

Edward Vargas

Interdisciplinary paper

Why should We Church Plant?

Professor Denise Hirschlein

This Research paper is very important to me because my goal is to Plant a church in the coming years and have been part of one church plant already. To do proper research on a why we need to church plant first we need to introduce what is a church. In the book Global church planting by Craig Ott, we learn that a church is a spiritual entity conceived by the father and built by Christ and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. He states that “The church is Gods primary vehicle for manifesting the nature of the kingdom of God in this age and among all people.”

The main bible verses of my Research paper are **Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

**“And Acts 1:7 -8 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”** These verses are the key to this research. Jesus commands us to do something. **Mark 16: 15-18 15 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new**

**tongues: <sup>18</sup> they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”**

We will analyze these verses and will also look at the life of the disciples as a church planter and how the early church started planting churches everywhere they could. Church planting is in the heart of God I believe and that is why I choose this topic. I know many church planters and have seen their hard work in church planting. It is one of the most rewarding career options. My main reason that I picked this subject is because I want to show why we should plant more churches and what does it take to plant a church. I want this paper to be my guide to planting a church and the strategies that the bible tells me about planting churches and what do pastors say about planting churches. For this research paper I will interview various pastors that have planted churches and I will map out what does the bible say about planting churches.

Planting churches has become somewhat popular, and everyone wants to plant a church without knowing how hard it is to plant an effective church. A concern that I have on church planting is people who want to plant a church just because they feel is cool thing to do.

My goal in this paper is to show what has to be done and what should not be done when you plant a church. What is the impact of new church plants in a community and how does it affect the community in many ways?

One of questions that I will answer in this paper is why we should plant more churches and go into the model of cell-based churches and what is the impact on leadership growth in a church plant that has cell groups. This way of church planting really interest me and it should provide a valid amount of research. There are many churches that are growing and planting churches that

are cell group churches. These churches feel that it is the only way to grow. And follow this model and their main way to church growth and church planting.

In this research paper I will also see what the obstacles are of planting a church based on what the apostles went through and what pastors go through now in church plants.

What are the major obstacles and what are the major Hindrances? I will look to research what are people thinking in a new church plant that my church Christian Fellowship is doing in Harrisburg Pennsylvania. The excitement and the joy that the church in Harrisburg is experiencing opening something new. I will go visit the new church plant and interview a few new church goers to see what is there experience in this new church.

Church planting is a topic that has become very famous and there has been a lot of research that has been done in this topic. I will simply try to write what the research says and teach about it and apply it to my own life.

Church planting in the book of Acts and when the Disciples went to other cities it was always accompanied by signs and Wonders. We will see how signs and wonders impacts church plants and what happens when the preaching of the gospel in church plants is accompanied with signs and wonders. The book of Acts is full of stories that portrait the disciples doing miracles in the name of Jesus. I love this research topic because it is something that makes my heart stir. This is a topic that I will study for the rest of my life and will continue to read this paper throughout the different stages of my life and will probably even perfect it later in life. I was able to help plant a church and I became in love with the logistics of planting a church. This was one of the most rewarding times in my life. I will aim to inspire the readers of this paper to go and plant a church and use the strategies in this paper to start and go. Church planting is in the heart of God and we will learn in this paper how to do it.

Church planting starts with one verse according to the Interview I did with Pastor Jorge Mendez of Christian Fellowship in the Bronx New York. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This verse in Matthew 28: 19 is the main verse for this pastor in the Bronx. We will analyze this verse and the verses before and after this iconic verse. The context of this verse in the book of Mathew is after Jesus is crucified and has risen again. The disciples go up to the mountain in Galilee and Jesus came and he spoke to them. These iconic few verses are known as The Great Commission. According to Mathew Henrys Concise commentary of the bible this few verses hasten to the most solemn moment. He solemnly commissioned the apostles and his ministers to go forth among all nations. Henry states that the writer of the Gospel passes over other appearances that Jesus had with his disciples and hastens to this event.

