

John Journey



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John Journey

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FOREWORD

Since Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commandment 2000 years ago, believers have been evangelizing, campaigning and planting Churches throughout the world. Although the Church have come a long way and made a lot of progress, it is obvious that there is still a lot of work to be done, especially in Africa and other unreached parts of the world. The purpose of this book is to introduce a new approach to Church planting. This approach is cost effective, practical and has the power to foster rapid Church multiplication. This Church planting process called the John Journey makes use of four steps namely: Coffee with John, Growing with John, Planting with John and Church with John.

The author's who co-wrote this book have been involved in evangelism programmes and Church planting processes for more than a decade. During this time they facilitated more than two thousand Church plants in Southern Africa. Their experience when it comes to Church planting is that the cost of planting a new Church comes at a high price. History has shown that many pastors with their families suffered and sacrificed a lot to give birth to a new Church, only to see it closing its doors a few years later. On other occasions the new Church plant developed operational problems as well as leadership challenges that had to be addressed afterwards. In addition, the authors have observed that when a new Church became operational the pastor was facing numerous crises' and structural obstacles that he was not prepared for. The authors of the John Journey assisted many pastors in planting thriving and effective Churches. They have also observed that the average new Church plant takes approximately two years to mature into a stable structured Church. It is against this background that a new effective Church planting process called; John Journey is presented in this book.

The motivation behind the John Journey is to offer an effective and well-organized method for Christians and ministers to reach the lost with the Gospel. John Journey teaches believers how to win the lost for Christ in a simple practical way. It also provides discipleship training for believers to live a true Christian life, and to plant house Churches. The new disciples will journey to become true followers of Christ and plant house Churches in their community. The aim is to create a Church planting movement and culture within the Church. John Journey is therefore an instruction

manual to assist the local Church to mobilize believers to become effective witnesses and successful Church planters.

John Journey employs the Cross and the Gospel of John as instruments to share faith, to mentor disciples, practise prayer and to plant new Churches. The aim of the John Journey is to introduce a new level of Church planting in all communities. This level starts in the heart of an individual and in the house of an unbeliever. The final stage is to build a community Church.

Contributors to this book are Dr. Louis Blom, Pastor Kola de Klerk and Willie Schoombee.

Dr. Louis Blom is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Judea Harvest. During the past eighteen years Dr. Blom has travelled extensively throughout the world and lectured in more than 30 countries. The purpose of his ministry is to assist the Body of Christ to be efficient in reaching the lost with the Gospel. This passion was also his motivation to complete his doctorate (DLitt.et Phil) in evangelism and missiology at the University of Johannesburg. Testimony to this is that over the last 18 years Louis has been instrumental in planting more than 2200 new Churches in Africa.

Dr. Louis Blom came up with the idea to employ the Gospel of John as an evangelism tool. The motivation to use the Gospel of John as an evangelism tool is found in the message of the Gospel itself. The purpose of the Gospel of John is to prove conclusively that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in him will have eternal life. Furthermore, Jesus' deity is revealed in every chapter and this is used to challenge the believer to commit himself to believe in and follow Christ. Louis wrote chapter one as well as large parts of chapter two.

Pastor Kola de Klerk is currently Implementation Manager at Judea Harvest. Kola is well known for his unique preaching style and relationship building skills. He is also a practising marriage counsellor and therapist. During the past twelve years Kola has also facilitated and planted more than a hundred Churches in and around Soweto and Johannesburg area. Numerous Church planters were coached and guided by him to become effective structural Churches. Testimony to his calling is that he planted a new post modern Church in Knysna South Africa in 2005. A specific group of people were

targeted and Kola successfully employed his Church planting strategies in the field. Kola holds a masters degree (MA - Theology) from the University of Johannesburg. He recently joined the Judea Harvest team to help create a Church planting movement in South Africa.

Kola wrote chapters three and four. He also made contributions in chapter two.

Willie Schoombee is currently Tent Operational Manager at Judea Harvest. For more than 38 years Willie (MDP, SMP Graduate School of Management TUKS) was involved in various management positions in the banking industry throughout South Africa. Willie joined the Judea Harvest team in February 2010, after retirement. His calling is to mentor believers to become effective disciples. Willie is also heading a discipleship process at the local AFM Church in Bronkhorstspuit.

He was the main contributor of chapter two in the John Journey.

The authors are convinced that Africa is on a brink of a spiritual breakthrough. This new beginning will also have an effect on the current Church. This is exactly where the John Journey can provide the Church a new cost effective process in reaching the lost with the Good News.

FOUR STEPS OF JOHN JOURNEY



CHURCH PLANTING

JOHN JOURNEY

INTRODUCTION

Judea Harvest was established in April 1999 and currently (2011) celebrates 12 years of ministry. Judea Harvest is a non-profit organization. The head office with numerous regional satellite offices across Africa functions in faith and solely depends on gifts and donations for its operational costs. The mission of Judea Harvest is to mobilize, equip and resource labourers to transform the nations of Africa. For this purpose marquee tents are made available to teams in the Judea Harvest satellite system. A satellite is a group of like-minded Christian Churches of any denomination that take corporately responsibility for the harvest in their own Judea-area.

Judea Harvest currently has 269 satellites across 27 Southern African nations and 10 East African nations. In this satellite system more than 2,100 tent Churches have been planted. There are approximately 6,500 Churches involved in these satellites. Over the last 12 years more than 10,734 crusades have been conducted in this tent network and approximately 4,864 new Churches have been planted.

The Judea Harvest concept has proved that it has the potential to have a major impact on the continent of Africa to uplift, empower and transform the nations. Tents are an extremely cost effective and mobile way in Africa to penetrate the previously disadvantaged areas and positively impact the lives of the African people. The strategic process of Judea Harvest enables the satellites to implement a holistic ministry in order to complete the Great Commission in its own area.

This strategic process starts with prayer mobilization followed by evangelism training. Secondly a comprehensive discipleship program is implemented to teach and disciple all new believers. Thirdly a Church planting strategy is implemented to work towards saturation Church planting. Finally a comprehensive community development plan is implemented in every satellite, addressing needs such as: HIV/AIDS, AIDS orphans, food for the hungry, clothes for the poor, pre-schools and micro-economic projects. Regional coordinators as well as satellite coordinators are being empowered to strategically coordinate the implementation of the vision.

The world, especially Africa, is plagued by many problems, such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic, poverty, corruption (even in governments), civil wars, natural disasters (like droughts and floods), political instability and diseases such as malaria and cholera. In Africa there are 900 million people. According to Johnstone & Mandryk the 11 countries of Southern Africa had a total population of 118 million people in 2000. Currently the total is 137 million. Due to many factors, the economy of Africa has been stagnant for the last 40 years, and therefore the people of Africa have lagged behind in the development race of this world.

Africa has seen remarkable evangelism efforts in the past 100 years. Although 48% of all African people profess to be Christian, a large portion is nominal Christians. Judea Harvest has found that the traditional African religions (with witchcraft practices) still play a key role in the lives of many African people, and hence still have a significant influence in their lives.

In South Africa only 5% of the 87% who proclaim that they are Christians, regularly attend a Church service. In the rest of Africa only 48% proclaim to be Christian. Of the 6.8 billion people in the world, only 10% have responded to the Gospel. These facts are alarming and for this reason Judea Harvest is rethinking the way evangelism, discipleship and Church planting should be implemented. Churches and all Christians should take ownership for what is happening in their respective communities. Evangelism and discipleship can act as a catalyst against crime and sin in the community. A new effective evangelism strategy is needed. I am of the opinion that the best pulpit in the world is the coffee table in the house of an unbeliever, and that is where the Church needs to go. Judea Harvest intends taking the Good News into every home, every family, whether the home is a well established house, a mud hut, a squatter hut or an RDP house. It is Judea Harvest's submission that the Church is a major role-player in creating the right climate for sustainable peace, stability and development in Southern Africa.

The challenge for Judea Harvest' is to unite the existing resources and efforts within the communities with other local and national role players, in a partnership to address the needs on grass root level. The contribution of each role player may vary from funding, training, socio-economic upliftment, job creation to erecting physical structures. Judea Harvest has already successfully facilitated partnerships with

International Organizations such as Walk Thru the Bible, DAWN, Every Home for Christ and Harvest Evangelism (Ed Silvos). The phenomenal results achieved by Judea Harvest in the past twelve years are only because of the unmerited favour and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, God has now increased Judea Harvest's vision not only to plant tent Churches but to embark on a new vision to reach 4 million homes with the Gospel through an evangelism, discipleship and Church planting process, called "John Journey". This process uses the Gospel of John as a tool to empower all Christians to disciple new believers to become mature followers of Christ and plant house Churches. God has already provided Judea Harvest with 4 million copies of the Gospel of John that will be placed in the hands of Church planters all over Africa. These will be used as tools for evangelism, discipleship and Church planting.

John Journey uses two tools namely: The Gospel of John and the cross. The symbol of the cross becomes a symbol for prayer and discipleship.

John Journey process includes four steps.

- *Coffee with John* - Evangelism Strategy.
- *Growing with John* - Discipleship Process.
- *Planting with John* - House Church Planting Process.
- *Church with John* - Community Church Development.

1. COFFEE WITH JOHN

Coffee with John is based on the strategy that Jesus provided believers in Luke 10. The Lord sent out 72 of his disciples and told them to search for a man of peace or an open house in the city. He then told them to enter the open house and connect with those people in a meaningful relationship. Jesus commanded his disciples not to jump from house to house, but to stay in the house that has been opened for them.

Jesus told them to bless those people, pray for the sick, pray for their needs, offer them food, and proclaim the Good News to them. Thus, believers are to trust God to do miracles for the family, and then they should tell them that the kingdom of God has come, and lead them in a lifetime commitment to follow and serve Christ. This is how Christ sent out His disciples.

However, history has shown that believers tended to do evangelism in the reverse way. Normally believers think about evangelism as talking to strangers on the street and confronting them with the Gospel. This is the opposite of what Jesus commanded the Church. Jesus told believers according to Luke 10 to first connect, fellowship, bless and then to share the Gospel. Believers are not to share the Gospel first and then, if unbelievers have responded positively, bless and fellowship with them as they become members of their Churches.

To be obedient to the Great Commandment Judea Harvest is recruiting house evangelists who will go into communities, to connect with people who are open to the Gospel. These labourers will enter the homes of those who are open-hearted and share the peace of God with them, and fellowship with them.

2. GROWING WITH JOHN

The second step is to equip every trained house evangelist who has implemented the Coffee with John process, with the necessary tools to start a new discipleship study group in his/her area. Jesus told His followers to make disciples and not only converts. This process is what Judea Harvest calls, "Growing with John". Judea Harvest uses the Gospel of John to disciple new believers and to teach them to obey Christ's commands.

The cross is used to symbolize the four parts to this journey.

- Relationship with God - Fasting, Prayer, Holiness, Bible.
- Overcoming Sin - Witchcraft, Disease, Death, and Sexual Immorality.
- Relationship with Believers - Care, Share, Give, Love.
- Relationship with Unbelievers - Share, Care, Go, Pray.

Growing with John provides a process that will assist every new believer to study through the Gospel of John at least four times. In this process the new believer will study the principles of living a Christian life.

3. PLANTING WITH JOHN

Judea Harvest is thinking in a new and fresh way about Church planting. The matter of finding enough money to build or rent buildings or place tent Churches to take care of the harvest is a daunting task.

However, Judea Harvest believes that a more effective way to take care of the harvest is rapid multiplication of house Churches. These house Churches will be clustered together to become local formally organized community Churches. The manner in which these house Churches will cluster to become the local Church will depend on the circumstances in that area and must be led by every local pastor. Judea Harvest is keen to gather a bigger harvest for God than ever - this can be done with less money and fewer resources.

In South Africa, Judea Harvest already has 4 million copies of John Gospels available and is embarking on a process to reach 4 million houses, and 12 million people with the message of Jesus in South Africa. Judea Harvest aims to plant thousands of John Journey discipleship groups and house Churches.

4. CHURCH WITH JOHN

Judea Harvest is of the opinion that the local community Church is still the best long term strategy to help people live a Christian life. The local community Church is also God's method of combining the strength of individuals to change this world and spread the message of Christ. Communities do not need large Churches so much as they need a large amount of new Churches.

A permanent Community Church is a registered and affiliated Church organization with official membership and programs and ministries. Judea Harvest has developed a specific Church planting strategy to establish a formally organized community Church. This strategic process has three steps and a detailed time table that helps the Pastor to successfully plant community Churches.

Partner with Judea Harvest and help us reach millions of people in their homes and provide them the John Journey.

CHAPTER 1

COFFEE WITH JOHN



1.1 Introduction

Jesus commanded His disciples to go and proclaim the Gospel to all nations and teach people to become true disciples. The Good News is that everyone can now become members of the Kingdom of God. Evangelism is the presentation of the Gospel to someone with the purpose of bringing that person to have faith in Christ. This means that evangelism is more than just preaching, as the word “presentation” opens up the interpretation of evangelism to many other methods, including preaching. In South Africa, this broader approach to evangelism has been lacking, as there are many ways to evangelize effectively besides preaching.

The Church in South Africa is facing an enormous challenge concerning the execution of the Great Commission. The aspects of preaching the Gospel and challenging people in crusades to accept Christ received much attention, however, the teaching and training aspects of the Great Commission still needs much attention. After all the efforts of preaching the Gospel in the past 100 years, one would assume that the continent of Africa portrays the relevant Christian values and ethics in its communities. However, Christianity has not affected the people of South Africa as positively as one would have expected.

