

Church Planting Approaches in Tension: Traditional Versus Movements

Some commonalities between the approaches:

- Scripture as foundational authority for belief and practice
- Commitment to some form of connection with other believers and global body of Christ
- Identity of believers as people committed to Jesus Christ
- Initial commitment to Christ normally demonstrated in believers' baptism
- Desire for all believers in Christ to develop biblically grounded beliefs and lives obedient to Christ
- An expectation that the Holy Spirit will be at work guiding and empowering the ministry of church planters and facilitators
- Intention to see the Great Commission completed (unreached groups become reached)
- Specially called and gifted "apostolic" church planters cross boundaries to new areas and cultures.
- Informal interaction with the Scriptures in small groups.
- As churches form, believers with spiritual gifts of teaching increasingly exercise their gifting in the ministry of the growing church(s).
- Most leaders not formally trained or ordained.
- Ministry training is normally provided on the job locally.

Some differences between the approaches:

Traditional Church Planting	Church Planting Movement
Indigenous leadership as soon as possible, with the church planters keen to identify and train local leaders from the beginning.	Indigenous leadership from the start, with church planter remaining out of the church group as much as possible.
Discipling individuals, within families whenever possible, and either helping families become churches or gathering individuals and families into local churches	Discipling families and existing relational groups to become churches. Small local churches planted within pre-existing social networks
Inductive Bible studies and discussions led by believers with more experience with and knowledge of the Scriptures than the seekers and new believers. There are no set questions.	Discovery Bible studies can be led by anyone (even an unbeliever), using a simple easily reproducible format consisting of about seven simple questions.
Begin in house churches, though in low-persecution contexts, groups may choose to meet in buildings, once the group gets too large to meet in a house.	Mostly house churches: meeting in locations other than "church" buildings.
The dominant way believers self-identify is using the term "Christian." But in high security contexts other terms are sometimes used.	A variety of self-identity descriptions are used to indicate that they are followers of Christ: "Followers of the Way," "Followers of Isa," and sometimes "Christian."
An expectation that God would raise up local evangelists and church planters to take the gospel to other communities, and plant churches, resulting in church multiplication.	Churches plant new churches rapidly. A belief that every believer is a disciple-maker and thus a potential church planter.

Multiplication in Traditional Church Planting?

An expectation that as people respond to the Gospel, various types of churches will form as believers and their families join together to worship and obey Jesus. It is expected that some in each new church would become gifted as evangelists and that they would lead others to Christ, who would either join the new church, or, when appropriate, form new churches. As God moves, more and more churches are planted under the power and leading of the Spirit until it develops into a movement. The speed of multiplication is unpredictable but can sometimes be very rapid.

A movement understood in traditional approaches to church planting would be a growing multiplication of new believers and new churches such that hundreds, thousands, and tens of thousands come to Christ over a period of time (a few years or decades).

What is a Church Planting Movement (CPM)?

“A Church-Planting Movement is a rapid multiplication of indigenous disciples and churches that sweeps through a population group, with consistent 4+ generation churches in multiple streams.” Steve Smith and Stan Parks in “T4T or DMM (DBS)? Only God Can Start a Church-Planting Movement.” *Mission Frontiers*, 2015

“A Church Planting Movement is *a rapid and multiplicative increase of indigenous churches planting churches within a given people group or population segment.*” David Garrison, in *Church Planting Movements*, 2004

Two of the most common approaches leading to CPMs:

DMM – Disciple Making Movement (a *process* toward the *result* of a CPM): focuses on disciples engaging the lost to find persons of peace who will gather their family or circle of influence, to begin a Discovery Group. This is an inductive group Bible study process from Creation to Christ, learning directly from God through His Scripture. The journey toward Christ usually takes several months. During this process, seekers are encouraged to obey what they learn and share the Bible stories with other. When possible, they start new Discovery Groups with their family or friends. At the end of this initial study process, new believers are baptized. They then begin a several-month Discovery Bible Study (DBS) church-planting phase during which they are formed into a church. This process disciplines the Discovery Group into a commitment to Christ, leading to new churches and new leaders who then reproduce the process.

T4T – Training for Trainers (a process toward a CPM): a process of mobilizing and training all believers to evangelize the lost (especially in their *oikos* or circle of influence), disciple the new believers, start small groups or churches, develop leaders, and train these new disciples to do the same with their *oikos*. Discipleship is defined as both obeying the Word and teaching others (hence, trainers). The goal is to help every generation of believers to train trainers, who can train trainers, who can train trainers. It equips trainers using a three-thirds process of discipleship each week – 1) *looking back* to evaluate and celebrate obedience to God, 2) *looking up* to receive from his Word and 3) *looking ahead* by setting prayerful goals and practicing how to impart these things to others.

