

HOW DOES GOD WANT ME TO BE INVOLVED IN CHURCH PLANTING?



Complete and return to:

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A CHURCH PLANTING SELF-ASSESSMENT

Can you give some specific examples where your prayers have been answered in a way that may indicate God is calling you toward being involved in church planting?

Can you give specific experiences in which God has increased your passion for church planting?

How have other believers affirmed this direction in your life? (One key person to talk with about your call is your spouse. If your children are old enough you should include them, as well as some close friends, in these discussions.)



CHURCH PLANTER PROFILE OF:

My Church Planting Call

My Spiritual Gifts

My Passion

I have a heart for

My Ministry Preference (Check one)

Category One:	Initiator	<hr/>
Category Two:	Organizer	<hr/>
Category Three:	Developer	<hr/>
Category Four:	Revitalizer	<hr/>

God's Perfect Timing – "The Call"

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Have you talked about planting a church with your spouse? Yes No

Is there any particular people group or demographic where you feel God may be leading you? If yes, where? _____

Is there a particular geographic place where you feel God may be leading you? If yes, where? _____

When could you be ready to plant a church? _____

Do you relate well to people of other cultures? Yes No

Have you taken any classes or been to any seminars on church planting? Yes No

What books have you read on church planting? _____

Do you have a person in mind who could mentor you in the area of church planting?
(Name of person) _____

Do you have a core group which will join you in church planting? How many and where are they located? _____

Can you plant a church and keep your current employment? Yes No

Can you seek employment in a new community and plant a church? Yes No

(Note: Planting while employed otherwise may or may not be a requisite for planting.)

Have you talked about planting a church with your children? Yes No

SELF-ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

The following questions focus on your past performance in areas that relate specifically to skills necessary to serve as a lead church planter.¹ Please write your answers in the space provided. In your answers, be as descriptive as possible, succinct, and honest.

1. Visioning Capacity

Give an example of a time when you successfully started something from the beginning.

2. Intrinsically Motivated

What are your top two core values? Give two examples of how you have exhibited them in the past six months.

¹Taken from *Training for Selection Interviewing: Participant's Manual*, Charles Ridley and Robert E. Logan (Alpharetta, Ga.: North American Mission Board, 1998), pp. 18-24.

3. Ability to Create Ownership

Tell about a group or team that you have motivated to accomplish a goal.

4. Relates to and Reaches Unchurched People

Describe a recent relationship that you have developed with a lost person to whom you introduced Christ.

5. Spousal Support

In what ways has your spouse been actively involved in your current ministry/future vision?

UNPACKING YOUR MINISTRY PREFERENCE

If you scored highest in category one, you may be an **initiator**. You like to start projects or ministries. You get an idea and are able to get the ball rolling. Most church planters score high in this area. You most likely will have the place in mind where you feel God is leading you to plant a church. It does not bother you to be the pioneer to that area. Initiators make great church planters, but they have to work hard to develop a realistic strategy to implement their vision. Once the church plant moves into an organizing stage, you may become restless and ready to start something else. A caution here is not to move on too soon. A challenge for you to consider is to develop leaders in the church that can take the church to the next level.

If you scored highest in the second category, you may be an **organizer**. You like to put order to the chaos. You can take an idea and come up with an action plan to see it accomplished. You might operate best where there has been some preparation work in the field where the church is to be started. Organizers can make great church planters, but once the church has been organized and structure is in place, you may become bored.

If you scored highest in the third category, you may be a **developer**. You like to take what has been started and organized, and develop it. You are good at taking things to the next level and providing good leadership to grow the church. If you are considering church planting, you may be better suited to be the pastor of a mission church, or at least where the mission has a core group of people. You will still need to cast vision and organize. If you are a developer and feel called to plant a church, then you may struggle in an area where you have to start something from scratch. You should consider gathering some people around you who are initiators.

If you scored highest in the fourth category, you may be a **revitalizer**. You could be great in taking a plateaued or declining church and giving it new life. You are patient and willing to take time to see the church turn around and become an effective witness to the world. We need pastors who are revitalizers. Revitalizers can often become church planting pastors in areas where the city has transitioned and has become multicultural.

CATEGORY THREE

- I like to take something that has already been started and organized and grow it to its fullest potential. 1 2 3 4 5
- I like to keep things under control. 1 2 3 4 5
- I like for things to operate smoothly and efficiently. 1 2 3 4 5
- I love to facilitate improvement in an organization. 1 2 3 4 5
- I like to work within given structure. 1 2 3 4 5
- I tend to get a little uneasy when things are disorganized and inefficient. 1 2 3 4 5
- I like to build effective teams. 1 2 3 4 5
- I like to commit to things long-term. 1 2 3 4 5

Total Points

CATEGORY FOUR

- I like to take a program, church, or business that is not doing well and give it new life. 1 2 3 4 5
- I like to find creative approaches to problems. 1 2 3 4 5
- I like to give hope to an existing program. 1 2 3 4 5
- I have patience to work on projects that take a long time to turn around in order to see improvement. 1 2 3 4 5
- I love to look at a process, evaluate it, and then determine what needs to be done to make it more efficient. 1 2 3 4 5
- I am a problem-solver. 1 2 3 4 5
- I am good at resolving conflicts. 1 2 3 4 5
- I am able to bring change about in a positive manner. 1 2 3 4 5

Total Points

6. Effectively Builds Relationships

Give an example of a time when you moved to a new area, school, church, etc., and you (and your family) had to build new relationships.

7. Committed to Church Growth

In what ways have you contributed to the growth of the church or a ministry?

8. Responsive to Needs in the Community

How have you been personally involved in meeting the needs of people in your community?

9. Utilizes the Giftedness of Others

What process do you use to match the right people with the right ministry needs? Tell about the last time you used this process.

10. Flexible and Adaptable

Describe a situation where someone pointed out a mistake that you made. What was your response to their correction? What steps did you take to correct the mistake? What did you learn?

11. Builds Group Cohesiveness

Give your best example of developing a team. How did you recruit people to serve on your team. How did you equip them to accomplish the team's goals?

DISCOVERING HOW I AM MOST EFFECTIVE

Rate how true this is of you by circling a number, 1-5.

1 = very little
5 = very much

CATEGORY ONE

- I love starting projects from scratch. 1 2 3 4 5
- I require minimal direction in getting something started. 1 2 3 4 5
- I often find myself involved in new ventures either in business, ministries, or clubs. 1 2 3 4 5
- I like to read books to gain more insight into a specific topic about which I previously knew nothing. 1 2 3 4 5
- I have been able to attract resources to fund or start a new project. 1 2 3 4 5
- I have been able to gather a group of people to help me start a new project or group. 1 2 3 4 5
- I tend to get frustrated when the size of a group begins to require more amounts of time and energy for organizational maintenance. 1 2 3 4 5
- I project into the future. 1 2 3 4 5

Total Points

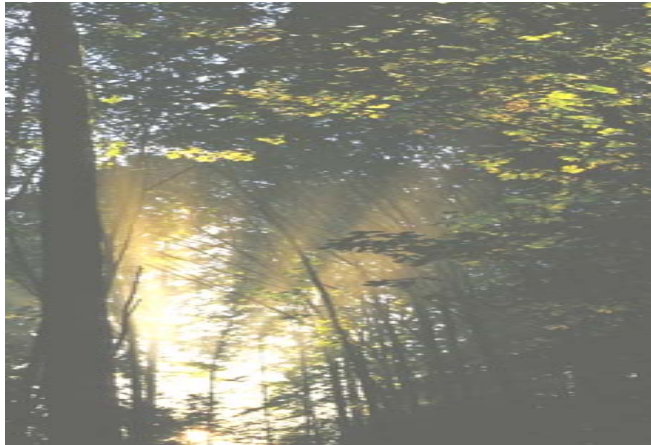
CATEGORY TWO

- I like to organize new projects. 1 2 3 4 5
- I like to delegate my "to do" list to enable me to accomplish more. 1 2 3 4 5
- I like to get new people involved in ministry. 1 2 3 4 5
- I can establish clear goals. 1 2 3 4 5
- I like to think in terms of long-range plans. 1 2 3 4 5
- I tend to lose the challenge of the job once the original disorder is brought under control. 1 2 3 4 5
- I view problems not as challenges but as obstacles that need to be removed if there's to be any progress. 1 2 3 4 5
- Once I have organized the project, I am ready to move to another project and do the same. 1 2 3 4 5

Total Points

MY PASSION

Based on my answers, I sense my passion is for (include both people types and expressions):



12. Resilience

Describe a time when you felt like quitting but did not.

13. Exercises Faith

Tell about the biggest risk you've ever taken for God.

After answering these self-assessment questions, we recommend that you talk to your pastor or district or national director of church planting. They may suggest that you take formal church planter assessment. This is a four-hour interview based upon your life experiences – personal, professional, and ministry. This assessment will help you in discovering your calling and giftedness in church planting.

Please complete your Church Planter Profile at the end of this booklet and use it as a guide when you talk to church planting leaders about placement. For more information on church planting, you may also wish to read the following books:

Invading Secular Space by Martin Robinson & Dwight Smith
Beyond Church Growth by Robert Logan
Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age by Ed Stetzer

MY PASSION: WHAT DO I LIKE DOING?

Check the appropriate answer(s) to the following questions.

PASSION TARGET: I feel most significant when I minister to the following groups of people: (Choose three)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preschoolers | <input type="checkbox"/> Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Students |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women | <input type="checkbox"/> Men | <input type="checkbox"/> Internationals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Married Couples |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Engaged Couples | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced/Widowed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> People in Need | <input type="checkbox"/> Postmodern Generation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professionals | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees | <input type="checkbox"/> Addictions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Hospitalized | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Struggling (finances, grief, etc.) |

PASSION EXPRESSION: My heart beats fast when I think about ministering in the following ways: (Check no more than three)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leading Small Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Teaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Serving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compassion | <input type="checkbox"/> Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Instruments | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas Missions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leading Teams | <input type="checkbox"/> Leading Worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discipling Individuals | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Connecting People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound/Lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Custodial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf Interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Sharing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recruiting Volunteers | <input type="checkbox"/> Administration | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Handiwork | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Graphics | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting New People | <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for People | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biblical & Other Research | <input type="checkbox"/> English as a Second Language | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Trades (plumbing, carpentry, electrical, etc.) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video Production | | |

Complete the following statements in one sentence.

At the end of my life, I'd love to be able to look back and know that I have done something about:

My friends would say that I am really interested in or passionate about:

The three most positive work or ministry experiences I've had in my life were (think about why these were so meaningful to you – the "who" as much as the "what"):

Experience 1

Experience 2

Experience 3