This situation developed because of the thousands, and even millions of people that attended a crusade, raised their hand to accept Christ, and left the crusade without ever embarking on the discipleship journey to follow and obey Christ, but now consider themselves Christian. The only solution to this problem is to implement a broad evangelism strategy.

The Church should rediscover its apostolic roots, as the winning of the lost and making disciples of Christ are in the DNA of the Church, because this is what the Church is there for. The fact that there are more unbelievers alive today than ever before in history should certainly be of concern. In the year 2000, there were 6,065 million people on the earth and only 10% were Christians. These included nominal Christians, which leaves approximately 4 billion people un-evangelized, un-reached, and therefore unsaved. The reason for the weakness in evangelism is the low level of love and passion for Christ in the lives of Christians. I have noticed that Churches and denominations with no growth in membership also have no active evangelism programs.

Thus, it is important that every Church, denomination, and mission organization should develop an evangelism strategy, which not only focuses on preaching, but also focuses on discipleship and mentoring to maturity, to complete the Great Commission. The role of the Evangelist is not only to preach the Gospel, but also to equip the believers to be effective witnesses according to Ephesians 4.

Aspects like prayer, witnessing and building meaningful relationships with unbelievers can be important evangelism tools. Furthermore, the serving of the people in need in the impoverished South African communities can greatly excel the evangelism efforts of the Church.

1.2 Prayer Evangelism

Prayer must always be the first strategy that is employed when one plans to win people for Christ; “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). The Church has a clear Biblical mandate to pray for the lost, and therefore prayer is a basic and very important Christian activity that is vital to successful evangelism.

The person that did much to re-establish the importance and value of prayer in evangelism is Ed Silvano. He developed an evangelism model called “*Prayer Evangelism*”. Silvano defined prayer evangelism as: “***Simply put, Prayer Evangelism is talking to God about your neighbour before talking to your neighbour about God***”. He argues that intercessory prayer for the needs of your neighbours, provides God with an opportunity to bless them, and it opens up their hearts to the Gospel. The power of Silvano’s model is that it is simple enough for every believer to engage into and, because of the potential mass mobilization of believers to engage in evangelism, it is the key to completing the Great Commission. This simple yet effective strategy allows every believer to be involved in evangelism in an easy non-threatening manner by praying for unbelievers, caring for their physical needs and by sharing their faith with them.

In the quest to reach the people of South Africa for Christ, it has become clear that one cannot rely only on the Evangelists and preachers to accomplish that. Involvement in telling unbelievers about Jesus is a defining activity for all Christians, regardless of their natural talent at speaking to people, or who they are, or what they like. Gospel proclamation is for all – and Jesus has equipped all Christians with everything that they need to do so. The Church should move from a condemning institution to a loving community that befriends unbelievers.

1.3 Friendship Evangelism

Friendship evangelism provides a wonderful opportunity to become involved in the lives of the millions of people suffering and dying of HIV/AIDS related diseases. There are millions of people who live under the bread line and suffer to make a living every day, and many vulnerable children who became orphans because of HIV/AIDS related deaths. All these people need Christ and can be reached by ordinary Christians living in their communities, by simply connecting with them and reaching out to their needs, serving them as God helps and blesses them.

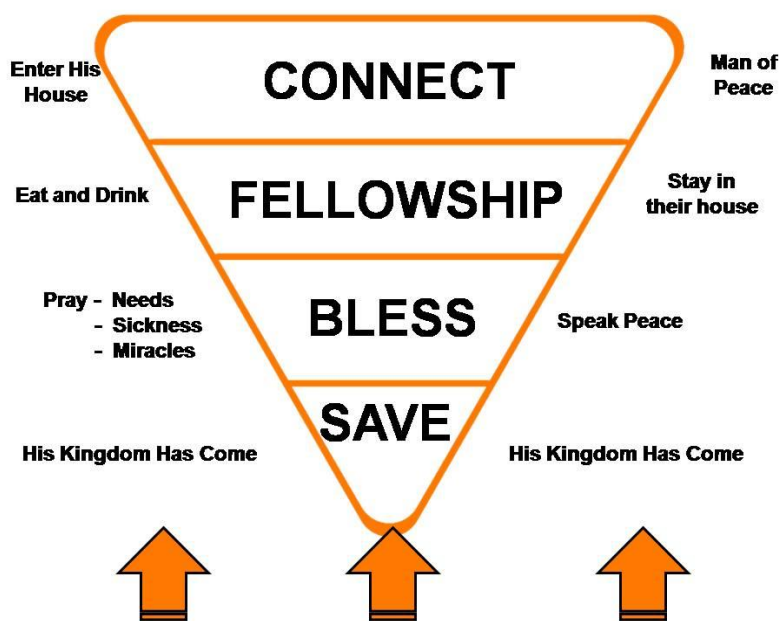
Another powerful way to reach the lost is that believers should enter into purposeful and meaningful relationships with unbelievers. The result is that the unbeliever will come close enough to the believer to observe the living Christ active in his life. Unbelievers may differ with one’s preaching and theology, but they can never question one’s lifestyle, testifying that Christ is alive in the believer. I am convinced that this is

one of the most powerful ways to spread the Gospel, and yet in my experience most Christians, especially in South Africa do not live in purposeful and meaningful relationships with unbelievers.

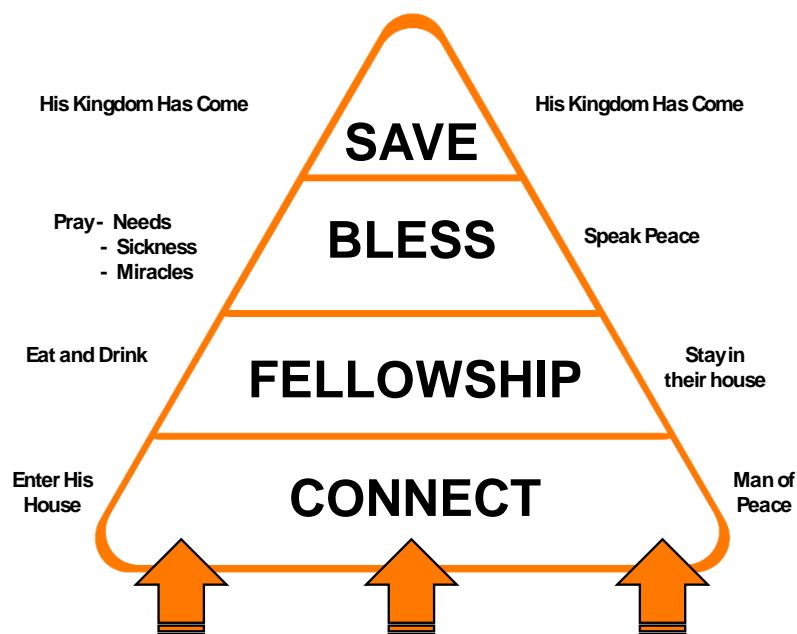
The problem is that the majority of Christians consider unbelievers to be their enemy, to be avoided, and therefore most believers have isolated themselves from unbelievers. This is exactly the opposite of what Jesus modelled on earth and taught His disciples to do. Jesus told His disciples to enter into the houses of unbelievers and to:

- Speak peace into their lives.
- Fellowship and eat with them.
- Take care of their needs by praying for the sick.
- Proclaim the Good News to them (Luke 10:5 - 9).

Traditional Church Model of Evangelizing



John Journey Model of Evangelizing



This approach requires believers to enter into deep and meaningful relationships with unbelievers in the marketplace in order for them to find an access point for the Gospel into their lives. In South Africa the African culture is very open to deep and meaningful relationships. Because family ties and even extended family ties play a large role in the life of the African person, meaningful relationships with unbelievers can be easily achieved. Research in the United States of America showed that 90% of all people that became Christians did so because of the influence of and relationship with, a person that is a believer in Jesus Christ.

Jesus modelled friendship with unbelievers in His life on earth, as He interacted freely with the sinners, tax collectors, prostitutes and Samaritans. He was even called a friend of the sinners by the Pharisees (Luke 7:34).

1.4 Power Evangelism

When believers are involved in the lives of unbelievers, it provides believers the opportunity to minister to the needs of unbelievers as they arise. Believers should then serve them in a physical manner, and pray for their needs at the appropriate time. This provides a great opportunity for God to do a miracle in the lives of unbelievers. In the light of the many social and socio-economic problems in South Africa, it will be beneficial for Churches to equip their members to become involved in the lives of their unbelieving family and neighbours. Churches should develop active ministry

opportunities for their members to engage in the needs and problems of the community. I once heard a leader say; *“If they have done all the witnessing they can, then maybe it would be appropriate to speak a word or two as well.”*

Deeds of good service by Christian’s are like seeds that are sown into the life of the unbeliever. It provides an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to start working in that person’s life. Therefore, the Church, as His hands and feet, should engage in deeds of service to its neighbours, thus demonstrating Christ’s love and making Him visible and tangible for the unbeliever. Unbelievers are impressed when the believers do things that make a real difference in the lives of needy people, like feeding the poor or caring for the sick. In this way, the Church takes to Gospel to the people by serving the community and this opens up the hearts of unbelievers.

In the light of the multiple problems such as crime, poverty, unemployment, violence and corruption everyone are facing in South Africa, the Church has a great opportunity to step up and be the salt and light it was called to be. The service of Christians and Churches to people will qualify true Christianity, as they become the instruments in the Hands of God to touch and change communities. There is also another aspect of serving, and that is ministering healing to the many diseases amongst the people of Africa. Healing has become important for the average African person because Malaria is the number one killer disease, followed by HIV/AIDS related deaths, cholera and many other diseases coupled with the low quality of health care services. The disciples of Christ have the power to make a difference; they can be the salt and the light that brings change.

The Church needs to rise to the challenge to help the poor. Scripture holds the Church responsible for the poor and needy. They need to spread the love of Christ and His message, and address the needs of people.

1.5 Summary

Africa has been evangelized for many decades through expensive and costly evangelistic crusades, and mass meetings. However, as mentioned above, it seems that the result is not that effective.

John Journey teaches believers to move evangelism from the pulpit and from the crusades and services into the houses of ordinary people. It teaches the believers a model of friendship with the unbeliever to win them for Christ. John Journey helps lay ministers to become missionaries in their own towns and suburbs. It has the ability to move the passive Christian to an evangelist.

CHAPTER 2

GROWING WITH JOHN



2.1 Introduction

Becoming a follower of Christ asks for a life time commitment. This process of adopting a new lifestyle and integrating Biblical principles into one's life is known as discipleship.

For many years the Church has endeavored to disciple believers from the pulpit. Although Jesus preached to masses from the pulpit, He mentored 12 disciples on a personal level. With this in mind the John Journey places discipleship back into the hands of individuals.

The cross which is the symbol of Christianity throughout the ages is used as a tool to disciple new believers. Four dynamics of the Christian life are explained to new believers in an easy and understanding manner. These four dynamics are:

1. Discipleship.
2. Relationship.
3. Maturity.
4. Mentorship.

The John Journey Cross is a study tool to lead new believers in the first steps of becoming followers of Christ.



2.2 Discipleship

When a person has met with Christ and shown interest to know Christ, an invitation is then extended to him/her to participate in a house discipleship meeting. These meetings are organized by the evangelists in the area. This house discipleship group will study the Gospel of John. The main focus of the study group is discipleship. The following practical steps can be used as a guideline.

Step 1. Meet God:

(John 14:23)

Through:

- a. **Prayer** - To seek God earnestly by prayer.

Prayer is a way Christians can communicate with God. It allows them to make spiritual contact with God. It is a source of strength when believers pray through the Spirit. God says in His word that He seeks and loves those who pray in the Spirit and truth. It is the way they can seek God's presence and feel very close to Him when His Spirit is

alive within them and is their guide when they are praying. The best way to learn to pray is the life of Jesus himself. Believers must learn important principles from His life and how to have an intimate connection with God our Father. A Christian always has to pray through Jesus because He is the only way to God the Father. No one will get to the Father except through Jesus.

What can believers pray for? The main purpose is to pray for God's will to be fulfilled in their life. They can also pray for their family, their Church, their leaders, their government, their nation and it is important to realize that the whole world can be changed by God to come under the authority of Jesus and the will of God the Father.

John 14: 6 (NIV)

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

b. Fasting - To withhold the body from food to extend faith.

Fasting is a process where the needs of the body are submitted under the needs of the spirit. By fasting one dominates the physical needs and become more sensitive to God's spirit. This is a way one can build faith and actually trust and rely on God for His provision.

Fasting and prayer go hand in hand and the strength through prayer comes through fasting and belief in the fulfilment of what was asked from God. God provides only if it is according to His will and not one's own selfish needs to be met.

1 John 5:14 & 15 (NIV)

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him.”

c. Bible - To read and learn God's Word.

John 1:1 (NIV)

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”

The Bible is the inspired Word of God as He used spirit filled people to write His Word. To be a Christian and a true follower of Jesus it is necessary to know the Word of God. By studying the Bible they will know God's promises for their life.

God talks to believers through His Word, the Bible. When believers have a true relationship with Jesus and read through the Bible in the presence of the Holy Spirit, they will hear His voice and then can respond to it by doing the right things that will positively impact and bring change in their lives.

