

Straight Street for Church Planters

A Spiritual Preparation Guide to Basic Training

Scenic Route

2002

Acknowledgments

Straight Street for Church Planters is dedicated to all church planters and their spouses and team members for their commitment to God, for their desire to seeing people won to Jesus Christ, and for growing the kingdom by the multiplying of New Testament churches.

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HISTORY OF STRAIGHT STREET

Dr. Joe Hernandez, North American Mission Board, SBC

While at a NAMB week at Ridgecrest during the summer of 1998, I was visiting with one of the state convention language missions workers. In the conversation, he was sharing with me what had occurred during a major evangelism event in his state. He had indicated how the focus group to which he was assigned had received only a small portion of the resources for the project. He then indicated that they decided to commit their time to preparing spiritually for the project since they did not have training event funds nor materials to use in any training or promotion. Once the major evangelism events took place, it was remarkable that though his focus group was only a small percentage of the total population, the evangelism results were equal to all other groups together. He was making a point that one should prepare for special events through a process of spiritual preparation and not rely only on good training events.

His words stuck with me as I went on to the worship service that evening and then a major thought struck me! Here we had been in the process of providing Church Planter Basic Training across North America for two years and though it seemed that every workshop was an excellent experience, it was evident that some people had a difficult time engaging fully the depth of the Basic Training workshop. It was apparent that for some the process of working through concepts like developing vision and mission statements might be new and they would need some processing time to fully assimilate the “new” things. For some, it was having to think about what they needed to work on, for a plan had not been initiated. For a few, it might have been nothing more than just going through the hoops that were expected for them to jump through. Whatever the reason, it took a couple of units before it seemed to come together and the participants got into the full swing of the workshop, but precious time was not fully realized in well laid out plans.

That was it! For many of the planting team members, there was the lack of preparation for the Basic Training workshop, more precisely, the lack of the spiritual preparation for the event. I realized that we had a great workshop that helped the planting team lay out their church planting plan, but we had missed the spiritual preparation that would have indeed prepared each one for what God would accomplish through a workshop experience.

The next day, I shared my thoughts with a fellow worker and as I was telling him what I was thinking, I used my arms to demonstrate the dynamic that had been occurring. I laid one of my arms on the table and said that we had created an excellent resource (BT), but it was horizontal, that is from person to person. I then put my other arm with the elbow on the table which was reaching up and indicated that we assumed that the connection with God was occurring, thus the vertical dimension. I then demonstrated that we needed a hinge that connected us to the vertical, God, and this should occur prior to any good horizontal activity, such as the Basic Training.

Out of that discussion was born the idea of a connection, thus the birth of Straight Street, the Spiritual Preparation for Church Planters manual. This was to be a Bible study and prayer approach in which the church planting team member would seek out the issues and topics found in the Basic Training by starting with God through the study of His Word and listening to Him through prayer.

Thus now you have this resource Straight Street for Church Planters, which is intended to connect us to God first and from seeking God, knowing what this means to any process which results in developing a church planting plan. It is our hope that you will seriously consider preparation, that is the spiritual preparation so that you will know what God has in store for you as you experience Basic Training.

Straight Street for Church Planters

Unit 1 - Overview

Scripture Helps:

Welcome to Straight Street for Church Planters:

I. What is Straight Street for Church Planters?

Straight Street is a personal spiritual preparation guide to be used by members of a church planting team 2-8 weeks before engaging in Basic Training for Church Planters. Straight Street may also be helpful to an early stage church planter who is working through the Early Stage Church Planter Development Resource (ESCPDR). For more information on ESCPDR, visit the North American Mission Board, SBC Church Planting Group Web site, The Village (www.churchplantingvillage.net).

Ideally, a church planter will work through the self-study units that make up Straight Street with the aid of a mentor. By completing Straight Street which is based on Acts chapter 9, a member of a church planting team will be better prepared from a spiritual perspective to process and implement much of the content found in Basic Training for Church Planters.

