

3 Outreach Questions

1. Briefly describe the background of your church.
2. Describe how you got involved in church planting.
3. Describe your dream/vision for multiplication for the next 10 to 20 years.

Brett Andrews (New Life Christian Church)

- 1) New Life Christian Church launched Easter Sunday, 1993 in Centreville, VA, a western suburb of Washington DC. Close to Dulles airport, this area not only attracts commuters who work in DC and the Pentagon, it is also populated by military families, defense contractors (e.g. Lockheed, Boeing, NG, GD, et al.) and intelligence workers (e.g. the NRO).

In other words, this area has been transient for decades and increasingly suspicious of churches.

The second church plant of the organization known today as Waypoint Church Partners, we committed to taking a form-follows-function attitude toward evangelism, disciple-making, and church planting. By the end of 2018, NLCC has helped start over 250 churches. One of our most exciting new ventures is working with a house movement of disciple-makers that has made over 1000 new disciples in the last four years.

New Life CC launched Easter Sunday, 1993 in Centreville, VA, a western suburb of Washington DC.

Launching with 10 committed core people, we were the second church plant of the organization known today as Waypoint Church Partners.

- 2) Planted in a metropolitan area with over 4 million people at the time, we believed God's desire for us was to start churches that started churches to reach as many people as possible as quickly as possible. That calling was like mother's milk for us.

To be completely candid, our sense of "what" we were called to do far outpaced our clarity on "how". Our ambition was to start a new church within the first three years of planting NLCC, but we didn't know how; so, while attending to the week-to-week business of growing a church community, we always kept one eye open for church planting opportunities.

Within two years, God provided a friend, Vince Antonnuci, to join our staff with the view of being our first church planter. Two years later, God called Vince and our worship leader (2/3 of our staff), to start a church in Virginia Beach.

With this combination of God's calling, God's provision of people and resources, and NL's commitment to be open-handed with God's blessings, NL essentially stumbled into God's way for us to be involved in church planting.

Looking for opportunities to help plant more churches, for a period we ran a non-profit church marketing organization—which almost exclusively served new churches. Helping churches launch with quality marketing exposed us to the deepest need—church health! Eventually, that led us to provide project management tools and coaching (Passion for Planting).

Today, we work to reproduce disciple-making church planters, providing assessment, boot camps, residencies, project management and coaching.

- 3) Our polar star is to multiply disciple-makers who multiply new churches. We believe the formula to multiplication is small, not big. Our dream is to turn ordinary people into disciple-making disciples who start churches that start churches.

We learned the hard way that it is possible to start churches that don't multiply disciples. However, wherever disciple-makers are multiplied, new churches start new churches.

At present, NLCC adds ten new church plants a year. If God blesses and we serve faithfully, it's not hard to imagine disciple-making churches networking with other disciple-making churches to plant a hundred churches a year.

If it goes perfectly, no one will take the credit, but everyone will be more impressed with what God does through ordinary followers.

Drew Hyun (Hope Church NYC)

- 1) Our Hope Church NYC family of churches started in 2012, and since the start of the first church in Astoria, Queens, we have started 9 diverse Hope churches across New York City and surrounding areas. We are a relational, inter-denominational family of independent churches who share a common theological and cultural disposition while existing to start and empower healthy urban churches. We have also helped start the New City Network, a collection of urban churches that center around five values - urban, multi-ethnic, Spirit-filled, emotional health, and mission. The New City Network has helped start 23 other churches in urban areas around the world, and is now bringing together a collective of churches in urban centers around North America. Lastly, we recently pioneered The Hub NYC, a mobilization hub for everyday mission whereby we hope to catalyze various forms of missional church expressions throughout the city.
- 2) I got involved in church planting through a vision for multiplication that started at a church I served in for 10 years called New Life Fellowship in Elmhurst, Queens. New Life blessed us to start a new church and through church planting partnerships with

Redeemer City to City and the Evangelical Covenant Church denomination, we started what would become our family of churches in 2012. As we have continued to start new churches throughout the city, Exponential has been pivotal in increasing our imagination for healthy multiplication through discipleship and mission, and we are longing to see a radical movement in the gospel take root in New York City.

- 3) Our dream is to see new churches birthed throughout New York City for the next 10 to 20 years, including different forms of church (house church, missional communities, etc) to reach different populations in our post-Christian context. We hope these new churches are part of a broader gospel movement in NYC that would sow seeds in changing the culture of our city for generations. We also hope to see gospel movements multiply in global cities around the world.