John 16:7 & 13 (NIV)

“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you... But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will speak only what he hears and he will tell you what is yet to come.”

d. Holiness - To live one's life according to the truth of the Word through the power of the Holy Spirit.

According to the Bible, God wants everyone to live their lives holy. To get rid of the past and the bad things that happened in their lives, turn away from it and never take it up again. To live a holy life takes commitment; it can only be done when one is totally and constantly aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is the Power of the Holy Spirit that changes lives and always reminds one to be holy. The body is the temple of God and it is where the Holy Spirit connects with one's spirit. That is why God wants the body to be cleansed from sinful acts. (Classified as **Sin** as described in God's Word).

e. Mentorship – Acceptance of mentors teaching to follow Christ.

Paul said in 1 Cor. 11:1 “follow me as I follow Christ.”

Jesus never did anything that He did not hear from His Father. He was in His Father, His Father in Him and He also is within us. One can learn a lot from the best teacher that ever set foot on earth, namely Jesus the Son of God.

John the Baptist testified the following about Jesus: “The one who comes from above is above all; the one who comes from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all (John 3:31).



Step 2. Overcome sin:

(John 8:43- 45)

Overcome the enemy and walk in the Light.

Jesus said: “Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!” (John 8:43-45)

As referred to in Matt. 4:18-20: As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, and Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen..... “Come follow me,” Jesus said “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

This is exactly the same today, if one wants to become a disciple of Jesus; one must be prepared to follow Him all the way. By the power of the Holy Spirit anybody will be able to approach people and especially the lost, talk to them, teach them and then start making them disciples for Jesus.

Making disciples is based on principles and these principals are universally the same and should be based on strong foundations from the Word of God. These principles should be built into people’s lives with wisdom and understanding to change them from bad to good, from lost to a strong disciple.

a. Temptations - To resist the Devil and his works.

The devil is sly and he will always be on the look-out to see where he can get hold of someone to turn that person against the truth of God’s Word. The devil will use basically five methods or weapons to turn someone against God’s Word.

By temptation: He will attack a person by tempting them to do evil things that are in direct contrast with God’s Word.

b. Deception:

If temptation doesn't work, Satan will come with his following weapon, namely deception. To avoid deception, one has to hold on to God's Word and be involved with Spiritual people of God by fellowshiping with them.

c. Accusation:

Satan will always come with the third weapon if he could not reach one with the first two, namely accusation. He is a master accuser and will always try to accuse one of the things of the past, bad things that happened in one's life, by doing that he will cause condemnation. Christians will always be his main target so that he can bring division between them by taking control of their minds.

d. Witchcraft - It is an Evil that must be overcome by faith.

To be involved with evil, like witchcraft, will capture a person's mind and eventually their whole identity will be changed. They will believe in it rather than to put their trust and believe in the One who created them. The One who loves them so much that He sent His Son Jesus to earth to die for every person's sin. Every form of evil is against God's Word and should be avoided and demolished by trust and faith in Jesus, who is the Truth and will always be. Jesus released us from sin when he died on the cross.

e. Disease - To receive healing from disease by prayer and faith.

Diseases like HIV/AIDS for instance, but also any other diseases that could be mentioned have a negative impact on family lives, and that was not God's plan when He created man. His plan was to keep everyone away from immorality, which is the starting point of many diseases.

Unfortunately man does not want to listen to God and therefore were captured by Satan to live their lives according to his plan, which is evil. To be released, or rather not to be caught by these immorality acts, one has to be open to God's Word and fully rely on His commandments, the strength of the Holy Spirit that will protect one not to be overcome by immorality. To be cleansed from these diseases one has to absolutely turn to God and seek His face through fasting and prayer to be released and healed from these diseases by faith and the Grace of God. Repentance releases people from the things of the past so that they can triumph over sin by faith in Jesus who will save them if they declare the truth that He is the Son of God and their existence for eternal life is vested in Him.

f. Sexual Immorality - To know that it's not according to God's will.

Sexual immorality has become one of the most problematic issues of our time, because of instruments, such as the Internet, pornographic magazines, and other media available. The only one, who can take control over this evil, is "one-self". If a believer is operating within God's will and are lead by the Holy Spirit, it will not become an issue in his/her life. This is true because one will be able to withstand the temptations through the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 John 5: 4 & 5 (NIV)

"For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."

g. Death - To realize that death is the end of continuous evil.

The end result of sin is death. Death can either be good or bad, all depending on how one lived their life. Did they turn to God and follow Jesus in His footsteps or did they continue with a sinful life and just kept relying on their own strength. The outcome of the first statement will guarantee a life with God eternally, while the outcome of the latter will be eternal death in hell.

It is important to accept what Jesus offers beforehand, because if death comes and one still is not released from bad practices, called sin, one will be lost forever.

Repent and believe that God's forgiveness can only be received by His Grace.

John 8:36 (NIV)

"so if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed!"

Step 3. Live with believers:



(John 13:34-37)

a. Fellowship - To fellowship with the members of your new Spiritual Family.

Fellowship with believers is very important, because fellowship draws believers closer to one another. The practical concept used for fellowship is as follows:

When Christians are together they are like a fire burning and they can keep each other warm and influence each other positively, but as soon as they remove someone from that closeness and he/she is not part of the fellowship anymore they become like a coal that is kept separate. The outcome thereof is cooling off and at the end lost for the congregation or group. So it can be seen that it is important to stay close to the group for fellowship, so that one can remain in good spiritual company. God is a family God and therefore He wants everybody to be part of the spiritual family and body of Christ, connected through fellowship.

1 John 1:7 (NIV)

“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.”

b. Worship - To uplift God's name through worship.

To be a sincere worshipper brings one into favour with God, because He is always looking for true worshippers. By worshipping God believers express their love, devotion and commitment as well as building a relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is also important to worship through the Spirit because it not only uplifts God, but it also uplifts the person who is worshipping through the Spirit. That is why John 4:23-24 is so true; Jesus says: “Yet a time is coming and it is now when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is Spirit and His worshippers must worship in Spirit and in truth”. Worship is the only way to keep in touch with God through the Spirit.

c. Share - To share the truth from God's Word.

It is of so much value if one knows the Word of God, by sharing it with other believers so that they also can grow and become more effective in sharing. To share is to give to others what they don't really know or experience themselves. Sharing can also be from own experiences from the past. There is nothing so valuable as to share from your own experiences, whether they are good or bad. If it is bad for instance, the others that are shared with can learn from that bad experience so that they can avoid the same in their lives. Share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help others to grow and to become stronger believers.

d. Give - To make yourself available to people by building relationships.

Giving is a privilege. To give yourself, time, money and so forth to fellow believers can make a major impact in their lives. Don't hesitate to offer up some of your precious time, because you can be responsible to bring change in other people's lives by giving yourself. Build your relationships with others by giving. It is of much more value to give than to receive. To take responsibility to build relationships that will last forever, can bring people closer to each other to care, share and believe in true friendships.

e. Love - To share the love of Jesus by example.

To love others by example, through what one says, how one reacts and how one cares for others, is the only way to express the love of Jesus for what God created through mankind. Love is Jesus and Jesus is love and He commanded us to love one another and our neighbour as we love ourselves. True love for people can change the worst attitudes from bad to good. The most precious love is the love of the Father for what He has created; He loves His creation so much, that He sent His only begotten Son to earth to die for each and every one, so that all can live in peace and love. That is the utmost love anyone can share. Jesus loves us so much that He says that He came to this world not to condemn it but to save it through His love for us. To live in peace and love with fellow Christians, not only builds relationships, but uplifts people, and changes sinners to be in good standing with God, Jesus Christ and fellow believers.



Step 4. Befriend unbelievers:

(John 15:13-17)

a. Friendship - To engage with unbelievers.

To engage unbelievers is a different approach from engaging believers. One engages by inviting the unbeliever for coffee so that both parties can get to know one another. This will be the starting point of building confidence and building a friendship. Then one can approach the sinner or unbeliever by talking to them one on one and sharing the truth of the Gospel of Jesus step by step. The friendship should be based on trust and be built on Biblical foundations to get the unbeliever to a turning point in his/her life. This friendship gives the Holy Spirit a chance to work in the unbeliever's life, starting with the process of transformation, conformation and reformation. It is only the work of the Holy Spirit that can bring this change in people. This friendship will become

a permanent and lasting friendship and will continue; actually this is a journey with the unbeliever until he/she accepts Jesus into his/her life and continues to become a true believer. The best place to find a real friend is between believers, the people of God.

b. Join - To join people together in connect group.

As soon as the unbeliever becomes a believer it is necessary for such a person to be joined into a connect group or a house Church, where contact can be made with other believers to get input from the group and to interact with each other. From the connect group there will also be support from the other members of the spiritual family. The new believer will become part of the body of Christ and will be able to share his/her gifts and talents with other people to uplift the body of Christ.

John 8:35 (NIV)

“Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.”

c. Care - To care for unbelievers by building relationships.

The decision of the unbeliever to become a disciple and follower of Jesus will depend on how the relationship starts through engaging, building and influencing the lives of the unbelievers. The unbeliever must experience that the care is true; otherwise no relationship will be established. Care and trust go hand in hand and this is the way the unbeliever will open up his past to be dealt with so that change can start taking place in his/her life. As soon as the friendship is established it is necessary to go deeper into the unbeliever's life to bring the past to the light for the person to come to the point of repentance and receive salvation.

d. Witness - To be a witness through own experience.

To be a witness through own experience is a mighty tool in the disciple's hand to lay the foundation that is necessary for building the unbeliever's trust. To be a true witness will demand to operate through the power of the Holy Spirit. The witness' testifying will be based on the truth and only the truth through what the person experienced in his/her life by personal seeing, hearing and feeling. How does one know that the testimony of the witness is true? He/she will bear the fruit of a true disciple by example of the way they will be living their lives. A true disciple will only be able to bear good fruit to deposit into other people's lives.

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- e. **Prayer** - To pray for sinners and let Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, change their lives.

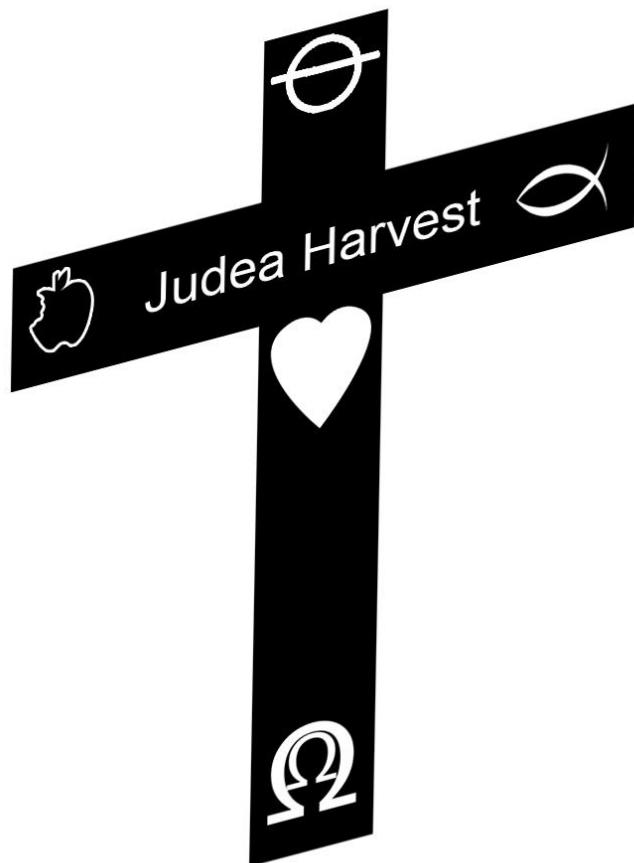
The power of prayer should never be underestimated because through prayer the unbeliever or sinner will experience the power that has been released by the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit will become the sole changer and convincer of people. The Holy Spirit will start to change their lives, to make a decision to lay down their old lives and become true followers of Jesus. They will lay down their old lives through baptism and are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. In the book of John Jesus asked John to baptize him and as soon as he did it the Holy Spirit came upon him and he received the power of the Holy Spirit who accompanied him wherever he went. So go and change people’s lives by praying for them so that they can be strengthened to face the world and never be dependent on it but only on the Spirit of the trinity God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

John 3:23 (NIV)

