

A VISION FOR CHURCH PLANTING AT CORAL HILL



Thinking biblically and preparing practically to glorify God by starting churches

“16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17** And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. **18** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” **(Matthew 28, ESV)**

The Great Commission is not just a call to ‘make disciples’ but to ‘baptize’...and baptism implies incorporation into a covenant community - a church **(Acts 2:37-47)**

“Jesus did not intend his disciples to go about haphazardly evangelizing; he instructed to gather these new converts into new churches.” **(J.D. Greear)**

So did the apostles work to fulfill the Great Commission only through evangelism and discipling?

The book of Acts is not merely a New Testament story of evangelism and discipleship, it is a story of the advancement of God’s Kingdom through the planting of churches. Acts opens with an introduction to the first Jerusalem church and ends with the church multiplying all over the known world. Wherever the Gospel went, churches were started.

***Acts _____** Peter preaches. 3000 believe and were baptized. They were added to something. What? The church in Jerusalem (5:11; 8:1)

***Acts _____** Those scattered by persecution in Jerusalem went to Antioch ‘proclaiming the good news about Jesus’ and a large number believed. The church in Jerusalem sends Barnabas to Antioch. More

disciples were added. Barnabas recruits Paul and they met with the church and taught large numbers.

***Acts _____** Paul and Barnabas visit Iconium and a great number of Jews/Greeks believe. Then they went to Lystra and planted a church. They return to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch and appoint elders in the churches there.

***Acts _____** The Corinthian church was planted (people heard the gospel, believed the gospel and were baptized).

***Acts _____** Paul preaches in Ephesus and many are converted...a church was planted. How do we know? 'Paul sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church' (Chapter 20 Verse 17).

***End of Acts** Paul preaches in Rome and the outcome of that is that a church (or churches) were started (*see Romans 1:17; 16:5)

[The above overview of Acts was adapted from Mark Dever's Understanding the Great Commission]

It could be argued that _____ is the primary New Testament strategy for fulfilling the Great Commission.

"The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for 1) the numerical growth of the body of Christ in any city, and 2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city. Nothing else—not crusades, outreach programs, para-church ministries, growing mega-churches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes—will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow raising statement. But to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial." - **Tim Keller**

In short, evangelism (sharing Christ) is not enough...we need to plant (start) churches.

"Paul's work was not finished until he had instructed the Christians and left a mature and settled congregation." (Peter O'Brien)

So why do we need to start new churches? Why can't we just evangelize, disciple and have them become part of Coral Hill? Why should church planting have a prominent place in the mission of CHBC?

Because biblically, _____

*The Great Commission was given to the Church (not to a denomination, not to an Association, not to a mission agency and not to individuals)

I.e. - *they* (the church in Jerusalem) *sent out* Barnabas to travel as far as Antioch (11:22)
 - reports of the work were made to the local church (14:27)
 - assignments were given by the church (15:3)

"Our attitude to new church development is a test of whether our mindset is geared to our own institutional turf, or to the overall health and prosperity of the kingdom of God in the city." (Tim Keller)

*God's design for His people to *fill the earth* (primarily moving out, not building up) can be seen from the very beginning

- Genesis 1:28
- Genesis 9:1
- Genesis 11
- Genesis 12:3

Starting new work was _____ activity of the 1st century church. "From Jesus' selecting, preparing and commissioning His disciples to the testimony of their actions in Acts, to the letters and epistles sent to the newly planted churches, to the Revelation of John where Jesus encourages and corrects churches that were planted." (Jeff Christopherson, NAMB)

"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

_____” (Acts 9:31).

*[Side note] It’s interesting that it seems it was the norm for the early church to send out their best for the advancement of the kingdom of God (Acts 13:1-3).

What do you have to have in order to have a church?

What are the things that all faithful churches do?

Other Notes