Straight Street consists of eight units and five appendices not including the overview. A participant will complete the journey through Straight Street by choosing to travel one of three routes, which are described below. Each route involves a different level of intensity and time commitment.

Reflection and Thoughts

- Scenic Route (scenic, slow paced, plenty of stops) – Travel this road if you want to experience all the detail that each unit has to offer and will engage Basic Training for Church Planters in approximately 4-8 weeks.
- Business Route (a few stops along the way) – Travel this road if you want to experience the basics that each unit has to offer without all of the detail and will engage Basic Training for Church Planters in approximately 2-4 weeks.
- Express Route (fast paced, no stops) – Travel this road if you want to experience the main learning objective for each unit and will engage Basic Training for Church Planters within 2 weeks.

A few questions you should consider when choosing which route to travel are: How much time are you willing to invest daily in completing the units and when will you engage in *Basic Training for Church Planters?

**Once a church planter or a member of a church planting team has determined their role in the church plant and identified the people and place, then they should attend a Basic Training event.*

If you were given a printed copy of this overview, and you would like to access and download Straight Street in its entirety, you may do so by going to the North American Mission Board, SBC Church Planting Group Web site: www.churchplantingvillage.net

II. Learning Objectives

Each unit in Straight Street begins with a desired learning outcome, which corresponds with the unit by the same name in the Basic Training for Church Planters participant manual.

Listed are the learning outcomes for each Straight Street unit and the corresponding Basic Training unit:

Unit 1 – Overview

Desired outcome from this unit: A general overview of Straight Street.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Overview: In this section on strategic planning the church planting team members are introduced to the big picture – the orchard, which is the kingdom of God. A Vision Tree graphic is used to depict the kingdom of God; participants are challenged to think beyond planting just their church, but to see their church plant as a church planting church that will reproduce disciples, leaders, new units, and new churches.

Unit 2 – Prayer

Desired outcome from this unit: For participants to reflect on how prayer has shaped their lives and how their prayers and the prayers of intercessors can shape the future of the church plant.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Prayer: For the planting team to develop a list of potential intercessors and a plan to enlist these individuals as an intercessory prayer team.

Unit 3 – Vision

Desired outcome from this unit: For participants to identify key Scriptures that pertain to the kingdom of God and the vision that God has given them for the church plant.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Vision: For the planting team to develop a rough draft of a vision statement.

Unit 4 – Core Values

Desired outcome from this unit: For participants to identify the values behind the functions of the early church and to identify their own personal core values.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Core Values: For individual team members to understand the importance of core values, to begin a list of personal core values, and to dialogue about what will become the new church's core values.

Unit 5 – Focus Group

Desired outcome from this unit: For participants to understand how God has gifted them, and how He might use their giftedness, uniqueness, background, and life experiences to reach a specific focus group of people.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Focus Group: For the church planting team to develop an understanding of the persons and their needs and to profile a typical household within their ministry focus group.

Unit 6 – Missions

Desired outcome from this unit: For participants to know what God would have them to do now based upon the things that He has recently convicted, convinced, and corrected them about. To understand the call to missions in a way that is contagious to other believers.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Missions: For the church planting team to develop a rough draft of the mission statement for the new church.

Unit 7 – Relationships

Desired outcome from this unit: For participants to understand that Jesus must be the central focus of their lives and to recognize that God has prepared others to come alongside them in the church plant so that they will not be alone.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Relationships: To help the church planter/planting team begin a process of examining relationships essential in the church planting experience.

Unit 8 – Evangelism

Desired outcome from this unit: For participants to reflect on the lostness of man and how God desires to use them to lead lost people to Christ. The participants will also consider their level of

evangelistic training and their understanding of evangelistic approaches. The participants will be challenged to share their faith using an approach of their choosing.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Evangelism:

For the church planting team to develop an evangelism strategy that is based on the identified ministry focus group.