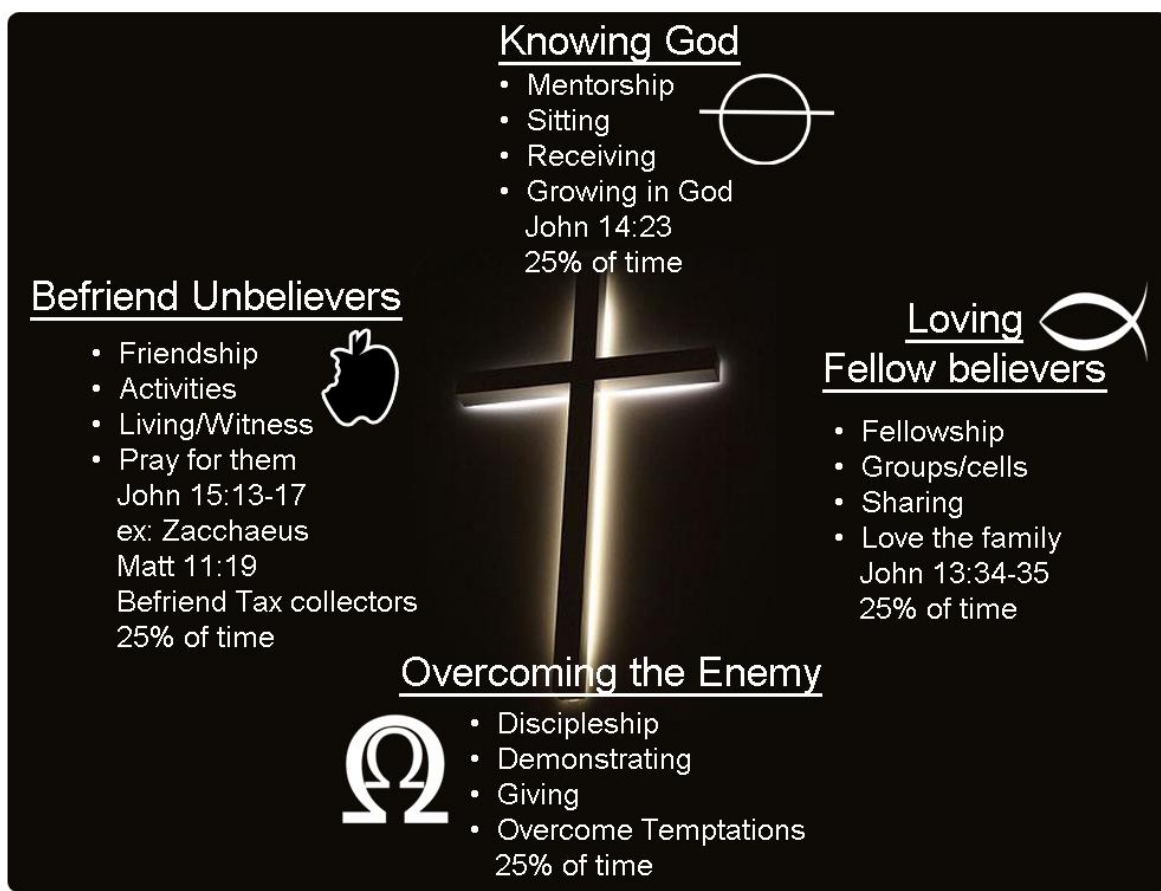
“Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water and people were constantly coming to be baptized.”

2.3 Relationships

A Christian should practice to live in relationships. The Bible calls these relationships love. The different relationships have different rule and different aspects to focus on. In this section we want to use the cross as a tool to learn the rules and principles for each relationship and how to balance time in the life of a Christian.



The 4 pathways of the John Journey Relationship Cross.



Pathway 1: Relationship with Mature believers



Every person needs to find a mature believer to mentor him in his relationship with God. This person can also be known as a spiritual father that leads him to maturity. It is in this regard that the apostle Paul said: follow me as an example as how to follow Christ. This process can best be understood if one looks at the six keywords.

- **Position** = Fatherhood

Every person should aim to have a spiritual Father that can mentor and discipline him in the practice of Christianity. This person can be a cell leader, Pastor or elder in the Church or in his group of friends.

- **Process** = Sitting at feet

The young disciple must make sure that he spends time with the spiritual father to learn. This process is known as sitting. The art of sitting with the mentor is to expose yourself to the personhood and leadership of the mentor and watch him and allow him

to speak into your life. Sitting is also the art of having freedom to ask questions about spiritual growth and challenges. Jesus was a mentor to His disciples and they called Him “Rabbi” that can be translated as teacher or mentor.

- **Action** = Receiving

This relationship is characterized in that the mentor gives and the recipient receives. They receive guidance and instruction as well as an example from their mentor.

- **Relationship** = Honour

The responsibility of the Christian that is mentored is to honour the spiritual father as a role model.

- **Command** = Go get

Every Christian should have a mentor or a person who is spiritually more mature than himself. It is the responsibility of every Christian to find a mentor and establish the relationship.

- **Investment**

One should spend about 25% of their devotional time in this relationship. If they spend more they will not have enough time for other relationships and if they spend too little it could hamper their spiritual progress. 1 Corinthians 4:14-16.

Pathway 2: **Relationship with New believers**

Every believer must take responsibility to help new believers to overcome the enemy. This is a relationship where one becomes a mentor to a new disciple and teaches, supports and coaches such a new believer. This process can best be understood if one looks at the six keywords:

- **Position** = Discipleship

Every believer must spend some time helping new Christians to mature in Christ. This is a process of spiritual growth, where one invests time in young Christians, guiding them how to become a follower of Christ.

- **Process** = Be an example

The best way to do this is to live the Christian life as an example to the younger Christian and share one's journey and struggles with him or her.

- **Action** = Giving

The aim is to give of one's time and personal journey to the younger person and mentor him/her. Spend time with him/her explaining scripture and explaining or instructing him/her in the principles of Christianity.

- **Relationship** = Grow

The aim is to develop the person and invest in him so that he will mature.

- **Command** = Go instruct

Jesus gave believers a command and said: "Go make disciples of every nation ..."

- **Investment**

One should spend about 25% of their devotional time in this relationship. If they spend more they will not have enough time for other relationships and if they spend too little it could hamper their spiritual progress. Matt. 28:19. Example: Jesus and His twelve disciples Matt 25:19.

Pathway 3: **Relationship with Fellow believers**



Every Christian should learn how to have healthy relationships with fellow believers. This process can best be understood if they look at the six keywords:

- **Position** = Fellowship

Family – Gal. 6:10 & Rom. 12:5

The Bible teaches all who believe in Christ belong to the same body and are equal before God. In this regard the way to love other Christians is to love them as equals and accept them as and for whom they are, like family. This is also referred to in the Bible as fellowship.

- **Process** = Cell groups/Prayer groups

A good way to build such relationships is to join a small group of Christians that meet regularly for prayer or Bible study or cell meeting. The Bible also refers to these groups as the priesthood of believers.

- **Action** = Sharing

In these meetings one should share some of who you are and what you are experiencing in your Christian walk.

- **Relationship** = Love

The art of loving people, who also believe in God, is to see them as people who are loved by God. This love is a love of acceptance of diversity and uniqueness. Christians who learn to love each other build meaningful relationships in the Church.

- **Command** = Go share

One should share who you are and what you have with others. The Bible teaches that a fellow believer should be treated the same as family.

- **Investment**

One should spend about 25% of their devotional time in this relationship. If they spend more time in these relationship they will not have enough time for other relationships and personal devotional and meditation time, this could hamper their spiritual progress. Eph 2:19, Heb 2:11.



Pathway 4: **Relationship with Unbelievers**

Every Christian should master the art of building relationships and befriending unbelievers. To best understand this process let's look at the six keywords:

- **Position** = Friendship

Friendship evangelism is the process where a believer first befriends an unbeliever and builds a true friendship before he witnesses his faith to the other.

- **Process** = Activities/Clubs

The way to build such a friendship is to join one's unbelieving friend in the activity of mutual interests like sport clubs, hobbies or interest groups.

- **Action** = Living/Witness

Rather than confronting the unbeliever with condemning questions about faith or condemning remarks about sin, the believer lives his faith in a visible way in his actions and decisions. The Key word is acceptance of people who do not yet share one's faith in Jesus Christ.

- **Relationship** = Friendship

The believer should build a relationship where the unbelieving person knows them and trusts their friendship. As a Christian one should treat the unbelieving friend as a friend and live one's life in such a way that Christ is honoured in their actions.

- **Command** = Go Pray

Believers should regularly pray and talk to God about their unbelieving friends. Pray that God will guide them and others to share their faith and their journey of coming to Christ at the appropriate time. Use the match testimony strategy, where you share your testimony and faith in the time it takes a match to burn.

- **Investment**

One should spend about 25% of their devotional time in this relationship. If they spend more they will not have enough time for other relationships in the Church and if they spend too little it could hamper their spiritual progress.

Example: Zacchaeus, Matt 5:16 and Matt 11:19. Friends of Tax collectors.

2.4 Maturity

The aim of mentoring a person to become a follower of Christ is to take him on a journey to spiritual maturity. Four milestones on this journey indicate the progress of a person as he grows in his relationship with God.

The four milestones identified in this journey are:

- Someone who is looking to find Christ = seeker.
- The person who has found Christ and is growing = child.
- The person who has become close to God = young man.
- The person who has made Christ the centre of his life = father.

Seekers are people who are looking for spiritual truths or for spiritual enlightenment, and then find Christ. When such persons have found Christ and come to faith, they can be referred to as children in the faith. The aim is then to use the Cross of discipleship mentoring process and by studying the Bible and the Gospel of John to grow into a young man. A young man in the spiritual sense is someone that has mastered the enemy and is in control of his life, has overcome the temptations of sin and has adopted a Christian lifestyle.

Thereafter the person should move into fatherhood where he begins to lead new people to a life in Christ and mentors them to maturity, using the Cross of relationships. This is also known as mentorship. A Scripture that explains this is John 1:13-14.

John 1:13-14 (NIV)

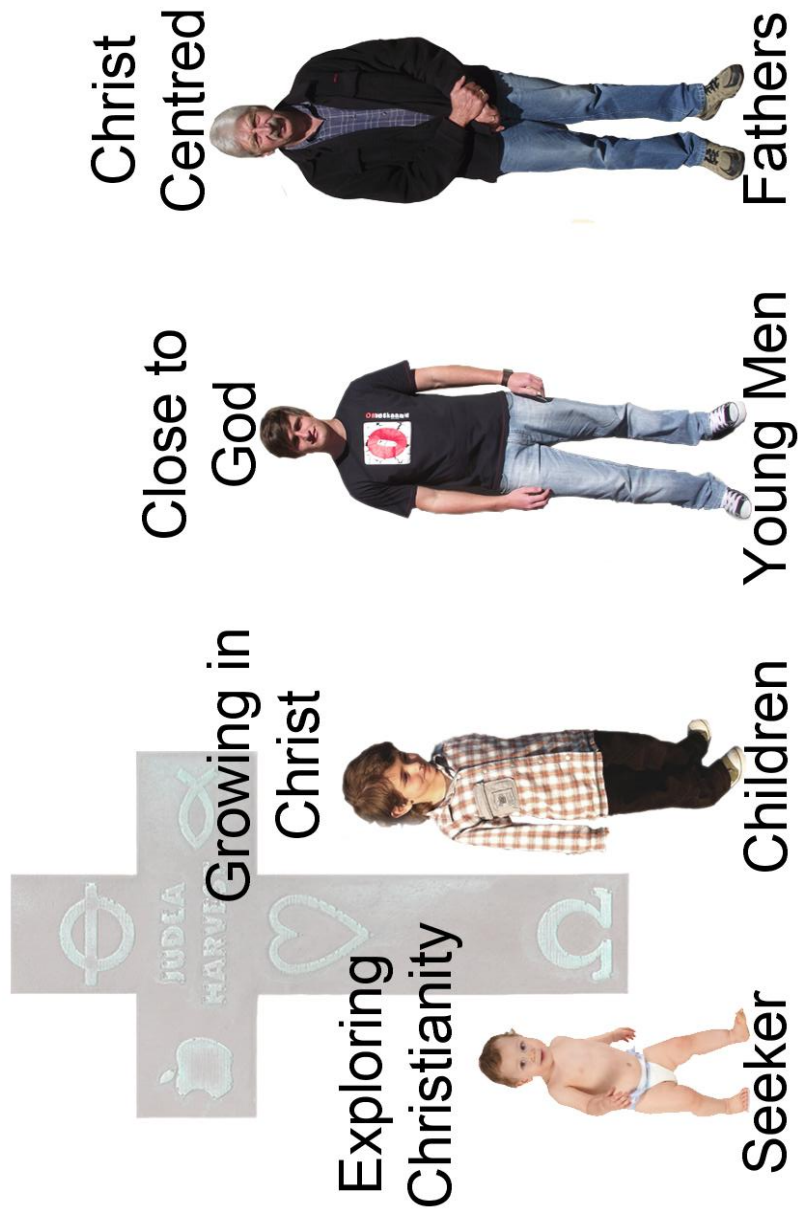
“I write to you fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you have to overcome the evil one.

I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father.

I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the words of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”



2.5 Mentorship Process of Disciple Making

Discipleship is a way of living one's life and become a true follower of Christ. It is not a PROGRAMME or a COURSE, but a lifestyle of relationship. To become a true disciple and follower of Jesus, you need a total change of lifestyle (cleansed from the past by God's Grace).

The first words Jesus spoke to His disciples were: "Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mark 1:17)

Jesus' words:

And Jesus said to His disciples "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

And behold; I will be with you every day till the end of the age. (Referring to the Holy Spirit) Matthew 28:19 & 20.

To truly mentor a person to be a disciple of Jesus one must understand a few basic principles of faith:

Salvation

Salvation is a new start. Believers have to know and realize why a new start is necessary in their lives. They must ask the questions: Why do I have to become a new creation? Why do I need salvation?

Why do people need God? (Separation from God because of sin)

Sin creates a huge gap between man and God. The separation between God and man is a moral separation. There comes a time in the lives of people that they really do feel that God is at a distance and that feeling comes through the sin in their lives. One often tries to solve the situation by learning more about Christian religion, meditation, attending Church. Because the separation from God is neither physical nor intellectual, the abovementioned activities will not bring one closer to God. God is holy, man is not; God is good, man is not; God is just, man is not. Everybody has sinned and has therefore been separated from God eternally. All will suffer the consequences of sin and the outcome of a sinful life will be eternal death.

