

CHURCH PLANTING AND DEVELOPMENT

This final section of the bibliography will look at works that generally are more practical in orientation. Some will have some theological content (I am thinking especially of some of the works on prayer and spiritual warfare), but for the most part, they will be works that describe “how”—how to plant a new church, develop leaders, develop prayer strategies, preach to post-moderns, etc. The sub-sections of this part of the work are as follows: (1) General and Introductory works on Church Planting; (2) Works on Church Planting with a Specific Focus (“Advocacy,” Multi-Cultural or Ethnic Churches, House and Cell Churches, Parenting Churches, etc. (3) Works on Prayer and Intercession; (4) Works on Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance; (5) Works on Healing; (6) Works on the role and place of Women; (7) Works on Equipping Children for ministry; (8) Works on Evangelism (9) Works on Marketplace Ministry; (10) Works on Discipleship (11) Works on Leadership and Leadership Development; (12) Works on Communicating to the Emerging Culture / A Post-Modern Age.

(1) General and Introductory Works on Church Planting

Since Ed Stetzer has an extensive annotated bibliography on his website (<http://www.newchurches.com/>; see “Annotated Church Planting Bibliography”), this bibliography will mention only the more significant and more recent works in these two subsections. Unless otherwise noted, *quotes* in these two subsections are from Stetzer’s bibliography.

Chaney, Charles L. *Church Planting at the End of the Twentieth Century*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1993. Stetzer says that in the early nineties, this book was the best resource available on the topic of church planting in a North American setting. Since it is now out of print, Malphur’s book (see below) has taken its place, but Stetzer’s review suggests that it is still one of the better books on the subject. (Used copies may still be available).

Cheyney, Tom, J. David Putman and Van Sanders, eds. *Seven Steps for Planting Churches*. Alpharetta, GA: North American Mission Board, SBC, 2003. This small book lays out a seven-step process for planting a church. Stetzer says that since he is constantly asked by prospective planters, “If I want to start a church, how would I do it?” he points them to this book as a place to start, for it answers that question in a simple and practical way. The authors intended this to be introductory, but they make a variety of suggestions for going deeper. NOTE: This book can be downloaded free from www.churchplantingvillage.net.

Jones, Tom, ed. *Church Planting from the Ground Up*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004. Stetzer (who wrote the foreword) says he doesn’t usually like multiple authors (for the articles tend to be redundant), but this work is an exception. Not only do the writers stick to their “well defined themes” they provide field-tested advice. People who have planted some of the healthiest churches in America offer tremendous insights into nearly every aspect of church planting. “This is an excellent new resource for church planters.”

Keller, Tim and J. Allen Thompson. *Church Planting Manual*. Redeemer Church Planting Center, New York, 2002. Stetzer seems to be in awe these authors: “Keller and Thompson. What more can you say? Thompson was writing on church planting movements when I was in grade school. Keller is helping lead a movement of church planting and city transformation. This is an excellent resource.” Note that this is not a typical book; it is a workbook that has

projects and assignments to do. And, since the writers have a passion for cities, it has an urban focus.

Logan, Robert E. *Be Fruitful and Multiply: Embracing God's Heart for Church Multiplication*. St Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2006. Logan challenges the church to move beyond planting to embrace and enter into church multiplication, for, he argues, this has been the command of the Creator since the beginning and is the implication of the Commission given by Jesus. In addition to exhortation and encouragement, he also offers some practical advice as to how to take the risk and engage in the adventure that God has in store for those who take His command seriously.

. *Beyond Church Growth: Action Plans for Developing a Dynamic Church*. Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1989. Although this is a book ostensibly about church renewal, Stetzer says this is [also] “a great resource for church planting.” Logan presents ten key principles that are necessary to develop a dynamic, growing church and specific action plans to help implement them. The topics covered include: the value of faith and prayer, becoming an effective pastoral leader, developing a culturally relevant philosophy of ministry, holistic disciple making, expanding a network of cell groups, developing and equipping leaders, mobilizing believer's according to spiritual gifts, appropriate and productive programming, and starting churches that reproduce. Stetzer says that this is a great supplement to Logan's “Church Planter's Toolkit,” one of the best resources available (see below). “Bob Logan is the most significant church planting leader in the last 50 years and every church planter needs to be aware of his writings and his toolkit.”