The salvation they were to preach is a common salvation whoever will let him come and take the benefit all are welcome to Christ Jesus. Christianity is the religion of a Sinner who applies for salvation from deserved wrath and from sin he applies to the mercy of the father through the atonement of the Incarnate son and by the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

Henry states also that believers shall have the constant presence of their Lord always, all day, every day. There is no day, no hour of the day, in which our lord Jesus is not present.

Matthew Henry explains these verses perfectly. He explains in these few sentences the power that these iconic verses have.

According to Believers bible commentary by William McDonald “As head of the new creation, he then issued the great commission, containing standing orders for all believers during the present phase of the kingdom. William McDonald states that the commission contains three commands and not suggestion. Number one he states that Go therefore and make disciples of all

the nations. By preaching the Gospel the disciples were to see others become learners and followers of the Savior. Number two he states that the second command rest on Christ messengers to teach baptism and to press it as a command to be obeyed. Number three he commands them to teach. To observe all things that I have commanded you. He states that “The commission goes beyond evangelism; it is not enough to simply make converts and let them fend for themselves. They must be thought to obey the commandments of Christ as found in the New Testament” We can see his Exegesis of these few verses to be very powerful.

These few verses in the book of Mathew are the motivation for church planters like Jorge Mendez and many other pastors. They live by this verse and follow it and make it their life’s mission. The next verses that I am going to research on are the last words that Jesus spoke to his disciples before ascending into heaven. In **Acts 1:7-8 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

At this point the author of the book of acts is narrating the last words that Jesus told his disciples before going to heaven. These words must be important. Jesus tells them literally that they must go everywhere and be his witness. According to Believers bible commentary “The nature and sphere of their mission, as to its nature, they were to be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”

William McDonald the author of Believers bible commentary Breaks down how they must first receive power- The power of the holy Spirit. McDonald states that “This power is the grand indispensable of Christian witness. A man may be highly talented, intensively trained, and widely experienced, but without spiritual power he is ineffective. McDonald is saying here that

it does not matter how smart, it does not matter how much the person has studied or how much the person even knows the bible. Without the power of the Holy Spirit nothing can be done effectively. How McDonald breaks down the second part of verse 8 is very powerful. He explains the difference of how they were supposed to start witnessing in Jerusalem which was the city where our lord was crucified. The second city would be Judea which has a strong Jewish population and then they would go to Samaria. Jews had no dealings with Samaria and was hated. And then to the ends of the world. This would be to the gentile countries. Which was something unheard of. McDonald also provides an outline on when these three occurrences happened in the book of acts. Jerusalem Acts 1-7, Witness in Judea and Samaria 8:1-9:31 and the Gospel begins to expand itself to the ends of the world in Acts 9:32-28:31.

Mathew Henry in the concise commentary of the whole bible states that “He had given his disciples instructions for the discharge of their duty, both before his death and his resurrection.” We can see in these verses that Jesus was giving his disciples instructions on what to do. Henry states that “under the influence of the Holy Spirit they may, in one way be witnesses for Christ on earth.

We can see what Jesus tells his disciples in the book of Mark 16:15-18. Jesus is very clear on what he tells his disciples that they must do and what must happen. He tells them to go into all the world and preach to every creature. Jesus is very specific in these verses saying that the disciples will lay hands on the sick and the sick will be healed. We will analyze these few verses and see what different commentaries say about them regarding this command that Jesus tells his disciples. Mathew Henry states that “The commission of Christ ministers extends to every creature throughout the world, and the declarations of the Gospel contain not only truths, encouragements, and precepts, but also a most awful warning. Observe what power the apostles

would be endowed with, for confirming the doctrine they were to preach.” These were miracles to confirm the truth of the gospel, and means of spreading the gospel among nations that had not heard it”

Believers Bible Commentary states that “The savior’s goal was world evangelization. He purposed to accomplish it with eleven disciples who would literally forsake all to follow him.”