Is there a solution? (God's Sacrifice and Substitution through His Son)

God is a holy, righteous and just; therefore He could not let man go unpunished for their sins. However one must bear in mind that God is also loving, caring and compassionate about the people He created, and therefore He does not want anyone to be separated from Him eternally. God loves the world so much that He wants to spare their lives and therefore He sent His only beloved Son, Jesus Christ to earth, to become a substitute for them. Jesus took our sins upon himself when He died on the cross. This was the only solution: Jesus became the sacrifice for our sins.

Something tremendous happened on the cross when Jesus took your place and punishment and exchanged His righteousness for your sin. Jesus was sinless, and because of that, He was the only one who could bridge the gap between man and God by sacrificing His life. Jesus acted according to the wish of His Father so that everyone could get closer to Him.

Is there hope? (Our Salvation and Reconciliation through the cross)

Because of our sin Jesus died on the cross so that all could receive forgiveness of sin. The separation between man and God could be restored and people could now receive eternal life.

In God's order sin could not go unpunished; therefore He used His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to die on the cross for the sin of man. Jesus paid the full penalty by dying on the cross. Because the life of Jesus was sinless, death could not hold Him and He was resurrected from the grave after three days.

The cross will always remain a symbol to Christians to remind them of what Jesus did for them. Through the cross Jesus brought salvation to man therefore one can experience forgiveness of sins through Jesus and gain eternal life. Through Jesus one receives restoration before God and can be in right standing with Him. This is a promise from God the Father that will be fulfilled when you accept salvation and reconciliation in Jesus.

John 3:16 (NIV)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

What should the individual do? (Receive God's Gift by Faith in Jesus Christ)

One should believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins; you will receive salvation as soon as you stop trusting yourselves and trust Christ for what He has done for you. People cannot save themselves or earn God's approval through their good deeds, but salvation only comes by His grace. When that is realized and you turn from your sins, Jesus becomes your Lord and Saviour. The gap between man and God will be restored and God's peace will be upon you, constantly working in your life. One can put your trust in Him and Him alone for your salvation.

John 1:12 & 13 (NIV)

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”

The Prayer of the unbeliever or sinner to receive Salvation.

Heavenly Father I acknowledge that the separation between You and me are because of my sin. I confess that I have sinned and have fallen far short of Your glory. I thank You that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. I believe that He died on the cross for me and I believe that You raised Him from the dead. I am truly sorry for my sins and I beg You to forgive and cleanse me because I want to turn away from everything the Bible calls sin. I want to receive You as my Lord, Master and Saviour by helping me through the power of Your Spirit, to love, serve and obey You for the rest of my life. I pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen!

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

2.6 Starting Discipleship Process

START

STOP: - trusting in your own abilities and all the good things you do, start trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation. Through Him you will be saved by God’s grace.

TURN: - away from everything bad that happened in the past, as well as everything the Bible calls sin.

ATTEND: - a house discipleship group or house Church for personal one on one discipleship and weekly worship services.

READ: - the Bible daily and obey the Word of God for that will guide the believer and give him/her a strong foundation to live from.

TELL: - by testifying to other people about the way you became a new creation in Jesus through a relationship with Him.

2.7 Summary

Jesus commanded His disciples to go into the entire world and make people disciples of Jesus Christ. To lead some-one to faith in Christ and maybe pray the sinner's prayer or the prayer of forgiveness of sins with a person is only the first step of becoming a Christ follower.

To be a real disciple of Christ is to integrate the Biblical values and principles into one's life. To be a true disciple is to move on the journey from being a young believer to a mature person better known as a father in the faith.

John Journey gives one a memorable, tangible and do-able system to practice and mentor others into becoming fully devoted followers of Christ. John Journey utilizes the Gospel of John and the cross of Jesus as tools to foster discipleship

CHAPTER 3

PLANTING WITH JOHN



3.1 Introduction

Currently there is a very effective Church planting movement developing in India, China, Asia and some parts of Africa. This movement is known as the house Church movement. Millions of people are reached with the Gospel, through this house Church movement. All of this is taking place in numerous houses. This is exactly what the John Journey is aiming to do in Africa. Thousands of unbelievers can be reached with the Gospel in the comfort of their own homes. Judea Harvest has developed a structured process to facilitate the planting and development of such house Churches.

This process includes five steps:

1. House Churches.
2. Finding the Man of Peace.
3. Discovery Bible Study Method.
4. Leadership Development.
5. House Church Planting Process.

3.2 House Churches

The NT definition of “Church” is: “Ecclesia - called out ones” these believers – called out ones normally meet on a regular basis for fellowship, discipleship, teaching, sharing and caring. For the first 300 years of the Church’s existence these meetings were held in houses.

John Journey aims to influence the current Church culture in Africa and the unreached world, to create a culture of Church planting. We believe the final spiritual answer for Africa and the unreached world is not better or bigger Churches but thousands of new Churches. John Journey aims to influence and equip Churches in Africa and the world, to flood their areas with new Church plants, and in doing so give every person access to a Church in his area and in his language. The NT Church was established by planting house Churches in new towns and areas. It was only later that these house Churches developed into organized institutional Churches.

The principle of house meetings is still applicable. Today the John Journey follows the NT model to mobilize every believer to be a house Church planter by equipping them with easy and effective tools to start a house Church for God just like in the New Testament.

Because history has proven that one cannot use the pulpit to disciple believers, these house Churches do not preach and have Church in the way that organized worship services do. They meet weekly and study through the Bible using the discovery Bible study method, or any other Bible study process that is available.

The first step to start a house Church is to start with one or two families that meet regularly. When a group has finished the John Journey it is time to establish a community Church. A house Church is typically between 5 -10 people each and should not be more than 15 people. They should meet regularly.

Examples of New Testament house Churches are listed below:

- Acts 5:42 “...from house to house...”
- Acts 8:3 “Saul began to destroy the Church. Going from house to house...”
- Acts 12:12 “...the house of Mary... where many people had gathered...”
- Romans 16:5 “Greet also the Church that meets at their house.”

- 1 Corinthians 16:19 "...the Church that meets at their house."
- Colossians 4:15 "...the Church in her house."
- Philemon 2 "...the Church that meets in your home."

3.3 Finding the Man of Peace

The question now is how does one establish a house Church?

John Journey employs the strategy provided by Christ recorded in Luke 10, to plant house Churches.

Luke 10:5-7 (NIV)

⁵ "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' ⁶ If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house."

Judea Harvest teaches the Luke 10 model that Jesus used. This process is also known as "the man of peace" principle. The man of peace is such a person that would allow one to start a group in his house; a Person open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and open to the man presenting or representing Jesus.

When a Church planter has found a man of peace, he asks permission to start a study group with friends and family of the "man of peace", in his house. This group will then meet regularly and study through the Gospel of John (supplied by Judea Harvest) using the "discovery Bible study method".

References in the Bible about house Churches and the man of peace:

- Luk 9: 1-8
- Luk 10:1-15
- Matt 10:5-20
- Matt 8:9-13
- Mark 5:1-20
- Luk 7:11-17
- John 3

Characteristics of the Man of Peace

- Hospitable.
- Ready to receive the message.
- Willing to introduce you to the community.
- Ready to assist.

3.4 Discovery Bible Study Method

Judea Harvest teaches the discovery Bible study method as a means of working through the Gospel of John, and the rest of the Bible, as a discipleship process. This simple but powerful tool is useful in starting a new house Church.

The group reads a portion of scripture from the Gospel of John and then the group leader asks the group the following questions. The group is encouraged to discuss opinions, exchange perspectives and discuss each question. The leader does not need special training or preaching experience.

The Questions to ask in the discovery Bible study method use the word:

S P E C K

S – is there a sin to avoid or confess?

P - is there a promise, a prayer or praise in this passage?

E - is there an example to follow (or not follow)?

C – is there a command to obey?

K – is there knowledge that one needs to retain?

3.5 Leadership Development

House Church leaders should be mentored by the local pastor. The aim of a house Church is to move the participants from seekers to Christ centred followers of Jesus. See the 4 steps pathway in chapter two.

There are many ways that Pastors can organize and motivate Church planters. One sees from the Bible that Paul took the role of an Apostle and mentored the Church planters. He visited them when he could and whilst there taught, preached, instructed and motivated the people and the Church planters. He wrote regular letters to keep contact and to develop the Church planters and the Christians.

Although no single form or leadership is the ultimate, Judea Harvest believes Church planters should be mentored in the same manner that Jesus mentored His disciples. He had a group of 12 that He personally mentored and then there was a group of 70 that were mentored by the 12. The 70 had numerous people that they mentored again.

Judea Harvest advises that Church planters should have regular visits to and by their mentor, Pastor or Apostle, where they are encouraged and taught leadership skills. Judea Harvest also provides formal training for their leaders in partnership with Auckland Park Theological Seminary through a course called CWC (Christian Workers Certificate).

When a house Church has grown to more than 15 people, the Church planter should identify Fathers in the house (John 1:13-14), and send these Fathers out to unreached areas, villages or towns to look for a man of peace and start a new house Church.

When there are at least five such house Churches they should embark on the establishment of a community Church. A community Church is a permanent, organized Church, that is registered and/or affiliated to a bigger Church organization, and who presents weekly worship services, with official membership, programmes and ministries. Judea Harvest has developed a specific Church planting strategy to establish a formal, organized community Church.

3.6 House Church Planting Process

This process includes ten conclusive steps namely:

- **Step 1. Identify the community:**

Identify and name the specific group of people or area that you want to reach with the Gospel. Mark on a map where these people are. One might want to target a specific language or age group. One might want to reach an interest group or a group of people to gather by way of circumstances or events.

- **Step 2. Pray for the community:**

Start a personal prayer time for this group and incorporate other prayer partners. Pray for the people in the group by name and by need. Pray for wisdom, insight and opportunity.

- **Step 3. Do community/group profile:**

Do proper research to understand the characteristics of the people in the group to be reached. Take note of their culture, language, preferences, taboos, likes and dislikes. Understand their most pressing needs and get a perception of their hopes and dreams.

- **Step 4. Send Scouts:**

Send people that you trust to infiltrate the community by way of schools and other community clubs and activities such as sport.

- **Step 5. Identify the man/family of peace:**

Identify the people that open their hearts and lives to Church planting. Accept invitations and build relationships.

- **Step 6. Create relationship through service:**

A believer creates trust by serving and ministering to people. Loving means to look for an opportunity to serve and thereby show that one cares.

- **Step 7. Share testimony and stories:**

At the opportune moment share your own testimony of how you came to faith in Jesus Christ. Tell stories of faith and stories in the Bible and how people interacted with God.

- **Step 8. Start discovery Bible study:**

Ask permission to start a discovery Bible study with the Gospel of John, and begin with the John Journey house disciple group. Study the John Gospel with the discovery Bible study method, and encourage family and friends to come.

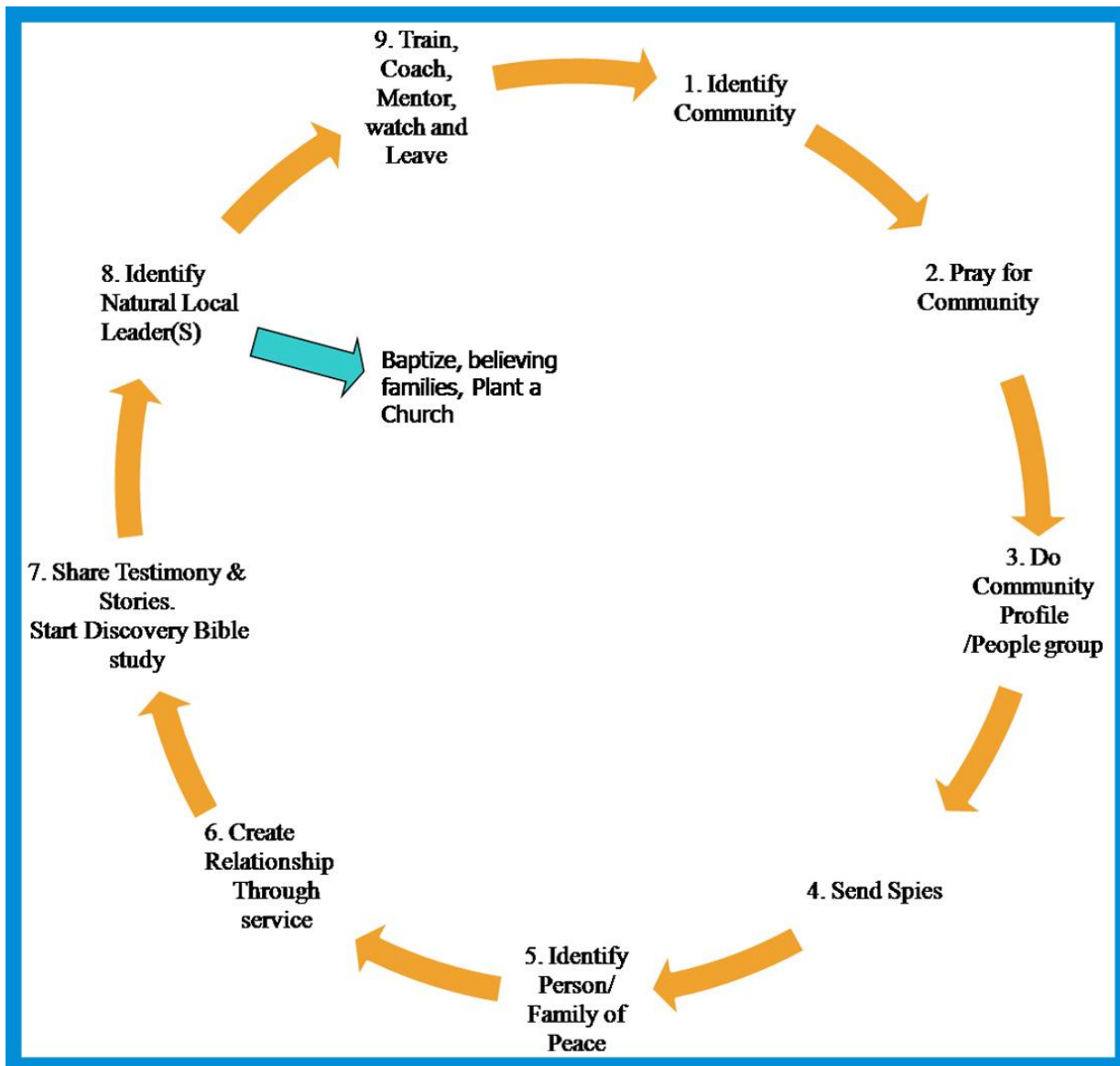
- **Step 9. Identify natural local leaders:**

Identify the natural local leaders and appoint them as house Church leaders and overseers.

