

The Healthy Planter

What I Look For In A Planter Or Someone That I Coach

1. Called by God

- a. If you aren't COMMANDED by God, *don't do it*. It is very hard
- b. Bad Reasons to Plant:
 1. Couldn't find a job somewhere else
 2. Frustrated with the established church
 3. "My friends are doing it"
 4. Everyone talks about how great it is
 5. "People are always telling me that I'd be good at it"
- c. You are a deeply Spiritual person
- d. You passionately love Jesus

2. Apostolic Bent

- a. Entrepreneurial
 1. You enjoy starting things
- b. Proven Track record of success and starting and growing things
 1. Evangelistic
 2. If you can't grow a youth ministry you likely can't start a church
- c. Team builder that creates incredible "buy-in"
- d. Naturally raise up leaders and release people into ministry

3. Secure Person

- a. You are not easily discouraged or offended
 1. You are the most "un-offendable" person I have ever met
 2. You will have turnover on your team
 - a) Initial team will be gone within 2 years
 3. You will lose people for no good reason
 - a) People will check out a new church for a year and decide that it's not for them
 4. Other pastors will see you as a threat and undermine you
 - a) "People Are Our Priority" to "Jesus Is OUR Priority"
 - b) Don't fight back
- b. Honor Other Pastors
 1. Meet with them
- c. Comfortable in your own skin
 1. You don't read the latest book or attend the latest seminar and become something that you're not
 2. Be secure in who God made you to be
- d. Church planting is hard
 1. The growth process can be very slow
 2. It will challenge your self-esteem
 3. It will make you question your abilities
- e. You have to believe who you are in Christ
- f. You have to be secure enough to be flexible with everything

4. Courageous person

- a. This is HARD
- b. You're going to want to quit—*don't*
- c. You're going to want to give up—*don't*
- d. It is lonely
- e. No one will understand your world
 1. You don't relate to other pastors anymore
 2. You don't relate to "regular" people anymore
 3. Only planters understand planting
 - a) It's a whole different world
- f. Practical advice:
 1. Get in the best physical shape of your life

- 2. Start eating healthier
 - 3. Develop your stamina
 - 4. Get out of debt
 - g. Be **fearless, courageous, and bold**
 - 1. Have a "never say die" attitude
- 5. Highly driven**
- a. You HAVE to work hard
 - 1. Harder than you ever have before
 - b. Church planting is not for the "faint of heart"
 - 1. Not for the typical staff pastor
 - c. The first 3 years you have to be laser-focused and willing to work long, hard hours
 - d. If you have to be extrinsically motivated to work hard and stay focused, *don't bother*
- 6. Stable Person**
- a. Strong marriage
 - b. Supportive kids
 - 1. Struggling kids will be very difficult to sustain while planting
 - c. Spiritually growing
 - d. Responsible financially
- 7. Proven Fundraiser**
- a. If you can't raise a lot of money, *don't plant*
 - b. You will need to be able to raise \$200,000
 - c. You are comfortable making the "big ask"
 - d. Under-resourced church plants die miserably slow deaths
- 8. Culturally Aware**
- a. Understand the lost
 - b. Love Jesus but speak the language of the culture
 - c. Naturally current
 - d. Able to see the church from the "outside-in"
- 9. Attractional personality**
- a. People like being around you
 - b. People follow you
 - c. You have an "entourage"
 - d. You have people that are willing to drop things to help you
 - 1. People believe in you
 - 2. Developed a reputation that things happen when you are around
 - e. Initially people will become part of the church because they engage with you
 - f. If you decided to do something radical, who do you know would join you?
- 10. Coachable**
- a. You can ask for help
 - b. You're not so idealistic that you don't listen
 - c. You're willing to grow
 - d. You're not a "know-it-all"

Starting Point

Northwest Ministry Network

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09.2013