Logan, Robert E. and Neil Cole. *Beyond Church Planting: Pathways for Emerging Churches: Knowing God-Loving Others-Growing the Kingdom*. This is a set of 8 CDs and a 3 rings workbook/manual that covers many aspects of church planting (making disciples, growing leaders, planting “organic” churches and church-planting movements. It is available from <http://www.cmresources.org/resources/>.

Logan, Robert E. and Steven L. Ogne. *Church Planter's Toolkit*. Pasadena, CA: ChurchSmart Resources (www.churchsmart.com), 1995. Stetzer says that this Toolkit is “the most widely known resource in North American church planting today” because it is probably the most effective tool available in the area of practical preparation. “It is a twelve-tape series that provides guidance through each step of planting a high impact North American church. Its two disadvantages are that it is only available in tape format and Logan is a bit dry in his presentation (though the content makes up for that).”

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and Those Desiring Renewal*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, (3rd edition) 2004 (paperback, 432 pages). Malphurs' book is as the subtitle claims: comprehensive; it has more than one-thousand headings in its four hundred plus pages. Not only does he present suggestions as to how a church planter should develop the essential ingredients for success (a Great Commission vision, strong servant-leadership, a mobilized lay army, culturally relevant ministry and evangelism, authentic worship, and a robust network of small groups), he also addresses the issue of how to assess and work with the gifts, strengths and weaknesses of a Church planter—and more. The sections on culture, the need for a single clear vision are notable, and the section entitled “Pursuing Lost people with Passion” is an excellent resource for evangelism. Stetzer notes that it is the most widely used book in academic circles (and that

he uses it in a class that he teaches) and that he has written a study guide (see Edward Stetzer, *How to Plant a Church: A Seminary Extension Study Course*. Nashville, TN: Seminary Extension, 2001).

Moore, Ralph. *Starting a New Church: The Church Planter's Guide to Success*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books (Gospel Light), 2002. Ralph Moore knows church planting, for he is the founder of the Hope Chapel movement. In this book, he not only provides an abundance of helpful advice about how to plant a church (Stetzer says the chapters on relationships and teaching and preaching are especially helpful), he also makes a strong case for why it is necessary. In brief, it is the most effective way to reach the generations that are arising that don't know the Lord and His ways. "This is a great book."

Nebel, Tom and Gary Rohrmayer. *Church Planting Landmines: Mistakes to Avoid in Years 2 through 10*. St Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources (paperback, 140 pages). Although people don't like to talk about failure, it is essential to know some of the problems that can hinder or even kill a new church so that planters can try to avoid them. Some of the mistakes that are covered in this helpful and well-written volume are: ignoring personal health and growth; lack of leadership development; leadership backlash; evangelism entropy; fear of money; underestimating spiritual warfare; misfiring on hiring; and delaying missions engagement.

Rohrmayer, Gary. *FirstSteps for Planting a Missional Church: A Comprehensive Workbook*. This workbook grew out of FirstStep Seminars which grew out of a desire to provide practical help to those with a passion to be part of God's unfolding mission in this world. It discusses many of the issues church planters must face, such as fundraising, gathering a team, relationships, and much more. The material has been used to train hundreds of planters and coaches and has provided insights that helped over 75 churches to be planted. Bob Logan wrote the foreword. It is available on Rohrmayer's website (<http://yourjourney.org/>) or at www.churchsmart.com.

Shenk, David W. and Ervin R Stutzman. *Creating Communities of the Kingdom: New Testament Models of Church Planting*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1988. Stetzer says that this is among the best five books available on church planting and is especially strong in dealing with scriptural issues. "The model [they present] is thoroughly biblical while remaining practical."

Sjogren, Steve and Rob Lewin. *Community of Kindness: A Relational Approach to Planting and Growing a Church*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2003. Some of you may know of Steve Sjogren for his writings on servant evangelism (e.g. *Conspiracy of Kindness*). But Steve is also a seasoned church planter (he planted healthy churches in California, Maryland, Norway and Ohio). This book combines the two topics (the authors say it could have been subtitled: *Church Planting Through Servant Evangelism*) in a way that creates a very helpful and practical tool for planters. It provides 106 thought-provoking ideas (small chapters) that inform, inspire, and encourage churches to demonstrate the love of God.

