



**Church Extension Ministries**

# **FORWARD PLAN**

**FOR PLANTING NEW  
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCHES 2006-2011**

## **MISSIONS HERE AND NOW**

### **CONTENTS**

<b>FORWARD PLAN</b> Introduction and Assessment . . . . .	1
Focus on The Fields . . . . .	3
Five-Year Plan To Plant . . . . .	5
Firm Partnership with the BFC . . . . .	6
Faith Endowed Future . . . . .	8
<b>FORWARD PLAN</b> Summation . . . . .	9

## **FORWARD PLAN Introduction & Assessment**

**T**he heart of church planting lies in God's compassion and mission to save His people and gather them together to worship and glorify Him.

Romans chapters eight through ten give a clear picture of the first element of God's missionary plan. From His order of salvation (Romans 8:28-30) to His charge to send out preachers (Romans 10:14,15), God reveals His goal of saving the elect through the preaching of the Gospel. This is evangelism!

It is also very clear that when God saves through evangelism, new converts are to be taught the Word and brought into a family of believers—the Church. This is the God-ordained means for new converts to learn to worship Him and become mature in their faith. Thus, church planting is the second element of God's missionary plan!

A clear illustration of this twofold plan unfolds in the city of Antioch (Acts 11). Scattered Christians from the Jerusalem persecution arrive in Antioch and begin to proclaim the Gospel. God saves many Antiochans who then are brought together to form a church. Clearly it is God's plan for saving the elect and gathering them into churches that makes evangelism and church planting the two vital elements of missions.

From these two priorities flow several implications:

1. The church that desires to glorify God and accomplish His missiological plan must prioritize evangelism and church planting in its purpose and function as a church. Churches must plant churches!
2. Men and women who are called to missions will be called to evangelism and church planting. They will be directly involved with church planting or have an indirect association with church planting at their mission site. The Bible Fellowship Church (BFC) mission program must identify evangelistic church planters and prioritize their support.

3. If a denomination is to grow and extend the Kingdom of God, it will unite to form an evangelistic church planting movement in its *Jerusalems, Judeas, Samarias*, and the uttermost parts of the world. *Unite* is the key word. We must be in church planting unity and rally around a global focus of evangelistic church planting.

The BFC plants churches in the first three areas noted in the Great Commission, but not beyond our figurative Samarias. This must change if we are to be a part of extending the Kingdom of God. We must work with the Board of Missions and BFC missionaries who are planting churches for other denominations, mission boards, or indigenous associations. We must seek ways to partner with BFC missionaries who are church planting overseas and pray that God will allow these new churches to become part of the Bible Fellowship Church. Not all will or can, but we must be open to those that can and want to be BFC.

4. If the Bible Fellowship Church is to grow, each particular church must become actively involved with Church Extension Ministries and its evangelistic church planting efforts. Presently we have churches that are not involved. Some financially neither support the vital mission of church planting nor take the time to learn about Church Extension Ministries. Others seem to have little or no interest in helping churches become established. They do not adopt a church plant, or seek ways to assist baby churches, or help to plant a daughter church. These activities must be taken seriously for they are necessary components in a church planting movement, in the growth of the BFC and in the Kingdom.

What flows from such strategic thinking are the points that flesh out our **FORWARD PLAN**, *Missions Here and Now*:

- targeting fields where we can be most successful in planting BFC churches
- using funds wisely
- establishing a church within a reasonable time
- challenging every BFC church and region to include the planting of daughter churches in mission plans
- joining with the Board of Missions in planting BFC churches overseas
- securing an endowment so that this ministry is not shackled by ongoing financial burdens.

*Mission is HERE and NOW!* The Board of Church Extension Ministries presents this **FORWARD PLAN** with the desire that the Bible Fellowship Church will unite around a church planting vision and become a global church planting movement. We believe that God will use this to glorify Himself in missions and grow our denomination to be a kingdom building enterprise headed by Christ Himself.

## Focus on The Fields

*Acts 13:49 – And the Word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region...*

*Deuteronomy 10:19 - So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.*

The DELMARVA Project has been our experiment in planting churches with an on-site team, in a region not far from established BFC churches, while still moving into new territories. It is our goal to continue ministries on the DELMARVA Peninsula and follow this movement south into the mid-Atlantic/southern regions of Virginia/North Carolina/South Carolina. These areas continue to experience a pilgrimage of people from the northeast that produces significant growth spots.

