

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

Becoming a Church
Planting Hub

Seventh-day
Adventist Church™

North New South Wales





INTRODUCTION

When God blessed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He told them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” So, from the very beginning, God’s blessings resulted in multiplication. One time when Jesus had been teaching all day, the people who had been listening to Him were tired and hungry. Taking a small boy’s lunch, Jesus said a blessing, and then multiplied those loaves and fish so that more than 5,000 people were able to go home physically full and spiritually satisfied. Clearly, God’s blessings are closely linked with multiplication and sharing these blessings with others.

At some point in time, every church began as a church plant. Somewhere, sometime, someone had a vision for multiplying their church family and launching your church, before your church even existed! This mission-focused team had the courage and made the sacrifice to step out in faith so that your church could be started. You have been blessed through their vision, generosity and sacrifice. Would you like to be part of Jesus’ vision to grow His kingdom and bless others through planting more Seventh-day Adventist churches?

Sven Östring
Director of Church Planting
NNSW Conference





DO YOU DREAM ABOUT THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH BECOMING A THRIVING MOVEMENT AGAIN?

Deep down, do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to step out in faith so that more people can hear the good news about Jesus and belong to a new church family near them? Your church can grow the Seventh-day Adventist movement by becoming a multiplying church!

"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."

Luke

"As churches are established, it should be set before them that it is even from among them that people must be taken to carry the truth to others and raise new churches."

Ellen White



"By multiplying disciples and churches, we can accomplish far more in one lifetime than by simply building the biggest church possible."

Ralph Moore

"God calls his leaders, not to a platform to build a great ministry for themselves, but to an altar where they die unto themselves. This means sending out our best with abandon."

J.D. Greear



What if every Seventh-day Adventist disciple were committed to making another disciple who is making other disciples?



What if every Seventh-day Adventist church in NSW were committed to planting another church that is planting other churches?

Imagine becoming a disciple-making, church planting movement again!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF MAKING
THIS VISION BECOME A REALITY?**



OUR CHURCH IS STRUGGLING AND NOT VERY HEALTHY.

We should focus on first helping our existing church become healthier and grow. Why would we consider planting another church right now?

***“Where there is no vision,
the people perish.”***

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

01

It is spiritually valuable and healthy to recognise that God's vision for His kingdom includes planting more churches in your area.