Stetzer, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2006 (hardcover, 372 pages). Stetzer is one of the leading authorities on church planting. This book, which is a revision of the book below (*Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*) is the "bible" on church planting, for it covers virtually every dimension and aspect of the work from why plant to describing the nuts and bolts of how to plant. One of the strengths is the discussion of

culture and its survey of what many new churches are doing to reach postmoderns. Leonard Sweet states it well: “Everyone is looking for the next ‘killer ap’ (computerese), the next ‘category killer’ (consumerese)—that one-stop, one-shop wonder that makes obsolete all the alternatives. Ed Stetzer has written the ‘killer ap’ and ‘category killer’ for church planting.” other Christian leaders have made similar statements.

. *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003. This book is apparently as comprehensive as the one above, but since it has been revised and is now replaced by that one, there is no need to buy this one.

Stetzer, Ed and David Putman. *Breaking the Missional Code: When Church Can Become Missionary in Your Community*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2006 (hardcover, 244 pages). For decades, churches have heard about and perhaps tried various ways to enlarge their congregation with little or no effect. Part of the problem is that one size does not fit all. Each area (or people group) has its own particular culture that may prevent ideas that work in other areas from working with them. This work seeks to give a church (or church planter) the tools and skills to be able to read and “break” the cultural code of a specific area so that it (he/she) might then present the gospel in an effective way.

Sylvia, Ron. *Starting High Definition Churches*. Ocala, FL: High Definition Resources, 2004 (paperback, 258 pages). Sylvia knows whereof he speaks, for he is the founding pastor of Church @ The Springs in Ocala, Florida and has practiced what he preaches. The book is both inspiring and very practical for it walks readers through various stages of church planting: from dreaming and designing to launching, growing and developing leaders. His discussion of launching large and the scaffolding principle (the fact that you won't keep everyone you reach) and growing beyond 200 are all full of insight. In addition, the appendix and bibliography of resources are also very helpful.

. *Starting New Churches on Purpose*. Purpose Driven Publishing, 2006 (paperback, 216 pages). This book is a blueprint for starting and growing a purpose driven church in the 21st century. It lays out a two-year strategy for breaking new ground, reaching new people, and building a new community of faith. Both Rick Warren and Ed Stetzer recommend the book.

Websites supporting and promoting Church Planting

<http://www.church-planting.net/> Called “one of the most comprehensive church planting resources on the web,” this site has an abundance of helpful materials for churches and church planters.

<http://www.newchurches.com/> Though not as comprehensive as the site above (church-planting.net), this site, which is connected with Ed Stetzer, is still very helpful.

<http://www.pdplanting.com/> This is another very helpful site. Sponsored by Church @ The Springs, the church started by Ron Sylvia (see above; PD stands for Purpose Driven), it includes links to conferences, coaching and “free resources,” which among other things, has a bibliography (with out annotations) lists of websites of effective churches, church planting information, church equipment and supplies, videos, and more. Used caution/discretion when browsing the links, for some of sites do not support biblical perspectives.

<http://www.cmaresources.org/> CMA stands for Church Multiplication Associates. This site is affiliated with Neil Cole (Organic Church, et. al.). It has articles, reviews and a list of resources strongly recommended by Cole because they support the vision of organic church.

<http://www.mislinks.org/> This site has links to many other sites, but unfortunately, not all the links are current (a number said “page not available) and some that are need to be used with caution, for as stated above, not all the sites support biblical perspectives.

<http://www.mcflorida.org/> This is the site of the Missionary Church, Florida district. Their “tools page” has an abundance of helpful material for church planters.

<http://www.church-planting.org/index.html> “The Purpose of this site is to offer a ‘one stop’ experience for potential Church Planters to connect with church planting opportunities offered by various organizations across North America.” “It is hosted by a group of evangelical organizations that have partnered together to accomplish the Great Commission through Church Planting. All participating organizations adhere to the theological standards of the National Association of Evangelicals. Within this framework, you will find theological diversity among our participants.” In addition, it has a few links to helpful organizations.

<http://www.churchplants.com> The “sponsor” (Outreach) and “subtitle” (“outreach solutions for your new church” indicate the primary focus of this site: outreach ideas and marketing materials.

<http://yourjourney.org/> This is the coaching and resource site of Gary Rohrmayer, a church planter with nearly 30 years experience who is currently serving as Director of Church Planting for the Midwest District of the Baptist General Conference. The site has numerous resources that will be of help to anyone planting a church, such as FirstSteps Network, *Church Planting Landmines* and more. Click on the resources tab on the “your journey” page and then on “catalog.” The direct address for the “store” is: **<http://www.securestoresystem.com/store/catalog>**, but it seems that it does not always work. Please note that some prices are for packs of multiple copies; individual copies are available.