Believers Bible commentary ends the analyses of these verses in a very powerful way that makes us go and preach the gospel and plant new churches and reach the unreached. “We are entrusted with the Great Commission in our generation. Our task is to reach every person with the gospel. One-third of all the people who have ever lived are living today. By the year 2000, one-half of all the people who have ever lived will be living then. As the population explodes, the task increases. But the method is always the same—devoted disciples with unlimited love for Christ who count no sacrifice too great for Him. The will of God is the evangelization of the world.

What are we doing about it? “He ends with a big question mark, what are we doing about it?”

This is the reason why we should Plant more churches. We are entrusted with our generation to take the gospel to all the cities of the world. Why should we plant more churches? Based on these verses we should plant more churches because Jesus wants us to preach the gospel. We should plant more churches because it is a command to preach the gospel everywhere we go and in every city of the world.

The first time the disciples started preaching in other cities in the book of acts is after the death of Stephen. Acts 8 starts of telling us about the persecution that arose against the church. This persecution led to the church to be scattered throughout Samaria and Judea. In chapter 8 verse 5 states that <sup>5</sup>**Then Philip went down to <sup>(a)</sup>the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.** <sup>6</sup>**And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing**

**and seeing the miracles which he did. <sup>7</sup>For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed, and lame were healed. <sup>8</sup>And there was great joy in that city.** We can see in these few verses what happened after the persecution started. Phillip went to the city of Samaria and basically started the church in Samaria. He went to the city with the power of the Holy Spirit and performed miracles. Based on my conversation with Pastor Gerly Vega of Christian Fellowship Trenton he testified to me that when people started seeing miracles in his church in Trenton that is when he knew that it was time to plant a church and felt Gods backing.

Believers' bible commentary states that the "Primitive church obeyed the explicit commands of Jesus Christ." They did everything that Jesus taught them to do. They healed the sick and were following what he did on Earth. We also see in **Acts 9:31 Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.** Believers' bible commentary states that this was a time of consolidating the gains they had made, and of seeing the fellowship grow numerically and spiritually. One of the key points in this verse is that the churches were multiplied. It shows an effective church growth in these three areas. Acts 11:19 tells us were the followers of Jesus have gone after the persecution started. Acts 11:19 tells us that they went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch. We can see in the book of Acts how all these churches started and started thriving and multiplying. Believers' bible commentary states that at that time they only preached to the Jews and not the Gentiles.

The book Church planting by the book by Elbert Smith states that "Ordinary believers started a church where there was not one" The scripture does not record the names of any of these believers. There is no specification if they are leaders or have any gifting. The lord uses

ordinary believers' states Elbert Smith. He believes that church planting is not just for missionaries or pastors. Church planting is for any Christian.

In the book of Church Planting by the book we see an introduction on nine church plants that are stated in the book of Acts. The author states that it is impossible to really say how many churches were really planted. The book of acts contains nine descriptions of churches being planted. He believes that there are common threads in the nine church plants. The first common thread that he believes every church plant in the book of Acts has is praying. The second is to begin with a plan or a custom. The third would be starting a church where Gods word has already been sown. The fourth is presenting the gospel on the authority of scripture. The fifth is depending on the holy spirit and to save and fill new believers. The sixth is discipling those who believe. The seventh is experiencing opposition. The eighth is equipping leaders from within the new congregations. The ninth would be to depart from church plant and return to check on the new believers. And the last one would be multiplying disciples and churches.

Elbert states that "The level of discipleship must match the level of evangelism" We can see in Acts 11:26 and Acts 11:24 that Barnabas and Saul spent an entire year with the church and disciplined them. They evangelized and they disciplined the new converts. They were on a mission. The author states that sometimes that is challenging for church planters today who do not include serious discipleship in their work. There is a balance in discipleship in the church of Antioch. They had so much impact on the city of Antioch that it is where the name Christians started.