Larry Walkemeyer (Light & Life Christian Fellowship)

- 1) Light & Life started as a Bible Study in 1954 in the post-war neighborhood building boom in North Long Beach. The church thrived, however, it never averaged above 100 in attendance. By 1991, the community had dramatically changed to urban, diverse and often violent. The church, however, had not changed and was a small mono-ethnic congregation of aging folks without a pastor trying to keep the doors open.

When Deb and I arrived as pastors in 1991, the church began to reach out passionately to the community, with a priority to become multi-ethnic. God blessed our evangelistic efforts and, although the church only has 39 parking spots, by 1999 we had 800 folks crammed in our facilities in multiple services.

- 2) Multiple factors led to our engagement in church planting. I had been an associate pastor for two years in a church plant and had tasted the potential of planting. When our church had outgrown our facilities in 1999 we had thought to relocate to a larger property and seek to become a mega-church.

However, when my wife and I went away to pray for a week about this God gave us a different vision from Ezekiel 47 where the river flows out of the temple. God revealed we had been a “Lake” church where we were seeking to get as many people as possible to flow into one place around one pastor giving to one budget and keep them there. But the Spirit was calling us to become a “River” church where people flowed in and then many of them would flow out to start other churches.

In addition, I had a pastor friend who had just spent over 10 million dollars just to do environmental work to prepare to build a 40-million-dollar church building. I was convicted that if that same amount of money had been invested in raising up and releasing new church-planting pastors the kingdom impact would have been dramatically greater. I felt, for us, our financial investment needed to be in church the people not in church the building.

These convictions led to imparting the “River” vision to our church who embraced it heartily. However, having never personally planted a church and feeling called to a ministry of helping plant churches, Deb and I felt called to plant the first church in our own neighborhood (which was 20 minutes from our church) on a Sunday evening. God blessed this plant and we handed it off when it was running 150 people. From then on we have focused on raising up and releasing church planters and have averaged about one a year over the last 19 years.

- 3) Our vision for multiplication is to move into more rapid multiplication of churches with ten or more churches being planted per year. These church plants would carry a much stronger multiplication DNA with a vision to plant within the first two years.

The vision is for multiplicative disciple-making which sends disciples to be “everyday missionaries” where they live, work and play. The vision is to see many of these missionaries create faith-based gatherings, many which have a vision to mature into church plants themselves.

These would be smaller expressions of the church led by bi-vocational pastors with much lower overhead costs. In light of the urban challenges to traditional church planting, the diverse make-up of a growing harvest field, the financial realities of church planting and the multiplicative potential of smaller units of the church, we are adapting our vision from what it has been.

In addition, we have a vision to start a church-planting training center which imparts heart, skills, and vision through a one-year ministry track.

Mike McDaniel (Summit Church)

- 1) The Summit Church is characterized by its gospel focus and sending culture. As Pastor J.D. Greear often says, “The gospel is not merely the diving board off of which we jump into the pool of Christianity, it’s also the pool itself.” Depth in the gospel also leads to width in the mission. The Summit has grown from a plateaued church of 300 to one of over 10,000. Seating capacity, however, is not our primary metric for success. Sending capacity is. Pastor J.D. has led the Summit in a bold vision to plant 1,000 new churches by the year 2050. In the last 15 years, the church has sent out more than 1,000 people to live on church planting teams and planted more than 250 churches—in North Carolina, across the United States, and around the world.

The Summit began in 1961 when Pastor Sam James founded Grace Baptist Mission and preached its first sermon in Durham, commissioning it to reach both the city and the nations. Immediately after preaching this sermon, Pastor James moved his family to Vietnam and spent much of the next four decades serving on the mission field. Within a year, the mission had grown into the new Homestead Heights Baptist Church. Homestead Heights was re-launched as The Summit Church in 2002. Our growing church now has 11 campuses.

- 2) Ten years ago The Summit Church came to the conviction that if we were going to be effective in reaching the world, it would not happen by simply growing our church as large as possible, but by raising up leaders and planting new churches. We knew we wanted to plant gospel-centered churches because we had seen the gospel change our church. We knew we wanted to plant balanced, deep and wide, churches, because the gospel calls us to make disciples, not just converts. And we knew we wanted to plant churches that multiplied because the Great Commission is accomplished through multiplication, not addition. While our church had already begun sending church planters, we began a process in 2008 to leverage our whole church as God's ordained means for making disciples that make disciples by reaching people far from God, equipping them as disciples, and sending them to the world.

- 3) When we started pursuing this vision, we realized pretty quickly that Summit would never plant 1000 churches. As urgently as we wanted to send, Summit would only plant 1000 churches by planting churches that plant churches. As we look toward the future, we hope to continue planting churches out of Summit while coming alongside the churches we've already helped start to strengthen them to grow and multiply. Our dream is that one day we would see hundreds of multiplying churches birthed out of what God began in Durham, NC.