

NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLES FOR PLANTING NEW CHURCHES

By Jerry Field

- I. THE RECEPTIVITY PRINCIPLE** -- In every culture, context and community, there are God-prepared people who are ready to listen and respond. The planter must be consumed with a passion to discover these individuals – *Ian Buntain, NAMB* (Luke 10: 1-11 “The man of peace”).
- II. THE CULTURAL CONTEXT PRINCIPLE** -- Your hearers will come to Christ much more willingly and easily if he does not have to leave his culture to meet Him – *Ian Buntain, NAMB* (Acts 10:23ff; Acts 15)
- III. “BEGIN WHERE THEY ARE” PRINCIPLE** -- When you “enter” their culture, do not begin by pointing out what is wrong, incorrect or heresy in their culture. Discover and point out to them what is correct and good. Use that as a beginning point to gain their hearing. In time, you will be able to teach them and turn them away from the heresy and evil that is a part of their culture (Acts 2 – Sermon on the Day of Pentecost; Acts 17:22ff – Paul at Mars Hill)
- IV. THE INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLE** -- The future health, vitality and multiplication of new congregations will require the development of local, indigenous pastors and leaders (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)
- V. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONGREGATIONS AND LEADERS PRINCIPLE** -- You must maintain contact, fellowship and accountability with all new church plants and their leaders (Acts 15:36, 40-41; 16:40; 20:1-2).
- VI. THE “TRUST THE HOLY SPIRIT” PRINCIPLE** -- Even as the Apostle Paul trusted the Holy Spirit to lead, empower and enable the leadership he appointed in the new churches, you must also release control to the Holy Spirit to lead, empower and enable the leadership in the new church you have planted.