

## Grow – Big Picture: From Infancy to Maturity

Once first steps have been taken in church-planting where do you go from there? What is the overarching aim? What areas should you focus on? Should you just start things and then hope for the best? Or should you aim to grow to a certain point of viability in terms of human and material resources? In this session we will focus on defining the ‘big picture’ and particularly discuss the life-cycle of a local church going from infancy to maturity so as to extend further the mission of God by seeing churches plant churches.

**Philip Moore** has been pastoring and planting churches in the east of Paris for the past 12 years. He is currently European director for Acts 29, working to build relationships between local church-planting churches and church planters all over Europe. With over 50 countries and a population of over 700 million people the European continent, once the most Christianized in the world, is now a mission field. It is Philip’s privilege, as European director of A29, to see what God is doing in our continent, and to encourage church-planting initiatives from Ireland to Turkey, from Denmark to Italy through assessment, coaching, training, and supporting of church planters and church-planting churches. Philip is married to Rachel, and they have 5 children.

### I. Introduction – from infancy to maturity

*Acts 9:31 - “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”*

### II. The Life-Cycle of a Local Church

A. Gestation

B. Birth

C. Childhood

D. Adolescence

E. Maturity

F. Reproduction

G. 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation

H. Death (Plateau and Decline)

I. Resurrection (Revitalisation)

Suggested Readings: