

Church Planting Strategies for Reaching a Region or a City

There are many examples of cooperation in church planting across cities and regions. What lessons can we learn from these existing examples? What are the keys to creating coalitions of trust and creativity?

Martin Robinson is Principal and Chief Executive of Springdale College: Together in Mission. Martin was born in India of missionary parents and then brought up in Scotland where his father was a church planter. When Martin was in his early twenties he trained for the ministry, and his first church was in the inner city of Birmingham. This multi-ethnic congregation was engaged in church planting, and Martin together with his wife Lynda led one of the new church plants. After thirteen years in local ministry, Martin went to work for the Bible Society in the UK in a variety of roles. In a period he was the Director of Mission and Theology. Martin has written many books on the broad theme of mission, including *Faith of the Believer* and *Invading Secular Space*. In 2002 Martin became national director of Together in Mission.

Dietrich Schindler is a German-American church planting leader in Germany and beyond. In twenty-three years of ministry, he and his wife Jan have planted five churches in Germany. They have three adult children and one wonderful grandson, Max – born to his church planting parents in Taiwan. The past six years Dietrich was the executive director of church planting for the German Evangelical Free Church denomination, pursuing the goal of planting 100 churches in ten years. As of 2006 63 churches have been started. Dietrich is currently a church planting consultant and speaker with the German Evangelical Free Church. He is the author of the book, “The Jesus Model: Planting Churches the Jesus Way.” He has also generated a new life-based course for secular post-modern Europeans entitled “MyLife-Workshop” (www.mylifeworkshop.org).

I. Regional Strategies for Church Planting (see Ott and Wilson, *Global Church Planting*)

- A. Harvest Priority Church Planting
- B. Strategic Beachhead Church Planting
- C. Cluster Church Planting
- D. Spreading Vine Church Planting
- E. Dandelion, Spontaneous, or Diaspora Church Planting

II. Multiple Church Plants at one time

- A. Divide the region/city into thirds

- B. Decentralize locations for prayer and strategy
- C. Create zone-identity from the start
- D. Leadership empowers others to minister
- E. Participants become leaders
- F. Characteristics
 1. Generous prayer
 2. Emphasize small beginnings that have timed-release attached to them
 3. Share gift-strengths all around
 4. Celebrate collectively once a month
 5. Set numerical targets in each zone
 6. Evaluate regularly
 7. Grow financially
 8. Seek Coaching

III. Working with others

- A. Building relationships
- B. Agreeing vision
- C. Casting Vision
- D. Recruiting planters
 1. Other agencies

2. Existing churches
3. Prayer
4. Assessment Process

E. Research

1. What churches exist – tracking
2. Where are churches needed
3. Community Profiling

F. Training

1. Team awareness
2. Cultural connectedness
3. Planting Processes
4. Training on the job

G. Coaching and Mentoring

1. Team awareness
2. Cultural connectedness
3. Planting Processes
4. Training on the job