<http://www.servantevangelism.com/resource/resources.htm> This site has resources from Steve Sjogren and others.

<http://www.churchplantingvillage.net/> This is the site of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Center for Missional Research, which is under the heading “equipping leaders”, appears to be a very helpful tool.

<http://www.ccsb.ca/index.htm/> CCSB stands for Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists. The site has a number of helpful articles and other resources.

<http://www.efca.org/planting/> This site, supported by the Evangelical Free Church of America, has helpful resources for all planters. Another EFCA site, Next Step Resources, also has a many “reliable resources for effective ministry.” See **<http://tenderfoot.windborne.net/nextstep/>**.

<http://www.weplantchurches.com/index.html> Though well hidden, this site is supported by the Great Lakes Baptist Conference, which is affiliated with the Baptist General Conference. While some material is accessible only to their approved planters, it has some material accessible by anyone.

<http://www.squidoo.com/churchplanter>

<http://www.church-planting.org/index.html>

<http://www.vanguardministries.org/> This site has lots of good material some of which is not readily available elsewhere that would be of great help to church planters. **From the website:** “*Vanguard Ministries' mission is to assist churches, ministers, and Christian leaders to fulfill their God-given destiny--spiritually and strategically, through a network of nurturing relationships and practical resources.*”

Church Planting Works with a specific focus

Advocacy (vis-à-vis technique) and Support

Murray, Stuart. *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2001.

According to the author, “This book is not a training manual. It does not engage with all the practicalities of church planting. But it is written for practitioners rather than hearers.” The message for practitioners is: Don’t just go out and grab onto the latest model or method for planting a church. Think carefully and critically about these methods and whether they actually line up with the *missio Dei* and whether they incorporate kingdom principles and values. Ironically, Stetzer believes that “the theology is off in several ways (see Timmis below) but [that] it is [still] a helpful resource” in part because “the book is one of the few books that analyzes the criticisms of church planting and gives solid answers (not just refutations)” and because it has “some excellent references to postmodern church planting without the typical obsession with “nifty” ideas and methods.”

Suarez, Gustavo V. *Connections: Linking People and Principles for Dynamic Church*

***Multiplication*. Friendswood, Texas: Baxter Press, 2004.** Gus Suarez is the State Director of Missions for the New Mexico Baptist Convention. Stetzer says the “title is very descriptive—it is about making the right connections for church multiplication” and that it has abundant suggestions about how to involve partners in the work. It is primarily geared toward Southern Baptists, but can be profitable to others as well. The book is also available in Spanish.

Timmis, Stephen, editor. *Multiplying Churches: Reaching Communities Through Church Planting*.

Hearn, Rossshire, England: Christian Focus Publications, 2000. The authors are quite clear about their purpose: “(T)his is not a ‘how-to’ book What the book is trying to do is to move church planting up the church agenda and focus upon the principles rather than the practice.” Stetzer feels they accomplish the first purpose, for it is “strong” on encouraging people to plant, but believes the work is too short to adequately address the principles. However, he notes that the chapter on ecclesiology is “excellent” as is Timmons closing chapter for it includes a helpful and corrective review of Murray (see above).

Towns, Elmer L. and Douglas Porter. *Churches that Multiply: A Bible Study on Church*

***Planting*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2003.** This is not a “how-to” book. Instead, it is a series of Bible studies geared toward lay people. An early version was entitled “Our Church Planting a Church” which Stetzer says describes the book well.

Wagner, C. Peter. *Church Planting For a Greater Harvest*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1990.

Wagner’s book is a bit old, but Stetzer says it is an excellent resource for the person seeking to convince a church or denominational leader why church planting is important. “It has limited methodology, but contains a good amount of denominational research.”

Cults and New Age

Reddin, Opal. *Planting Churches that Grow*. Springfield, MO: Central Bible College Press, 1990.

This book is notable for several reasons. First, Reddin is one of the few Pentecostals (and women) writing on the topic of church planting, and second, the focus is also quite unique. In addition to providing insight into some of the growth in the Pentecostal movement (which she attributes to reliance on spiritual gifts and the power of the Spirit), she also provides helpful insights into planting churches that target “new-agers” and members of cults.

