

RESEARCH REPORT

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*Ranking the Components of Church Planting:
A Survey of State Directors of Mission*

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A Survey of State Directors of Mission***

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Executive Summary

Introduction

A survey of 42 state convention directors of missions (SDOMs) was conducted in late 2003. The desired outcome of this survey, combined with other information, is for the Church Planting Group (CPG) of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to become a better partner with each state convention.

- ◆ **29 responses were received from SDOMs from 28 of the 42 state conventions.**

The Big Picture

SDOMs were first asked to rank 6 major components of church planting strategy within their state convention.

- ◆ SDOMs feel that creating environments for church planting is strong.
- ◆ Enlistment of church planters is stronger than mentoring church planters.
- ◆ Enlisting sponsor/partner churches is stronger than developing multiplying churches.
- ◆ In fact, developing multiplying churches is perceived as the weakest of the 6 global components of church planting.

SDOMs were next asked to rank subcomponents of each of the 6 major areas of church planting strategy. This may be considered a “drilling down” process to better understand each area of church planting strategy.

Area 1: Creating Environments

- ◆ SDOMs think creating and casting a vision for church planting in their state are strengths.
- ◆ Identifying people groups and finding locations for plants are ranked in the middle of elements relating to creating environments.
- ◆ Church planting missionaries are strongest at maintaining regular contact with associations and churches, as opposed to gathering and interpreting data.

Area 2: Recruiting Church Planters

- ◆ The assessment of church planters is seen as a strong point in the recruiting process.
- ◆ Calling out and raising up church planters are ranked in the middle.
- ◆ Weaker components of recruitment include the use of bivocational planters, seminary and college recruitment, and providing awareness conferences for laity.

Area 3: Mentoring Church Planters

- ◆ Training is the strongest aspect of mentoring church planters.
- ◆ Accountability and peer learning are also strengths.
- ◆ The roles of CPMs in mentoring were not perceived as strengths by the SDOMs.

Area 4: Enlisting Sponsoring/Partner Churches

- ◆ The primary strength in the area of enlisting churches is encouraging partnerships among associations and churches.
- ◆ The use of CPMs in developing covenants between new and partner churches is not strong.

Area 5: Developing Multiplying Churches

- ◆ Lifting up model churches is the strongest element of developing multiplying churches.
- ◆ There is room for improvement in the use of resources for multiplication.

Area 6: Church Planting Missionaries

- ◆ Greatest strength of CPMs is developing church planting strategies with associations and state.
- ◆ Another CPM strength is working with new church plants.
- ◆ State conventions need to decide priority assignments for CPMs. Reasonable expectations need to be agreed upon, support provided to help CPMs meet expectations, and accountability of the CPMs should be stressed.

Implications for NAMB Teams

- ◆ **Mentoring**
 - Training and assessment are perceived as strengths.
 - CPMs are not supporting the mentoring processes to the satisfaction of SDOMs.
- ◆ **Multiplication**
 - The development of multiplying churches was the lowest ranked major component of church planting strategies by SDOMs.
 - States are identifying and lifting up model churches.
 - CPMs are working to enlist and train multiplying churches.
 - The use of resources, both NAMB and others, has room for improvement.
- ◆ **Readiness**
 - The identification of people groups and locations of need are not strengths.
 - CPMs are not skilled at gathering and interpreting data.
 - SDOMs perceive that one of the strongest areas of CPMs is working with states and associations in developing church planting strategies.
- ◆ **Recruitment**
 - Recruitment of church planters is stronger than enlistment of sponsor/partner churches.
 - The use of bivocational church planters is not strong.
 - Neither seminary/college recruitment nor recruitment of lay planters is a perceived strength.
 - The recruiting role of CPMs probably needs to be examined, especially as it relates to identifying lay planters.

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Introduction

In mid 2003 a survey of state directors of missions (SDOMs) was designed in conjunction with the North American Mission Board's (NAMB's) field partner services consultants. The purpose of the survey was to allow the SDOMs to evaluate various components of church planting strategy in their states. Responses will assist NAMB's consultants in recommending priorities to the various teams in the Church Planting Group.

The outcome of this analysis will be a better understanding, based on the perceptions of the SDOMs, of the relative strengths and weaknesses of various components of church planting strategies in the state conventions.

