

# Introducing Multiplying Church Networks

Prepared by Bobby S. Sena  
MCN Project Leader  
Church Planting Group, NAMB

## Multiplying Church Networks and Church Planting “Assisting Churches to Multiply Themselves”

### **Our Wake Up Call**

We are engaged in the greatest World War for people’s eternal souls. Nearly 200 million in North America are lost and are slipping closer to an eternity in hell. And unless we change our tactics, the number of those who are lost will only increase. In spite of the evangelism and church planting that is currently occurring throughout the U.S., there is a net loss of 48 churches more **North America is where Christianity is on the decline.** In order to reverse these trends and to reach the millions of unsaved and unchurched people, we want to join God and partner with you and many others in raising up 60,000 new congregations by 2020. Why new congregations? Because we have found that they are typically three times more effective in reaching people for Christ than churches over fifteen years old.

200,000,000 people in North America are lost and the number is increasing!

per week. Further-  
**the only continent**



**Richard Harris**  
Vice President, Church Planting Group, NAMB, SBC

### **Our Biblical & Historical Basis**

To start that many new congregations, we cannot continue to maintain the status quo. The apostolic function of the local church must be rediscovered. (Eph. 4:11-12) Just as the first-century church in Antioch heard the Holy Spirit directing them to set apart Paul & Barnabas for God’s work of evangelism and church planting, churches today need to willingly release and commission church planting teams. (Acts 13:1-3) Just as the Macedonian church in Philippi sent Paul “aid again and again” (Phil. 4:16) as he started churches in Thessa- (2 Cor. 11:8-9), there need for additional churches to under-planting efforts with financial help. Only church planting teams not only start multiplying churches but begin movements. We need churches like Sandy Creek Baptist Church which multiplied itself and strategically impacted the American frontier. From David Garrison's study of recent church planting movements, we have learned that exponential growth occurred when “the churches themselves (not just professional missionaries) began planting new churches. In order for this to occur, **church members have to believe that reproduction is natural and no external aids are needed to start a new church.**”

Besides God Himself, the greatest resource for church planting is the existing local church.

lonica and Corinth is a tremendous established gird church fervent prayer and then will be see

**Testimony:** The members of Calvario Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, Texas have seen what can happen when a church really believes that and trusts God. The church was started just four years ago by Pete Castro and has seen more than 30 daughter churches started already.

Until recently, the Church Planting Process of the North American Mission Board has focused on the church planter by providing assessment of the church planter, basic train-

ing for the church planter, mentoring and church planter networks. The missing link to this circular process has been the Multiplying Church Network. Besides God Himself, the greatest resource for church planting is the existing local church. Imagine each congregation committed not only to evangelism, growth and spiritual vitality but also to multiplying itself. The time has come to focus on waking the sleeping giant.

### **The Risk is Worth It**

**Currently only 5.2% of our SBC churches are sponsoring new churches.** Many fear that it will cost them too much.



**Testimony:** Dr. Phillip Davis of Nations Ford Church in Charlotte, NC discovered, "One of the challenges of church planting churches is that pastors often feel that 'if I plant a new congregation, particularly using people out of the congregation that I pastor, I'm going to lose something.' The fact is that when you plant a new church, you are going to be affected. And you should be. That's part of it. Luke 6:38 says, 'Give, and it will be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over....' If you really believe the Scripture, then when you give away people to start a new church, it shall be given unto you."

Other churches do not start new congregations because they do not know how. We believe a growing percentage of churches would be more excited about birthing new congregations, if they could be part of a Multiplying Church Network.

The **Multiplying Church Network** (MCN) is a cluster of people that meet regularly for the purpose of prayer, sharing, sharpening, planning and learning how to lead their congregations to multiply themselves in starting healthy, growing and reproducing churches.

### **We Need Your Help**

An MCN brochure, Facilitator & Participant manual as well as a Strategy Implementation Guide are already available! We are looking for clusters of churches interested in serving as pilot groups to test and improve these initial materials. We want to involve new churches, older plateaued churches, as well as growing churches in the process of refining the materials. Your help in identifying churches and individuals in your area that might be interested in being a coach or a team player in this process is crucial. Your assistance could literally impact thousands of churches throughout our nation. **Please e-mail Bob Sena ([bsena@namb.net](mailto:bsena@namb.net))** the names of churches and individuals you know of that might like to participate in this growing movement.



**Bobby S. Sena**  
MCN Project Leader

Another way in which you might help is by letting us know of any MCN's that are already established and working in your area. We would like to know what is working, the resources they are using, and share with them resources that might help them do an even better job.

**Testimony:** For example, one association in Illinois composed of 35 churches had started very few churches recently. The associational Director of Missions Ray Fuller and the church planting missionary Randy Blan, challenged the fellowship clusters to consider starting new churches. The Hispanic cluster started three congregations in 2000 and is planning to start three more in 2001. In addition, another cluster voted to start eleven churches and had already started seven by the end of 2000.



