from other churches and against great political and religious opposition. Ultimately, their commitment to obey the Great Commission by planting churches cost them their lives.

Paul was a church planter - His commissioning by the church at Antioch in Acts 13 marks the beginning of an incredible church planting streak by the great apostle. Over the course of 13 years, Paul embarked

¹ Retrieved in <https://www.namb.net/send-network-blog/where-is-church-planting-in-the-bible/>

² Ibid

on three missionary journeys, during which he traveled more than 7,000 miles and planted at least 14 new churches. Paul was a church planter - His commissioning by the church at Antioch in Acts 13 marks the beginning of an incredible church planting streak by the great apostle. Over the course of 13 years, Paul embarked on three missionary journeys, during which he traveled more than 7,000 miles and planted at least 14 new churches.

Church planting is central to Pauline understanding and practice of mission (Romans 15:19-20, 1 Corinthians 3:5-6).

The book of Acts demonstrates that new churches are the normal and necessary result of evangelism and disciple-making.

God grows His church by adding those who are saved (1 Corinthians 3:6, Acts 2:47).

Niebauer (2016) declares that for Christians, church planting is authorized principally by Scripture. Scripture is the foundational document that both authorizes and initiates church planting. We see it authorized by Jesus in the Gospels, primarily in the key texts of John 20 and in the great commission in Matthew 28. We then see the initial beginnings of church planting in the book of Acts, primarily in Paul's missionary journeys.

Importance of Church planting

The planting of new churches is one of the best ways to revitalize many older churches in the vicinity.³

the planting of new churches in a city is one of the very best ways to revitalize many older churches in the vicinity and renew the whole body of Christ. Why?

New churches best reach a) new generations, b) new residents, and c) new people groups.

Paas (2018) confirms some hypothesis:

1. Age hypothesis: church planting furthers church growth because new churches grow better than older churches.
2. Size hypothesis: church planting furthers church growth because planted churches are usually small, and small churches grow better than larger churches:

³ <https://www.acts29.com/why-church-planting/>

Paas and Vos (2016) affirms that C. Peter Wagner, previously professor of missiology at Fuller Theological Seminary, asserts that “the single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting new churches.”

. Niebauer (2016) affirms that Church planting offers the ability for one to partake in these actions, actions which allow the participant to be caught up in the very life of God. The practice of church planting encompasses a variety of missional acts, acts which participate in the trinitarian missions of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Effa (2010) thinks that even churches founded as missional communities may need to be periodically reactivated and retooled to their original intent

Paas (2018) affirms that In conclusion, it seems that young churches are doing relatively (far) better when it comes to growth in general and conversion growth in particular, but since they suffer heavy losses from church leaving at the same time

1 Corinthians 3:5-17

1 Corinthians 3:5-17 is a key passage in the area of church development. This passage seems to tell that God is the key factor to make the church grow, regardless of what the leaders of the church do (v.6). But on the other hand, our labors and efforts also contribute to the outcome of church growth (v.8). Furthermore, this passage clearly tells us that as God’s fellow workers, we should be careful how to build the church as a whole. The various raw materials of gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw indicate different qualities of life or church (v.12). We, the servants of God, should be careful in selecting the raw materials to build the temple of God. (Lai)

Paas and Vos (2016) declare that Lyle Schaller, a well-known researcher among church growth theorists, suggests, “If you are interested in reaching new people, by far the most effective way to do this is through church planting.”

Michel (2006) affirms that German Christian denominations have been losing members year by year for the past five Many decades

Pastor Ron states:

According to the North American Mission Board, in 1900, there were 27 churches for every 10,000 Americans. In 2004 there were 11 churches for every 10,000 Americans. If the current trend for church attendance continues in America, by 2050 only 11.7% of America will attend church. The Barna Group reports that the number of unchurched adults has nearly doubled from 1991 to 2004. A Barna study explained, 'Since 1991, the adult population in the United States has grown by 15%. During that same period, the number of adults who do not attend church has nearly doubled, rising from 39 million to 75 million—a 92% increase.' Clearly, we are losing ground with each passing year. We have a growing evangelistic deficit in America that will best be answered by starting new churches.⁴

Develop a strategy for Church planting in the Franco Haitian Ministries

In the Franco-Haitian Ministries we plan to develop strategy for Church planting. We have some trainings on Church Planting. We will put the emphasis on Missionary focus and Leadership.

1. *Missionary focus:* Pastors in newer churches foster more missionary expectations in their congregations, set explicit missionary goals, and are prepared to make sacrifices in order to reach out to their community. In other words, they work harder in terms of evangelism and social action.
2. *Leadership:* Church planters are much more entrepreneurial than pastors of older churches, are more hopeful about the missionary opportunities in their community, and more often feel a specific vocation for (evangelistic) mission.

⁴ from Sylvia, Starting New Churches, 20-21. (Microsoft Word - Corrected Final Draft Thesis Paper.docx)

I want that the pastors and local church leaders to understand that the planting of new churches in a city is one of the very best ways to revitalize many older churches in the vicinity and renew the whole body of Christ.

A paradigm for church planting

Boshart (2009) affirms that in the past was characterized more by individual initiative than systemic strategy. That's why I want to develop a strategy and establish a system. I will reach to each pastor to plan a new church in his district during the next 4 years.

The Great Commission is a call to plant churches - Spoken by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission is essentially a call to plant new churches. We can say this because baptizing, teaching and making disciples are exactly what churches are commanded to do throughout the rest of the New Testament! Additionally, the dozen men who originally heard Jesus say the words "baptize, teach and make disciples" responded by spending the rest of their lives planting new churches.

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Appendix A

New church planted in 2019: Antioche



Appendix B

New church planted in 2019: Shekinah