The survey was sent by mail to SDOMs at the end of October 2003. A copy of the letter is included as appendix A of this report. A copy of the survey instrument is appendix B. A follow-up e-mail was also sent one week later. Responses were accepted by regular mail, e-mail, or FAX. A total of 29 usable responses were received from 28 state conventions. Two responses came from one convention.

The Big Picture

The first section of the questionnaire listed six components of church planting strategies that NAMB would consider essential elements of a well-rounded approach. The SDOMs were asked to rank the six components, with 1 being strongest in their state and 6 being weakest. The following six sections of the questionnaire (and therefore this report) list sub-elements of these six major church planting areas to be similarly ranked.

The table below shows the mean rankings given by all 29 respondents, as well as means from the four regions as assigned to the field service consultants.

Overall, SDOMs perceived that "Creating Environments" was the strongest component of church planting in their state convention. This component's average rank was 2.66, as 19 of the 29 respondents ranked this area either first or second. A close second was the activity of "Church Planting Missionaries" (CPMs), with an average of 2.71 and 17 first or second place rankings.

SDOMs feel that their state is doing a better job of recruiting church planters than mentoring them. This statement is true across all regions.

	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
	Mean Rank				
Creating Environments [A]	2.66	2.00	2.89	1.80	3.33
Recruiting Church Planters [B]	2.93	2.83	2.67	3.80	2.78
Enlisting Sponsoring/Partner Churches [C]	3.79	3.67	3.89	3.40	4.00
Mentoring Church Planters [D]	4.00	4.33	3.56	4.00	4.22
Developing Multiplying Churches [E]	4.61	4.50	5.13	5.00	4.00
Church Planting Missionaries [F]	2.71	3.20	2.44	3.00	2.56

The enlistment of sponsoring/partner churches also received a higher rank, overall, than developing these multiplying churches (3.79 mean rank versus 4.61). In fact, the development of multiplying churches was the weakest ranking component of church planting in the opinions of the SDOMs.

Overall, and in each region except region 3, respondents felt better about recruiting church planters than enlisting sponsoring churches. Likewise, mentoring church planters was ranked ahead of developing multiplying churches overall in each region except region 4.

Summary 1

Most states feel better about their efforts at enlisting church planters than mentoring them. Most states feel better about enlisting sponsoring churches than in developing them into multiplying churches. And most report greater strength in enlisting and developing planters as opposed to churches.

Area 1: Creating Environments

As noted above, respondents ranked their efforts at creating environments as the strongest component, on average, of their state church planting strategies. Next, the survey digs deeper into this topic by listing subcomponents and asking respondents to rank them based on relative strength. The subcomponents and mean ranks are given below.¹

	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
	Mean Rank				
Creating vision [G]	2.62	2.67	3.00	1.80	2.67
Casting vision [H]	3.28	2.83	4.11	2.60	3.11
Identifying people groups [I]	4.34	4.83	4.56	4.40	3.78
Finding locations [J]	4.24	4.17	3.89	5.40	4.00
Church Planting Missionaries (CPMs) gather data [K]	4.52	4.00	3.89	6.20	4.44
CPMs interpret data for church planting awareness and strategy [L]	4.78	4.50	5.22	4.60	4.56
CPMs have regular contact with associations and churches [M]	3.36	3.20	2.67	2.40	4.67

SDOMs perceived that creating vision and casting vision were the two strongest elements of creating a positive environment for church planting in their state convention. The average ranking of these two elements were 2.62 and 3.28 respectively. There was not quite a consensus across regions, as region 2 SDOMs felt that casting a vision for church planting was only the fifth strongest element of the seven choices. Region 3 was somewhat similar to region 2 in that casting the vision was ranked third. All regions agreed there was greater strength in creating than in casting a vision for church planting.

Among all 29 respondents, finding locations and identifying people groups, two crucial activities in creating a positive environment for church planting, scored mean ranks of only

¹ The 6 major areas did not have the same number of sub-areas to be ranked. Therefore, comparisons cannot be made between a component of one major area and a component of another major area.

4.24 and 4.34, respectively. This placed them fourth and fifth strongest in terms of average rank. Region 1 ranked these two relatively lower than the overall respondents, while region 4 placed them somewhat above the entire group.

Three elements of creating environments involved church planter missionaries. Except for region 4, CPMs having regular contact with associations and churches was perceived to be a strength. The gathering and interpreting of data by CPMs for church planting awareness were the weakest components of creating environments for church planting.

Summary 2

SDOMs feel better about creating vision for church planting in their state than casting that vision. Identifying people groups and finding locations are ranked in the middle of the elements of creating environments for church planting. Church planting missionaries are strongest at maintaining regular contact with associations and churches, as opposed to gathering and interpreting data.

Area 2: Recruiting Church Planters

Eight components of recruiting church planters were ranked by respondents. As seen in the table below, the strongest component of the recruitment of church planters is their assessment. All regions but region 4 ranked assessment as the strongest area of recruitment. In region 4, the use of CPMs to discover potential church planters was seen as the greatest strength, and this category was second overall.

The middle group of components of recruiting church planters as ranked by respondents included calling out church planters, CPMs conducting initial assessment, and the raising up of church planters.

The weakest three components were the use of bivocational planters, seminary/college recruitment, and CPMs conducting awareness conferences recruiting lay people for church planting.

	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
	Mean Rank				
Raising up church planters [N]	4.14	3.60	4.44	3.60	4.44
Calling out church planters [O]	3.86	3.20	4.56	3.60	3.67
Assessing church planters [P]	2.66	2.67	2.22	2.20	3.33
Use of bivocational planters [Q]	4.57	5.00	4.56	4.40	4.44
Seminary/college recruitment [R]	5.14	4.00	4.33	6.40	5.89
Church Planter Missionaries (CPMs) discover potential church planters [S]	3.67	3.00	4.22	4.20	3.11
CPMs conduct initial assessment of potential church planters [T]	4.07	3.25	3.44	4.80	4.67
CPMs conduct awareness conference recruiting lay people for church planting [U]	6.73	8.00	7.33	6.80	5.67

Summary 3

The assessment of church planters is seen as a strong point in the recruiting process. Calling out and raising up church planters are ranked third and fifth among the eight components of church planting. Areas of weakness include the use of bivocational planters, seminary and college recruitment, and providing awareness conferences for laity.

Area 3: Mentoring Church Planters

There was a strong consensus among the SDOMs that the training of church planters is the strongest component of mentoring church planters. In fact, 24 of the 29 respondents ranked training either first or second. Accountability for church planters received the next strongest ranking, followed by clustering church planters for peer learning.

Three components of mentoring church planters involve CPMs. CPMs mentoring church planters was ranked fourth strongest overall (second in region 2). CPMs facilitating church planter networks and supporting multiplying church networks were the lowest ranking parts of mentoring church planters.

	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
	Mean Rank				
Training church planters [Z]	1.66	1.50	1.78	1.00	2.00
Clustering church planters for peer learning [AA]	3.24	3.00	3.44	2.40	3.67
Accountability for church planters [AB]	2.93	2.00	2.78	3.20	3.56
Church Planter Missionaries (CPMs) mentor church planters [AC]	3.35	3.60	2.71	3.60	3.56
CPMs facilitate church planter networks [AD]	3.88	4.50	3.63	5.00	3.22
CPMs support multiplying church networks [AE]	5.15	5.75	4.88	5.80	4.78

Summary 4

When it comes to mentoring church trainers, the overwhelming strength among states is training. CPMs mentoring church planters scored only the fourth highest mean rank among the six components of mentoring, with a mean ranking of 3.35.

Area 4: Enlisting Sponsoring/Partner Churches

Only 4 components were listed for ranking in the area of enlisting sponsoring/partner churches. The perceived strongest component was encouraging partnerships among associations and churches, followed by the identification of missional churches. These two ranked first and second in regions 1, 2, and 3, and were reversed in region 4.

Ranking third was inviting key churches to plant churches, and fourth was CPMs helping to develop covenants between new churches and partner churches.

	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
	Mean Rank				
Identification of missional (mission minded) churches [V]	2.28	2.50	2.22	2.20	2.22
Inviting key churches to plant churches [W]	2.76	2.50	3.00	2.80	2.67
Encouraging partnerships among associations and churches [X]	2.00	1.83	1.78	2.00	2.33
Church Planter Missionaries help to develop covenants between new churches and partner churches [Y]	2.93	2.75	3.11	3.00	2.78

Summary 5

The primary strength in the area of enlisting churches is encouraging partnerships among associations and churches. The use of CPMs in developing covenants between new and partner churches is not strong.

Area 5: Developing Multiplying Churches

Four components of developing multiplying churches were available for ranking. The strongest one appears to be lifting up churches that have modeled multiplication principles. This was the top component in this category overall with a mean rank of 1.85. SDOMs in region 2 had a different view, yielding a mean rank of 2.75. The highest ranked element in region 2 was CPMs working in enlisting and training multiplying churches, which was second strongest overall in each of the other regions.

The use of NAMB multiplying resources and the use of other multiplying resources were the weaker two components of developing multiplying churches.

	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
	Mean Rank				
Lifting up churches that have modeled multiplication principles [AF]	1.85	1.25	2.75	1.00	1.78
Use of NAMB multiplying resources [AG]	2.64	3.00	2.00	3.00	2.78
Use of other multiplying resources [AH]	3.48	3.00	3.57	3.20	3.78
Church Planter Missionaries work in enlisting and training multiplying churches [AI]	2.11	2.40	1.88	2.80	1.78

Summary 6

When it comes to developing multiplying churches, states are strongest at lifting up churches that model good principles. The use of multiplication resources is not perceived as a strength.

Area 6: Church Planting Missionaries

Eighteen of 28 SDOMs said the strongest aspect of the work of CPMs in their state was developing church planting strategies with associations and state. CPMs working with new churches that are in the church planting process was ranked strongest in region 3, and ranked second strongest overall.

Developing goals for the number of churches, developing strategies to enlist new partner churches, and finishing their role with new churches after 24 to 36 months ranked third through fifth, respectively.

	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
	Mean Rank				
Develop church planting strategies with associations and state [AJ]	1.54	1.60	1.33	2.20	1.33
Develop goals for number of churches being cultivated [AK]	3.37	3.00	3.33	4.20	3.13
Work with new churches who are in church planting process [AL]	2.30	2.40	2.50	1.60	2.44
Finish role with new churches after 24 to 36 months [AM]	3.96	3.80	3.63	4.00	4.33
Develop strategies to enlist new partner churches to assist with planting new churches in strategic areas [AN]	3.44	4.20	3.38	3.00	3.33

Summary 7

SDOMs feel that the greatest strength of CPMs in their state is developing church planting strategies with associations and state. An additional strength of CPMs is working with new church plants.

APPENDIX A

October 31, 2003

Dear SDOM:

Earlier this year the Church Planting Group of the North American Mission Board redefined the way we relate to our state convention partners. By this time, you have met the Field Partner Services representative assigned to your state convention. A primary role of your NAMB representative is to be your state's advocate with NAMB's Church Planting Group.

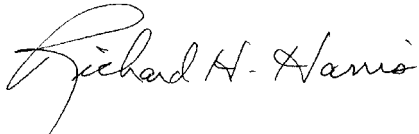
The goal of the Church Planting Group is to provide resources and services tailored to the specific needs of state conventions. We have enlisted NAMB's Research Services Team to assist us in developing and administering a brief questionnaire. The questionnaire gives you an opportunity to tell us the relative strengths of several church planting strategies in your state convention.

Please take a few minutes now and complete the questionnaire. Send it to Research Services in the enclosed business reply envelope. If you prefer, you may FAX it to (770) 410-6033. You may also request an electronic version of the questionnaire from rstanley@namb.net.

When your responses are summarized regionally, each Field Partner Services representative will have a better understanding of how NAMB can provide resources and services in his region. With the results from this questionnaire in hand, your representative can assist our Mentoring, Readiness, and Recruitment teams at NAMB in offering appropriate services tailored to our state convention partners.

God bless you in all that you do.

Sincerely yours...
...willingly His,



Richard Harris



Bobby S. Sena
CPG Field Partner Service Representative-Region IV

APPENDIX B

State Director of Missions Questionnaire

Please tell us how you feel about the current church planting strategies in your state.

Begin by ranking the strength of each component of church planting in your state. Please rank the strongest component 1, the second strongest 2, and so forth. Later sections of the questionnaire will ask for more detailed responses concerning each of these strategic areas.

