

# A New Paradigm for Church Planting: Emerging Churches



## Initial Hallmarks and Results

### Preaching; Testimony; Exhorting; Evangelism; Baptism

Acts 2:40 *And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"* 41 *So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about 3000 souls.*

### Scripture; Fellowship; Communion; Prayer

Acts 2:42 *They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

### Awe; Signs; Wonders; Voluntary Sharing; Giving; Sacrifice

Acts 2:43 *Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.* 44 *And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.*

### Gathering; Unity; Homes; Meals; Gladness; Heart; Praising; Growth

Acts 2:46 *Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,* 47 *praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

## Emerging Structure and Leadership

### Giftedness; Offices; Equipping; Unity; Maturity; Christ-likeness; Body-life

Ephesians 4:11 *And He gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors-teachers**, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ...* 15 *but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

### Appointments; Order; Elders; Overseers; (Qualifications);

Titus 1:5 *For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, 6 namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe ... (qualifications through verse 9).*

### Elders/Pastor-Shepherds; Voluntary; Examples; Guiding; Humility; Ruling; Compensation

1 Peter 5:1 *Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness ... 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. 5 ... and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

1 Timothy 5:17-18 *The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."*



Another paradigm for church planting...

**A**ny church can plant another church far more readily and easily than they think. They have resources beyond money: prayer, encouragement, and facilities that can serve as a "greenhouse" for an emerging church plant for the next generation. Here's how...

## 1 Church Seeds

**Pre-church stage** of Bible study/seeds being cast about.

**Volunteer leaders** privately discussing if others will follow.

**Focus on people** and casting multiple Bible studies/seeds.

**No worries** re: equipment, infrastructure, leases or failure.

**Training:** informal; relational

## 2 Church Plant

**Organizing seeds** with vision, worship and membership.

**Bi-vocational pastors** doing marketplace/lifestyle evangelism.

**Constituting** with By-laws, ordinations, Articles of Inc., etc.

**Partnering** officially with local churches and SBC entities.

**Training:** monthly & quarterly

## 3 Church Greenhouse

**Sponsor church** offering Saturday pm time/space for a new church plant.\*

**Cost:** humble cooperation; little wear & tear; occasional inconvenience.

**Support:** prayer; encouragement; counsel; protection; mentoring

**Funding:** optional; limited; strategic; cooperative with SBC entities.

**Training:** mentoring; interns; residency

# An "Emerging Church" Paradigm

One-day table talk at Summit Church, Gateway  
 Led by Russ Johnson, Consultant \* TableNetwork.com

Summary outline by Mark Gonzales, Royal Palm Association of Churches \* royalpalmsbc.com

## 3 Basic Goals of Church

- Loving Jesus
- Loving people
- Making disciples

"43,000 people leave the church every week."

"70% of those outside the faith are not interested in church at all... 328 million people."

"37% of the 18-30 demographic have no interest in spirituality at all."

"4% of U.S. population are active, Bible-based Christ-followers."

**Our mission:** "Putting the gospel in the hands of every believer to equip them to help people unlearn worldly ways and follow Jesus."

"The gospel literally means good news—a headline of the coming of Jesus rather than teaching, steps, and bullet points (the latter are for discipleship)."

"It's the kindness of God that leads us to repentance."

"The church is basically the body of Jesus."

"The kingdom of God is really the King Himself."

"Preaching is proclamation in a public setting. Teaching is interaction around a table at home."

## 2 Shifts once Jesus came

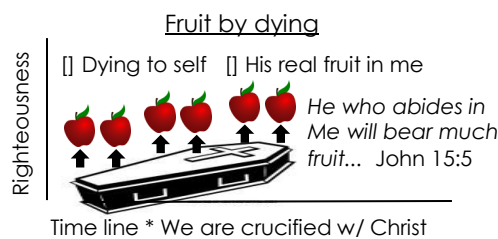
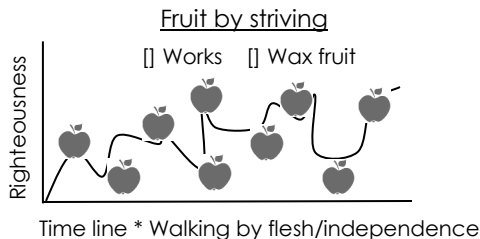
Saving  
 Message of Freedom

- No more bondage!
- Colossians 1; Luke 18; John 14:6
- News of the "reckless love of Jesus" replaced legalistic religious instruction.
- But we can undo this gospel message of Jesus in a hurry—by reviving works!
- Galatians 5 warns of becoming "bewitched" trying to do Christian life by the law and works, though we were saved by love and grace!
- Beware the "Grace to law altar call!"

Doing  
 Medium of Family

- A family motif for church life is conducive to how people live their lives and learn.
- A family motif is more conducive for maturation; contextualization; formation; and multiplication.
- A family motif relieves the stifling effect to growth and movement by a priestly or formal clergy system.
- This is how churches organically emerge, in lieu of formal planting.

## Improvement vs. Replacement



Is our church plant philosophy...

- Missional?
- Organic?
- Relational?
- Attractional?
- Contextual?

All of the above, emerging as it will.

Conventional church structures and schedules tend to impose on limited margins in peoples lives...

We need to think outside that box to new meeting times and places... like homes and even in the market place.

\* 3 spaces used to be: Sun. Worship; Sm. Groups; Lifestyle

### Mission

- Matt. 28:19-20 is our commission mission.
- "Go therefore and teach" = as you are going, disciple...
- "To obey" = joyful allegiance

### Society

- Social media dominating culture
- Cultural fragmentation is the by-product
- Wait, Watch, Walk
- Embrace the tribes
- Belonging is first
- Belief is next, then...
- Formation of family.

### Life in 3 Spaces now = Creating rhythms in life/context by:

#### GOING

- Consider norms and networks
- Slow down
- Be like lambs
- Share news, not advice

#### CONNECTING

- They are the filters.
- Use inclusive language
- Don't answer questions, pose more!

#### PAUSING

- You have limited margins.
- Create relational capital.
- Walking "underground"

### Discipleship= giving milk

- Listening
- Proclaiming
- Inviting
- Teaching
- Trusting

