

Annotated Bibliography: Modern & Classic Church Planting Resources

Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1962. (Original work published 1912.)

Allen critiques Western missionary structures, arguing that church planting should follow the simple, Spirit-led, indigenous model of the Apostle Paul. His emphasis on self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating churches deeply influenced modern missiology and remains essential for reproducible disciple-making models.

Brock, Charles. *The Principles and Practice of Indigenous Church Planting.* Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1981.

A foundational manual for contextualized church planting, Brock's work emphasizes empowering local believers to lead, reproduce, and sustain churches. His framework integrates evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development—principles that shaped much of contemporary planting theory.

Clifton, Clint. *Church Planting Thresholds: A Gospel-Centered Guide to Starting and Sustaining Churches.* Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2018.

Written by a practitioner, Clifton presents practical thresholds that guide a church planter from vision to sustainability. His concise and accessible approach makes this a go-to handbook for planters and sending churches seeking reproducibility over rapid growth.

Im, Daniel, and Ed Stetzer. *Planting Missional Churches: Your Guide to Starting Churches that Multiply.* Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2016.

A comprehensive update of Stetzer's earlier work, this volume integrates theology and methodology for planting healthy, multiplying churches. It's especially useful for pastors seeking to launch gospel-centered, contextually aware congregations that balance evangelism and disciple-making.

Jones, Peyton. *Church Plantology: The Art and Science of Church Planting.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2021.

Jones blends biblical theology, historical models, and modern strategy to frame church planting as both art and science. His emphasis on mission-driven leadership and apostolic creativity challenges traditional models and energizes new expressions of church.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century.* 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2004.

A classic practical manual that offers step-by-step planning for new church starts. Malphurs focuses on contextualization, leadership, and systems, providing structure and strategy for church planters navigating contemporary ministry settings.

Nevius, John L. *The Planting and Development of Missionary Churches*. Philadelphia: Reformed and Presbyterian Publishing, 1958. (Original work published 1899.)

Nevius's "three-self" principle (self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating) shaped global missions. His insights into local leadership development and sustainability continue to influence contextualized church planting worldwide.

Ott, Craig, and Gene Wilson. *Global Church Planting: Biblical Principles and Best Practices for Multiplication*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011.

A scholarly yet accessible text that combines biblical theology and global case studies. Ott and Wilson highlight the importance of reproducible structures, leadership development, and mission partnerships, making it a standard reference in missiology courses.

Payne, J. D. *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

Payne provides a comprehensive overview of church planting from a global and biblical perspective. The book serves as a theological primer and practical resource for both planters and sending churches seeking sustainable, disciple-making movements.

Putman, Jim, Bobby Harrington, and Robert Coleman. *DiscipleShift: Five Steps That Help Your Church Make Disciples Who Make Disciples*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.

While not solely about church planting, this work links discipleship and multiplication directly. It emphasizes relational disciple-making as the foundation for healthy, reproducing churches, complementing modern planting strategies.

Wagner, C. Peter. *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest: A Comprehensive Guide*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990.

Wagner's text reflects the church-growth movement's influence on planting strategy. Though dated in some aspects, his insights into evangelism, team formation, and contextual methods remain valuable for understanding modern approaches to planting and re-planting.

Allen, Roland. *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church and the Causes Which Hinder It*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1962. (Original work published 1927.)

Allen argues that Spirit-led multiplication occurs naturally when believers are empowered and not hindered by institutional control. A timeless challenge to over-structured church models, relevant for churches emphasizing organic disciple-making.

Brock, Charles. *Indigenous Church Planting: A Practical Journey*. Neosho, MO: Church Growth International, 1994.

A continuation of his earlier work, this book gives practical frameworks and case studies illustrating how local believers can lead thriving, reproducing churches. It's especially applicable for global or multi-ethnic planting contexts.

Stetzer, Ed, and Warren Bird. *Viral Churches: Helping Church Planters Become Movement Makers*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2010.

Focused on movement-level multiplication, this research-based book identifies traits of reproducing churches and networks. It's particularly useful for pastors and leaders who want to cultivate a sending culture rather than maintain a single congregation.