02

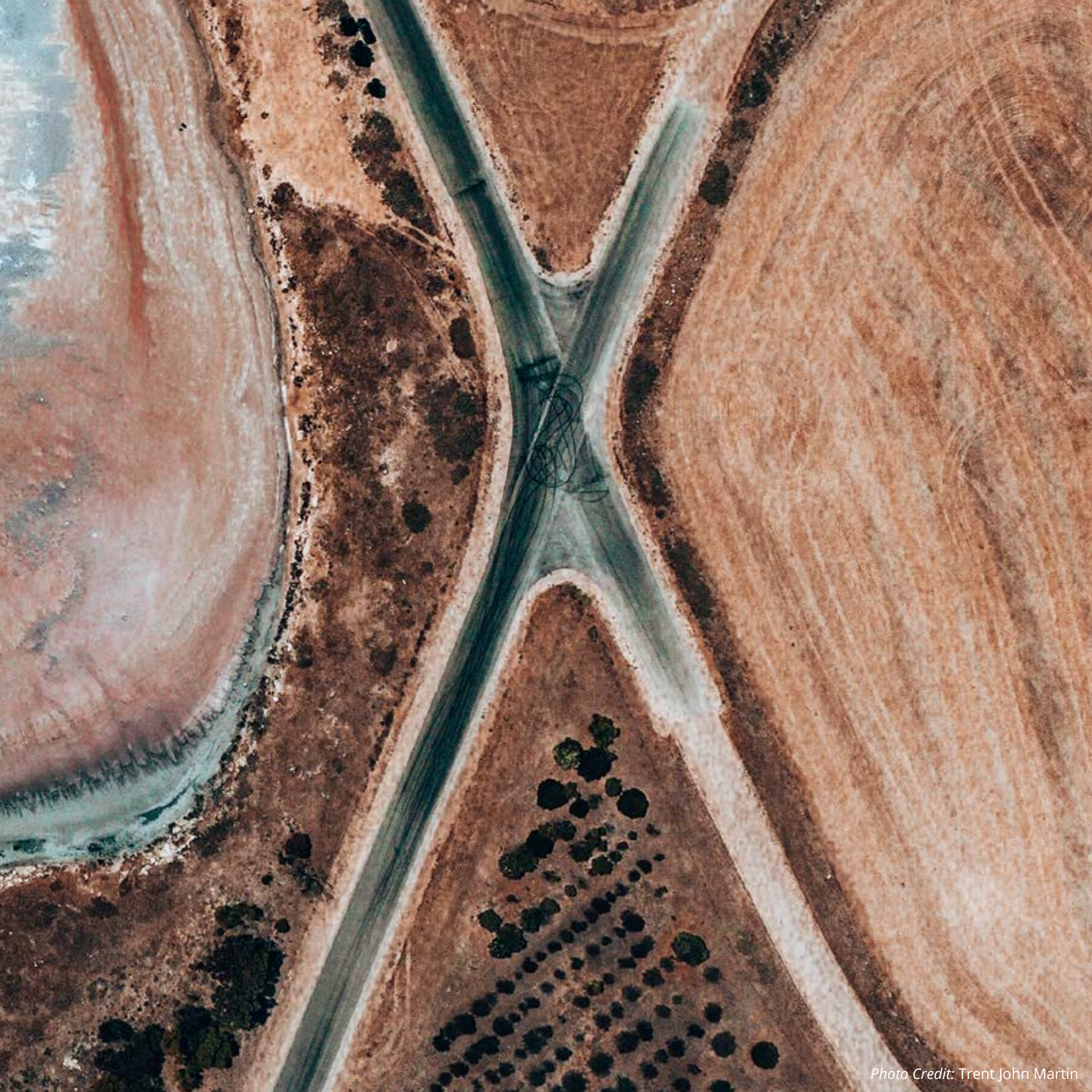
Innovative and mission-focused leaders will be attracted to and empowered in your church if you have a bigger vision of becoming a church planting hub.

03

God blesses generosity, including being generous and giving away your best leaders and members. The truth is that you can never out-give God!

04

When your vision and strategic plan includes specific goals that will be achieved within a specific time frame through the power of the Holy Spirit, you are much more likely to actually reach these goals. This includes church planting goals.



THE TALE OF TWO CITIES

"Once upon a time, there were two city churches..."

JERUSALEM

The church in Jerusalem had amazing teaching, worship and fellowship.
(Acts 2:42-47)

The church in Jerusalem stayed in the same place—it took significant persecution to scatter the members. Even then, it was ironic that the apostles (the "sent-ones") still stayed back in Jerusalem!
(Acts 8:1)

By 70 AD, the church in Jerusalem no longer existed.

ANTIOCH

The church in Antioch had a very multi-cultural congregation.
(Acts 13:1)

