

Annotated Bibliography for

# Church Planting

Written by: Stan Granberg | Last Revised: September 1, 2017

What I've done here is to give my favorite resources for some of the different areas important in the task of church planting: theological reflection, church planting primers, coaching/mentoring, Christianity for emerging generations and a few miscellaneous books.

## Theological Reflection for Church Planters

Allen, C. Leonard. Things Unseen: Churches of Christ after the Modern Age. Siloam Springs, AR: Leafwood publishers, 2004.

For those with a Restoration Movement heritage it is imperative to gain historical perspective on why we are who and what we are. Through this insightful series of essays Allen leads the reader to engage the philosophical roots of our movement in order to provide essential insights needed to explore the potential future of Churches of Christ.

Murray, Stuart. Church Planting: Laying Foundations. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2001.

A one-of-a-kind book at the moment, taking a theological look at church planting, the nature of the church and models and methods. Provides an excellent backdrop for the more how-to oriented books. Provides some of the best "thinking fodder" for those interested in planting churches among post-Christian, emerging generation people.

## Church Planting Primers

These books give "how-to" details on the church planting enterprise.

Garrison, David. Church Planting Movements. Richmond, VA: Overseas Operations International Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1999.

Garrison describes the settings and key factors which characterize church planting movements in the Baptist church from around the world.

Keller, Timothy J & Thompson, J. Allen. Church Planter Manual. New York: Redeemer Church Planting Center, 2002. Order from [www.redeemer.com](http://www.redeemer.com).

Redeemer Presbyterian Church was planted by Tim Keller in 1989. It is now one of the major resource centers for urban church planting in the US. Keller's strength is his emphasis on bringing spiritual renewal to the city as the primary goal for church planting. He brings a valuable theological insight to the planting process and keeps a helpful emphasis on the internal state of the planter.

Logan, Robert E. The Church Planter's Toolkit. Church Smart Resources, 1991. Order at <http://www.churchsmart.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=1007>.

A step-by-step, detailed workbook approach that helps the planter develop a detailed plan for planting a new church. The tapes provide further insights and motivational material. The workbook format will help planters produce material that clarifies thinking as well as providing action steps in a logical sequence.

Malphurs, Aubrey. Planting Growing Churches for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century : A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and those Desiring Renewal. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998.

An excellent book summarizing the best of a modern approach to church planting. Malphurs moves through the entire process, from deciding whether or not church planting is the right thing to do to getting the new church established. He uses a student and his questions as a backdrop to lead into the chapter discussions.

Stetzer, Ed. Planting Missional Churches. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2006.

Probably the best “handbook” currently on the market, written by a man with both the practical experience and theological insight to bridge both worlds. Stetzer lays a theological foundation for church planting, then moves into a helpful “how-to” approach. While promising a deeper look into planting among Postmodern generations this is probably the least helpful arena Stetzer tackles. The feel one gets is that Stetzer planted modern churches and is looking at the post-modern church through the lens of other authors.

### **Coaching/Mentoring**

What separates a reptilian approach (lay a lot of eggs and hope a few young make it) from an approach with more promise and less personal failure? Deliberate coaching and mentoring.

[www.Coachnet.org](http://www.Coachnet.org)

An on-line coaching resource for self-directed coaching or for coaches looking for help in the coaching process. An extensive collection of resources available in pdf files, powerpoint presentations, internet courses and other materials on church planting, coaching, Natural Church Development, cell church and other topics.

Ellison, Edna & Scribner, Tricia. Woman to Woman: Preparing Yourself to Mentor. Birmingham, AL: New Hope, 2000.

A personal workbook to help older women prepare themselves to develop their mentee, their friend, to a full life in God. Focusing on the personhood of the mentor Ellison and Scribner take mentors on a journey of faith, encouraging them to trust in a God who has formed and sculpted them to serve, encourage, teach, counsel and guide their mentorees through a deep, personal relationship, such as that shared between Naomi and Ruth.

Hendricks, Howard & Hendricks, William. As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character in a Mentoring Relationship. Chicago: Moody Press, 1999.

Hendricks and Hendricks discuss the mentoring process for men, first from the perspective of the mentee, then the mentor. Provides seasoned advice on how to select a mentor, what to expect from a mentoring relationship and how to assess a mentoring relationship. For those who will be mentors the Hendricks provide advice in what to look for in a mentee, how to manage a mentor and bringing the relationship to a conclusion.

Johnson, W. Brad & Ridley, Charles R. The Elements of Mentoring. New York: Plagrave Macmillan, 2004.

Written in the style of Strunk & White's: The Elements of Style, Johnson and Ridley distill the research on mentoring into fifty-seven key elements for effective mentoring. These elements are clustered into six primary themes: skills, style and personality, beginning mentoring relationships, integrity, restoration and closure. Each element begins with a pithy case study, followed by explanation of the element and ends with a Key Components summary.

Logan, Robert E. & Reinecke, Gary. Developing Coaching Excellence. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources. Available at <http://www.churchsmart.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=1104>.

Combining a workbook format with audio tapes this material focuses on developing the person and skills of the planter coach. Works the coach through nine coaching competencies vital to developing others for their mission in the kingdom of God. The competencies are built around three core areas: Foundational, Relational and Strategic competencies.

Logan, Robert E. & Carlton, Sherilyn. Coaching 101: Discover the Power of Coaching. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2003. Available at <http://www.churchsmart.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=1060>.

The low cost (\$10) version of Developing Coaching Excellence. Introduces and develops the 5-R program of coaching: Relate, Reflect, Refocus, Resource and Review.

Ogne, Steve & Roehl, Tim. Transmissional Coaching: Empowering Leaders in a Changing Ministry World. B&H Books, 2008.

A powerful and comprehensive introduction to missionally focused coaching in the post-modern context. Ogne and Roehl share out of their coaching practice. They provide sound research in combination with practical advice for coaches. This would be my top choice of books to read on coaching.

Otto, Donna. Finding a Mentor. Being a Mentor. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2001.

Otto delves into the relationship of mentoring as the zenith of the quality personal relationship available among Christian women. Part 1 prepares the mentor for such relationship through a study of Titus 2:3-5. Part 2 presents a 30-week mentoring guide covering topics to encourage the life of the mentoree as a woman, wife and mother, but above all as a person of God.

Wilkinson, Bruce. The Dream Giver. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Press, 2003.

Using the parable of a Nobody named Ordinary who leaves the Land of Familiar to pursue the Big Dream provided him by the Dream Giver, Wilkinson challenges us to let God lead us to the personal heights for which He has prepared us. Wilkinson then shifts his role from storyteller to guide and coach to walk the reader through the challenges, discouragements and fears of the journey towards his or her own Big Dream. A wonderful book to encourage planters in the pursuit of their dreams.

### **Christianity for Emerging Generations**

Kimball, Dan. The Emerging Church. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Beginning with the modern church and its philosophical foundations Kimball compares and contrast the modern church with the post-modern church. He then moves to exploratory description of what emerging churches might look like, developing his themes from his personal experiences with emerging generations.

McLaren, Bruce. A New Kind of Christian: A Tale of Two Friends on a Spiritual Journey. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001.

In a story written from the perspective of a frustrated pastor suffering under the burden of a Christian story that is making less sense with each sermon he preaches, McLaren describes possible new perspectives on traditional Christian themes through the character of Neo, a Jamaican born, former preacher, high school teacher. McLaren is not afraid to push against recent historical, Christian understandings. His proposals concerning the relationship of Christianity to other world religions, towards cultures, church leadership and explaining God in the world will evoke joy and consternation.

McLaren, Bruce. More Ready than You Realize. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Through an email conversation with Alice McLaren describes the fears, the challenges and the personal pitfalls of a pre-Christian's search for the meaning of Christianity. For Alice, Christianity is not a rational proposition of truth to accept, but a societal evil with the potential to leave her dry and broken. McLaren patiently listens to Alice's fears, letting her questions guide their discussions as she wrestles with a God who just might speak in terms she understands.

Miller, Donald. Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003.

The back cover describes Miller's book as:

For anyone wondering if the Christian faith is still relevant in a post-modern culture, for anyone thirsting for a genuine encounter with a God who is real, for anyone yearning for a renewed sense of passion in life . . .

A member of the Imago Dei church, an emerging generation church in Portland, Oregon, Miller describes his spiritual journey from a theistically challenged youth to a mystically in-tune believer who understands Christianity as the improvising notes of jazz birthed in the freedom of true life. Miller challenges us to think the world of pre-Christian peoples.

### **Miscellaneous**

Covey, Stephen R. [The 8<sup>th</sup> Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness](#). New York: Free Press, 2004.

Covey's 8<sup>th</sup> habit is "to Find Your Voice and Inspire Others to Find Theirs." This voice represents the personal significance that empowers individuals and organizations to make a difference. Church planters need to develop their voice as they communicate their vision and call people into relationship with God in their churches.

Waymire, Bob & Townsend, Carl. [Discovering Your City](#). Etna, CA: Light International. Order from [www.discoveryourcity.com](http://www.discoveryourcity.com).

How will a church planter learn a new city, develop strategies appropriate for that city, find their place and learn the currents? Waymire and Townsend describe a thorough process for learning the details of a city and how to use those details for spiritual benefit. More detail than most planters would use, but the general notion used to learn a city and the specific survey forms are worth the price.