In conjunction with this, the Director and Board of Church Extension Ministries will remain open to investigating church planting opportunities that arise outside these southward areas of focus, i.e., New England, the southwest, and urban areas.

Our ethnic church planting ministry will move forward with a focus on establishing Hispanic churches, primarily in cities near established BFC churches and in regional areas, such as DELMARVA where Hispanic population is increasing rapidly. Further, we will investigate the possibility of establishing a BFC Hispanic church planting division within Church Extension Ministries.

Conference has not yet caught the vision of *churches planting churches!* Daughter church planting by particular churches and regions is a *sleeping giant* of BFC growth. Throughout the world God is establishing church planting movements, and this can be experienced by the BFC. But it will occur only when our churches catch the vision of what God is doing and follow His lead in kingdom building.

**Focus on the Fields**  
**GOALS FOR 2006-2011**

1. To plant five (5) new churches on the DELMARVA Peninsula. Possible sites: Millsboro, DE / Milford, DE / Milton / Lewes / Rehoboth, DE / Worcester County, MD / Cape Charles, VA.
2. To plant four (4) new ethnic churches with a focus on Hispanic church planting. Possible sites: Allentown, PA / Lancaster, PA / DELMARVA - Delaware.
3. To facilitate daughter church plants: two (2) by regions and two (2) by particular churches.
4. To develop an Hispanic church planting department within Church Extension Ministries.

NOTES:

## Five-Year Plan To Plant

*Luke 16:1 – Give an account of your stewardship...*

*I Corinthians 14: 40 – Let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.*

For the past three years, the Policy & Strategy Committee of Church Extension Ministries has tackled the job of producing a five-year plan for planting Bible Fellowship churches. Prompted by the need for a planting strategy, this plan efficiently utilizes resources and establishes stages of planting with set goals. These will enable both the planter and the department to have realistic expectations and tools for accountability and profitable evaluation.

The *BFC Five-Year Plan To Plant* has two components:

1. *Time-line*
2. *DCPI Church Planter's Handbook* with the accompanying *BFC Church Planting Guide*.

### Five-Year Plan to Plant GOALS FOR 2006-2011

1. To implement the Five-Year Plan with each new mission church.
2. To introduce the plan to present church planters and have them use the Handbook and Guide as tools for evaluation.
3. To monitor the plan, as it is used by church planters, and seek to improve it.

NOTES:

## Firm Partnership with the Bible Fellowship Church

*Ephesians 5: 30 – Because we are members of His body...*

*Philippians 1: 27 – With one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel.*

Every church in the Conference needs to embrace the church planting mission of Church Extension Ministries. Some Bible Fellowship churches are very gracious financial supporters of our mission, and others give human resources to assist church plants with outreach and special projects. We are encouraged and very thankful for such cooperation and involvement. However, there still remain churches that give little attention to our church planting mission.

In the 2004 BFC Yearbook, mission statistics are listed in three categories:

Missions (Foreign)	\$1,528,274
Other Missions	\$ 773,328
Church Extension (Home Missions)	\$ 288,893

We do not believe that Church Extension (Home Missions) giving should be the same as giving to Missions (Foreign). There are more missionaries serving under the Board of Missions, and in many cases the financial needs are greater for those serving overseas. However, there must be an evaluation of the amount of support going to “mission” efforts that are focused neither on planting Bible Fellowship Churches nor involved with any form of church planting.

It has always been difficult to establish what *Other Missions* encompasses. Certainly it includes viable ministry outreaches and endeavors, but does it involve church planting and the extension of the Bible Fellowship Church?

The BFC needs to consider its own vision statement— *We the Bible Fellowship Church, seek to become an expanding fellowship of churches...*— and determine how this is going to be accomplished. Church Extension thoughtfully submits that it is accomplished through evangelistic church planting! And if this is so, then more attention and finances must be directed to those missions and missionaries involved in planting churches, especially Bible Fellowship Churches.

As an *expanding fellowship of churches...*, if we are to expand in size and kingdom impact, we must give increasing attention to reaching people with the Gospel and planting new Bible Fellowship churches.

**Firm Partnership with the Bible Fellowship Church  
GOALS FOR 2006-2011**

1. To work with the Board of Foreign Missions and together determine what can be done to focus BFC mission efforts on planting new Bible Fellowship churches throughout the world.
2. To continue our efforts of creating and maintaining good relationships with all BFC churches.
3. To effect a forty percent increase in giving from the Bible Fellowship Church in the next five years.
4. To encourage ALL BFC churches to partner with and adopt a new church plant.