Unit 9 – Worship

Desired outcome from this unit: For participants to discover or be reminded that true worship always focuses on God.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Worship: To help the church planting team begin to deal with principles related to worship and develop a worship plan sensitive to the issues of the ministry focus group.

III. Straight Street Learning Approach

The learning approach for Straight Street is self-study. The guide may prove to be most beneficial to the church planter or member of a church planting team who has a mentor to guide and help them to reach their full potential. Please visit the NAMB Church Planting Group Web site for more information about mentoring or if you do not have a mentor but desire one, a mentor selection guide is available at the Web site for your use:

www.churchplantingvillage.net

The content of Straight Street emphasizes one or two learning components or activities from Basic Training for Church Planters. Straight Street was not designed to be an exclusive or exhaustive authority on any of the subject matters contained in the guide. We acknowledge that much more could be written on each of the units, but again the desire was to highlight one or two learning components from Basic Training for Church Planters. A bibliography of suggested reading is included for those who wish to gain further insights into church planting. The participant will note that some units contain more content and activities than others. That design is intentional.

Each unit contains three sets of questions that serve to guide the participant through the study materials. Those questions are:

- 1. What is God saying to me in His Word?**
- 2. What is God saying to me through others?**
- 3. What is it that I am supposed to be doing?**

Within each of the three sets of questions are a series of reflective

questions that require some type of action from the participant. Normally, these reflective questions will require a written response from the participant.

An example from the unit on Core Values:

Read the account of Saul on the road to Damascus in Acts 9:2. Identify the behaviors that he was modeling before his encounter with Jesus Christ.

The biblical content for most of the units is from Acts chapter 9, which relates to Saul’s encounter with Jesus Christ. Scriptures outside of Acts 9 are used on occasion for adding additional emphasis or to expound upon related principles.

IV. The ABC’s to get the most out of Straight Street

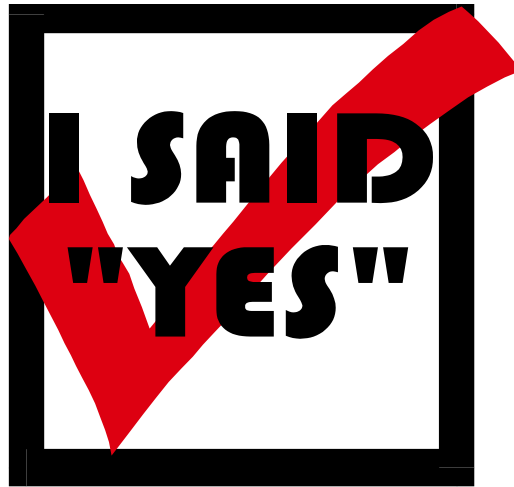
1. Approach it with an open and prayerful spirit.
2. **Be** transparent and honest in your answers.
3. Complete all units in consecutive order.

V. Additional Helps

In the left hand margin there are headings titled, *Scripture Helps* and *Thoughts and Reflection*. These headings provide a place for the participant to record related Scripture references, notes, resources, and their thoughts. On occasion Scripture references or resources will be listed there. Remember, this is your personal journey to spiritual preparedness to Basic Training for Church Planters. Feel free to record in the margins of each unit your thoughts, any notes that you will need to refer to when you engage Basic Training, and/or Scriptures that God uses to speak to you.

NOTE: You will want to have your Straight Street guide with you once you engage Basic Training for Church Planters.

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare you for Basic Training through Straight Street. If you are willing, sign the covenant saying yes, "I will complete Straight Street."



God, I will complete Straight Street with an open mind and transparent spirit.

Signed: _____

The following is an Annotated Bibliography that may be helpful to you. It represents the views of one reviewer and does not necessarily represent the views of the North American Mission Board, SBC.