Some Recommended CPM/DMM Books Available on Site:

- Miraculous Movements: How Hundreds of Thousands of Muslims Are Falling in Love with Jesus*, by Jerry Trousdale (Thomas Nelson, 2012)
- Contagious Disciple Making: Leading Others on a Journey of Discovery*, by David and Paul Watson (Thomas Nelson, 2014)
- The Kingdom Unleashed: How Jesus' 1st-Century Kingdom Values Are Transforming Thousands of Cultures and Awakening His Church*, by Jerry Trousdale and Glenn Sunshine (DMM Library, 2018)
- Bhojpuri Breakthrough: A Movement that Keeps Multiplying*, by Victor John with Dave Coles (WIGTake Resources, 2019)

Other Recommended CPM/DMM Books:

- Church Planting Movements, How God Is Redeeming a Lost World*, by David Garrison (WIGTake Resources, 2004)
- T4T: A Discipleship Re-Revolution*, by Steve Smith with Ying Kai (WIGTake Resources, 2011)
- Movements That Change the World: Five Keys to Spreading the Gospel*, by Steve Addison, Alan Hirsch, et al. (IVP Books 2011)
- A Wind in the House of Islam: How God is drawing Muslims around the world to faith in Jesus Christ*, by David Garrison (WIGTake Resources, 2014)
- Movements That Move: 7 Root Principles That Nurture Church Planting Movements*, by Robert Reach (ChurchSmart Resources, 2016)
- Nyman, James: *Stubborn Perseverance: How to launch multiplying movements of disciples and churches among Muslims and others* (Mission Network; 2 edition, 2017)
- Focus on Fruit! Movement Case Studies and Fruitful Practices*, by Trevor Larsen (www.focusonfruit.org, 2018)
- Spent Matches: Igniting the Signal Fire for the Spiritually Dissatisfied*, by Roy Moran (Thomas Nelson, 2015)
- From Megachurch to Multiplication: A Church's Journey Toward Movement*, by Chris Galanos (Experience Life, 2018)
- More Disciples: A Guide to Becoming and Multiplying Followers of Jesus*, by Doug Lucas, (WIGTake Resources, 2019)
- The Rise and Fall of Movements: A Roadmap for Leaders*, by Steve Addison (100Movement Publishing, 2019)

Recommended Books Related to Traditional Approaches to Church Planting

On Church Planting:

- Chester, Tim, Ed. 2002. *Justice, Mercy and Humility: Integral Mission and the Poor*. Paternoster. (The Papers of the Micah Network International Consultation on Integral Mission and the Poor, 2001). ISBN: 978-1842271629
- Dixon, Roger L. and Jan B. Dixon. 2013. *Cross-Cultural Church Planting for Probies: Envisioning and Facilitating Holistic Church Planting among Unreached People Groups from Preparation to Closure*. Self-published. ISBN: 978-1492227069
- Hiebert, Paul G. and Eloise Hiebert Meneses. 1995. *Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies*. Baker Academic. ISBN: 978-0801020094
- Muller, Roland. 2006, 2013. *The Messenger, The Message & the Community: Three Critical Issues for the Cross-Cultural Church Planter*. CanBooks (self-published). ISBN: 978-1927581148
- Payne, J.D. 2009. *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting*. IVP Books (Paternoster). ISBN: 978-0830856343
- Sinclair, Daniel. 2005, 2012. *A Vision of the Possible: Pioneer Church Planting in Teams*. IVP Books. ISBN: 978-0830857791
- Woodberry, J. Dudley, Editor. 2008. *From Seed to Fruit: Global Trends, Fruitful Practices and Emerging Issues among Muslims*. Pasadena: William Carey Library. ISBN: 978-0878080007

On Conversion and Discipleship in Church Planting among Muslims:

- Greenlee, David, Editor. 2013. *Longing for Community: Church, Ummah, or Somewhere in Between?* Pasadena: William Carey Library. ISBN: 978-0878085330
- Greenlee, David, Editor. 2006. *From the Straight Path to the Narrow Way: Journeys of Faith*. Waynesboro, GA: Authentic. ISBN: 978-1932805420
- Kraft, Kathryn Ann. 2012. *Searching for Heaven in the Real World: A Sociological Discussion of Conversion in the Arab World*. Oxford: Regnum Books International (OCMS). ISBN: 978-1908355157
- Little, Don. 2015. *Effective Discipling in Muslim Communities: Scripture, History and Seasoned Practices*. IVP Academic. ISBN: 978-0830824700¹
- McCurry, Don. 2001, 2011. *Healing the Broken Family of Abraham: New Life for Muslims*. Ministries to Muslims (self-published). ISBN: 978-0971085305
- Pietzsch, Horst B. 2010. *Welcome Home: Caring for Converts from A Muslim Background*. Nairobi, Kenya: Life Challenge Assistance. ISBN: 978-0066895272
- Strähler, Reinhold. 2010. *Coming to Faith in Christ: Understanding Conversion*. Nairobi, Kenya: Calabash Resources (Life Challenge Assistance). ISBN 9966895299

¹ Copies of this book will be available for purchase on site.