

# *Leadership Tips*

A publication  
Leadership Development and Church Ministries  
Open Bible Churches  
Compiled by Dr. Paul Leavenworth

Spring-Summer 2004

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## LEADERSHIP

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### *Leadership Quotes – Wisdom for Ministry* \_\_\_\_\_

*“I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

John 15: 5, NIV

*“The church must be prophetic or it will be pathetic.”*

Cecil Murray, Pastor

*“The Churches lack of clarity about its mission results in lack of clarity related to the role of its clergy. Lack of clarity about expectations means that no matter what they do, pastors come under attack for not doing something quite different.”*

Howard Rice, Author

*“What must die in every pastor is the subconscious desire to please people. What must not die is the will to love. There’s the risk.”*

David Hansen, Pastor and Author

*“I had come into the parish seeing its great potential as a learning center, a kind of mini-university in which I was the resident professor. And then one day, in a kind of shock of recognition, I saw that in fact it was a worship center... Out of that recognition a conviction grew: that my primary educational task as pastor was to teach people to pray.”*

Eugene Peterson, Pastor and Author

*“While all Christians need nurture and sustenance, the active Christian leader who encounters spiritual and emotional stress daily has special, urgent needs. If the shepherd is not fed along with the sheep, that inner hunger and fatigue, those unhealed hurts, can cause the shepherd to do great, unconscious harm to those within his or her care.”*

Flora Slosson Wueller, Author

*“Perhaps the most central characteristic of authentic leadership is the relinquishing of the impulse to [control] others.”*

David Cooper, Psychologist and Author

*“No is a complete sentence. Believe me, we do not need hassled, bitter ministers. We don’t need you to talk the talk about this being the day the Lord hath made and that we rejoice and savor its beauty and poignancy when secretly you’re tearing around like a white rabbit; we need you to walk the walk. And we need you to walk a little more slowly.”*

Anne Lamott, Author

*“The ideal minister must love and understand people, but must know and love still more the will and word of God.”*

P.T. Forsyth, Author

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Ephesians 4: 31-32, NIV

## ***Leadership Development***

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### **Secrets of the Vine**

- If your life consistently bears no fruit, God will intervene to discipline you
- If your life bears some fruit, God will intervene to prune you

#### **PRUNING VERSUS DISCIPLINE – WHICH IS IT?**

You can distinguish pruning from discipline by asking a few simple questions. I encourage you to carefully review the accompanying chart. If you suspect that you are being pruned, follow these steps:

1. Acknowledge that God is trying to get your attention. Decide that you don’t want this season of turmoil to go to waste.
2. Trust that since a loving parent would tell a child why he or she is receiving correction, your loving Father will do no less. Believe that He wants you to know whether you are experiencing discipline or pruning.
3. Ask the Lord to help you answer this question: *Do I have a major sin that’s causing You to discipline me?*
4. Pray, *Lord, I want to know. If You do not show me within a week from today that it is discipline, then I will take it by faith that it is pruning.* From my own experience, I can assure you that God has many ways to let you know if sin is the issue—you will find the truth in a Scripture, a conversation, a teaching, or a phone call from a friend.
5. If you conclude that you’re being disciplined, sin is the problem. Repent and turn around. You’ll never regret it.
6. If you conclude that you’re being pruned, your response is just as crucial, and the rewards will be even greater. Ask God to show you clearly what He wants you to let go of, and trust Him enough to release it completely to Him.

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>DISCIPLINING</b>	<b>PRUNING</b>
How do you know it’s happening?	Pain	Pain
Why is it happening?	You’re doing something wrong	You’re doing something right
What is your level of fruitfulness?	No fruit	Fruit
What is the Vinedresser’s desire?	Fruit	More Fruit
What needs to go?	Sin	Self
How should you feel?	Guilty, sad	Relief, trust
What is the right response?	Repentance (stop your sinning)	Release (give God your permission)
When does it stop?	When we stop sinning	When God is finished

- If your life bears a lot of fruit, God will invite you to abide more deeply with Him  
Bruce Wilkinson, *Secrets of the Vine*,  
2001, Multnomah Press

## What the Holy Spirit is Saying to the Church

“Day after day men came to help David, until he had a great army, like the army of God. These are the numbers of the men armed for battle, who came to David at Hebron to turn Saul’s kingdom over to him, as the Lord said... men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do.”