**Annotated North American Church Planting
Bibliography
Updated March 2002**

“I like reading sailing books by people who have circumnavigated the globe; I prefer history from the pen of eyewitnesses who participated when the tide turned for a nation; and I want to read church planting books by people who have been down the alley-ways of neopagan Western society and know what it means to call together a new body of believers in Jesus Christ.” –J. Nelson Kraybill, from the Foreword to *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*.

Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods, St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1962.
Though not directly related to North American church planting, this is a seminal book in missiology. Allen posits that the key to evangelizing the world is the adoption of “Paul’s strategy.” Paul relied on trained lay leadership as pastors and elders. Allen’s prescriptions can be applied to the North American scene with the development of lay church planting strategies. His focus on the Holy Spirit’s role is also key to fostering church planting movements today.

Amstutz, Harold E. *Church Planter's Manual*. Cherry Hill, NJ: Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, Inc., 1985.
This book starts as a standard manual with forms, procedures, policies, and the like. The second part of the book then provides five examples of planting situations. Each of these examples is taken from international fields but have application to North American contexts.

Becker, Paul. *Dynamic Church Planting*. Vista, CA: Multiplication Ministries, 1992.
DCP is a three-ring binder/workbook (not a paperback or hardback). It is intended as a guide for a church planter to move through the planting process sequentially. It includes a large section of checklists for the plant. It is a helpful resource for church planters looking for a step-by-step guide.

Brock, Charles. *Indigenous Church Planting*: Nashville: Broadman Press, 1981.
Brock’s resources are time-tested and valuable.

However, they do reflect a paradigm used more frequently in decades past. His ideas often come from his years of church planting in the Philippines among tribal people. As such, they will often relate well in a lower socio-economic bracket in North America, but not to all contexts. The greatest value will be for indigenous lay persons seeking to plant churches in center cities or rural North America.

Bunch, David, Jarvey Kneisel and Barbara Oden. *Multihousing Congregations: How to Start and Grow Christian Congregations in Multihousing Communities*. Atlanta, GA: Smith Publishing, 1991.

This resource is the only widely published resource available on planting churches in multi-housing congregations (in apartment buildings, trailer parks, etc). Since the vast majority of residents will only be reached by a ministry based inside the multi-housing facility, this is an essential resource. Although multi-housing ministry has declined in visibility in the last decade, the ministry remains essential since 60% of unchurched North America lives in multi-housing settings.

Cannistraci, David. *The Gift of Apostle*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1996.
Cannistraci redefines apostle to mean visionary leader. Though he addresses church planting, he does so in a limited fashion. The title is misleading. This is more a work about redefining leadership than apostolic church planting.

Chaney, Charles L. *Church Planting at the End of the Twentieth Century*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1993.
In the early nineties, Chaney's book was the best available resource on the topic of North American church planting. Since it is out of print, it has been largely replaced by Malphur's church planting book. The most recent revision adds contemporary methods like the "big start." This is one of the five best books specifically related to planting.

Conn, Harvie, M. ed. *Planting and Growing Urban Churches: From Dream to Reality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1996.
Conn's book is not a "how-to" resource for urban planting. It is an advocacy book, not a practitioner's book. If taken as advocacy, it does well. Conn points out the importance of having an urban strategy to reach the burgeoning inner cities of the world.

Faircloth, Samuel D. *Church Planting for Reproduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991.
Faircloth's book starts as a survey oriented textbook, but quickly becomes a systematic church planting strategy. It is not geared toward North American planting, but this is not a shortcoming. This is one of the few principle-oriented books available that relate to North American planting. In this case,

Faircloth calls his system PERT (a system of Program Evaluation and Review Technique). Regardless of the terminology, this is an important missiological resource for discerning North American planters.

Francis, Hozell C. *Church Planting in the African American Context*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

Hozell's book is one of the most recent texts published in church planting. It is a valuable resource in a field with limited literature. Unlike the other texts dealing with African-American church planting, Hozell actually focuses less on the mechanics of planting and more on the sociology of the African-American church (preaching, ministry, leadership, etc.). These are helpful materials, but further study of "how to" plant in the African-American context would add to the strength of the book.

Hesselgrave, David J. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: A Guide for Home and Foreign Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1980.

Hesselgrave's book is a step-by-step guide to planting a church in a culture different from one's own. Though systematic, it avoids being simplistic. Instead, each step is explained in practice and in theory. This is the most valuable resource available for cross-cultural planting.

Hiebert, Paul G. and Eloise Hiebert Meneses. *Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing House, 1995.

On the surface, this book would have little to do with North American church planting. Understandably, its primary focus is planting in the developing world. However, it is not a book about methods or biblical underpinnings. It is about the sociological structures that make up a society. Since the book's primary focus is urban societies, it provides great discernment for inner-city planters seeking to understand the urban context.

Hurn, Raymond W. *The Rising Tide: New Churches for the New Millennium*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1997.

Hurn is former superintendent of the Nazarene denomination and this text is geared toward Nazarenes. One strength of the book is the historical overview of Nazarene church planting. The book is primarily an advocacy work.

Jones, Ezra E. *Strategies for New Churches*. New York: Harper and Row, 1976.

Jones writes about church planting from a mainline perspective. The book was ahead of its time, particularly in its attempts to quantify personality characteristics in effective planters (as Ridley has done today). Unfortunately, it is not up to date with

today's technologies and methods.

King, Fred G. *The Church Planter's Training Manual*. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1992.

This is an oversized book primarily geared at church planters in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church with a small amount of universally applicable material. It consists of articles, forms and examples. It will not be of great value to the non-CMA planter.

Lewis, Larry L. *The Church Planter's Handbook*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993.

Lewis is former president of the SBC Home Mission Board and now involved in the Celebrate Jesus project. He is an experienced planter. Though the book is out of date technologically and methodologically, it provides excellent resources related to time management and the priority of evangelism in church planting.

Logan, Robert E. *Beyond Church Growth*. Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1989.

Though the title can be misleading, the book is a great resource for church planting. It provides resources for all churches, but is a great supplement for Logan's "Church Planter's Toolkit" available from www.churchsmart.com (the best widely-available resource).

Logan, Robert E. and Steven L. Ogne. *Church Planter's Toolkit*. Pasadena, CA: Charles E. Fuller Institute for Evangelism and Church Growth, 1991.

The Toolkit is the most widely known resource in North American church planting today. It is a twelve-tape series that provides guidance through each step of planting a high impact North American church. It is widely known because there is no other resource as effective for practical preparation. Its two disadvantages are that it is only available in tape format and Dr. Logan is a bit dry in his presentation.

MacNair, Donald J. *The Birth, Care and Feeding of a Local Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1976.

As can be guessed from the publishing date, this book is out of date. Redford's book is equally dated, but it provides the same resource information with more clarity. The section on "Locating Seed Families" is probably the only part of the book that would be helpful for planting today.

Mannoia, Kevin. *Church Planting: The Next Generation*. Indianapolis, IN: Light and Life Communication, 1994.

Mannoia provides a "systems" book. He describes the system developed by his denomination (Free Methodist) which

mirrors that used by many other denominations. Mannoia divides the system into the following categories: Parent Church Network, Profile Assessment System, New Church Incubator, Recruitment Network, Pastor Factory, Church Planter's Summit, Maturing Church Cluster, Strategic Planning Network, Harvest 1000, and the Meta-Church Network. This will be a helpful resource for groups and denominations that do not have a church planting process in place. Those with an effective system may find this book helpful.

McNamara, Roger N. *A Practical Guide to Church Planting*. Cleveland, OH: Baptist Mid-Missions. 1985.

McNamara is writing from the perspective of starting an independent Baptist church in the fundamentalist tradition. The book is very detailed and provides example constitutions, services, etc. It will be of limited use to others.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21 Century: A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and Those Desiring Renewal*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1992.