- **Step 10. Mentor leaders:**

Mentor these leaders in leadership and Bible study methods and when they are ready and able they should leave to plant a new Church. Identify Fathers that must leave the house Church to plant new house Churches in future and start to train them.

The ten steps of house Church planting in a graphical presentation.



3.7 Summary

When one read the book of Acts it is clear that the first Church did not have buildings and facilities, they met in houses. As they moved to new towns they started new Churches in houses and met in those houses regularly.

Churches in official Church buildings are a latter development of the Christian Church. Although Judea Harvest supports and encourages the planting of Churches in permanent buildings and tents we believe the Church has lost a vital ingredient in that we do not plant house Churches at all. John Journey aims to help the Church to add a level to the expansion of the Church. By transforming ordinary believers into house Church planters the rate of Church planting and expansion can be multiplied many

times. Where one Pastor or Church planter takes two to five years to establish a Church, ordinary believers can start many house Churches that can act as a foundation for a community Church later.

It is possible for one person to plant literally hundreds of house Churches with no more than the cross of Jesus as a tool and the Gospel of John as a study guide.

CHAPTER 4

CHURCH WITH JOHN



4.1 Introduction

The local Church is probably still the most effective long term strategy to help people live the Christian life. The Church is also God's method of combining our strength together to change this world and spread the message of Christ. The World does not need large Churches so much as they need a large number of new Churches. The true fruit of a Church is a new Church!

In the view of Judea Harvest a community Church is a registered and affiliated Church organization with official membership, programmes and ministries in the communities. John Journey developed a specific Church planting strategy to establish such a formal, institutional Church, as the final step in the John Journey process. This process is designed to assist a Pastor or Church planter to plant a new Church in an area or organize a group of house Churches into a community Church.

Although these methods could be useful to revamp and re-strategize an existing Church that is dying or declining to become relevant to their surroundings and direct

community, it aims to help Church planters to keep focus and build a strategy. A separate process has been designed to help declining Churches revive.

Church planting has many pitfalls that can be avoided and has many important aspects that should not be omitted. It often happens in the Church that young inexperienced pastors or even lay ministers has a zeal to plant a Church but lacks the experience and wisdom, which often result in a long struggle to give birth to a new Church or a long battle with teething problems to make the Church run smoothly.

The final leg in the John Journey aims to help such Church planters understand the purpose of a specific Church plant and how to establish such a purpose. It then leads the Church planter through a series of processes to fulfil certain unavoidable principles and to integrate such principles into the Church vision, strategy and philosophy. Finally it leads the Church planter in the process of designing a time line for Church planting with easy to follow guidelines.

In my opinion most Church plants happen by chance as a result of unhappy pastors, disgruntled leaders, or Church conflict of some sort. My observation and experience in 27 years of ministry and Church development, suggests that there are little or no strategically placed Church plants in South Africa and Africa. This is true for Charismatic, Pentecostal, and Evangelical Churches. Other Christian Churches might experience the same phenomena.

I am of the opinion that during the last 10 years in South Africa, some new Churches were planted because mega Churches with a particular philosophy of ministry, displayed a need to duplicate their ministries in other areas and towns. This is done through open doors, opportunities and relationships such a Church have with Churches and people in other areas and towns. My conviction is that even these Churches are not strategically placed to reach the unreached areas but rather target those areas where old Churches could be revived, or where observation suggests such a particular ministry could be successful. I am also convinced that these Churches do not particularly target unbelievers but rather provide more relevant ministry to believers in changing communities.

I have not yet come across a Church or denomination that strategically targets unreached areas with new Church plants. There is however organizations such as Judea Harvest that strategically targets unreached areas with Church planting and some individual assemblies with such zeal. A pure evangelistic Church plant, with the aim of reaching the unreached, seems to be rare these days. This might be true for rural and developed areas or more modern cities alike. In Rural Africa and Asia it might be argued that Church planting with an evangelistic aim might be more prevalent.

The research of Dawn Ministries, confirmed by the research of Christian Swartz, showed that most new converts come to faith in Churches which are younger than two years, with a membership of less than 100. It seems small Churches might have a bigger evangelistic zeal and therefore a more successful approach.

Maybe it is still true that you can minister to plenty, but you can only pastor what you can name...

This chapter is about planting a Church for the sole purpose of reaching a particular unreached area or group. Such a group could be unbelievers or people that might not be unbelievers, but do not stand in a relationship with God. This following section will explore the concepts of planting a Church from scratch, with no denominational influence, growth aims or particular Church philosophy expansion as aim. This section will also explore some of the thoughts regarding the possibilities and the risks in forsaking all brand power, when planting a Church versus planting a brand (denominational) Church.

4.2 Why do Most Church Plants Fail?

Some writers suggest that most Church plants fail within two years, and that only 10% of Church plants will eventually become a successful Church in the community. Some of these failure factors will now be discussed.

4.2.1 The problem with denominational image and culture.

Church planters and pastors more than often underestimate the power of a Church brand. Although it has become customary in certain Church circles to tolerate those

who apply their own version of the brand of a Church, the brand still dictates the image of the Church in the eyes of the general public, albeit, it might be a skewed image.

This is especially true when it comes to Church planting. When people are invited to a new Church, they will ask, what type of Church is this? If the answer is, Charismatic, Evangelical, AFM, Pentecostal, New Order, Baptist or any other name that will describe the type of Church, they then immediately bring to mind their preconceived and pre-impressed idea of what such a ministry is like. That will most probably also be the determining factor whether they choose to accept the invitation or not. When one plants a Church one should give ample consideration to some important questions. In one's target area, and target audience, how do the public perceive the following aspects?

- Church culture
- Church ministry
- Church life image

To get an estimation of these values will help the Church planter to determine the negative and positive values of Church and denominational power.

4.2.2 The problem of a pastor's ministry

Some pastors present themselves as ministers with a specific gift for a certain aspect of Church ministry, for example: ministering the gifts of the spirit or teaching prayer, or starting cell groups or one of the many other aspects of Church life. However if someone wants to be a Church planter, he/she should perhaps think not to plant a Church to teach certain ministry, specific topics or aspects of the Church, but to be an expert on all aspects of Christian life so that one can give all potential attendees all of what they need. A Church planter should be flexible and able to determine the spiritual needs of a community and adapt his ministry to address such needs. This poses the dilemma that it might be difficult for young and inexperienced pastors to become Church planters.

Many Church plants fail because the pastor feels he has a certain gift and message. He feels he has a certain impartation that he has to bring to the world or at least to a certain place. He then starts a Church to preach that particular message. These Church plants fail eventually without exception, and such ministries should perhaps be utilized in existing Churches.

Those in Church, who oppose the idea of sculpting a Church plant to be effective in reaching a community, promote the concept that such approaches resonate with the Biblical warning not to preach a message that “people want to hear”. The seeker approach has especially been criticized for being sensitive to the persons seeking God. It is time to say God sends a pastor to bring the Church to the people and not “God sends people to the Pastor” to hear his message.

I suggest that if one wants to plant a Church it is of the utmost importance to have a servant attitude. If one is sent as a servant, you have to ask “what are my orders that I have received from God?” The second question to ask is “how can I best fulfil my calling to the people God is sending me to?”

4.2.3 The problem with branded ministry philosophy

There are many different ministry approaches and philosophies today, and it seems they are growing daily with man’s creativity. It is fantastic to think that God allows such variety of ministries to reach the variety of His human creation.

However if a certain ministry philosophy or approach, experiences some success in a certain geographical area, then such a ministry can develop the need to expand that particular style of ministry philosophy and also develop evangelistic visions to spread that particular approach to other areas. Brand Churches and Churches with campuses might be examples of this. Jim Tomberlin from multisite solutions shows in his study that multisite campuses by the same Pastor is now becoming popular in the USA. These Churches function on the same philosophy as brand franchises, that you get the same service wherever you are. These Churches probably do not reach the unreached but most probably appeal to existing believers looking for something culturally relevant and appealing to their own expectations of Church.

This is not a bad thing, but must be seen for what it is. Every ministerial philosophy reaches only a certain slice of the population, i.e. those that are inclined to relate. Should a Church plant adopt a certain philosophy and make it known, this may hinder or help that Church plant in certain ways. Should a similar Church already exist in an area, competition is inevitable.

Planting a particular brand Church or Church with a specific ministry approach, in an area, is more successful in drawing people from other Churches, who might be looking for something more relevant to their personal needs and stage of life, rather than drawing un-Churched people from the unreached group.

4.2.4 The problem of one size fits all

Jesus and the Church are for all people. This basic truth might be the biggest hindrance to successful Church plants. Although this is true, the organized Church has to work within the culture of the people. The Church should be open to all people of all walks of life. However, my observation leads me to believe that people naturally group themselves together with likeminded thinkers. This is very true when one drives through any suburb of any town in South Africa. One will see that people in certain areas think alike, have similar interests, value similar things and activities and share similar values. People of similar income groups gather themselves in certain areas and when a person moves into a new income bracket he usually moves to an area where other people of similar means live.

When one serves on community forums like a school governing body, it becomes easy to perceive the difference between communities in the same town. When one plants a Church this is of the utmost importance. If one's approach is that you want to be relevant to all people of all income groups and all walks of life, you will be relevant to none. One will at best have the most influence on the people that resonate with your own thinking and preferences.

It might be true that a successful Pastor and Church planter is the one that can choose a target group, study them, design a ministry approach, style and philosophy that appeals to that group and then unashamedly minister to that group exclusively. Inevitably such a ministry will also appeal to others that did not fit the original target group profile, but it seems that although it might be noble to try and be all things to all people in Church, the truth is rich and poor do not mix well in Church, neither do thinkers mix well with people who seek instruction. People group themselves with others that resonate with their own view of life.

A wise Church planter will ask: Who does God send me to? Then become what they need and do so with all your power and strength and wisdom.

4.2.5 The Principle of critical mass

The research done on Church planting suggests that 40 people seem to be a critical mass. That means that a group of less than 40 people calling themselves a Church has a lower chance of growing a sustainable Church. In some countries like the United States, the writer suggests this number to be 50. My suggestion is that, when one is planting a Church from scratch, plant a house Church and proclaim the vision that you are going to start a community Church. You can already state your vision, philosophy of ministry and all that goes with it, but make the target of 40 committed people as a first goal, with the condition that you will only launch a Church officially with a public opening and advertised services when you have 40 people who committed to start a Church with you. The plain uncomfortable truth is that if one is unable to inspire 40 people to plant a Church with you, you will probably not be able to plant a Church.

In many rural areas I have seen numerous Churches in school classrooms with 20 or less members that are not growing or going anywhere. It might be better to refer to these as house Churches with the aim to plant a fully fledged Church. This will also have the benefit of giving current members the zeal to invite others with the aim of starting a new Church.

4.3 The Process of Community Church Plants

The process of the John Journey community Church plant has three important aspects:

- Purpose
- Principles
- Process

4.3.1 Purpose

The purpose of a Church plant should always be to reach and minister to a certain group of people and not necessarily to plant a certain type of ministry. The ministry philosophy and Church style should be subject to the purpose.

Once the target group is identified, they should be studied to determine their needs, preferences, language as well as dynamics like systems thinking, spiritual perceptions etc. The target area should be surveyed to establish the prevalent needs and problems. A process to assess spiritual discernment matters like occult practices,

forefather worship, area spiritual history, non-Christian worship and other Christian Churches should be conducted. A spiritual warfare prayer process should be started for the area.

There are several tools available to Church planters to determine a profile of your target group. Rick Warren has a useful chapter in his book “purpose driven Church”. There are also useful tools to establish the general world view of your target or existing audience in the book “Systems thinking leadership” by Bob Powell, Ph.D., MBA. Systems thinking process has been adapted to understand Church audiences by different authors and it might be very valuable reading for a Church planter.

To establish the purpose the following questions must be answered:

- Who do I want to reach?
- Why do I want to reach them?
- How will I best reach this particular group of people?

4.3.2 Principles

Churches should be started to reach non-believers or un- Churched people for Christ. If a Church is started for any other reason it will most certainly have an impact on other Churches in the area. Churches should not be planted because of fights or differences of opinions between leaders. It should be decided what the denomination or Church group will be that fathers this new plant or oversees the Church planting Pastor. At the very least the Church planter should be affiliated to a spiritual family and personal spiritual mentor.