	Rank
Creating Environments [A]	_____
Recruiting Church Planters [B]	_____
Enlisting Sponsoring/Partner Churches [C]	_____
Mentoring Church Planters [D]	_____
Developing Multiplying Churches [E]	_____
Church Planting Missionaries [F]	_____

Creating Environments

Components of a strategy to create environments conducive to church planting are listed below. Please rank the relative strength of these activities in your state. (1 indicates strongest)

	Rank
Creating vision [G]	_____
Casting vision [H]	_____
Identifying people groups [I]	_____
Finding locations [J]	_____
Church Planting Missionaries (CPMs) gather data [K]	_____
CPMs interpret data for church planting awareness and strategy [L]	_____
CPMs have regular contact with associations and churches [M]	_____

In the space below, please share ways that the Church Planting staff at NAMB can assist you with creating environments conducive to planting churches.

Recruiting Church Planters

Tell us more about the enlistment of church planters in your state by ranking these components of church planter enlistment. (1 indicates strongest)

	Rank
Raising up church planters [N]	_____
Calling out church planters [O]	_____
Assessing church planters [P]	_____
Use of bivocational planters [Q]	_____
Seminary/college recruitment [R]	_____
Church Planter Missionaries (CPMs) discover potential church planters [S]	_____
CPMs conduct initial assessment of potential church planters [T]	_____
CPMs conduct awareness conference recruiting lay people for church planting [U]	_____

Please identify ways that the Church Planting staff at NAMB can assist you with recruiting church planters.

Enlisting Sponsoring/Partner Churches

Tell us more about the enlistment of sponsoring/partner churches in your state by ranking these components of church enlistment. (1 indicates strongest)

	Rank
Identification of missional (mission minded) churches [V]	_____
Inviting key churches to plant churches [W]	_____
Encouraging partnerships among associations and churches [X]	_____
Church Planter Missionaries help to develop covenants between new churches and partner churches [Y]	_____

How can the Church Planting staff at NAMB assist you with enlisting sponsoring/partner churches?

Mentoring Church Planters

Tell us more about the mentoring of church planters in your state by ranking these components of their development. (1 indicates strongest)

	Rank
Training church planters [Z]	_____
Clustering church planters for peer learning [AA]	_____
Accountability for church planters [AB]	_____
Church Planter Missionaries (CPMs) mentor church planters [AC]	_____
CPMs facilitate church planter networks [AD]	_____
CPMs support multiplying church networks [AE]	_____

Can you identify ways that the Church Planting staff at NAMB can assist you with mentoring/developing church planters?

Developing Multiplying Churches

Tell us more about the development of multiplying churches in your state by ranking these components. (1 indicates strongest)

	Rank
Lifting up churches that have modeled multiplication principles [AF]	_____
Use of NAMB multiplying resources [AG]	_____
Use of other multiplying resources [AH]	_____
Church Planter Missionaries work in enlisting and training multiplying churches [AI]	_____

How can the Church Planting staff at NAMB assist you with developing multiplying churches?

Church Planting Missionaries

Tell us more about the work of Church Planting Missionaries in your state by ranking the effectiveness of these components of their work. (1 indicates strongest)

	Rank
Develop church planting strategies with associations and state [AJ]	_____
Develop goals for number of churches being cultivated [AK]	_____
Work with new churches who are in church planting process [AL]	_____
Finish role with new churches after 24 to 36 months [AM]	_____
Develop strategies to enlist new partner churches to assist with planting new churches in strategic areas [AN]	_____

How can the Church Planting staff at NAMB assist you with the work of Church Planter Missionaries in your state?

Thank you very much for your assistance. After completing the questionnaire please FAX it to (770) 410-6033 or use the enclosed postage paid envelope to mail it to:

**Research Services
North American Mission Board
4200 North Point Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30022**

APPENDIX C

#1 In the space below, please share ways that the Church Planting staff at NAMB can assist you with creating environments conducive to planting churches.

Enhance the work of psychographics, utilizing tools such as that which Percept has developed, making suggestions for spiritual needs applied to given population groups, etc. Identify subgroups of people groups that the Census Data does not contain

Keep church planting very “visible” in national publications...continue to elevate church planting at college, university and seminary level.

By producing materials that stay with a theme like Acts 1:8 which draws us to the Biblical mandate for starting churches and staying with the focus. Keep it simple and yet powerful. It takes time to consistently encourage the churches to follow Acts 1:8. Repetition is good. Flexibility of the use of materials is good

We need Strategy Coordinator training. We are currently working with Joe H. with dates in 2004. We have worked with David P. in developing a state strategy. It is now completed and in the beginning stages of implementation. We need help in the recruitment area. We need more ideas and encouragement in the area of lay church planting.