I Chronicles 12:22-23, 32 (NIV)

### **I. Definition of Prophecy (Leon Wood, The Prophets of Israel)**

“There are three terms which are especially important for designating prophets. The most important is *nabbi*, regularly translated ‘prophet.’ It is used nearly three hundred times in the Old Testament in its noun form alone. The other two are used less. They are both translated ‘seer.’ ” (p. 16)

“The task of the people designated by these terms is presented in the Old Testament as basically of two parts. The one is that of receiving a message from God through revelation and the other of speaking forth that message to people. Not all prophets are depicted as occupied with the first but all are with the second. Very likely some, if not many of the prophets, conveyed a message which they learned from other prophets or composed from the need of the day as they were inspired by God. A number of prophets, however, did hear directly from God by supernatural revelation.” (p. 17)

### **II. The Role of Prophecy as “Seeing” in the Bible**

- a. “Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without **revealing his plan** to his servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7
- b. “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for **the common good**. To the one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another... prophecy...” I Corinthians 12:7-8, 10
- c. “If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith that can move mountains, but **have not love, I am nothing**.” I Corinthians 13:2
- d. “For we know in part and we **prophesy in part**, but when the perfect comes, the imperfect disappears.” I Corinthians 13:9-10
- e. “Two or three prophets should speak, and the **others should weigh [discern] what is said**.” I Corinthian 14:29
- f. “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will **worship the Father in spirit and truth**, for they are the kind of worshipper that the Father seeks.” John 4:23

### **III. What is the Holy Spirit Saying to the Church? [September 12, 2003 memo]**

To: Regional Prayer Coordinators  
NPN Administrator  
Women’s Ministries Prayer Coordinator

Date: September 12, 2003

From: Paul Leavenworth

Subject: National Prayer Network Prayer Request

Greetings! I am writing to share with you a growing burden that I have for Open Bible Churches and to ask you to join me in praying through this.

**My growing burden is that the leadership of OBC will be able to discern what God is doing and faithfully embrace it so that we can be ready for the soon coming harvest in North America. I believe that we are at a critical crossroads during the next six months or so. I believe that key decisions that our leaders make during the next series of Regional, National, and International Ministries Board Meetings and the February 2004 Strategic Planning meetings will in many ways determine the role that OBC will get to play in this future (yet soon coming) harvest. I believe that God has a significant role for OBC if we can “hear and obey” during this critical time.**

This burden began back in 1996 when I was asked to give leadership to establishing a national prayer network. During that first year a Prayer Task Force was established to pray and seek God for direction. Out of this came the National Prayer Network (NPN) beginning in 1997 and continuing to the present.

At the first full NPN Prayer Coordinator’s Summit held in Clear Lake, Iowa in the spring of 2000, I shared with the Regional Prayer Coordinators about the four (4) “revival roots” of OBC:

1. Prayer
2. Evangelism
3. Faith
4. Apostolic church planting

Since that time, I have been fasting and praying for a return and expansion of these historic roots. I have been praying for three specific issues:

1. Increase in faith amongst OBC leaders
2. Infusion of the spirit of evangelism into OBC
3. Apostolic network leaders for OBC

Over the last few years and especially over the last year and a half, I and some other OBC leaders began to encounter some very interesting situations and networking opportunities.

As I was praying about this earlier this year, I got a mental picture of a delivery person with a package standing on a front porch of a house and knocking on the front door. When I asked God about this, my sense was that God has begun to send OBC the answers to our prayers C.O.D. and that if we really want them we must “open the door and pay the price.”

