



GENEVA PUSH

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**THREE MORE
THINGS...**

As we finish this section on building partners for our church plant, here are three final things to keep in mind.

First, remember the Richard Johnson rule. Richard Johnson was appointed the first chaplain to Australia, arriving with the first fleet in 1788. He was sent by, among others, John Newton and William Wilberforce. Richard Johnson was the first church planter in Australia. As we plant, we must keep in mind that we are building on the shoulders of those who came before us. This is what we call the Richard Johnson rule; perspective on our own work and plant.

Second, talk to the local ministers. We are partnering with them, not competing. We are not asking permission to plant, but want to recognise our coworkers in the same field, serving the same God, and struggling towards the same end. Prior to planting, we should seek out local ministers to listen to, pray with, and pray for.

Third, be careful of our public narrative. Social Media is an amazing tool for creating energy, awareness and community. As planters, it helps us cast a vision to convince people that this church needs to be planted, it is distinct and unique, and they should consider joining it. However, we must prevent this vision casting becoming hubris or triumphalism. It is possible to cast a strong, clear and powerful Gospel-vision that people will be drawn to, without undermining and alienating other church leaders and Christians. More than ever in our social media narrative, we need to keep in mind the Richard Johnson rule.





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