Ethnic Groups and Multi-Racial / Multi-Ethnic Churches

Stetzer’s bibliography had a few titles related to ethnic and multi-racial churches, but I discovered, late into this project that there seems to be an explosion of works, especially on the latter topic. I will give a few titles that seem to provide helpful information. Those wishing to do further reading on the subject can then look up those titles on Amazon and follow links and suggestions to other titles (for example, the “entry” for *There is More than Once Color in the Pew* had five other titles suggested and two “listmania” lists at the bottom of the page, at least at the time this was written). Or, you could do a Google search. Typing in the phrase “Multi-racial churches” turned up over 400,000 sites; “Multi-ethnic churches” garnered nearly one million. If I return to this project, I will try to discern which websites are most helpful, but my approaching deadline won’t allow me to do that at this time.

Anderson, David. *Multicultural Ministry: Finding Your Church's Unique Rhythm*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004 (paperback, 208 pages). David Anderson (PhD in the sociological integration of religion and society from Oxford Graduate School), is the founder and senior pastor of Bridgeway Community Church, a multicultural congregation in Columbia, Maryland. He is also the founder and president of BridgeLeader Network, a multicultural leadership consulting organization, instructor of cultural diversity at the University of Phoenix, Maryland campuses and more. This book is not an academic treatise but a very practical guide on how to nurture and develop a multicultural ministry. It is filled with inspiring stories and examples from the author’s own experience and other churches. It also contains a Racial Reconciliation survey and six-session Racial Reconciliation curriculum. American society is becoming more diverse; if you believe your church should mirror that change, this book is a good place to start.

Emerson, Michael O. *People of the Dream: Multiracial Congregations in the United States*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006 (hardcover, 264 pages). Michael Emerson is a chaired Professor of Sociology at Rice University, and Founding Director of the Center on Race, Religion, and Urban Life. This book is a careful study of churches that have become multiracial, examining questions such as: How do racially mixed congregations come together? How are they sustained? Who attends them, how did they get there, and what are their experiences? It is based on more than 2,500 telephone interviews, hundreds of written surveys, and extensive visits to multiracial congregations throughout the United States.

Emerson, Michael O and Christian Smith. *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*. Oxford University Press, (USA), 2001 (paperback, 224 pages). The basic thesis of this book is that while Evangelicals desire to end racial division and inequality, they may “actually do more to perpetuate the racial divide than they do to tear it down.” The reason is the Evangelical theological world view makes it difficult for them to see systematic injustice in society. More specifically, say the authors, evangelical emphasis on individualism and free will seem to predispose them to believe that most racial problems can

be solved if individuals will only repent of their sins. Therefore, many well-meaning strategies for healing racial divisions (such as cross-cultural friendships) carry within them the seeds of their own defeat. The book also contains a concise history of evangelical thought about race from colonial times to the civil rights movement. Though the book points out some faults of Evangelical thought, it is not overly critical or harsh; in fact it is quite compassionate.

Francis, Hozell C. *Church Planting in the African American Context*. Grand Rapids, MI:

Zondervan, 2000. Stetzer says Hozell's book is valuable because it addresses an issue that has received limited study. However Hozell focuses more on the sociology of the African-American church (preaching, ministry, leadership, etc.) than on the mechanics or specifics of planting. "This is a helpful study, but material on how to plant in the African-American context would have made it a much stronger book."

Marti, Gerardo. *A Mosaic of Believers: Diversity and Innovation in a Multiethnic Church*.

Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005. Marti, who is both a trained sociologist (PhD from USC) and ordained pastor, provides a sophisticated analysis of Mosaic, one of the largest and most innovative multiethnic congregations in America (Erwin R McManus is the lead pastor; his works are very provocative as well). Marti's study shows how the church has achieved multi-ethnicity—not by targeting ethnic groups, but by providing multiple "havens of inclusion and commonality." It also examines the structure of the church and the ways it is trying to reconstruct evangelical theology, personal identity, member involvement, and church governance, all in an attempt to create an institution with greater relevance to the social reality of a new generation. The book is based on interviews and participation with the congregation but written from the perspective of contemporary sociological theory.

Mathews, Tony. *There's More Than One Color in the Pew*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2003.

Tony Mathews (D Min, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary) is senior pastor of North Garland Baptist Fellowship, a multi-ethnic congregation in Garland, Texas. In this book, he describes and discusses some of the challenges of multiethnic congregations. Some of the chapter titles are: "Surface Integration is not enough," "Confronting the 'They Don't Do It Like Us' Syndrome" and "How to Scratch Itches Through the Worship Service." Each chapter has a summary of key points and questions to help stimulate thought and/or discussion and a bibliography provides further suggestions for reading (Dr Mathews has taught classes on this subject at Criswell College in Dallas).