Malphurs' book is the most commonly used church planting text in academia. The book is often accused of being too focused on large church planting with large mother churches. However, this is the best resource available. (I am a little biased since I wrote a study guide on the book, available at www.seminaryextension.org.) Aubrey tells me that he is working on a third edition that will incorporate more strategic planning information. This will make the book even stronger.

Moorhouse, Carl W. *Growing New Churches: Step-by-Step Procedures in New Church Planting*. Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1975.

Moorhouse provides a workbook-like text that is primarily made up of example forms, publications, and brochures. It is out of date.

Murray, Stuart. *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2001.

The author explains, "This book is not a training manual. It does not engage with all the practicalities of church planting. But it is written for practitioners rather than hearers." This is an excellent work that, I hope, will help prompt others to think missiologically and theologically about church planting. The book was originally (1998) available only in Great Britain but now has a North American version. The book is one of the few books that analyzes the criticisms of church planting and gives solid answers (not just refutations). There are some excellent references to postmodern church planting without the typical obsession with

“nifty” ideas and methods. I think this book is one of the best available.

Nevius, John L. *Planting and Development of Missionary Churches*. Nutley, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1958.

Nevius is not well known in North American church planting for good reason. His influence is primarily found in Korea. However, his ideas influence North American planting. His emphasis on indigenous ministry (three-selves) helped spark the remarkable growth of the Korean church.

Ratliff, Joe S. and Michael J. Cox. *Church Planting in the African-American Community*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1993.

Church planting is always difficult, but (according to Ratliff and Cox) it is even more so in the African-American community. In the African-American context, church planting is often perceived as an insult to the established church and its pastor. This work is intended for Southern Baptists, but is widely applicable in other situations. It provides advocacy, examples, and practical suggestions.

Reddin, Opal. *Planting Churches that Grow*. Springfield, MO: Central Bible College Press, 1990.

One of few women (or Pentecostals) writing on the topic of church planting, Reddin provides an excellent resource. First, she provides insight into some of the growth in the Pentecostal movement by emphasizing spiritual gifts and the power of the Spirit. Second, she provides some interesting insights into planting churches targeted at cults and new-agers.

Redford, Jack. *Planting New Churches*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1978.

Redford’s book was, at one time, the most influential book on Southern Baptist Church planting. His “Nine Steps” were the paradigm adopted by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Though dated, the book is still a valuable resource today for the mother church seeking to start a daughter congregation. Its “steps” should not be followed by the pioneer pastor. Instead, they are intended to be followed by the involved mother church starting a daughter congregation.

Ridley, Charles R. *How To Select Church Planters*. Pasadena: Fuller Evangelistic Association, 1988.

Ridley’s writing and training have become the standard used in North America to evaluate potential church planters. This book, though difficult to find, is the standard writing and should be required reading for everyone who selects

church planters.

Romo, Oscar I. *American Mosaic Church Planting in Ethnic America*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993.

Romo describes the current ethnic church planting system in place among Southern Baptists. This system includes ethnic fellowships and intentional ethnic planting and training. He does advocate the need for planting by describing an increasingly pluralistic society. He then provides suggestions and worksheets to develop an ethnic planting strategy.

Sanchez, Daniel R., Ebbie C. Smith, and Curtis E. Watke.

Reproducing Congregations: A Guidebook for Contextual New Church Development. Cumming, GA: Church Starting Network. 2001.

This book is a textbook and may have value for academic use. The authors show a strong grasp of the available literature and it is heavily footnoted. I am a big fan of Dr. Sanchez and his thorough approach comes through. Because it is geared toward an academic setting, it may be too detailed for the average North American church planter. The book covers all of church planting, not just the North American side, so it moves from starting one church, to catalytic roles, to other topics. Honestly, I wish it were two books with more information in each. However, if the price comes down (currently it is \$34.95), I think it will make a good resource in academic settings. (Dr. Sanchez tells me that they also have PowerPoints and accompanying notebook.)