**Randy Blan**

### **The Vision**

**Bob Reccord, President of the North American Mission Board**



“Churches that cluster together for the purpose of evangelism and church planting have truly become "partners in the harvest". I endorse and encourage the Multiplying Church Network strategy because it removes the barrier of size, resources and personnel that many times keeps churches from fulfilling the multiplication mandate of the Great Commission. I envision throughout North America, hundreds of small, medium and larger churches clustering together and birthing thousands of new churches!”

**“Doing Together What We Cannot Do By Ourselves”**



**Dennis Mitchell**  
**Director, Church Multiplication Team, NAMB, SBC**

We look forward to the opportunity to partner with you in the great task of planting new churches in North America and seeing God at work in and through you.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **What are the anticipated results of having hundreds of MCN's across North America?**

- Hundreds/thousands of churches started annually that would not have been started had the churches not networked together
- Tens/hundreds of thousands of people coming to know Christ
- A multitude of church planting movements begun
- An increasing percentage of SBC actively involved in sponsoring new congregations
- The Kingdom of God in North America once again growing at a faster rate than the population
- Genuine Revival

### **Who can join a Multiplying Church Network?**

- The pastor, staff (especially the Minister of Missions) and key lay people of a network church
- Associational Director of Missions
- Church Planting Missionaries/Strategists

### **How will I and my church benefit by joining an MCN?**

- A God-given vision & passion sustained
- Timely training in sponsoring new congregations
- Prayer & encouragement during the spiritual battle
- Sharing of wisdom & resources

**How often does an MCN meet?** Usually monthly

**How long is a typical MCN meeting?** About 2 ½ hours

### **What takes place during an MCN meeting?**

- Prayer for group needs
- Report on previous assignments and progress of implementation of strategy
- Introduction of new topic for study
- Assignments to apply strategies in local church settings
- Prayer for churches

### **What would be expected of me?**

- To be personally and actively involved in the network meetings
- To lead their local church to develop and implement a strategy for starting new churches
- To receive and provide both encouragement and accountability from others within the network

**Who convenes the MCN?** An MCN Facilitator

### **What is expected of the MCN facilitator?**

- To plan and implement the monthly MCN meeting
- To maintain open communication with each church committed to the MCN

- To lead the group to dialogue concerning the meeting's topic
- To keep the group's vision and task before the group at all times
- To provide accountability to the group regarding the task of starting new churches
- To access and provide any needed resources for the group
- To enlist prayer support for himself and the group

**What are the core values of an MCN?**

- Excellent communication between the MCN's and both associational and state leadership
- Effective teamwork
- Strategy & materials that complement the rest of the Church Planting Process
- Excellent materials that meet genuine needs
- Shared leadership teams improving ownership and participation
- Networking which restores "koinonia" fellowship among churches and creates a kingdom perspective
- Servant leadership that does not lord it over those served but sacrificially serves, provides vision, nurtures, prays for and loves them

**What topics will be covered during a Multiplying Church Network?**

<i>Topics</i>
<b>Presenting the MCN Process</b>
<b>The MCN and Church Planting</b>
<b>Barriers to Planting Churches</b>
<b>Prayer and Vision</b>
<b>Raising Church Planters and Teams from the Harvest</b>
<b>Building a Powerful Ministry Team (Part 1)</b>
<b>Building a Powerful Ministry Team (Part 2)</b>
<b>Steps Toward Effective Partnering</b>
<b>Dealing with Cross-Cultural Issues</b>
<b>Developing the Sponsoring Covenant</b>
<b>Planting Churches in Hispanic Communities</b>
<b>Church Planting in Urban Settings</b>
<b>Planting Churches in Multi-housing Communities</b>
<b>Making the Transition from CPN to MCN</b>
<b>IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE</b>
<b>Interest Card</b>
<b>The MCN Brochure</b>

**How can I let you know about my MCN and receive more resources? Either...**

- Email Bob Sena at [bsena@namb.net](mailto:bsena@namb.net) or
- Go to [MCN Enlistment Form](#) or
- Fill in the following form:



NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD, SBC  
NAMB

## ***Multiplying Church Network Enlistment Form***

**Facilitator:** \_\_\_\_\_ (circle) Pastor / ADOM / CPM / Other

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #'s: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Facilitator in training: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Multiplying Church Network:**

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Begun: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: 1 2 3 4 5

Name of the MCN: \_\_\_\_\_

How regularly does it meet? Weekly Biweekly Monthly Bimonthly Etc.

How is this MCN helping facilitate your association's/state's church planting goals?

---

---

Who are the main associational and state church planting staff that this MCN relates to?

---

Purposes of the MCN: \_\_\_\_\_

---

***Please fax to Bob Sena at (770) 410-6012***