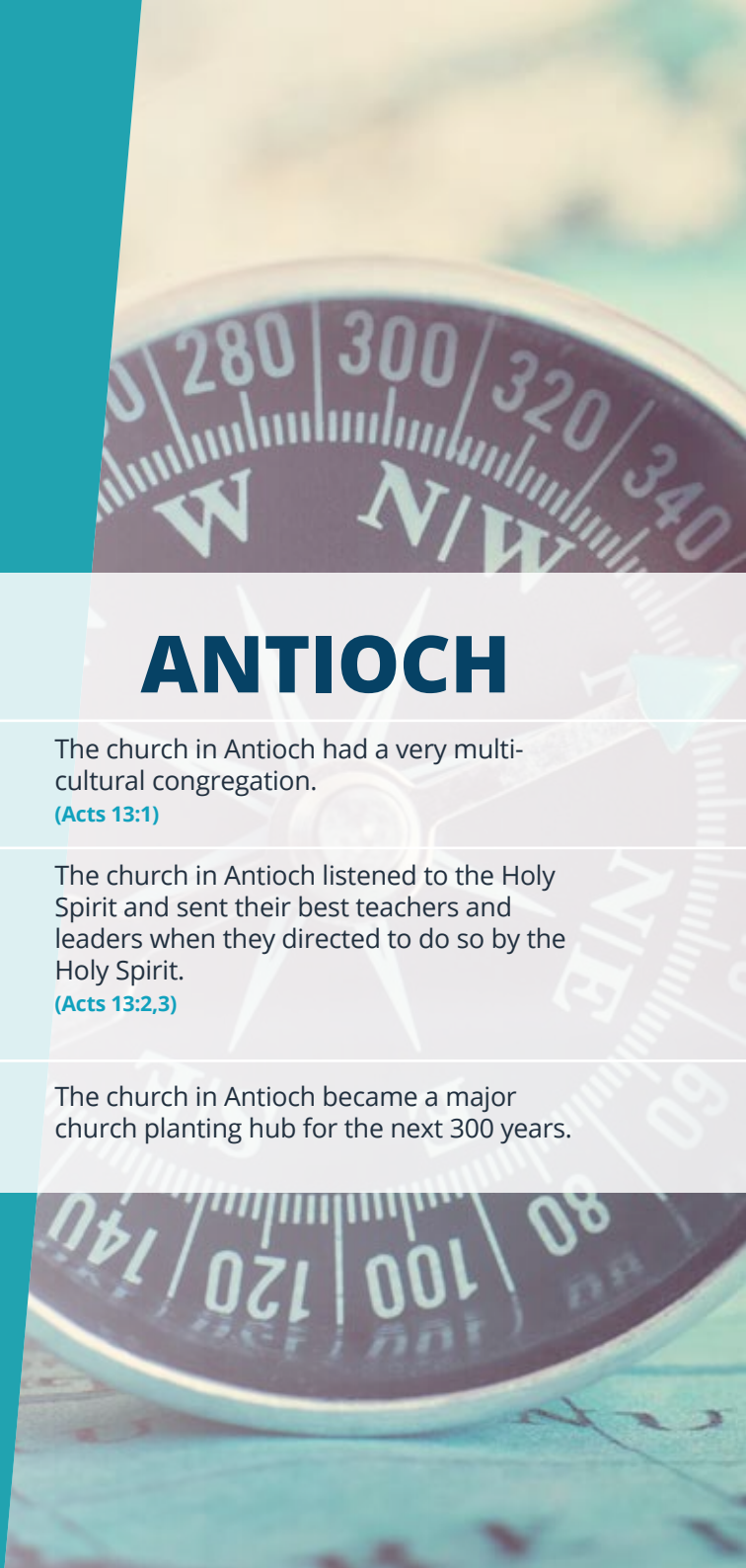
The church in Antioch listened to the Holy Spirit and sent their best teachers and leaders when they directed to do so by the Holy Spirit.
(Acts 13:2,3)

The church in Antioch became a major church planting hub for the next 300 years.

Which example would you like to follow?

JERUSALEM or ANTIOCH

Why?









SO, HOW CAN WE BECOME A MULTIPLYING CHURCH THAT IS PLANTING MORE CHURCHES?

There are 5 key strategic initiatives that you can put in place so that you can become a church planting hub:

01 PRAY

02 COMMUNICATE THE VISION

03 MAKE DISCIPLES

04 DEVELOP LEADERS

05 COMMIT FINANCIALLY

Church Initiative 1

PRAY

When Jesus sent out His disciples to start new churches, the first thing He asked them to do is pray:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Luke 20:2 (ESV)

Start specifically praying that God would do the following things in your church:

- Pour out His Holy Spirit upon your church
- Grow your local church through community service, evangelism and discipleship
- Open the hearts of people in your church to the idea and vision of planting more churches
- Raise up mission-focused leaders who can lead new churches
- Build one or more church planting teams within your church

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)









Church Initiative 2

COMMUNICATE THE VISION

People are attracted to an inspiring vision.