Ortiz, Manuel. *One New People: Models for Developing a Multiethnic Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Manuel Ortiz (D. Min, Westminster) was at the time the book was published, professor of ministry and mission and director of the urban program at Westminster Seminary (Philadelphia). This book seems to have two aims: to advocate the creation of multiethnic churches and then to provide some models for how it can be done. He has one chapter on multi-congregational churches, and two on multi-ethnic models (one on churches and one on leadership). The age of the book means his demographics are out of date, but there is still much beneficial material in this book.

Ratliff, Joe S. and Michael J. Cox. *Church Planting in the African-American Community*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1993.

As Stetzer notes, church planting is always difficult, "but (according to Ratliff and Cox) it is even more so in the African-American community." In this context, "church planting is often perceived as an insult to the established church and its pastor."

This work is intended to help Southern Baptists address this (and other issues), “but is widely applicable in other situations. It provides advocacy, examples, and practical suggestions.”

Romo, Oscar I. *American Mosaic Church Planting in Ethnic America*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993. Romo makes a strong case for why ethnic churches are needed (because we live in an increasingly pluralistic society) and then goes on to describe the “system” used by Southern Baptists to do just that. Among the methods used are ethnic fellowships and training. The book also provides suggestions and worksheets as to how to develop an ethnic planting strategy.

Yancey, George A. *One Body, One Spirit: Principles of Successful Multiracial Churches*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003. George Yancey (Ph.D., University of Texas) is associate professor of sociology at the University of North Texas, specializing in race/ethnicity and biracial families. He is the author/editor of several books and is the founder of Reconciliation Consulting, an organization aimed at helping churches and ministries develop and sustain a multiracial emphasis. Based on research of churches that have become multiracial churches, this book presents key principles for church leaders who want to minister to people from a variety of racial and cultural backgrounds and offers insights and implications for leadership, worship styles, conflict resolution and more. Several people have called this “an essential resource” for church leaders seeking to foster cultural, ethnic and racial reconciliation in their congregations.

House Churches, Small Groups and Cell Groups

These three styles of “doing” church are different, so maybe they should be separated in this bibliography—and perhaps someday, they will be. But for now, I put them all in the same section, for there are some commonalities as well; all can experience similar small-group dynamics. (Here I am using the term ‘small-group’ in a generic way and not referring to a style of church.)

Banks, Robert and Julia Banks. *The Church Comes Home*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson; new edition, 1998 (paperback, 272 pages). From the CMA Resources Website: “*The Church Comes Home* is a handbook for those interested in home churches. It is both visionary and practical. It describes how home churches can be formed, how they should grow and how networks of home churches can develop. It examines such issues as how to make decisions; how to determine doctrine; how to include children, singles, elders; and how to reach out to the community at large—and offers practical suggestions for their resolution [antecedent ?].” **Banks earlier book, *Paul's Idea of Community: The Early House Churches in their Cultural Setting*** (Hendrickson, Revised edition, 1994) is also an important and helpful book.

Boren, M. Scott. *Making Cell Groups Work: Navigating the Transformation to a Cell-Based Church*. Houston, TX: Cell Group Resources, 2002. As the subtitle suggests, this is essentially a manual for helping a traditional, program-based church make the transition to being a cell based church. However, some of the steps will also be helpful to a planter desiring to start a cell-based church. It describes eight steps or stages: (1) Discover the Cell Group Vision; (2) Develop Vision and Strategy as a Team; (3) Assess Your Current Reality; (4) Prepare the Church Through Transformation; (5) Launch the First Groups with Kingdom Seekers; (6) Generate Cell Group Momentum; (7) Establish the Hidden Systems that Support Cells; and (8) Expand the Cell Groups to Reach the Unreached.

Boren, M. Scott, Ralph W. Neighbour, William A. Beckham and Joel Comiskey. *Making Cell Groups Work Navigation Guide: A Toolbox of Ideas and Strategies for*

***Transforming Your Church.* Houston, TX: Cell Group Resources, 2003.** This is a companion to the book above (*Making Cell Groups Work*) and should only be read after or in conjunction with that one. This one is truly nuts and bolts; it contains hundreds of ideas about how to implement each of the eight stages in the transition to cell groups. In addition to that, it also contains forms for various levels of cell leadership, self-evaluation tools for stages within the transition and more. This is a very helpful book.