I really don't know. The relatively few whom we do identify as interested generally are the younger, less-traditional planters. Our hide-bound traditionalists regularly resist new churches, thinking in “parish-mentality” ways. I *wonder* if a letter from Bob Reccord would do some good.... Not just the major player churches, but all of the churches.... a personal invitation to plant a church. State the fundamentals. Include a brochure for more detail. This is probably the only way that some of our stodgy thinkers are going to awaken to the grave need of starting churches.

NAMB materials promotion church planting are helpful. I know of no other specific NAMB that we would request in this area.

You can help us by validating on a high level, i.e. the NAMB, that all expressions of “church” are valid (campus based, cell, house, apartment, etc.). There is a lot of lip service to this, but there is also a lot of resistance, even within your staff, trustees, etc. This lack of courage on redefining church/giving a new vision on the part of the NAMB is killing us in the field. To create an environment for saturation church planting, we must have your help in legitimizing churches of all types, sizes, flavors and that almost any believer can be a missionary/minister/church planter.

By staying field focused

By working with the field personnel in developing contextually adjusted strategies

By being mission driven rather than artificial goal driven.

The NAMB staff can assist most by providing good research data and materials related to all aspects of church planting. Additionally, quality training materials and all kinds of electronic media will be helpful. However, all training materials should be provided in electronic format so that the states can customize the materials and utilize them in various forms.

Offer more training on conducting probes

Offer practical help in relating with associational DOMs an planning strategies with them.

To continue MCN training on national regional level!

Continue to resource education for church planting

To make available regional data on population growth and how church planting can have a positive impact in reaching people as well as evangelism.

Continue to make information available to churches related to the need for church planting.

I believe NAMB is doing a fine job in providing materials for church planting. The need is to do more in servicing the material that is provide the training to use it in more than one venue (Connection meeting)

Help with vision casting and follow through with strategies taught in Basic Training

Keep legitimizing the Church Planting Process through hard data. Continue to develop flexible CPP tools.

Current systems of assistance and personal contacts have been and will continue to be helpful.

#2 Please identify ways that the Church Planting staff at NAMB can assist you with recruiting church planters.

Send names and resumes of planters to state offices.

See previous statement ... (Keep church planting very “visible” in national publications... continue to elevate church planting at college, university and seminary level)
Ditto

Enlisting Sponsoring/Partner Churches

By continuing to send resumes of church planters by internet

Being relatively new to this position, I need help in knowing what’s available in the area of recruitment

Although the plan is that Nehemiah not extend to colleges and universities, I would ask that Ed Stetzer and Richard Harris, et al, revisit the question. Sophisticated seminarians can be of great help in starting sophisticated churches. However, at least in Kentucky, the many of our unchurched live in quite provincial areas which are unlikely to attract or even desire sophistication. Please give us resources to work with “unsophisticated” people who sociologically are capable of being contextually comfortable, and of reaching the people who live there. White collar seminarians would not begin to fit in our forty counties in eastern Kentucky’s mountains where the unchurched rate is 65-80%.

It would be helpful for the Northwest if NAMB would emphasize seminary church planter recruiting beyond Nehemiah. Nehemiah positions only make up a small portion of our Northwest church plants. Many times seminary students get the impression (however unintended) that Nehemiah is the only avenue for new seminary grads to plant

We are finding that the greatest provider of church planters is God the “Harvest Master.” We are encouraging in every venue we can for individuals (2x2) and churches to pray Luke 10:2b. With this emphasis over the past year, we are convinced that Luke 10:2b may be the most important church planting verse in the NT. Jesus commands us here to pray for “harvesters” and we believe if He did such that it must be in God’s heart to answer that prayer. God is doing just this here in Colorado. More than anything, the NAMB can constantly and intentionally validate this type of praying and not validate our normal default mode of activity. You can also have a constant campaign to validate church planters from the local harvest. This has to be the future for us here in Colorado

By encouraging the focus for church planters to look to the new work areas. By increasing the scope of inclusion of church planters who are not just recent grads in some training programs that would equip and deploy them.

