

The Aquila and Priscilla Team

*A Volunteer Partnership Ministry with Church Planters and
Mission Churches*



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Aquila & Priscilla Partners (A&P)

Description

Aquila and Priscilla Partners (A&Ps) are families, couples or individuals who come from another church and minister alongside the church planter in a mission church. A&Ps serve under the jurisdiction of Church Extension Ministries (CEM) of the Bible Fellowship Church (BFC). Aquila & Priscilla Partners offer their time, energy and financial support to a mission church. These partners in ministry may be sent out by a church and may be considered “home missionaries.”

Focus

A&Ps focus on assisting the church planter and the mission. They will become a part of the body life of the mission church, serving with their particular gifts.

Particulars

- A&Ps commit time, energy, financial support, and attendance to a mission church according to their availability.
- A&Ps are volunteers.
- A&Ps are assigned duties by the church planter that will assist the mission church in its development. The church planter will provide on-site supervision for the A&P.
- A&Ps work alongside the church planter and the people in the mission church in order to encourage and assist them.
- A&Ps discuss with the church planter a plan for involvement which will include length of stay at the mission church, gifts and abilities that can be used, and areas of interest.
- A&Ps can serve on the Administrative Teams (A-Teams) of the mission churches if asked.
- A&Ps should pay attention to the mission’s vision and goals. They should study the *BFC Church Planting Guide and Handbook*, the *TEAM Structure* booklet, and other materials CEM has available.
- A&Ps are invited to the CEM Training Days.
- A&Ps act as ambassadors from their sending churches. They keep the sending church informed about the mission church and encourage prayer from the sending church on behalf of the mission church they serve.

- A&Ps will become active in the evangelistic essentials of church planting: i.e. outreach, contacting and inviting people to the mission.
- A&Ps will count the cost to be involved with this partnership ministry. They should consider a five year commitment to the mission church they serve.

Items for Consideration

- **The Cost** – Church planting is the most challenging ministry in the Kingdom. To begin a church from nothing is a risky endeavor. Some key things to consider:

Are you flexible? First, if you have children, you may need to improvise your church involvements since most church plants do not begin programs until the second or third year. Second, church plants try varying ways to reach people with the Gospel and gather people into the mission. If one project does not work you must be prepared to try another. This may become frustrating for some people. (Rom.11:33; Isa. 2:3; 55:8)

Are you relational? Church planting is built on contacting and networking with people. This has several implications. First, personal evangelism is a big part of church planting. Second, going out into communities and contacting people is required. Third, spending time with people and building relationships is essential. Any relational ministry has disappointments and heartaches. (Mt.12:46-49)

Are you humble? Church plants are babies which need care and attention. This might mean taking on what some call menial tasks. It calls for sacrificing at times, being uncomfortable in rented facilities, doing without resources most churches take for granted and being patient while waiting for God to provide. (Phil.2:3)

Are you innovative and/or a hard worker? A church plant needs people who are entrepreneurs, able to start-up and complete projects. If you are not entrepreneurial, then you may be a hard worker who can carry out the work of a project. (II Thes. 3:7,8)

Are you a person of faith? Faith is seeing things not yet visible. (Heb.11:1) Will you take risks for the Kingdom?

- **The Commitment** – Church planting takes time. CEM has a five year plan for planting churches and it could take ten years to plant urban and ethnic churches. We cannot put a timeline on God but the point to be made is that a commitment of at least five years is needed. In the past we experienced people who committed to help a church plant then leave after two years. This was disappointing to the church planter and the remaining people in the mission church. Be prepared to make a significant commitment.
- **The Confirmation** – You must determine that this is God’s will for you. Pray and pray some more. Seek the counsel of your pastor, elders, Christian friends and CEM. Engage your

family in your prayers and discussions. Seek God's confirmation and be in agreement to take this step of faith in ministry.

- ***The Conclusion*** – There is no ministry more challenging and so rewarding as church planting. You will see people saved and disciplined. You will experience a baby church going through its stages as it becomes a self-supporting, mature, worshipping community of faith. Few things compares to the blessings of church planting.

The Steps to Take

#1 - Investigate the CEM website <www.churchplantingbfc.org>, and review the information listed, particularly the Aquila and Priscilla Team booklet.

#2 - Contact the director of CEM and make an appointment to meet with him.
E-mail – office@churchplantingbfc.org or call 610-769-4337.

#3 - Review the materials received from CEM. Begin praying for the Lord's leading. Discuss the matter with your pastor and have him contact the director of Church Extension if he has any questions. Recruit others to pray for you.

#4 - Complete the *Prospective Planter's Profile* and the *DCPI – Pre-assessment Profile*. These are available through CEM.

#5 - Consider where you might serve. Pray for the mission churches in which you have interest. Contact the church planter and plan to visit with him.

#6 - If you believe God wants you to serve as an A&P contact the director of CEM to arrange a second interview. The director will review your materials, discuss your investigation and confirm your commitment to serve as an A&P.

#7 - Contact your pastor and ask him to discuss with the elders of your church your desire to serve as an A&P.

#8 - Following approval by the director of CEM, contact the church planter and arrange for a meeting to discuss a plan for serving at the mission church.

#9 - If the elders of your church are in favor of you serving as an A&P, ask the church to arrange a commissioning service in coordination with the director of CEM (See format included in this booklet).

#10 - CEM will make regular contacts with you and review your ministry, as well as assist you with your service at the mission church.

Now – Go and serve the King of Kings!

THE COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR A CHURCH PLANTER

(This same format can be used and adjusted for the commissioning of an Aquila & Priscilla team)

1. **PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES** - (Pastor brings a brief intro and history of the planter (A&P).
2. **TESTIMONY FROM THE PLANTER (A&P)** - Brief description of how God called them to this ministry.
3. **CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION** - (The Pastor/Elder/Mission Committee Chairman, etc.)
 - **Question** - Do you recognize the call and commissioning of our Lord to _____ (Mission Church)?
 - **Response** - We (I) do.
 - **Question** - Do you promise as members of this congregation to pray for _____ (Church Planter or A&P) on a regular basis?
 - **Response** - We (I) do.
 - **Question** - Do you promise to faithfully give financial and material support to assist the church planting Mission to which the Holy Spirit has called them (him or her)?
 - **Response** - We (I) do.
4. **CHARGE TO THE CANDIDATE (S)** - (Church Extension director (or rep from Church Extension).
 - **Question** - (Church planter or A&P) _____, do you believe in one God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and do you confess anew the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, and acknowledge Him as Head over all things to the Church, which is His Body?
 - **Response** - We (I) do.
 - **Question** - Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and life?
 - **Response** - We (I) do.
 - **Question** - Do you submit to the supreme authority of our Lord Jesus Christ and His commissioning of His Church to make disciples of every tongue, tribe and nation, and do you gladly receive this commission, trusting in His strength, determined to ever obey His commands?
 - **Response** - We (I) do.
 - **Question** - Do you promise to be faithful in prayer, the study of the Scriptures, to labor in love and loyalty with your fellow workers in building up the Church of Christ through the means of evangelism and church planting, walking worthy of your high calling in word and deed?
 - **Response** - We (I) do.

5. **PRAYERS OF DEDICATION** - (BFC pastors, elders and board members from Church Extension will lay hands on candidate(s). Two or three men will pray and then pastor will close.)

6. **HYMN OF RESPONSE**

7. **BENEDICTION** - (Pastor)

ACTION ITEMS: