

Best Practices for New Faith Community Planters:

**** PRAY ***** PRAY ***** PRAY ****

1. Understand the Seven Seasons of New Faith Community Planting... Path 1 has identified seven “seasons” of planting... which describe the various stages of developing and implementing a plan to reach new people. Here is a link to a page that will introduce you to these seasons:
http://www.path1.org/scmedia.php?type=mediaplayer&loc=www.path1.org/media/media/mediaplayer.php&client_id=117615&id=20100812110828AB77F8
2. Have Clarity about your Target Group... We cannot be everything to everyone, so make sure you know who you are trying to reach. This colors everything else you do... where to gather, how to communicate, what mission projects to undertake, how to worship, etc!
3. Be Able to Clearly Articulate your Vision... Your vision must grow out of careful, patient listening to the people in your target group! And, once you have it in mind, you need to clearly, succinctly cast it to all sorts of people that you meet. Church planters are constant sales-persons! Can you, in one sentence, paint a picture of what you are working to create?
4. Have a Clear, Simple Disciple-Making Process... What are the door-ways into your NFC? What experiences will you move people through to allow God to grow them as followers of Jesus? What kinds of things will you do to move someone from each stage of discipleship development: From “Exploring their faith” to “Beginning to follow Jesus” to “Growing in their faith” toward a “Maturing in Faith in Christ.” Your process can be unique, just make sure you have one and can teach it to your teams!
5. Hire a Coach to Increase Fruitfulness... A coach is your biggest ally! They will help you think thru your plan, break it down into manageable chunks, and will co-create an accountable relationship that keeps you working your plan, one step at a time. They are committed to helping you thrive!
6. Build a Team-Based Ministry... The only sustainable NFC’s are run by TEAMS of com-mitted people! The number and purpose of your teams are based on your vision and disciple making process. Some have as many as 10 teams! Always include a prayer team!
7. Have Strategic Planning Gatherings twice a year... Start at the end (with a picture in mind of your NFC up and running at full capacity) and work backwards. This will help you understand what teams you need, and what each person and team will do when. Group planning creates energy and can be great fun! Have a planning party 2X a year!
8. Evaluate and Be Flexible... Planting NFC’s is all about learning by trial and error! We act based on a theory. We venture out and try our plan. Then we evaluate. What worked? What didn’t? What did we learn? What changes will we make for next time? Then we venture out again!
9. Prevent Burnout by Modeling Good Self-care... Planting a NFC is hard work! And, it can seem so important, it is easy to neglect other parts of our life that create balance. Healthy planters take time off each week, and they take care of other relationships!
10. Pray! Pray! Pray!... Be sure you are asking the Holy Spirit for guidance at every step!