The book missiology published by Brodman and Holman publishers has a chapter on Strategies for starting new churches that was written by Daniel R Sanchez. In this chapter Daniel starts off with asking the question that some Christians ask, why do we need to plant new

churches? He states a quote from Donald McGavaran that “the only method that would meet the expanding needs of the world mission would be to constantly multiply churches”

Daniel states that the “New Testament indicates that church planting was the primary method the apostles utilized to fulfill the great commission. Jesus Christ sent his followers to make disciples. The imperative command of the great commission.” Daniel states that the disciples made disciples by starting churches. Daniel is saying here that for us to accomplish what Jesus wanted us to do as disciple makers we need to plant new churches. We need to establish new churches because we need to make disciples. One of the most impactful words that Daniel writes about is that the number one response to the great commission has always been the creation of new worshipping communities called congregations, or parishes or missions or churches.” Throughout the centuries this has been the most common attempt to obey the directive of Jesus to make disciples.” We will also analyze the eight practical reasons that Daniel states in this chapter for starting new churches. He claims that these reasons both justify and demand the practice of starting new churches. The first reason he states is the explosion of the worldwide demographics. The ratios of church to population are not doing good regarding the rate in the past. Cities are having a rapid population growth.

The second reason for starting new churches according to Daniel is that churches start to plateau by the time they are ten years old. They tend to concentrate more on activities than on the evangelistic activities. The third reason to plant new churches are that new churches can adapt quicker and are more flexible to the needs of the communities. He states that many old churches are satisfied and are not willing to adapt. The fourth reason is that it is impossible for one church to reach and retail and the people groups in a city. Everyone is different and people like a church where they feel comfortable. Not one church fits all the needs of one city. That is why there is a

need to plant new churches. The fifth reason to start a church is that it is easier to start a church in people's communities. People tend to not go far away when they attend a church. The closer the church is the easier it is for people to attend. The sixth reason to plant new churches is that new churches generally win and baptize more people than churches that have been around for a longer period. Studies show that new churches win more people. The seventh reason why we should plant churches is that new planting of churches can inspire the local church. When churches see other churches grow, they get inspired to see their own church continue to grow and keep on expanding the kingdom. The eighth reason for starting churches is that new churches that are in the communities participate more in the disciple making activities. People who live far from the church only go to church once a week. But people who live close to the church can attend more times during the week and that helps them grow spiritually because they are able to fellowship and attend activities that will help them grow in the Lord. ‘

Daniel also states that we should have a clear understanding of the principles of church planting that arise from biblical teachings and practical experience. His first principle is that churches need to be involved in starting a new congregation. He states that the church in Antioch was established by Christians who fled the persecution in Jerusalem. New church plants benefit from the financial contributions of other churches and their mother church. The second principle that Daniel writes about is wisely selecting the target audience. We need to choose an appropriate place to meet for the new congregation. Daniel believes also we should do a demographic analysis by selecting a target audience for the church. We need to analyze numbers like inhabitants, socioeconomic groups, types of housing, educational level, types of employment and types of family structures. He believes that a complete analysis of these factors will determine the type of ministry and leadership that the community needs. He believes we should

study the community and help according to the need. The third application principle that Daniel writes about is communicating the message in a relevant manner. He states that the goal of the church planter is to cultivate friendships and gradually sow the gospel. He believes the church needs to be active in the community. The fourth application principle that Daniel writes about is congregating the believers. He writes about establishing a nucleus around the new church. He states that the church should be organized around a bible study or many different areas of the church. The goal is to establish a nucleus in the new church plant. The fifth application principle that he provides is the final establishment of the church. A church that can rely on their own financial resources for its activities and all that the church does in the community. By this time, they should have a clear concept on what is the church's responsibility. At that point the church will manage itself with the supervision of the planters or whoever the mother church delegates.

Why plant churches is an article written by Tim Keller January 1, 2002. He states that "A vigorous and continuous approach to church planting is the only way to guarantee an increase in the number of believers and is one of the best ways to renew the whole body of Christ" Keller believes that this is the most crucial strategy for the numerical growth in each city of new believers. Keller believes that no other event or any crusade or any other church activity can have the impact that a new church plant can have in the city. Keller writes about the response to discussions about church planting. Some people think that some areas already have enough people, and we need to get them filled before we plant new churches. Some people believe that a new church will take people away from churches in the community. Some people believe we need better churches and not new ones. He believes these statements appear to be common sense to some people, but they are wrong assumptions if we have a clear vision on why church planting is important. Keller reiterates what I have found in my research that new churches reach more

people. Keller states that new churches best reach new generations, new residents and new people groups. Younger adults have been found more often in newer congregations because of long-established congregations develop traditions like worship and length of service. New residents seem to look for new churches because older churches may require tenure before people are allowed in leadership. New churches provide more opportunities to serve. In my own experience I helped plant a new church in Hempstead Long Island and at a short age of 24 years old I was the person supervising all the cell groups of the church. Keller also writes about sociocultural groups in a community are always reached better by new congregations. He states that brand new immigrant groups can be reached by churches ministering in their own language. Therefore, making a need for a new church that speaks that language. He believes that new churches empower new people more quickly than older churches. He believes that we need church planting so that frontier regions or unevangelized countries can become Christian.

Keller in this article also reiterates why we should plant more churches, why is the main question of this research paper. He states that Jesus essential call was to plant churches. He states that “virtually all of the great evangelistic challenges of the New Testament are basically calls to plant churches” he states that the great commission is not only to preach and make disciples but also a calling to baptize which means to be incorporated into a worship community. He states that “only a person who is being evangelized in the context of an ongoing worshipping and shepherding community can be sure of finally coming home into vital, saving faith.” He also quotes Peter Wagner who is a missiologist. “Planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under heaven.” Keller believes that Paul’s whole strategy was to plant urban churches. One of the greatest missionaries in history, the Apostol Paul went into the largest cities of the regions and planted churches in each of the largest cities and appointed

elders in each town. Paul believed that the best way to influence a country was through its main cities and the best way was to plant churches in those cities.

There are a lot of different methods of church planting, there are a lot of different ways that churches can grow. I would like to show based on research why the Cell group model or what is in some places called the small groups model is a very effective model for church growth and church planting. Joel Comiskey in his book Reap the harvest explains the whole model of how the cell group model works. In chapter 6 in the book, he explains how the early church had a home-cell movement. He mentions various verses in the book of Acts that show that the disciples met in houses. In **Acts 2:26** **“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”** In the early part of the first century, they had to meet in homes because of the persecution that was going on. Most of the meetings after the big conversions were done at houses. Cell group or small groups comes from that idea. Comiskey writes about the different churches in the New Testament that met at homes and the many times the bible mentions people meeting at homes. Acts: 12:12, Romans:16:3-5, 1 Corinthians 4:15, Philemon 2 and Colossians 4:15. In these verses we can see how Paul was referring to churches that meet at homes. This was the strategy of the New Testament Church. When Emperor Constantine rose to power in AD 312 and made Christianity the main religion a lot of things changed. The focus was on buildings that were made with a very high cost. They started meeting mostly at the big temples and stopped meeting at home churches. According to Joel Comiskey this was a key factor in what is called the dark ages for the church. He believes that this started the demise of the house church. He believes that we are going through a new awakening of the New Testament home based church.

One of the main verses for church planting using a cell group model is **Acts 20:20 How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and thought you publicly and from house to house.** Believers Bible commentary specifies how specific Paul was that he did not hold anything from them. He basically thought them all he knew. Publicly and from house to house. Here we can see how the church was meeting in different houses.

One of the questions that I want to answer in this research paper is how to plant a cell group-based church. In my own experience I have been part of a cell-based church for twenty years. The first contact I had with my church was through a youth cell group. The church had been around for an estimate time of one year at that time. Time passed and I ended up moving to Hempstead Long Island and helped plant a church there. In a few years I was the one supervising all the twenty cell groups that the church had, and I can see the growth of the church through this system. One of the most influential writers of the cell group movement is Joel Comiskey. In his book *Reap the harvest* he visited what was my pastors main church in Honduras. Joel Comiskey mentions many churches in this book, and he mentioned ours. As a cell church we have it in us to work with cell groups and it is amazing to see the name in this famous book about cell groups.