I have continued to pray about this over the past months and my burden and sense of urgency has grown to the point where I now feel that it is time to enlist you and your choice intercessors to pray through this burden with me.

Please join me in prayer (and fasting) for our regional, national, and international leaders, especially those who are serving on boards or who will participate in the February 2004 strategic planning meetings. Also, please pray for the following meetings:

- October 7-8, 2003 – International Ministries Board Meeting
- November 13-14, 2003 – National Board Meeting
- February 5-7, 2004 – Strategic Planning Meeting

Please pray about this and discuss with your Regional Superintendent ways that God would have you to “bare” this burden with me and push through in intercession. God has a harvest agenda for OBC and we want to serve in the role that he desires to honor us with.

Thank you and God bless!

**IV. What is the Holy Spirit Saying to the Church? [Independent “words” received by Paul Leavenworth since September 12, 2003 when he sent out memo “NPN Prayer Request” to mobilize intercessors.]**

**Phone call on September 15, 2003 – from SG:** “It is time for Open Bible to turn the page.” (He was reading Deuteronomy 34 in his morning time with God and sensed that God was telling him to turn the page, which was Joshua 1 in his Bible. He sensed that this was a word for Open Bible and called me). The week before, Jeff Farmer and I had spent time in the prayer chapel praying and meditating on how the first chapters of Joshua might be a “revelation” for taking Open Bible to the next level.

**Central Region Pastor’s Conference in Kansas City, Missouri on September 24, 2003 – from JB:** “The apostolic is knocking at the door of Open Bible.” (He had a dream of a person standing on the porch of a farm house with corn fields ripe for harvest in the background. He sensed God telling him that he was sending the apostolic to OBC.)

**50 State Tour on October 27-28, 2003 – from Dutch Sheets:**

“There is a breakthrough in revelation coming which accelerates the progress of God.”

“Divine strategies acted upon bring forth God’s purposes:

- a. Prodigals are coming home
- b. God is going to redeem artists and the arts
- c. Great revelation will come to leaders
- d. Leaders will enter into intercession
- e. Greater anointing is coming to faithful churches
- f. Revival is coming to campuses
- g. A release of signs, wonders and deliverance is coming
- h. Religious spirits will be broken
- i. A new spirit of harmony and unity is coming to faithful churches
- j. Embracing this will require a new level of faith and humility.” (paraphrased from live presentation)

**Breakfast with TS on November 5, 2003 – from TS:** “There is a parallel move of God for reformation [in existing church structures] and revolution [outside of existing church structures].” In response to a question that I asked about what he senses God is doing/intends to do.

**Barna Seminar on November 6, 2003 in Omaha, NE – answer to written question (“What do you think God wants to do in and through the church in North America over the next 5-10 years?”) that I asked Barna:** “A spiritual revolution is coming to North America, but it is coming primarily outside of existing church structures. We (Barna and his research team) see 10-12 emerging spiritual renewal movements (i.e. worship, prayer, home schooling, character education, house church, etc.) that we believe will converge, resulting in a great harvest.” (paraphrased from live response)

**E-Mail from TS on November 21, 2003 (“Great Prophetic Shift” by Jim Goll):**

1. Apostolic relational mandate will be released emphasizing “networking” verses vertical authority structures
2. Open confrontation with the “political spirit” in the church is coming
3. New “signs and wonders” movement is emerging
4. Great “move of God among women” is emerging
5. Wave of “identificational repentance” will overwhelm a remnant portion of the gentile church for the Jewish people
6. The “Islamic veil” will be pierced
7. Restoration of “David’s Tabernacle” will come resulting in 24/7 houses of worship and prayer
8. An emphasis on the “soaking presence” of the spirit for intimacy and breakthroughs will emerge
9. Fresh move of “holiness” will spring up in the church worldwide
10. There will be a tremendous transfer of wealth into the church through “apostles and prophets in the marketplace”
11. An outpouring of “compassionate ministries” will emerge to minister to the orphans, widows, disabled, and oppressed
12. An extravagant “youth movement” is coming that will “rock the nations”
13. A “convergence of anointings” of the past moves of God will come together to help facilitate a mighty harvest
14. The “manifest presence of God” will increase in gatherings of desperate worshippers

