

Church Planting: God's Vehicle for Global Evangelism

Jesus instructed his disciples to “Go and make disciples.” The scope he gave them in their remit was the whole world; every people group, every place, through all “the age,” until Christ should return. Their instinctive response to this command was not only to share the gospel through words, works, and wonders but to plant local churches in every place as part of the response to the command of Christ. Planting churches was to them not a secondary or afterthought but an integral part of reaching the world with the gospel. The fundamental role of church planting in fulfilling the great commission remains today. Many models and methods exist. Some are fruitful; some are not. In this session we will explore what makes for a healthy church planting environment. What vision, values, vocabulary, and vehicles can help church planting succeed across modern secular Europe today?

Maurice Nightingale, originally from London, joined the Newfrontiers network and completed a master's degree studying philosophies of church movement succession after being drawn to explore simple New Testament patterned local church and church leadership principles and practices. Following a short career as a military engineering officer, Maurice has since been involved for over 25 years in two main areas of service; planting churches and rescuing failing churches. He recently handed over senior leadership of Hope Church Ipswich in the UK and remains a member of the eldership team there. He also serves alongside Mike Betts as a member of the Relational Mission core team. His current responsibilities include the supervision of early-stage church planting on the mainland of Europe, including training and coaching pioneer leaders and developing strategies for both initiating and supporting church plants. Maurice is married, with four children.

I. Paul's mission to Crete

A. Every mission matters

B. Paul's missional expectations

C. Paul's missional priorities

II. What directions did Paul give to Titus?

A. Recruit loyal leadership (1: 6-9)

1. Relationally appraised
2. Loyal to values and vision (1: 9)
3. Current, future, wider, multiplied needs

B. Raise loyal disciples (1: 10 – 2: 10)

1. Making disciples – our most significant legacy

2. Attributes of loyal discipleship

- C. Lay foundations of sound doctrine (2: 11-14; 3: 4-7)

1. Titus familiar with Paul's doctrine
2. Godly truth leads to godly behaviour (1: 1; 2: 11-12; 3: 8)
3. Application to all demographics

- D. Be shrewd in opposing error (1: 10-14)

1. The finished work of Christ is sufficient
2. Bring people to the plumbline
3. Full of grace and truth

III. What directions did Paul give for the churches of Crete?

- A. Our people must devote themselves to doing what is good (3: 14)

1. Leadership example (2: 7)
2. The consequence and evidence of grace (2: 14)
3. An appropriate attitude to authority (3: 1)
4. An excellent response to the gospel (3: 8)
5. The lack of is evidence of a poor gospel (1: 16)

IV. Summary