To best understand the principles, the following questions should be answered:

- **What type of Church do I want to plant?**
 - Independent or brand name (denominational) Church. If you plant a denominational Church you should liaise with the leadership.
 - Charismatic, evangelical or other Main Line Church.
 - Combination of above.
- **How important is the Pastor?**
 - In my experience the pastor is the main asset when planting a Church. When you plant a new Church there is no glue like history, shared

experiences, influence or purpose keeping people together. The pastor or Church planter becomes the anchor and should actively and intentionally create other glue.

- Same God different packaging. Remember that God is in all Churches and all ministries. The Church is a packaging tool or vessel for the message. Different packaging will appeal to different people. Packaging with a target audience in mind will help one be successful.

- **What Ministry style to follow?**

Many Church planters think only two dimensional. They make the common mistake of putting any strategically designed approach opposite the “Holy Spirit” led approach. Common slogans that explains this type of thinking is planters who would say “we are spirit driven not purpose driven”. Against Churches with a seeker orientated approach such people will say “we are Holy Spirit sensitive not seeker sensitive”.

The problem is not whether one has a seeker approach or not. The bigger question would be: “what approach would best be suited to my target community?” Strategically planted Churches use a scientific approach that answers some basic questions about the target group to guide them in the development of an approach.

For example: A group that is on a very basic level of education in an underdeveloped area might best be approached with a charismatic appeal with lots of hands-on ministry, guidance and motivation. The role of the Pastor might lean towards the one ministering and touching people, and the sermons should focus around God’s help and guidance and provision.

A very well developed and educated group of people might need a more educated approach with more self decision and personal growth as part of the process of the Church ministry. The Pastor might lean more to be a spiritual guide and coach and the sermons should perhaps focus around Gods calling and purpose for your life.

- **Development of a custom made ministry.**

To develop a custom-made ministry one has to answer the one question without doubt: what does my target group need?

Answering the following questions can help one to establish their need:

- Who are they?
- What income bracket do they live in?
- What values are important to them?
- What is the average age group in the area?
- How do they see life?
- What are their needs?
- What system thinking is dominant in my target group?
- What is the hidden collective unconsciousness in my target group?

- **Development of a Ministry Philosophy.**

To develop a customized ministry philosophy might be the most difficult part. In my experience, pastors cannot think logically about this and use whatever speaks to them personally and incorporates that into their Church philosophy. In strategically planted Churches it is of the utmost importance to understand one's target audience and sculpt the services to overcome their resistances and appeal to their senses and needs. You should resist the urge to plant a Church that appeals to you, and plant a Church that appeals to the people you must reach.

It most often happen that Church planting pastors and pastors of existing Churches, do not design the singing, music and atmosphere to appeal to his target audience, but rather are guided by the experience and ministry approach of the available musicians, worship leaders and liturgists. I strongly suggest that this aspect of ministry should be well thought through and designed when planting a Church. In Church planting it might be better to have no singing (worship) at all than to try and change the worship culture later.

In Church planting it is important to know that "How one start is how one will end". Everything one does in the beginning becomes culture. The way the pastor and the leaders dress, welcome people from the pulpit, and sing lays down the culture of the new Church. For example: if a charismatic worship leader who uses a lot of Christian cliché's (hallelujah, amen, praise the Lord) in his approach leads the worship, then one needs to know that this lays down the culture of the Church. If one wants to change this at a later stage it becomes very difficult and sometimes impossible.

Aspects to think about when designing a ministry philosophy:

- Style of worship services.
 - Dress code of staff.
 - Style of music.
 - Dress code of Pastor.
 - Preaching style of Pastor.
- Preaching style.
 - Bible expository or subject preaching.
 - Preaching to or preaching at or preaching for.
- Ministries.
 - What ministries will be relevant to that community?

A welfare ministry with food parcels might not be relevant in an affluent area, but might be a breakthrough ministry in an area with high unemployment. If one works in an affluent area it might be important to start welfare ministries that service a poor area. The aim here will then not be to get the people from the poor area to attend the services but to fulfil the altruistic need of one's affluent members to do something for others. In affluent areas it can be true that people will join the Church not for what the Church can do for them but for what they can do for the Church. This must then be designed into your ministry approach.

- **Developing a set of Values.**

When people join a Church they will instinctively seek to know what values are important to the Church. If such values resonate with their own they will feel at home. Do not make the mistake to take the common values from the Bible and post them as your Church's values.

Rather seek to understand what values are important to your target audience and incorporate them in your Churches set of values. It goes without saying that Churches should adhere to the Bible and that all values of a Church should be in line with the Biblical ones.

- **Networking and Church family life must be built.**

- Church name and identity.

Choosing a Church name is vital because it will communicate a value to your community. Resist the urge to choose a Biblical name that sounds spiritual, I suggest you choose a name that gives an indication of who you are and what you stand for. Keep in mind that when unbelievers hear that name it will create certain feelings in them.

Once you have chosen a name it should be used on everything and published everywhere so that it can become a household name.

- Brand power and influence vs. no brand power.

It is important to understand that if you choose a name with no – denominational influence or reference you will start from scratch. There might be some advantages but if you choose denominational image it will have a certain power and advantage as well as a disadvantage.

- History of a Brand Church in area.

Research the history of a Church brand in an area and establish the feelings of your target audience before you make a decision.

- Marketing.

The Church name and image should be marketed externally and internally to its members. A marketing plan should be drawn

- Role of pastor in marketing.

In South Africa pastor are scared to market themselves; however in Church planting the pastor is the main asset and attraction and should be marketed as such.

- **Registration affiliation and organizational status.**

When planting a denominational Church the Church planters usually gets the benefit of corporate governance and head office service but are bound by the rules and conditions of the greater Church. When you plant an independent Church you should attend to the following list of important aspects:

- Draw up a Constitution.
- Draw up a Code of conduct
- State the rules and conditions of Church membership.
- Understand SA Law regarding Churches and NGO and PBO's.
- The pastor should get his own marriage license.

- **Legitimizing your calling.**

Once the Church planter has completed the designing of the ministry it might be important to legitimize one's calling in that area. I suggest the best way to do this is to call upon a minister in another part of the country who has a high esteem value in that specific area and ask him to come and pray for you or inaugurate you as minister for that area.

4.3.3 The Process

A process for the new Church plant should be designed and then followed. Most Church plants fail because there is no process. In the famous quote – plan your work and then work your plan. The Church planting process should have certain steps. These steps cannot be avoided and are critical to the success of planting an independent Church. In my opinion they should be done in consecutive order as described on the illustration page.

This process must include the five important aspects:

- Prayer
- People
- Finances
- Facility
- Action plan

Each of these aspects has different processes that must be implemented at different stages of the planting process. The time line for this is depicted in graphical form later in this chapter.

Each aspect will now be briefly explained.

- **Prayer**

Prayer is the single most important aspect of a Church plant. Not only does it give the believer the guidance and strength they need but it also unites the Church planter's core group. One needs to do the following actions with the prayer team in the six months prior to planting.

- Form a prayer team.
- Do a spiritual mapping process of the area.

- Develop a prayer strategy.
- Pray strategically through the area/town.
- Integrate core conception group (Church planters), leaders and donors into prayer groups and prayer strategy.

- **People**

A critical mass of 40 people is needed before a Church can be planted. One can start the process with a small group of Church planters, but should always state the number of 40 people as a first target. The aspects regarding people needing attention are as follows:

- The need identification of the target group in an area.
Establish the major needs of the target group as previously discussed.
- Form a conception group (Church planters) and volunteers
To start a Church you need to establish a conception group of four or five people that will start the Church with you. If you have a house Church, they will become the conception group.
- Raising of a core group (critical mass).
To start a Church you need a critical mass of 40-50 people. If you have several house Churches the leaders will be your conception group and the house Church members will create your core group or critical mass.
Many people will only join once the Church is established. Seek those early adopters who are willing to risk, and keep your friendship with the late adopters. They will most certainly be there when you launch the Church.
- Core team equipping.
Once you have a “core team”, start meeting regularly with them building vision and excitement.
- The target groups focus.
Create target groups with the friends and influence of your core group and invite these people to vision evenings and share your vision. Speak the right language that appeals to them after you have gained an understanding of who they are. Create coffee evenings or dinner evenings and invite similar people to such events and functions, and then share your vision.
- “Info” meetings

Hold “info meetings” in as many places and opportunities as possible. Ask current members to host info dinners with their friends and invite you to speak.

- Sharing of vision.

Be clear and direct when sharing your vision stating your vision in terms that the lay person can understand and identify with.

- Sunday school opens.

Your core group of people who are Church planters with you might have children, start a Sunday school before starting a Church to minister to those children, it will make your core group feel cared for.

- Launch marketing campaign.

Design and launch a marketing campaign as soon as a couple of volunteers have been identified. Marketing has proven to have little effect on attendance but is great for awareness of the Church in the community.

- Start house meetings.

Long before the launch of the assembly one should start with regular house meetings. Such a house Church will become the community Church.

- Volunteers and ministry team development programme.

The Church planter should minister to volunteers regularly and keep them inspired. Pray for them and visit them regularly on a personal level.

Focus on their personal development. Keep in mind that not all people starting within a specific Church planters group will continue in this group. They might get discouraged and leave, be prepared for this.

- Registration of association or Article 21 Pty or affiliation.

Every Church should be registered with SARS. To do this you must either be an association or register the Church as Article 21 Pty at the registrar of companies or register an affiliation to a denomination.

- Define personnel needs.

Establish what staff the Church will need in the beginning and what staff needs could be filled with volunteers and what should be paid positions. The Church planting pastor should determine the order of priority in these appointments.

Define what staff will be needed at the launch of the Church (like ushers) and who will be fulltime, part time or volunteers.

- Interviews & personnel appointments.

Ask people to apply for positions and hold interviews whether they are paid members or not.

- Personnel team starts to function.

Gather the personnel team weekly and share vision and develop their tasks and responsibilities. Give guidance and inspiration and direction.

- “Debriefing” process.

After the official launch it is important to debrief the core group and those volunteers who worked with you. Give acknowledgment for their work and sacrifice in the process and acknowledge them publicly.

- **Finances**

The Church planter needs to have a financial plan, budget and fundraiser strategy in place before you start.

- Raising planting capital.

It is important to have sufficient capital to start a Church. Equipment and facilities are critical and the financial commitments should be in place before you start.

- Creating a budget.

To create Church planting budgets use the following questions:

- What will the planning phase cost?
- What will the Church plant cost?
- What will the cost of the first year of operation be?
- What will the staff (pastor) cost for first year?

Remember that the more affluent the target group is the more capital will be needed to create a Church that appeals to their standard.

Sufficient capital should be raised to address the following:

- Pastor support (6 months to one year).
- Ministry support (to support volunteers).
- Church costs (rent, equipment, marketing etc.)

- Individual or small group info meeting & dinner meetings to raise funds.

A fundraising campaign with small groups and vision casting dinners with core leaders and their friends work the best to raise your budget. Ask your individual core group to host a dinner with their friends and family and share your vision. Ask for support in these groups even if the people do not join they might support.

- Consistent support of “Core” group.

The Church planter should consistently support and minister to the core leaders and ask them to expose their friends to you and the Church plant.

- **Building/facility**

A facility team will be needed that helps with the organizing of the tent or building and plan the ministry area. The facility for a Church plant should reflect that community’s values. A tent might be the ideal venue in certain areas and totally inappropriate in other areas.

- Demographic analysis.
Do an analysis of the area and choose an area of the town that will appeal to the target audience.
- Mobilize facilities.
Appoint a facility development team that will research all possible facilities and options.
- Find land and conclude a rent agreement.
Sign a rent agreement in time to avoid tension.
- When using a tent.
Order a tent of the right size from Judea Harvest and arrange for erection on site three weeks ahead of launch date and start preparing the inside ministry area.
- Build and manage a relationship with the landlord.

- **Action**

An action plan with target dates and milestones should be planned within a six month time span.

These action plans should incorporate the following aspects:

- Facilities development.
Facilities are one of the single most important aspects of the Church plant and should not be chosen by availability alone. The chosen facility should reflect the perspectives and expectancy of the target audience and should be within their reach.
- Find a space for the ministry or erect a tent and create a functional area for the ministry.

- Preparing a functional ministry area in tent/building.
The area in the tent or building should be suitably prepared to appeal to the target audience. Decor, sound, seating, pulpit and all other ministry aspects should be properly designed and finished at the appropriate time on the timeline.
- Develop opening (Launch) plans/crusade.
The opening day should be a big event and proper planning should be invested in it by a team of leaders and volunteers.
I suggest that a test service be held the week prior to the launch day to ensure smooth functioning on launch day. The launch should include festivities, celebration and ministry.
- Transport and equipment storage plans.
A proper plan for the transport, storage and erection of equipment like sound and tents should be designed and communicated to all involved.
- Equipment purchase.
The right equipment should be purchased in the right priority according to the budget and strategic plan.
- Launch crusade meeting with evangelist.
I suggest that the opening services can be one day or a whole week of special services with a guest speaker. At every meeting the new Church and its purpose and philosophy should be marketed.
- Weekend services - Opening preparation and 30 day countdown plan.
To motivate your core group create a 30 day countdown plan 30 days prior to the launch day and link it to a prayer strategy.
- Launch weekend services.
Launch your first Sunday weekend services with a big celebration and festivities and invite all dignitaries.