NOTES:

## Faith Endowed Future

*Proverbs 6:6 – Go to the ant...observe her ways and be wise...*

*Luke.14: 28 – For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it.*

*Endow(ment) ...to furnish with a permanent fund or source of income for support.. . .*

(Webster's Collegiate Dictionary)

**F**inancial crises constantly plague Church Extension Ministries. While many mission boards have similar struggles, there are others that do not. Several factors are common among financially secure missions:

1. They formulated a plan of endowment long ago and constantly review that plan, making changes necessary to keep the endowment viable.
2. They maintain a close relationship with donors and present attractive investment plans.
3. Board members take an active role in raising funds by contributing personally as well as securing significant donors.
4. Financially secure missions cast a clear and challenging vision and they stay focused on *their vision*, seeking to accomplish it.

These common success factors must become the foundational goals for a plan to endow Church Extension Ministries.

### Faith Endowed Future GOALS FOR 2006-2011

1. To form an *Endowment Development Committee* (EDC), made up of members from the Board of Church Extension and other experienced individuals, to formulate a plan for endowing Church Extension Ministries.
2. To have the EDC report to the Board of Church Extension at its regularly scheduled meetings, and seek approval of a plan at the Board's February 2007 meeting.
3. To implement the plan beginning March 2007.

NOTES:

## **FORWARD PLAN** Summation

The **WHATS**—what is to be accomplished.

The **WHENS**—when action will be completed, 2006-2011.

The **WHYS** — why is explicitly based upon God's mandate:  
evangelize the world and plant churches by  
gathering the elect and bringing them into  
worship of our Lord and maturity in Christ.

**W**hat yet remains are the *HOWS* of this **FORWARD PLAN**. To accomplish the goals and see the engine of *Missions Here And Now* operating productively we will need several important gears running smoothly and consistently.

➤ **Executive Director** and his staff must maintain focus on the Plan's goals while keeping the attention of the Board of Church Extension and BFC churches focused on their responsibilities. This will be accomplished by:

1. communicating the plan to each church and region.
2. providing the Board and churches with regular updates on the plan's progress.
3. monitoring the Board and churches' involvement in the plan.

This may necessitate visiting and encouraging churches and board members who are not fulfilling their responsibilities to the plan.

➤ **Board Of Church Extension** will become a pro-active team as it relates to its duties outlined in the plan, especially in the formation of the **Endowment Development Committee (EDC)**. Developing funding plans will be a demanding and challenging task for men who lead very busy lives. As necessary, the Board will become involved in church relations and possibly in designing a plan to promote dialogue with churches that are not supportive or that have very limited church planting involvement.

➤ **Church Extension Ministries** will inform donors and prayer partners about the plan and keep them engaged in what the Lord will do as the plan unfolds. There will be a need to acquire more prayer partners and active donors.

➤ *Bible Fellowship Church* will need to support this plan with participation, resources, and input. Church Extension Ministries remains open to the comments, ideas and suggestions that come from churches. The department wants to develop a stronger partnership with the BFC and watch the Lord honor this unity with the blessing of a growing denomination that will become a dynamic instrument for kingdom expansion.

➤ *BFC Board Of Missions and Church Extension Ministries* must begin meeting to discuss working together on a global church planting plan. The two entities must resume discussion on implementing *The Great Commission Board*, which was approved at Annual Conference. The directors of the boards will consider the formation of a steering committee and will lead this committee toward the goal of having a united and practical global BFC church planting strategy that can be expediently implemented.

As the plan is developed, other *How's* will become apparent. Through prayer and dialogue the Director and Board of Church Extension will address ways for reaching the plan's goals. The personnel of Church Extension Ministries is prepared to embark on the great task of extending God's Kingdom and the Bible Fellowship Church. We must have the prayers, participation, support, and input from the denomination's leaders and churches.

May we be one in this call and challenge to extend the Kingdom. May we see (*the Lord in this Plan*) *eye to eye...together*, and may God grant us trust, unity, and Holy Spirit empowerment to be successful in the task of *Mission Here And Now!*

*...How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! **The voice of thy watchmen! they lift up the voice, together do they sing; for they shall see eye to eye(the Lord), when Jehovah returneth to Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem; for Jehovah hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. Jehovah hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.***<sup>1</sup>