Joel Comiskey in his book *planting churches that reproduce* explains what a cell group is, its great to start research on a subject by knowing what a cell group in a church is. “a group of three to fifteen people who meet weekly outside the church building to practice evangelism, build community, and grow spiritually with the goal of multiplying the group.” In a cell-based church a cell group is the backbone of the church. One of the most common cell group models is called the Jethro model. With this model according to the book *Reap the harvest* “The burden on the head pastor is relieved through a hierarchical structure of leadership that cares for groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.” This comes from the advice that Jethro gave Moses in

Exodus 18. In this bible verse Moses received and advice from his father-in-law on how to deal with people. The main way of promotion in leadership is by multiplying the cell groups and not always by getting a degree or going to bible college. The main goal of one cell group is to multiply. How do you plant a cell-based church? Comiskey in planting churches that reproduce writes about how exciting and simple it is to plant a cell-based church. He gives instructions on how to plant a church. The first step would be to open a cell group in a home and begin evangelizing the area. After you start a cell group you start working on a core team. The goal of the core team would be to practice running the cell group and evangelizing and learning the cell group model. And then when there are four cell groups then start monthly meetings and then when there are ten cells with around 100 people start the weekly meetings. He believes that planting a cell church should be very simple. It's all about returning to simplicity. Cell churches do not require a huge budget or large buildings or super talented pastors. Cell group churches are about a simple process. Attend a cell, receive training, plant a cell, multiply the cell several times, coach the leaders who have multiplied into other groups, receive more biblical training and go and plant a church. The system and process are about simplicity. Comiskey writes about how the perfect place to create leaders are in cell groups. Leaders are nor developed by sitting around on Sundays and just listening to the pastor. And sitting around the week and just listening to one person speak. In my own experience I have seen in my local church how leaders are made. Every week we have around fifty different leaders teaching the word of God and leading worship all around the city. This system creates leaders and is a system that has everyone serving Christ. Comiskey writes how Paul spent time with Timothy in Acts 16:1-10 and then he asked Timothy to prepare other leaders in Timothy 2:2. The job of the cell group leader is to take care of his cell group and to prepare new leaders.

In the book *creating communities of the kingdom* By David Schenk we see here the New Testament models of church planting. In the book we see that one of the main things a church planter must do is create a team. We can see in the book of Acts every time they were sent to go preach and plant a church there was always someone going with the disciple. The book of Acts shares the model of working in a team. A team working together is one of the main characteristics of a successful church plant. When the world is divided it is great to see a team working in unity. People like to see team members working with each other in a loving way and in one accord. The second reason for a team is that people who have different backgrounds can be helpful to plant a church. The book tells us about one of the biggest examples of this different background's proposal. Paul invited Timothy to go join him and Silas in Lystra. And Timothy was half Jewish and half Greek. The third reason why a team is important is about team leadership. It is important to make a team of leaders to share the responsibility of the church's decisions. The fourth reason why we should create a team in church planting is that team members assist each other. The author believes that Paul was a master in creating teams. In all his letters and everything we see in the book of Acts. We see that Paul worked in teams. The fifth reason why we need a team is that a team creates synergy. Providing a greater total effect.

Creating communities of the kingdom starts with a Vision. Schenk states that "often the first step toward planting a church begins with a general vision of the need to share the gospel with people who do not know Jesus." Church planting is born from a vision that is given by the Holy Spirit. This vision leads us to something new. Every church plant should start with a vision for the city that the church plant will be in. A vision compels the church planter to continue until everyone in the community has the opportunity to respond to the gospel. Everyone who plants a church should pray for God's vision to be there's. The goal is for the church planter to see what

God wants for the city. God calls us to be obedient to that vision. The book creating communities of the kingdom tells us that the Apostle Paul told king Agrippa that he was not to be disobedient to the vision. It is very important to follow the vision that God gave the church planter for the city. The church planter must have goals in regard to growth and all the areas of the church.