Schaller, Lyle E. *Forty-Four Questions for Church Planters*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1991.

In Schaller's typical 44 question format, he addresses many surprisingly contemporary issues related to church planting. (The book was published in 1991.) Unlike many how-to books, Schaller uses his question format to explore in-depth the background of many issues.

Scoggins, Dick. *Handbook for House Churches*. [on-line], accessed 1 December 1999,

<http://genesis.acu.edu/cplant/archive/contr036>; Internet.

Dick Scoggins and the Rhode Island house churches are the best known home-based church planting movement in North America. The book describes the indigenous church planting methods of Fellowship of Church Planters, a network of house churches in Rhode Island and southern New England. It is the only resource this reviewer knows of that deals with indigenous house churches from a North American perspective.

Shenk, David W. and Ervin R. Stutzman. *Creating Communities of the Kingdom: New Testament Models of Church Planting*.

Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1988.

Shenk and Stutzman consistently look to the same place as they explain their model: the Scriptures. This resource is the best in dealing with scriptural issues and application in church planting. The model is thoroughly biblical while remaining practical. It is among the best five books available on church planting.

Steffan, Tom. *Passing the Baton: Church Planting that Empowers.*

This book can fool you. It is "about" international church planting, but it is very applicable to U.S. planting, particularly in the inner-city. His emphasis on empowerment is an important addition to the training of every urban church planter.

Sullivan, Bill M. *Starting Strong New Churches.* Kansas City, MO: New Start, 1997.

The book is a smaller text that provides some basic church planting information. It is intended primarily as an advocacy book geared toward Nazarenes. The strength of the book is the chapter that deals with objections to planting.

Tidsworth, Floyd, Jr. *Life Cycle of a New Congregation.* Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1992.

Tidsworth, former director of the Home Mission Board's church planting department, has provided a planting handbook. The title is misleading since the text deals little with the actual life cycle. Instead, it primarily focuses on the birth of a new church and then its reproduction—with little about the life cycle in the middle.

Timmis, Stephen, editor. *Multipling Churches: Reaching Communities Through Church Planting.* Hearn, Ross-shire, England: Christian Focus Publications, 2000.

This book is an advocacy, rather than a "how-to," book. The authors are quite clear about their intent: "(T)his is not a 'how-to' book... What the book is trying to do is to move church planting up the church agenda, and focus upon the principles rather than the practice." I believe they accomplished the former but I am not sure about the latter. Their book is strong on encouraging people toward church planting but it is really too small (128 pages) to address the principles.

Tinsley, William C. *Upon This Rock: Dimensions of Church Planting.* Atlanta, GA: Baptist Home Mission Board, 1985.

Tinsley's book is an advocacy book for Southern Baptists. Long before other denominations began to promote planting, Tinsley (and Redford) promoted planting among SBC churches. The book is woefully out of date, but must be seen in its context.

Towns, Elmer L. *Getting A Church Started: A Student Manual for the Theological Foundation and Practical Techniques of Planting a Church.* Lynchburg, VA: Church Growth Institute, 1985.

Towns' book has been published in various forms. (The latest is a workbook that contains the full text of his book and tapes presented at a recent church growth conference.) The book remains the same. It is geared toward the independent Baptist. It is highly sequential and provides an effective list of tasks that will provide the planter direction.

Wagner, C. Peter. *Church Planting For A Greater Harvest*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1990.

Wagner's book is an advocacy book. It is an excellent resource for the person seeking to convince a church or denominational leader why church planting is important. It has limited methodology, but contains a good amount of denominational research.

Warren, Richard. *The Purpose Driven Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.

This book is the best selling work on church growth ever published. The book is not strictly a church planting book. However, many have considered it a strategy for planting a large church. If so, it may be the most influential book on church planting in North America today.

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