



GENEVA PUSH

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6 MORE CHURCH PLANTING TIPS FOR MISSION

As we finish this section on the plumbing for our plant, here are some additional tips.

First, our greatest advertisement is our people. The way our people personally witness, and live grace filled lives, testifies to God's work in our world. As we talk about how Jesus is the answer, as well as how God is working in our church plant, we must remember that the local church is the clearest declaration and demonstration of the Gospel.

Second, go for the low-hanging fruit first. To build momentum, we need stories of how God is working. In Australia, it takes approximately 5-8 years for someone who has no idea of who Jesus is to come to know him. To build momentum, we must look for those people God has already been at work in, and point people towards them, without neglecting those still early in their journey.





Third, build confidence in the Gospel's power to work, particularly in our main conversion engine. When someone becomes a Christian - celebrate it. When the friend of a church member becomes a Christian through church - get them to tell the story. When people become a Christian through our "conversion engine" - highlight it to the whole church. In doing this, we build confidence in the power of the Gospel, and confidence that this plant is working towards the vision that we set. This confidence sparks our church to imagine what God could do through their friends and families.

Fourth, do the key things well. We must focus on building what we already have. When we start, we cannot do everything. We do the key things, resist the urge to do everything, and pencil in possibilities to pursue as we grow and resources increase. We build structures that we can continue to sharpen and improve as we grow, rather than continually building entirely new structures. It takes time to build confidence in what we do, so we approach the plumbing in our church with a long term view, adjusting as we go. There's no silver bullet - we must constantly search, review and tweak for improvement and alignment.

Fifth, there are some things we will have to undo. As we scramble to get traction and momentum in our church plant, there are decisions we make that we will inevitably need to undo later. This may be how people are integrated into small groups (quickly at the start, then slower through a membership course), the way leaders are trained and deployed (organic at the start, more structured over time), or the challenging and confronting issue of asking those who have been given responsibility to step back. Whatever it is, there will be some decisions we will need to undo. This is the result of our growth, rather than undoing mistakes. It's good to know this before we get there.

Sixth, begin with a teams & multiplication mindset. One key structure that will help us disciple, grow leaders, and cast vision is serving teams. We must begin with teams from the start. We must help these teams connect what they do to the vision and outcomes of the church. We must identify and equip leaders to disciple and grow their teams. We must also instill in our leaders the mindset and skills for multiplying their position from the start.





Finally, we must align our plumbing with our calendar to reflect our vision. Being deliberate about what we do and don't do, and planning how events feed to and build on each other, will align our plumbing and calendar with our vision.

For example, if we plan a carols event in December, we must consider what the next step for people is. What will we preach on when they return to church, when will we run our Christianity explored course, and what will follow this course?

Our calendar does not need to be busy, but it does need to be deliberate - to not just run events, but to build mission heat. There must be alignment of our plumbing (events and structures) and our poetry (preaching, vision casting, announcements etc.).



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