

Church Planting Thresholds: Confirm





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Introduction

On February 22, 2022 the LBBA New Work group met for the second time to continue to pray, discuss, and learn about church planting; particularly in the context of Hopkins and Webster Counties. Attending were AMS Bill Egbert, Pastors Nick Duvall, Tony Lipford, Lee Davis, Jonathan Lail, JD Holt, Jonathan Harrelson, Bro.'s Shaun Thurby, Randy Duncan, Cadrell McReynolds, and KBC Church Planting Assoc. Toby DeHay

Nick Duvall spent some time discussing the ACTS Movement (Acts 13:1-5) and used the acronym ACTS to outline a vision for the group.

·Awareness: pray that churches and the association become aware of the need for church plants and a movement of church planting.

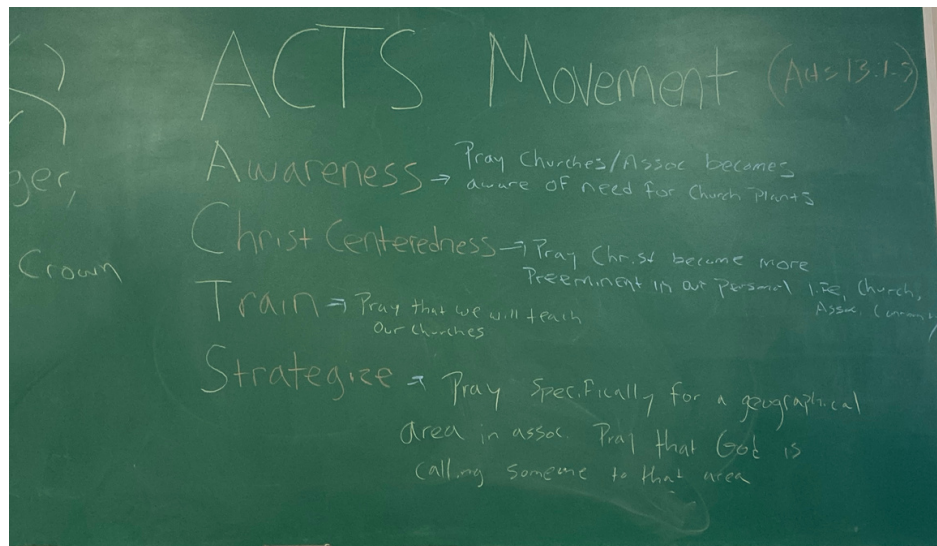
·Christ Centeredness: pray that Christ becomes more preeminent in our personal lives, churches, association, and community.

·Train: pray that we will teach our churches about multiplying through church planting.

·Strategize: pray specifically for a geographical area within our association. Pray that God is calling someone to that area.

Nick divided the group into three smaller groups, and they spent about 10 minutes praying through the acronym and for church planters.

The group then spent the remainder of the evening reviewing chapter one of Church Planting Thresholds by Clint Clifton. The next meeting was set for March 29, 2022, at 630p at the LBBA office.





Chapter One: Confirm

What did we learn about confirming one's call?

- You'd better be called! There is no need to plant or pastor a church without the direct calling of the Lord on the potential leader's life. This calling is paramount!
- A scriptural calling is one that sees the man fitting the qualifications found in scripture.
- Lord confirms the calling. This is done through a spouse, local church, and other means. Men need to be open to listen to the guidance of mature believers regarding their call. A simple desire to preach does not make one biblically called to the ministry. The local church must carefully guard this calling by closely reading the scripture and listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Those whom the Lord has called as a church planter will learn to grow as a Missionary/Pastor and can see the Church Plant grow into a healthy Church. The scale found on page 8 was very helpful.
- When one is confirming his call to plant a church, he will (should) have a passion for evangelism. This passion will cause him to view his calling as a missionary one and can encourage other brothers to lead their churches in the same manner.

- Healthy churches are the means to help start new churches. This doesn't mean that we should wait until our church is completely healthy, but we should strive toward biblical health in our own churches to have a solid biblical foundation for the new churches we seek to start.
- Numbers are important as a measure of what we are doing, but we need key spiritual elements. These come first and drive what we do and how we do it.
- Spousal confirmation is huge! Is the Lord dealing with your wife in the way He is dealing with you? Does she have any concerns about planting a church? Are there any major issues in your marriage that need to be addressed and worked out prior to the planting of a church?

With which statements/thoughts in this chapter did you resonate or agree?

- Missionary+Pastor=church plant (pg. 8). The group agreed with the principle that the planter needed to be missionary in nature while faithfully pastoring those the Lord sent. The chart on page 8 shows a progression over five years from mainly a missionary to mainly a pastor.
- Fruitful ministries highlight Jesus not us. We cannot focus on how well we are doing, how many people we've led to Christ, and how much we have accomplished. The Lord gets all the credit and uses us to accomplish His will to connect those who were once lost into a fellowship of worshipping believers who multiply themselves in others.
- Every person God sends you has a soul and was entrusted to you by God. We should never complain about our church being too small or not being given enough responsibility. If we got what we deserve, it would be terrible!
- Acts 4:20 We cannot stop speaking what we have heard. Church planters need to be relentless in sharing the Good News of the gospel. "We need more soldier-like, brave, faith-filled, whatever it takes, missionary type of pastors like those in the book of Acts."
- We must fight the temptation to do the work alone. We need to the local church and association of churches in partnership for the planting of biblical, healthy, multiplying churches. (More on page 9)

What would be a few ways an ascn can be involved in affirming a potential planter?