The CP staff at NAMB can assist with recruiting church planters by providing good materials and information related to bivocational and lay church planters. This is the area that is needed most

Help us develop a strategy for calling out lay people to plant churches.

Continue Nehemiah

Develop a database of people interested in church planting and share that with the states. It needs to be kept up to date.

Continue to provide information on church planters.

I don't know.

keep us aware of campus events, also (as you have done in the past) give us lists of candidates

Help rediscover the "call" to ministry. Pioneer states will never have the financial resources to attract young couples. They must sense the missionary calling.

I like what you're doing in this area. Continue to develop assessment tools, especially for particular types of planters (e.g., post-modern)

No further help is needed at this time. WE have nearly maxed our existing funds with qualified planters and have limited placement opportunities for additional or potential planters.

#3 How can the Church Planting staff at NAMB assist you with enlisting sponsoring/partner churches?

Continue to reward churches that sponsor new work. Heighten the Acts 1:8 church. Develop materials, small, simple brochures that will promote it. Utilize models that are identifiable to the smaller church, not super church models that are so different from the churches in our state that could sponsor new work

See statement above (. (Keep church planting very “visible” in national publications. . . .continue to elevate)

How can the Church Planting staff at NAMB assist you with enlisting sponsoring/partner churches? By developing and maintaining awareness materials that can be easily adapted to the individual states to help in creating and maintaining a climate of awareness

How can the Church Planting staff at NAMB assist you with enlisting sponsoring/partner churches? I need brochures and other material in encourage churches to sponsor or partner with new church starts

Continue funding the planter missionaries which start so many of our Hispanic works. It is their commitment, integrity, and passion which call forth church involvement. They model success so that our fearfuls become more confident in trying something new.

Partnering churches for new church plants is one of our greatest challenges in the Northwest. NAMB might consider developing promotional material and training venues that would help pastors of small to medium Northwest churches (50-150 in attendance) see ways that they could partner with new starts. These sized churches in the Northwest often feel they are too small and/or too struggling to help start a new church.

Most SBC churches do not understand a missional mentality and that only 4% of all evangelical churches in America are really missional. You can help us by championing this mentality and questioning the viability of churches that are not being intentionally missional. The Key Church Program (ACTS 1:8 Churches) is one of the best strategies ever envisioned by the NAMB. However, it has been diluted in expectations and reduced to just another program by your group. This program/mentality is a strategic component to addressing lostness. Please re-elevate this priority.

By keeping the need for sponsoring churches in high visibility in publications

By providing resources that will help churches better understand the realities of being a sponsoring church, and its benefits.

The CP staff can assist with enlisting sponsoring churches by providing research data related to churches that sponsor church plants and then developing quality materials that help create a vision and commitment to church planting.

Perhaps good materials on “What it takes to sponsor.”

This seems to be more of a local area challenge. However, creating a national awareness may help with enlistment of personnel and churches.

Continue to provide information on church planters.

This is the job of the associational DOM I believe. Give more direct training for this task to them. Help them overcome the many problems and excuses that churches give for not sponsoring or partnering.

?

Highlight testimonies of blessings on churches that are active in sponsoring new church starts.

Show the hard data of how a sponsoring/partnering church is enhanced through planting.

We're doing fine at this point!

#4 Can you identify ways that the Church Planting staff at NAMB can assist you with mentoring/developing church planters?

Have a national registry of mentors with certain standards.

You are assisting by providing the Basic Training and Mentoring materials. Please keep “tweaking” the materials according to the input from the Basic and Mentor training events. A periodic overview, problem solving workshop for state Basic and Mentor Training presenters would be helpful to keep the presenters “sharp”.

There is a tremendous lack of mentors in Nevada. This is a big part of our new strategy. We have plans for Mentor Training but could use some help from NAMB in training our leaders to lead mentor training.