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. *How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals About Personal Growth.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001 (hardcover, 368 pages). Cloud and Townsend are popular speakers, authors (their various *Boundaries* titles have sold over a million copies) and co-hosts of *New Life Live!* a nationally broadcast call-in show. While this book is not directly about small groups (see next entry for one that is), it does address an issue that is vital to their success and something that is often overlooked: lives are changed as people interact with others at deep levels. If spiritual people are leaving churches because they are not finding life and nourishment (see Barna's *Revolution* for a discussion of that) new churches need to find ways to ensure that such is provided. This book can help you understand the dynamics of how lives are transformed.

. *Making Small Groups Work: What Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003 (paperback, 292 pages). This book deals more with the nuts and bolts of small groups: how to (1) decide on the type of group and its purpose; (2) create and maintain safety; (3) choose the best material, etc. This is a very helpful book.

Comiskey, Joel. *Cell Church Solutions: Transforming the Church in North America.* Houston, TX: CCS (Cell Church Solutions) Publishing, 2005. Comiskey has written many books on cell churches, but this is one of his latest and best. From years of observing churches in America and particularly ones that have done cell ministry, Comiskey has distilled the key elements and principles that have led to success in many settings. Any church desiring to adopt a Cell Church approach to ministry should read this book.

. *From 12 to 3: How to Apply G-12 Principles in Your Church.* Houston, TX: Touch Publications, 2002. Anyone doing small groups should be aware of the G-12 model, for it has been very effective in some parts of the world (though not without much controversy). A church in America that has been implementing this "vision" for some time is Bethany World Prayer Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (<http://www.bccn.com/> is their website). This book does more than explain the model; it suggests ways to apply the principles that have led to its success to other settings. (Comiskey cautions people to not just adopt a model uncritically, for each situation is different. But, he says, we can seek to find the principles that made it work and then try to figure out how to adapt them for other situations.)

. *Leadership Explosion: Multiplying Cell Group Leaders for the Harvest.* Houston, TX: Touch, 2000. As the title indicates, this book is about training leaders of cell groups. It is one of the most thorough and practical books on this subject in print. Read it and reap!

. *The Spirit-filled Small Group: Leading Your Group to Experience the Spiritual Gifts.* Grand Rapids: Chosen Books (Baker), 2005. Instead of a small group meeting being a leader-led Bible study, Comiskey explains how leaders and participants alike can be supernaturally equipped to minister to one another. C. Peter Wagner says: "Nothing can bring

vibrancy and life to a small group more than each member discovering, developing and using his or her spiritual gifts. This timely book is a practical roadmap. I encourage you to read it and to use it!”

Dale, Felicity. *Getting Started: A Practical Guide to House Church Planting*. Karis Publishing, 2003. Stetzer notes that while there are many books available on house churches “this one is unique in that provides a clear and reproducible (dare I say ‘simple’) method for planting churches that meet in homes. As Felicity describes it, anyone can do it, which, is sort of her point!”

Donahue, Bill. *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups: Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002 (paperback, 208 pages)*. Donahue is director of adult education and training at Willow Creek with years of experience developing and leading small groups. This is just one of many tools that he has created to help develop vital, life-changing small groups (his *Coaching Life-Changing Small Group Leaders* may be of interest to some of you as well). Some of the topics covered in this book are: Group formation and values; Meeting preparation and participation; Leadership requirements and responsibilities; Discipleship within the group; The philosophy and structure of small groups; and Leadership training.

Edwards, Gene. *How to Meet in Homes*, Seedsowers Press, 1999. Reviewers on Amazon either loved or hated the book (with no middle ground), apparently because it takes a rather confrontational approach to the way church is usually practiced in America. The book is more of an argument for doing church in a new way than a “how-to” guide as the title suggests, but that may still be helpful to some.

Fitts, Robert. *The Church in the House: A Return to Simplicity*. Preparing the Way Publishers, 2001 (paperback, 120 pages).

Green, Michael. *Church without Walls: A Global Examination of the Cell Church*. Send the Light Publications, 2002. “Cells” have brought explosive growth to the church, especially in third world settings. In this book, Green brings together a number of scholars and church leaders from around the world to examine and critique the nature, values and growth of the cell church movement.