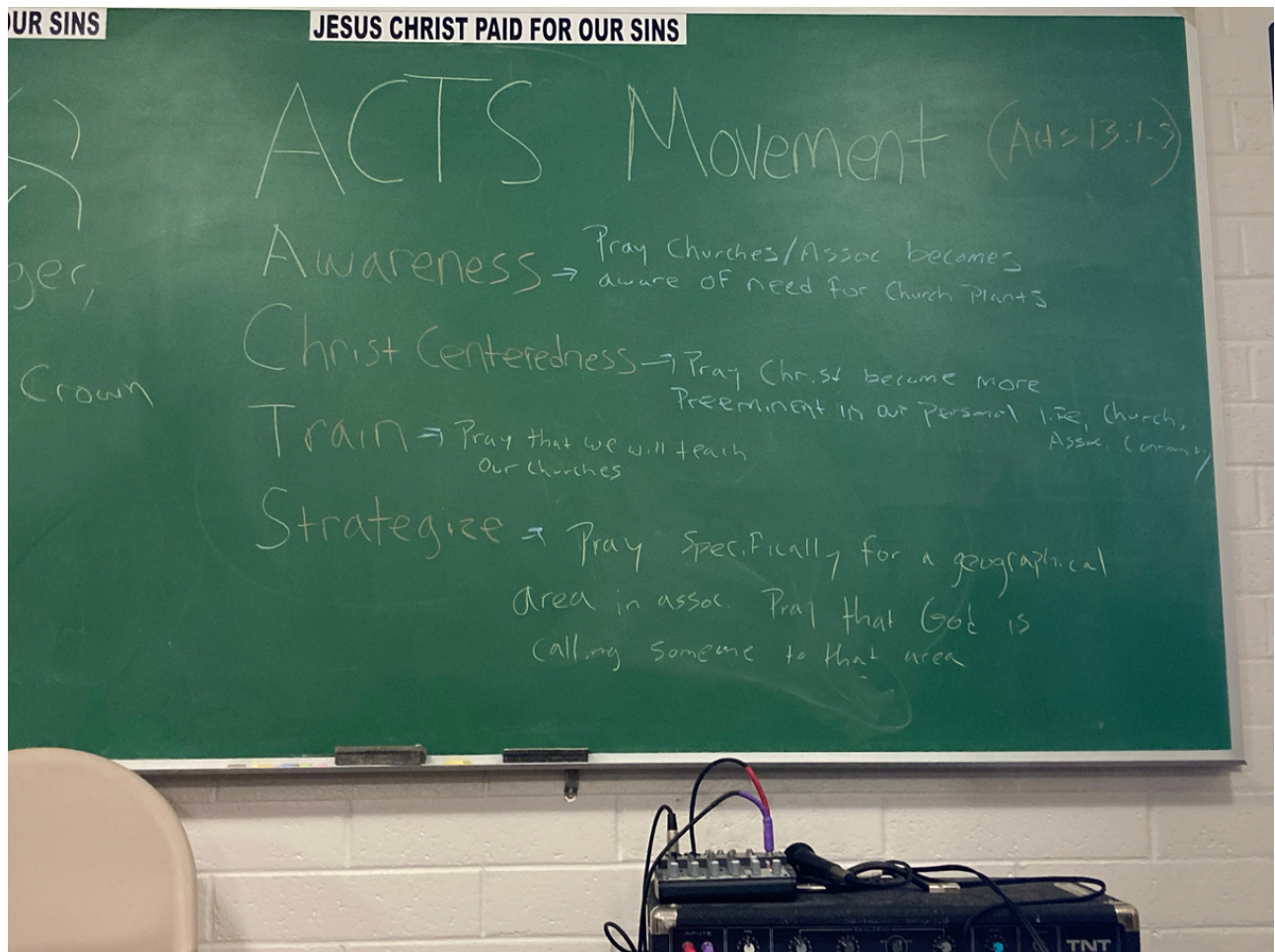
- Provide a couple models of strategy to discuss with the planter and team.
- Gather a team of encouragers to help the planter and the sending church maintain a good relationship.
- Encourage the planter to a part of a healthy local church.
- The ascn can help to provide tools and strategy for the planter and potential sending church.
- The ascn can begin to work TOWARD a church plant-helping churches to learn about a missional mindset-sending-discipling to go instead of to stay.
- Pastors can be encouraged to begin intentionally discipling men toward leadership roles within and outside the local church. They can pay particular attention to their spiritual giftings and work to encourage and grow them in the areas of solid theology, regular evangelism, and actively making multiplying disciples.

Are there any next steps the group needs to take regarding this chapter? Which group member needs to take them? Is there a timeline?

- We each need to self-evaluate our ministry and context. Use the materials in the text, read scripture, pray, and ask those whom you love and trust to give you honest feedback.
- Ask yourself: "Am I called to do that which I am doing?"

Resources

- Dr JD Payne's "Strike the Match" podcast: Apostolic Church Planting episode
- Appendices from Clifton's book: <https://newcityplanting.org/101resources/>
- Would you or a small group like to go a little deeper? Take the church planting primer course together. <https://newcityplanting.org/primer/> Four sessions are online and are free. Let me know privately if you'd like to go through this and I'll join you if you'd like.
- Church Planting Podcast: <https://www.churchplantingpodcast.org/>
- Planter Portal list of planters: <https://tinyurl.com/mryfatsb>
- Sign up to pray for KBC assisted church planters: www.kybaptist.org/pray4



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Pastor Nick Duvall, your hard work in leading this group is seen by your contact throughout the month with all involved. You are leading very well!

Thank you for your continued support of KBC Church Planting efforts throughout our Commonwealth and evidence of this by your church's giving through the Cooperative Program!

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