

## Church Planting Best Practices

These Church Planting Best Practices (CPBP) are organized around the three major factors in church planting: *person, place, plan*. Each of these are unique to the church plant and intersect and influence the ministry ahead. Further, each of these — person, place and plan — have to come together in order to have a successful church plant. These CPBP are meant to be a starting place and a guiding document from which to launch your determination of a successful church plant, but by no means is exhaustive.

### Person

- Assessed and approved by an EPC Church Planting Assessment Center
- Clear call to church planting, with support of his family
- Heart for the lost
- Endorsement by supporting churches.
- Desire for deep personal holiness and understands the need for the Gospel in his own life.
- Clear understanding and articulation of the Gospel with the ability to recognize false gospels and idols.
- Coaching/Support structure in place
- Ability to navigate secular, non-Christian environments with grace and winsomeness
- Strong fundraising abilities

### Place

- Dynamic target demographic area (influential cultural centers, experiencing revitalization)
- Need for Gospel contextualization
- Need for healing and wholeness in a target area
- Need for Gospel presence (not a church-saturated environment)
- Has a bent toward a younger demographic with newer social groups
- Does the planter want to love on the area, despite its warts?
- Would the planter raise his kids there and want to live there?

### Plan

- Long-term plan (5 year strategy, with goals, vision, and budget)
- Clear goals with measurable milestones
- Accurate understanding of financial needs to plant in the target area
- Clear articulation of a Gospel-vision for the target area
- Includes multiplication and future church planting efforts
- Clear plan of discipleship
- Strategy for public worship service launch
- Kingdom-oriented: expresses the desire to partner with other churches in the target area

### Further Resources

Keller, *Center Church*.

Keller & Thompson, *Church Planter Manual*.

Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*.

Stetzer & Connor, *Church Plant Survivability and Health Study 2007: Best Practices*.