**V. What is the Spirit saying to the Church? [Six Follow-up “Words” for the Church and OBC – received/written down by Paul Leavenworth on November 2, 2003]**

- a. Harvest is coming to North America
- b. The church is not ready, but there is time to get ready if leaders will grow in faith, commitment to evangelism, and embrace “new wineskin” model of church and ministry
- c. The harvest will come first to/through alienated youth, marginalized peoples (down-and-outers and up-and-outers), immigrants (especially 1<sup>st</sup> generation)
- d. This is a time when individuals, churches, and church organizations are making key decisions that will effect the role they will play in the coming harvest
- e. New forms of discipleship and leadership training will emerge within the context of the harvest
- f. The primary role of the church in North America in the evangelization of the developing world will be as a resource (money, prayer, theological and technical training, development, medical teams, etc.)

**VI. Prophetic Insights from the last OBC National Board Meeting (February 9, 2004)**

President Farmer led in worship at the start of the board meetings on Monday morning. After worship, a board member shared from II Chronicles 7:14, placing it in the context of our strategic planning. Following that prescription is the only thing that will heal our movement. We can retool and change, but unless the spiritual issues are dealt with, we will be right back at the strategic planning stage. Unless this happens forward movement will not to happen. He feels Open Bible should meet together in some type of solemn assembly.

President Farmer related the 1950’s revival started in Argentina after months of prayer and fasting, when a lady, finally after many nights of revival, in obedience to the Lord, pounded

her hand on the communion table. Her action produced the effect of lightning striking the building and released the revival. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit, while He is a gentleman, stirs us in unusual ways. If He wants to speak through a donkey or place mud on our eyes or whatever He asks or whatever He wants, we need to follow.

A board participant believes the Promised Land for Open Bible is a return to our roots of evangelism, church planting and multiplication. He believes this needs to become the overriding passion of Open Bible – Jesus looked out on the multitude and saw them as sheep without a shepherd so he gives the challenge that laborers are necessary for the harvest. He then sent out the disciples into the harvest. Matthew 9:36 – 10:1

A regional superintendent prophesied a little one shall become a thousand – Isaiah 60:22. The Word of the Lord has within itself the Faith to produce what it's saying and the resources to release for the transformation. For some time there have been those within the movement who have believed a \$1,000,000.00 will be released to the movement. He called for 1000 churches to be created in the US and for the workers to be called forth from Open Bible's womb to man these churches.

President Farmer prayed for repentance and humility and for a heart transplant so that we could see the lost.

Another board member prophesied the door to Open Bible's prophetic destiny is swinging wide open. The season is changing as sure as the seasons change in the natural. Open Bible must walk through the door as it swings. Let us seize this change. God has called us He will perform it.

A Regional Superintendent prayed for a holy anointing on the officers of Open Bible that would bring freedom and empowerment to the host. He prayed the officers could say to the people, "Follow us as we follow the Lord."

Another regional superintendent prophesied the Lord spoke to his heart that He wants to bring "Open" back to Open Bible. The Lord desires **Open Hearts** – Revelation 3:20 "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup with Him and He with me. The Lord desires to **Open Heaven** – Malachi 3:10 "And prove me now herewith," saith the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." The Lord desires to **Open Doors**- He will open doors that no man can shut – Revelation 3:8 "I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it." But it all begins with open hearts.

A board participant member prophesied something was just released in the heavenlies and there was a pretty major breakthrough.

Another board participant said two Words keep coming back to him, II Timothy 2:14 – "guard the good Word that has been deposited in you" and I Timothy 1:18-19 – "I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, that that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience." God's intention in giving us the prophetic Words He has given us is that we follow them.