Hornsby, Billy. *The Cell-Driven Church: Realizing the Harvest*. Mansfield, PA: Kingdom Publishing, 2000 (hardcover, 214 pages).

Kreider, Larry. *House Church Networks: A Church for a New Generation*. Ephrata, PA: House to House Publications, 2001; 120 pages, paperback. Kreider describes the emerging house church movement without disparaging other types of churches. In fact, while presenting the principles for establishing such networks, Kreider acknowledges the need for three main types (and sizes) of churches: small: house churches (8/10 to 50/60 members); medium: “community” (or neighborhood) churches (60 to 500/1000 members) and large: mega-churches (1000 or more).

_____. ***House to House: Spiritual Insights for the 21st Century Church*. Ephrata, PA: House to House Publications, 1998.** Kreider is one of the leading figures in the house church movement. This book provides much practical advice on how to start and maintain house churches.

Simpson, Wolfgang. *Houses that Change the World*, Emmelsbull, Germany: C & P Publishing, 1999 (printed 2001 by OM Publishing; reprint, 2003 by Authentic Lifestyle; reprint, 2004 by Authentic Media (303 pages, paperback). Simpson discusses many aspects of house churches, including their nature and necessity (e.g. to develop a “persecution-proof structure”), how the five-fold ministry (of Ephesians 4) works and is necessary to their success, their role in history and more. In making his case for this type of church, he is sometimes critical of traditional churches and their structure, but don’t let that deter you from the insights in this book.

Scoggins, Dick. *Handbook for House Churches*. [on-line], accessed 1 December 1999, <http://genesis.acu.edu/cplant/archive/contr036>; Internet. Dick Scoggins and the Rhode Island house churches are the best known home-based church planting movement in North America. The book describes the indigenous church planting methods of Fellowship of Church Planters, a network of house churches in Rhode Island and southern New England. It is the only resource this reviewer knows of that deals with indigenous house churches from a North American perspective.

Zdero, Rad. *The Global House Church Movement*. William Carey Library Publishers, 2004 (paperback, 141 pages). Also available from cmaresources.org.

“Parenting Churches”

Becker, Paul. *Dynamic Daughter Church Planting*. Vista, CA: Multiplication Ministries, 1996. Stetzer says: “If you are planting a daughter church, you need this resource” because it provides churches that want to plant a step-by-step guide on how to reproduce themselves.

Redford, Jack. *Planting New Churches*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1978. Like Becker, Redford also lays out steps for a church to follow in planting a church. Stetzer says that while the book is dated, it is “still a valuable resource for a mother church wanting to start a daughter congregation.”

Multi-Housing Settings

Bunch, David, Jarvey Kneisel and Barbara Oden. *Multi-housing Congregations: How to Start and Grow Christian Congregations in Multi-housing Communities*. Atlanta, GA: Smith Publishing, 1991. Stetzer says this work is the only widely published resource available on planting churches in multi-housing settings (apartment buildings, trailer parks, etc), and that approximately 60% of unchurched people in North America live in multi-housing settings. Thus, for the church to reach the entire nation, it is necessary for some planters to focus on this “people group.” This “essential resource” is a good place to start.

Rural and Small Town Settings

Nebel, Tom. *Big Dreams in Small Places: Church Planting in Smaller Communities*. St Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2002. Most church planting books focus on church planting in suburban areas. A few address urban contexts. This is one of the few (and perhaps only the one) that addresses rural areas and it does it well. “The book points out some of the unique challenges and opportunities in rural church planting and provides several helpful principles for successful ministry.”

Urban Settings

Steffan, Tom. *Passing the Baton: Church Planting that Empowers*. La Habra, CA: Center for Organizational & Ministry Development, 1997. Although this book is about international church planting, it is very applicable to U.S. planting, particularly in the inner-city. (Steffan does training for World Impact, an organization on the cutting edge in planting indigenous churches among the urban poor.) “His emphasis on empowerment is an important addition to the training of every urban church planter.”

Websites Promoting and Supporting Small Group ministry:

<http://www.bccn.com/> This is the site of Bethany Cell Church Network, a ministry of Bethany World Prayer Center located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Pastor Larry Stockstill and his team seek to help churches understand and implement the G-12 model of cell groups and discipleship.

<http://www.touchusa.org/> This site is affiliated with Dr. Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr. who was a pioneer in cell ministry and thus who is often called the “father of the cell movement.” It has many resources and links.