4.3.4 Phases

Timeline

The time line for planting a Church should be well developed. The time line should have target dates where certain functions and tasks should be completed. In my experience the time line should not be shorter than six months and it is suggested that one year might be better.

- **Planning Phase**
Before facility/building choice.
- **Preparation Phase**
After facilities have been secured - Before crusade services.
- **Launching Phase**
After crusade services have been launched - Before weekend services are launched.
 - Planting day.
Planting day should be the single most important day in the Church's history. If you fail to make this day big, you will not get a second chance.
Planting or launching day should be well planned and made as big as possible with all manner of fanfare and dignitaries attending.

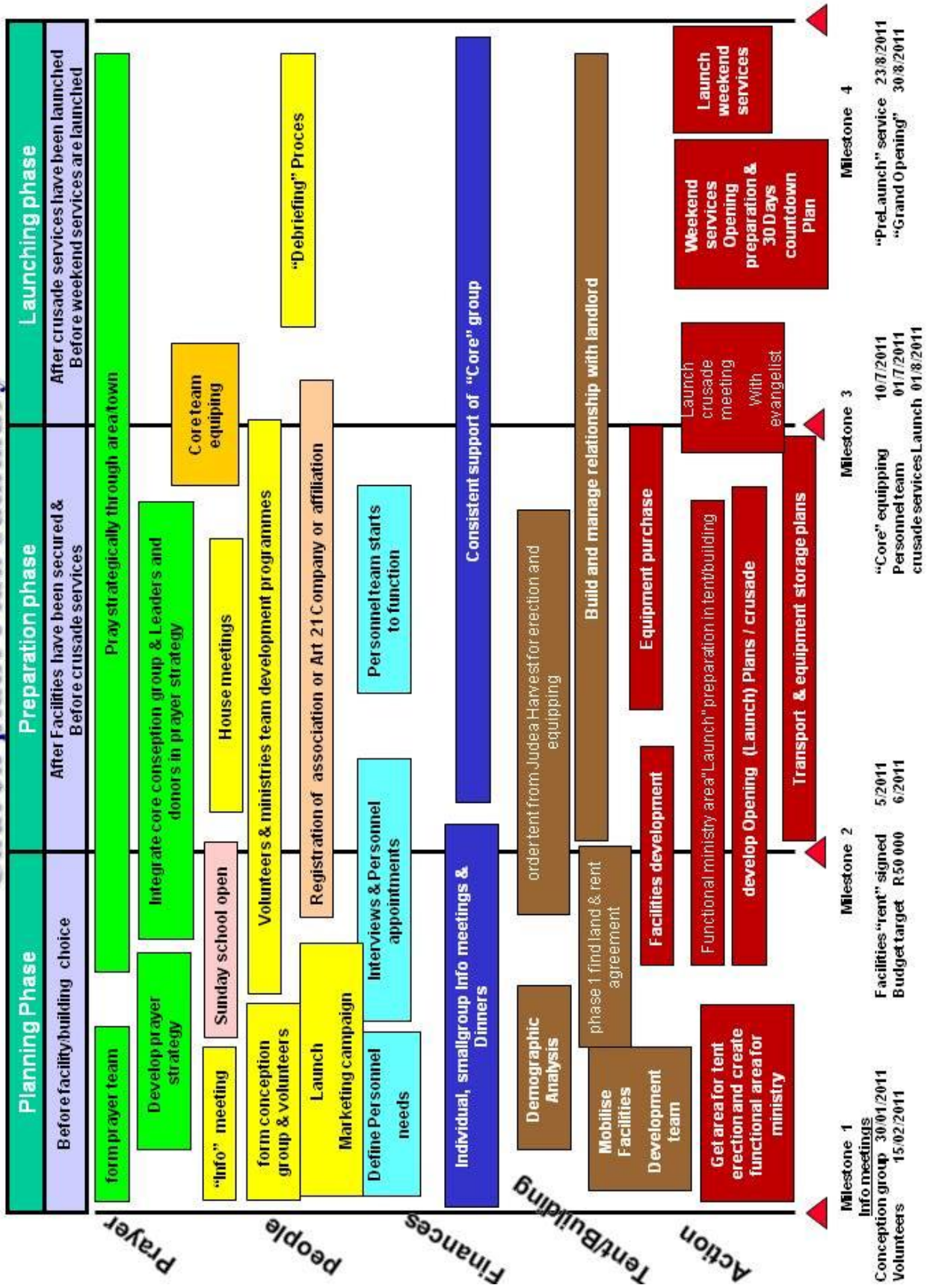
4.3.5 Milestones

(The dates in this time line is for example purposes only)

During the planting of a Church there are certain milestones that should be completed in a certain sequence at certain target dates.

- **Milestone 1 (Info meetings)**
Conception group 30/01/2011
Volunteers 15/02/2011
- **Milestone 2**
Facilities "rent" signed 5/2011
Budget target R50 000 6/2011
- **Milestone 3**
"Core" equipment 10/7/2011
Personnel team 01/7/2011
Crusade services launch 01/8/2011
- **Milestone 4**
"Prelaunch" service 23/8/2011
"Grand opening" 30/8/2011

Church plant Plan summary



4.4 Follow Through

- **Building a Church culture.**

Churches should not be allowed to develop a culture in an organic or natural way. The reason is that they will have many people that come from many different Church backgrounds and cultures. If the Leader or Pastor does not plan, direct and lead the development of a Church culture, such people will introduce their views into the culture and it will be difficult to change it once settled.

For example if a strong person joins the Church and is allowed to introduce a culture in a cell group that women should not speak but know their place it might not be in line with the Leader's thinking. Rather than take corrective action when this happens the Leader should strategically create a culture that women should speak in the Church by consciously putting women on the stage to speak.

A Pastor should remember that all you do has a consequence in Church plant and will become culture. The culture can eventually have a great influence on the spiritual development of a Church.

- **Building a heritage.**

Churches should be known for something. This is building a heritage. If they do not consciously build this heritage, the community might assign one to them. Some Churches are known as progressive, radical, evangelical, liberal or as a Church that makes a difference. Some are known as dead, declining or growing.

One should decide what heritage they want the Church to leave in the area and start actively building that heritage with actions, projects and use the correct key words in their language and presentations and sermons.

- **Building a brand image.**

Advertising in newspapers, banners and flyers is known to have only a 2% success rate in bringing new clients to a business or attracting people to Church or a Church event.

When planting a Church one must consider an advertising campaign, not a process to invite people, but a process to make them aware of the Church. I might be better to

promote what the Church is doing and how it is changing the community than advertising events inviting everybody with slogans of “all are welcome”.

Money might be better spent paying for a reporting article in the newspaper, than paying for a banner advertising a crusade. Awareness creates a positive image of a Church for people and when they get invited to the Church they feel much more eager to come to because they will feel they know about that Church. I also believe the Church plant should not be afraid to use the face of the Pastor in these advertising or awareness campaigns. My research has shown that the Pastor is one of the single most important reasons why a person would consider joining a Church.

4.5 The Rite of Passage – Church Plant to Church Growth

A rite of passage is a ritual that symbolizes a change of events, for example when a boy becomes a man or a girl becomes a woman. A wedding is a rite of passage where a man becomes a husband and a woman becomes a wife.

When a Church has been started, the first 3 years carry the status of Church planting and in that culture a lot can be forgiven. However there comes a time, when the image of a Church plant should be dropped and the Church formally to be known as a Church, much like when a teenager becomes a young adult and is known as a responsible adult. I suggest that a particular service be organized with an authority figure in the Church group (or Church family) to come and legitimize the new Church plant. This process is also known as a rite of passage.

The Church has now moved from a new Church plant, to being a Church of choice in the area.

4.5 Summary

The Bible teaches that the real Church is all believers and that this group of people is known as the Body of Christ. Over the decades Christian people have gathered themselves in house Churches just like we read in Acts from the Bible, and they have organised themselves into community Churches.

I am convinced that it should not be difficult to plant a community Church. If you follow the right steps, plan the process and then work that plan there is no reason for a

Church not to be successful and sustainable. It becomes difficult to fix something like a Church when it has been planted for wrong reasons, when it has been planted in haphazard fashion or when important aspects and building blocks have been omitted.

When a Church has been planted for the right reasons by the right people, when it has been customized to reach the target audience and the plan has been drafted, it becomes easy to follow the road to success and experience the blessing of Church planting.

EPILOGUE

John Journey is a simple but effective process that combines well known Biblical concepts and well practised Christian principles into a simple but effective system to foster evangelism, discipleship and Church planting amongst Christians.

John Journey moves the task of evangelism and discipleship from the pulpit into the hands of believers. It refocuses evangelism and salvation crusades to personal evangelism on a friendship level. John Journey gives ordinary Christians a simple tool to disciple others into followers of Christ. The easy house Church planting strategy in John Journey makes it possible for lay people to plant house Churches, and multiplies such house Churches. John Journey gives a clear strategy to re-organize house Churches into community Churches in a specific and strategic way.

Judea Harvest invites Christians to embark with them on the John Journey and teach others the road to Christ.

- Let's befriend unbelievers and introduce them to Christ in a loving and friendship manner.
- Let's mentor individuals to become devoted followers of Christ.
- Let's mobilize the Christians to plant house Churches.

Together the Master's Great Commission can and will be completed.

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THE TEAM

	<p>Dr. Louis Blom (DLitt.et Phil - Theology: UJ) Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>After completing his engineering studies in Industrial Instrumentation, he felt the call of God to ministry. As the Senior Pastor he led a large Church at a very young age before he co-founded Judea Harvest.</p> <p>During the past eighteen years he has extensively travelled the world, preaching and mobilizing the body of Christ in more than 30 nations. He completed his doctorate in evangelism/missiology at the University of Johannesburg.</p>
<p>Past. Kola de Klerk (MA - Theology: UJ) Implementation Manager</p> <p>Kola is a pastor, preacher, teacher, relationship therapist and mentor. He specializes in the art of preaching, Church planting and relationship building. He has planted and facilitated the planting of more than a hundred Churches. He is also an accomplished therapist and speaker on the art of marriage relationships and Church planting techniques. Kola holds a masters degree from the University of Johannesburg.</p>	
	<p>Thea Blom (Dipl. Theology) TV Production Manager</p> <p>Over the past twenty two years Thea completed various fine art's courses and received her diploma in Interior Décor & Design. After receiving a Certificate in Theology from Auckland Park Seminary she's been actively involved in the ministry for many years, working full time for Judea Harvest for the last 12 years. She heads the TV Production Studio of Judea Harvest, enjoying the creative work of TV production.</p>

Danie Reynecke
(DLitt.et Phil - Theology: UJ)
Mobilisation
Danie spent ten years of his life ministering in various AFM Churches in South Africa, whereupon he accepted a call to Judea Harvest. He has travelled extensively throughout Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, North America and Asia where many associations have been nurtured and developed. The main thrust of his ministry revolves around Biblical Giving which in turn was the motivation for him to complete his doctorate at the University of Johannesburg on “Funding the Church.”



Willie Schoombee
(MDP, SMP Graduate School of Management TUKS)
Tent Operational Manager
His career was in Banking for 38 years in various management positions at Branches, Head-office and Business Bank in different towns and cities in South Africa. He joined the Judea Harvest team in February 2010, after retirement. His calling is discipleship; concentrating on the totally lost as well as believers who are not true followers of Jesus. He is currently busy with a discipleship process at his local AFM Church in Bronkhorstspuit, making disciples. It is a great honour and privilege for him to be in service to his Master, Jesus Christ.

Heinrich Coetzee**TV Camera & Editing**

Heinrich finished school in 2008 after which he started working for Judea Harvest. He did a Web Design course and for the past three years he has been doing the web design, camera work and editing for the TV programme that Judea Harvest broadcasts every week. He loves what he does and thanks God for this great opportunity.

**Martie Venter**
Secretary

Martie has been in the corporate world for twenty five years and has developed many different skills. She joined the Judea Harvest team in July 2010 and feels privileged to be part of this team and has a passion to work in ministry and through her work hopes to reach many people for Christ. Martie has received a great singing talent from God and has completed a Singing Course through Lisbé Visser in 1999.

Hansie Henning
(Dipl Theol)
Founder

Over the past 40 years in ministry Pastor Henning's apostolic ministry has stimulated the plant of thousands of Churches. He was the Director of World Mission of the AFM of SA, the largest Pentecostal Church in South Africa. As founder of God's prayer force he mobilized more than three hundred thousand prayer warriors during the nineties and is also the founder of the third generation of preachers over a period of 100 years. He has travelled and preached across the globe and is one of the few Apostolic Leaders in South Africa.





The John Journey



We are living in one of the greatest harvesting miracles the world has ever seen. Africa is seeing more people come to Christ every day than anywhere else in the world. Judea Harvest is part of this incredible move of God. In the past 12 years Judea Harvest has deployed more than 2000 tents, hosting crusades, planting churches and starting community transformation and development projects in the tents.

Millions of people have been reached in these tents across Southern Africa and we plan to expand our borders to cover the whole of Africa and even to the ends of the earth. The real and only hope for our nation is the Saving grace and the transforming power of Jesus Christ that changes lives. This book is a tribute to the Judea Harvest Team, all the coordinators and the thousands of faithful labourers working in and around these tents. The prayer has been answered "Send out labourers into Your Harvest" Matt 9:35. May this book inspire you to also become involved in the gathering of this Great Harvest in Africa.



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