Another board member prophesied that Open Bible needs to take a prophetic act of stepping into the "river." God instructs that we have what it takes, but we can't look beyond what's

already here. Something is not in alignment. If that one thing is aligned then the Lord will move in a mighty way and the door will swing open. God admonishes us not to look beyond what we can see – it's what we can see that needs to be aligned.

The board members lined up in an arrow shape and took three, symbolic steps forward into the river of God.

A board participant talked of a vision of a farmhouse that needs an increase of faith and an infusion of evangelism. Packages are coming COD and there will need to be a response from Open Bible to open the door and pay the price.

Another board member returned us to Jeremiah 1:11 – What do you see? We are beginning to see what the Lord wants us to see.

President Farmer reminded the board member that what Jeremiah saw was the almond tree, and it is the first tree to bloom in spring.

It was mentioned that this time of prayer and prophecy has almost felt like a continuation of strategic planning. God is moving on our hearts and what happened in strategic planning is not for naught. This was the missing dimension from strategic planning. Focus on what we are and declare it.

We must restore the Bible to Open Bible, too. It's wonderful to enter into the Spirit, but it's the Word of God that will be an arrow in our hearts.

Another regional superintendent prophesied this is the Word the Lord is giving him. We have found out what's in the Father's heart, and the next step is to give permission for the Father to perform what is going to happen. He has an overwhelming sense of needing to give God permission for what is about to happen.

President Farmer stated fasting brings breakthroughs like this because emotions get closer to the edge and Spiritual discernment becomes clearer. He thanked the Board for coming burdened and broken. He anticipates some major breakthroughs in the days, weeks and months to come.

The board committed all of the prophecies to the Father. It asked Him to help it get into alignment and follow God. It also gave God permission to fulfill His prophecies in us.

After lunch, President Farmer returned to the morning's prophecy. He read the board two letters of prophecy he had received this year from Open Bible ministers. Both reflected the same kinds of prophecies as had been received from the Lord in the morning board session.

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## CHURCH MINISTRIES

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### Servant Evangelism

Five discoveries that empower evangelism:

1. People listen when I treat them like friends
2. When I serve, hearts are touched
3. As I serve, I redefine the perception of a Christian
4. Doing the message precedes telling the message
5. Focus on planting, not harvesting

Steve Sjogren, *Conspiracy of Kindness*,  
1993, Vine Books

### The Process of Evangelism

*“[Paul] planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow...For we are God’s fellow workers...”*

I Corinthians 3:6, 9, NIV

#### **1. Evangelism and the Great Commission(s)**

- “Go and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28:18-20
- “Go into the world and preach the good news...” Mark 16:15-18
- “Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations...” Luke 24:46-49
- “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you...” John 20:21-23
- “You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