Speaking fundamentally of our Hispanic workers, they do excellently already. Helping us develop leadership training which is both recognized as “valid” academically (at whatever level that training occurs) and contextual to the needs of our mix of Hispanic backgrounds would be really helpful. We want to have a relationship with academic institutions by which we can “credential” our trained workers (PLEASE do not think of this as high-powered training. We don’t need a seminary. We already have one in Kentucky which is irrelevant to Hispanic work). We need an “instituto” which our Hispanics can attend at times available to them, with the goal of ABC training, and somewhat beyond, as our needs grow over another decade

No specific suggestions here

The future for penetrating lostness in Colorado or America will live or die by identifying, enlisting, training and deploying an army of men and women church planters. NAMB continues to by-in-large write its training materials for church planters wanting to plant campus based/event centered churches. We need more ways to train volunteer ministers in a rapid, simple and reproducible manner. We must have a way to not just train leaders, but to train trainers. You can really help us by designing training that is very simple and does not revert to NAMB’s usual M.O. of defaulting from the simple to the complicated. We don’t need more modules or manuals, but very simple training that give a few hand-holds, teach the important principles and have a call to obedience built into the training.

The CP staff at NAMB can assist with mentoring and developing church planters by strengthening the materials related to the responsibilities of Sponsoring churches. It is vitally important for the sponsoring church pastor or key staff leader of the sponsoring church to be actively involved in the mentoring of church planters.

The mentoring area has been the most active, visible and helpful of all teams in the area of church planting.

Church Multiplication material is very helpful.

Include supervision training as an option.

Flexible approaches. One-size-fits-all fits almost nobody. I need basic tools that I can customize on the fly.

Continue to offer training, resources and new conference opportunities for our system. We may need assistance with a CPN retreat in 2004/05.

#5 How can the Church Planting staff at NAMB assist you with developing multiplying churches?

Continue developing simple materials like the MCN kit that recently was produced. Reward those who form MCNs.

Assist with awareness pieces that are easily convertible to using in our state to help encourage climate. Also make large churches you encounter personally to develop a vision for starting churches in the US and Canada.

This is another area in our strategy. Creating awareness / climate building is a need

Good question! I really don't know any answer to this, other than to pour out the need over and over that we are starting churches which start churches. Then help us call planters, not merely starters. The vision of the latter, as I see it, is to build a kingdom of one church. The other is a mindset which is interested in Kingdom-building.

No specific suggestions here

Multiplying Church Networks is a great strategy, but lack other strategies, it must be developed in a much more simple approach that what is being promoted presently. We are finding that most church leaders rebel at manuals. Please help us develop MCNs that are very organic in their approach and not promoted from the top, i.e. by the association, convention, etc. but that bubble-up from the churches themselves.

The CP staff at NAMB can help with developing multiplying churches by providing research data and training materials such as the Acts 1:8 Church strategy materials.

Not dropping this strategic component on the national level. (MCN) Help!

This is the weakest area. We really do not have many models of multiplication.

Continue to furnish good materials

Flexible tools for them to use.

Stand by and respond as we take steps to move more proactively in this area.

#6 How can the Church Planting staff at NAMB assist you with the work of Church Planter Missionaries in your state?

Offer workshops for CPMs in certain areas of specialization. Include CPMs, state strategists, and associational missionaries in the training.

Please continue to offer training to them...

O.K. this is a big one! One thing I want to do is to train our CPMs to be strategists. We will do this with Strategy Coordinator Training. We probably need to work on their job descriptions and made them fit our state strategy

As above, would a personalized letter from Bob Reccord, perhaps also signed by our state executive, woo DOMs to feel that part of their work is planting? Our people at every strategic level seem to feel no particular sharedness of purpose with KBC/NAMB. We are really are not so much partners as we are funding agencies...at least in the arena of new work.

Thanks for letting us make input. Much of what I have answered arises from Hispanic work. I will allow my colleague, Alan Witham, to answer in the context of Anglo new work.

I think it is very crucial that NAMB continue the CPM forum each year. An annual time where CPMs from across America come together is very helpful to strategists in the cross-pollination of ideas/learning.

In Colorado the CPM strategy has worked as well as any strategy that we have ever used. We need help on how we might add CPMs to every association. Presently our DOMs play both roles and do it fairly well, but the associations that have CPMs out perform the others. We would appreciate any suggestions in this critical area.

The CP staff at NAMB can assist with the work of Church Planter Missionaries in our state by providing quality screening and assessment prior to appointment, continued funding and training.

Continuous development, both personal and professionally

Continue the current innovative work.

Quality training for Church Planting Missionaries

Provide premier training events.

Continue to train them in strategy development and help them train associations in the same.

We do not have any.

#7 Other Comments

Thanks for the help so far

I need help in all these areas—I struggle with answering “specific ways.” I am open to all strategies that might help us raise leaders, particularly lay leaders.