One the questions I want to answer in this paper are answered in the book creating communities of the kingdom. Why do we need the power of God to plant churches? What happens when there are signs and wonder? We can see in Acts 16:16 when Paul casted a demon out of a slave girl. We see the power of God there. When Paul arrived in Ephesus in Acts 19, we see that the Holy Spirit was poured out when the believers have not received the Holy Spirit yet. We can see the spiritual warfare in new church plants. New church plants need to know how to use the power that they must cast out demons and to heal the sick.

When a pastor or an aspiring Pastor wants to plant a church, he needs to know the bible. He needs to know what the bible says about leading a church. A pastor needs to know and be very well versed in the bible. The bible is the main instructor of the Pastor. The bible should always be the barometer if what we are doing is approved by God or not. As a church planter our vision and goals should be aligned to what the bible tells us. Both of my concentrations of my degree are needed to do a productive church plant. We need to learn how to be effective pastors by being guided by the bible and by having mentors teach us. The bible gives some requirements on how a pastor or a church planter should carry themselves and be. **In 1 Timothy 3:1-5 it tells us that This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. <sup>2</sup>A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; <sup>3</sup>not <sup>1</sup>given to wine, not violent, <sup>4</sup>not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; <sup>4</sup>one who rules his own**

**house well, having his children in submission with all reverence <sup>5</sup> (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?).**

These few verses are key for anyone that wants to plant a church. They need to be someone of good testimony. They need to be blameless. Church planting needs to be done after you have a deep relationship with God and he has transformed your life completely.

This research is important because the cities and every part of the world needs Jesus. We need church planters in every city in the world and in every town. God is calling his church to wake up and be obedient to the great commission of go and make disciples. This research is important because church planting is essential to the well-being of a city. Church planting changes cities and helps people be prosperous in every way possible. Church planting is in the heart of God. Church planting needs to be done the right way. We cannot church plant without knowing what to do and what is expected of us.

In conclusion to this paper God is calling young men and women to step out of the comfort zone and go! Go where God puts the vision. This paper will be a catalyst and a guide to what I must do as a church planter. This topic is important because the future of so many people depend on a few people saying yes to God's vision. I have learned in this paper why we should plant churches. We should plant churches because Jesus wants us to plant churches. He commands us to go and make disciples and baptize them. We have learned that new churches win more souls and baptize more people and have a higher rate of effectiveness with the youth. We have learned how to open a cell group-based church. We have learned what is the process to open a church. In this paper I have simplified the church planting process and provided a guide on how to go and do it. Cell group churches are great in making leaders because they follow the Jethro model of leadership. They have leaders that help the pastor not get burnt out. One of the most amazing

factors of a cell church is that at the same time every week there are many people giving teachings at the same time and forming leaders and helping new converts get closer to God. Leaders making leaders in the essence of the cell group church. Leaders following the example of what Paul did with Timothy. Let's go and make disciples of all nations! This should be the battle cry of every church planter. The importance of someone's last words should be something that we should not take lightly. The last words of Jesus before he ascended, he told his disciples that they shall receive power and go into all the world to preach. This is what the gospel is all about. Once we have the power, we have the boldness to go and preach to people in every city in every town about what Jesus did and what he can do in their life. In conclusion these verses should be on everyone's wall and in everyone's heart.

**Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go <sup>19</sup> therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." <sup>19</sup> Amen.**

## Bibliography

New king James Bible version

Mathew henry's Concise Commentary of the whole Bible

Planting churches that reproduce By Joel Comiskey

Reap the Harvest by Joel Comiskey

Creating communities of the Kingdom by David Shenk and Ervin Stutzman

Church planting by the book by Elbert Smith

Missiology An introduction to the foundations, history and strategies of world missions- article by Danie R Sanchez

City Vision by Tim Keller

Why plant churches article by Tim Keller in redeemer to the city website published January 1, 2002