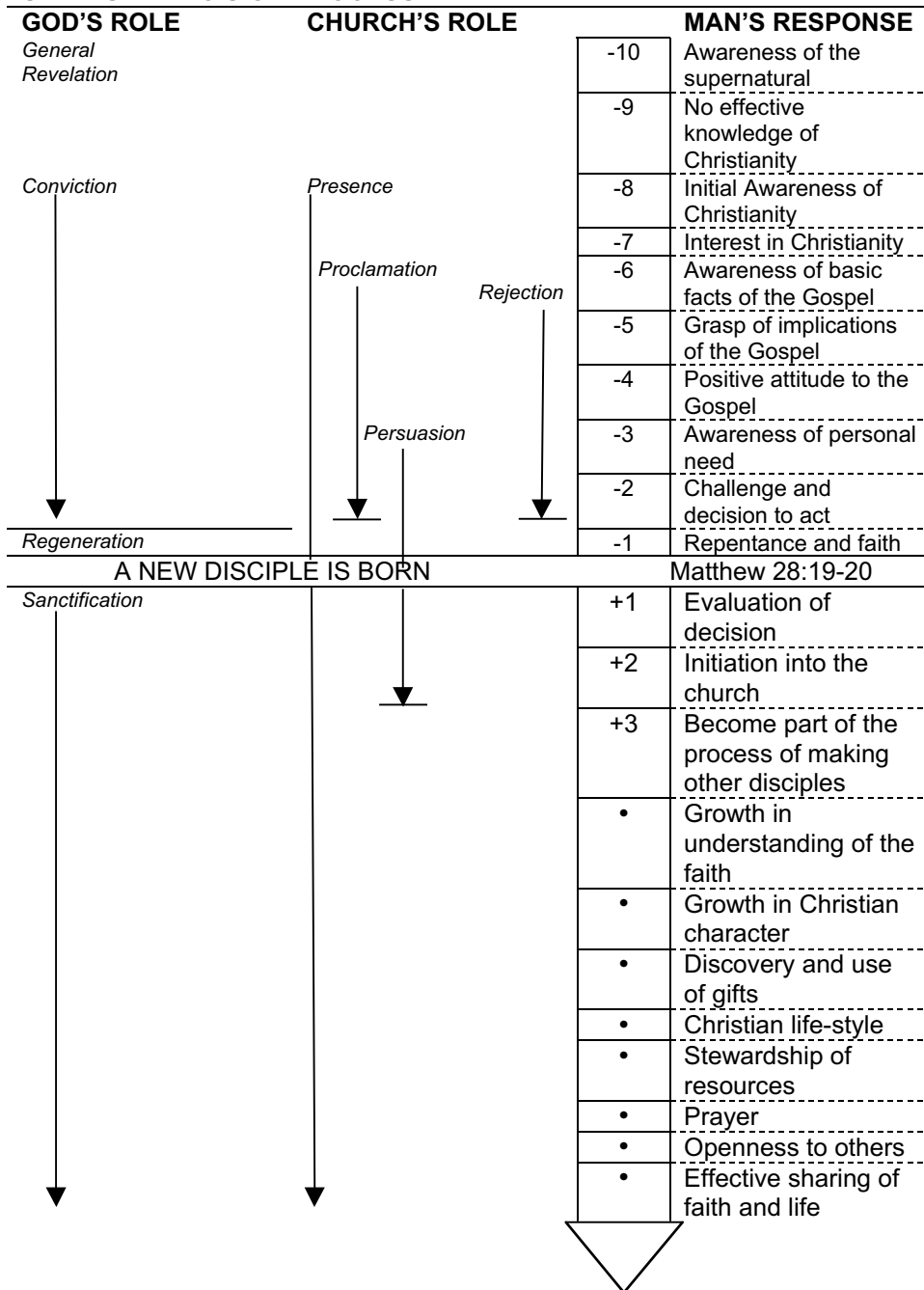
#### **2. Evangelism and the Gospel Message**

- “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” John the Baptist, Matthew 3:2
- “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” Jesus, Matthew 4:17
- “Repent and be baptized... in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...” Peter, Acts 2:38
- “They must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.” Paul, Acts 20:21

1. Repentance – “to change your mind, heart, and behavior”
2. Forgiveness – “sending away, letting go”
3. Kingdom – God’s resources to live Godly lives

### 3. Evangelism and Salvation/Regeneration

#### SPIRITUAL-DECISION PROCESS



#### 4. Evangelism and Spiritual Gifts

- All believers are commanded to be witnesses and to evangelize
- Some believers are given by God the gift of evangelism
- Some spiritual gifts are more inclined toward evangelism (word and power gifts)

#### 5. Types of Evangelism

- Presence
- Proclamation
- Persuasion
- Power

## 6. Evangelism Strategy (for everybody)

- Pray for unsaved family members, friends, and neighbors
- Learn how to briefly share your testimony
- Know how to briefly share the gospel message
- Pray for and be open to “divine appointments”
- Regularly support financially those involved in mercy ministries and do acts of kindness
- Pray for and financially support mature, accountable, gifted evangelists

Paul Leavenworth, “*The Evangelism of the Church*,”  
2003, Sermon Notes

## Church Planting and Multiplication

Ten universal elements associated with “Church Planting Movements:”

1. Prayer
2. Abundant gospel sowing
3. Intentional church planting
4. Scriptural authority
5. Local leadership
6. Lay leadership
7. Cell or house churches
8. Churches planting churches
9. Rapid reproduction
10. Healthy churches

David Garrison, *Church Planting Movements*,  
1999, SBC International Mission Board

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## TRENDS

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### Top News Stories of 2003

1. War in Iraq (capture of Saddam on December 13)
2. Columbia space shuttle disaster (February 1)
3. California recall of Gray Davis on October 7 (replacement with Arnold Schwarzenegger)
4. SARS scare (8,000 infected, 780 deaths)
5. Worst blackout ever in North America in August (8 states)
6. Economic upturn in light of loss of 2 million manufacturing jobs since 2000
7. Wildfires in Southern California in October-November (destroying 4,800 homes and buildings, killing 22 people)
8. Tax cuts (\$330 billion through 2013)
9. Elizabeth Smart found in March after 9 month abduction
10. Democratic primaries (rise and fall of Howard Dean)

*Des Moines Sunday Register*,  
December 28, 2003, p. 9A



**8. Multiple Fathers** – Spiritual leaders should manage and shepherd the church just as fathers are to care for their families and shepherds are to tend their sheep.

**9. Important Priorities** – All spiritual leaders should make sure they manage and shepherd the church well by maintaining six important priorities: teaching the word of God, modeling Christlike behavior, maintaining doctrinal purity, disciplining unruly believers, overseeing the material needs of the church, and praying for the sick.

**10. Mutual Accountability** – Spiritual leaders in the church should hold each other accountable for their spiritual lives as well as the way they carry out their ministries.

**11. Expanded Accountability** – Every body of local church leaders should have some kind of accountability system that extends beyond themselves – particularly involving the primary leader.

**12. Qualified Assistants** – In order to maintain their priorities, spiritual leaders should appoint qualified assistants who can help them meet the needs of all believers in the church.

**13. Financial Support** – Spiritual leaders are to make sure that those who devote significant amounts of time to ministry, particularly in teaching the word of God, should be cared for financially.

**14. Adequate Forms** – Spiritual leaders are responsible to make sure that adequate forms are developed to carry out the functions inherent in the above biblical principles.

**Jenkins, Philip. The Next Christendom, 2002, Oxford University Press**

Jenkins, a researcher and university professor of religious studies at Penn State University, surveys the worldwide growth and expansion of what he calls “global Christianity.” His book is a description of demographic, religious, and political trends around the world. It is well written and very readable (although very technical at times). Jenkins notes that the fastest and greatest growth in Christianity is occurring in the southern hemisphere especially in Africa, Asia, and South America. He further notes that this new global Christianity is generally characterized by charismatic worship, supernatural power, biblical authority, and political/social activism. Jenkins believes that the future of Christianity includes continued growth and expansion in the Southern Hemisphere and that their charismatic and conservative version of Christianity may well conflict and/or impact the growing secularization taking place in the West as the center of worldwide Christianity moves south.

**McLaren, Brian. A New Kind of Christian, 2001, Jossey-Bass**

McLaren, a pastor, writer, and pioneer in discovering/describing of the new emerging post-modern church, writes a fictional (but autobiographical) story of the developing relationship between a struggling pastor (Dan) and a former pastor turned high school science teacher (Neo). Through descriptions of the conversations, e-mails, and interactions of his two primary characters, McLaren explores three questions about what being a dynamic Christian in a post-modern world might look like:

1. Why am I not the same kind of Christian I used to be?
2. What might a new kind of Christian look like?
3. How might one become a new kind of Christian if one is so inclined?

The subtitle, “a tale of two friends on a spiritual journey,” is a good description of this book. McLaren poses more questions than he gives answers, but also provides us an enjoyable and less threatening way to approach these questions as we try to discover what it means to be a “new kind of Christian.”