It is important that you identify God's preferred future for your church and express this vision in a clear and compelling way. It is also important to communicate your vision clearly and frequently. The reality is that there is a process called "vision leakage", which means that vision can leak out of the minds and hearts of people in your church if you don't communicate the vision regularly.

The steps that you can take are:

01 DEVELOP A VISION

With your leadership team, pray that God would give you a simple and clear vision of becoming a church planting hub.

02 COMMUNICATE YOUR VISION

Communicate your vision personally to individuals, couples, and families, and publicly through banners, bulletins and social media.

03 REGULARLY AND CONSISTENTLY

Regularly and consistently communicate your vision in leadership meetings and sermons.

Church Initiative 3

MAKE DISCIPLES

When Jesus returned to heaven, His specific directions to His disciples was to go and make disciples:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19,20 (ESV)

This is the mission that Jesus has given us.

When we become really effective at making true disciples, then the result will be that our established churches will grow and we will also plant new churches as well.

It is important to know that the Greek word ἔθνη (*ethne*), which is usually translated as “nations”, actually means people groups. These are groups of people that have something in common and are connected relationally, because of the suburb they live in, the business they work in or what they enjoy doing in their spare time. Jesus is calling you to make disciples in the people groups around you!

Reflection Question:

What does a healthy disciple look like? What spiritual qualities and habits do you need to cultivate in people so that they become more dedicated and fruitful followers of Jesus?

Photo Credit: Trent John Martin





IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHURCH THINKS THROUGH AND ESTABLISHES AN EFFECTIVE DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY:

Discipleship Stage

Discipleship Initiatives

Connect

How are you going to effectively connect with people in the community?

-
-
-
-

Win

How are you going to lead people to make an intentional decision to follow Jesus Christ?

-
-
-
-

Build

How are you going to build new Adventist disciples in their faith in Jesus?

-
-
-
-

Train

How are you going to train missional Adventist leaders to grow and multiply your church?

-
-
-
-

Send

How are you going to intentionally send mission-focused Adventist leaders to plant more Seventh-day Adventist churches?

-
-
-
-



94% *know* **OF CHURCHES**
THAT THEY NEED TO DEVELOP LEADERS

25% *have* **OF CHURCHES**
IMPLEMENTED A PLAN TO DEVELOP LEADERS

A person is captured mid-jump, clearing a gap between two large, reddish-brown rock formations. The person is silhouetted against a bright, cloudy sky. The rocks are rugged and layered, with some greenery at the base.

Church Initiative 4

DEVELOP LEADERS

Your church will never grow beyond the current leadership capacity of your church.

So, how you can develop more visionary and missional leaders in your church? What's your vision for potential leaders in your church?



You need to implement a leadership development pathway in your church. You can then identify potential leaders and develop them into the leaders that God has created them to be.

"Churches that have an intentional leadership development plan are far more likely to multiply in the next five years than churches that don't."

Daniel Im

Church Initiative 5

COMMIT FINANCIALLY

Your church may have caught the vision for planting more churches and think it is a great idea. Like children, though, church plants need resources to be able to survive. This includes leaders, team members and financial resources.

A multiplying church that financially supports a church plant over a period of time is more invested in its ongoing growth and development. When you make a commitment to financially support a church plant, the NSW Conference will also make a commitment to support the church plant too.

We recommend that you cast the vision of committing this amount of your local church offerings to a church planting budget line:

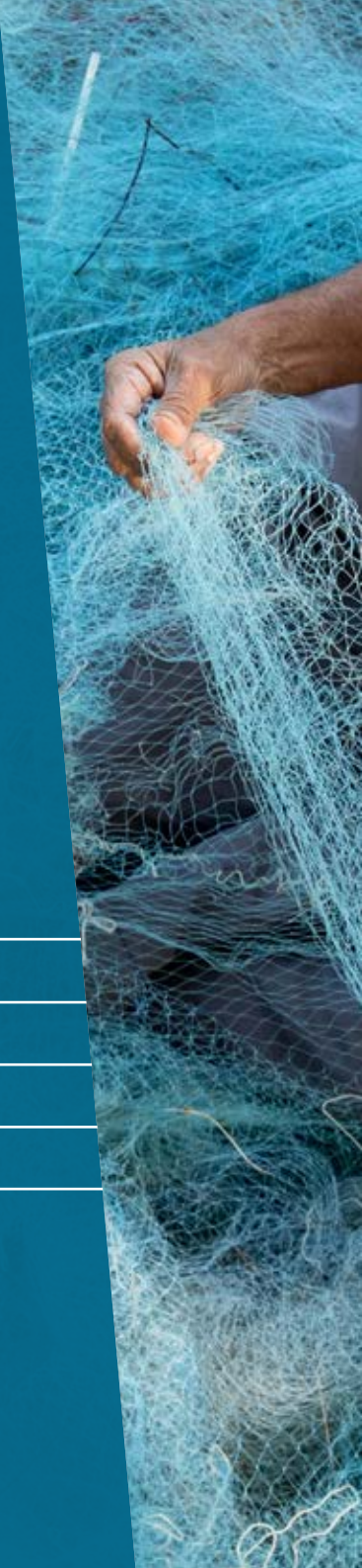
Commit
10% *of your local church offerings each year to church planting*

For a specific church plant project, we recommend that you support them using this sliding scale:

Year	Percentage*
1	10%
2	8%
3	6%
4	4%
5	2%

*Percentage of your annual local church offerings

It is important that a church plant becomes financially sustainable. This sliding scale allows a church plant that you are supporting to gradually become financially self-sustaining. Also, this sliding scale gives your church the opportunity to start planning to plant another new church in 4-5 years.





***"When we withheld treasure,
we discovered we withheld our
hearts too."***

Ralph Moore



TIMELINE FOR MULTIPLICATION

The timeline for your church to become a multiplying church will depend on the health of your church and the number of potential missional leaders in your church. However, this timeline will give you an example of what your timeline may look like:

0-6 months

1. Establish a prayer network that meets regularly
2. Develop a vision for multiplication
3. Develop a discipleship strategy
4. Identify and address church health issues

6-12 months

1. Continue prayer focus
2. Communicate the vision of multiplication
3. Implement your evangelism and discipleship strategy
4. Implement your leadership development pathway
5. Establish a church planting budget line and start dedicating a percentage of your local church offering to the budget

1-2 years

1. Form a church planting team
2. Plan leadership succession within your established church
3. Allocate financial support for church plant

2-3 years

1. Commission and launch the church plant
2. Form another church plant team



"Nothing will so arouse a self-sacrificing zeal and broaden and strengthen the character as to engage in work for others. Many professed Christians, in seeking church relationship, think only of themselves. They wish to enjoy church fellowship and pastoral care. They become members of large and prosperous churches, and are content to do little for others. In this way they are robbing themselves of the most precious blessings. Many would be greatly benefited by sacrificing their pleasant, ease-conducting associations. They need to go where their energies will be called out in Christian work and they can learn to bear responsibilities.

Trees that are crowded closely together do not grow healthfully and sturdily. The gardener transplants them that they may have room to develop. A similar work would benefit many of the members of large churches. They need to be placed where their energies will be called forth in active Christian effort. They are losing their spiritual life, becoming dwarfed and inefficient, for want of self-sacrificing labor for others. Transplanted to some missionary field, they would grow strong and vigorous.

But none need wait until called to some distant field before beginning to help others. Doors of service are open everywhere. All around us are those who need our help. The widow, the orphan, the sick and the dying, the heartsick, the discouraged, the ignorant, and the outcast are on every hand.

We should feel it our special duty to work for those living in our neighborhood. Study how you can best help those who take no interest in religious things. As you visit your friends and neighbors, show an interest in their spiritual as well as in their temporal welfare. Speak to them of Christ as a sin-pardoning Saviour. Invite your neighbors to your home, and read with them from the precious Bible and from books that explain its truths. Invite them to unite with you in song and prayer. In these little gatherings, Christ Himself will be present, as He has promised, and hearts will be touched by His grace.

"AS YOU VISIT YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, SHOW AN INTEREST IN THEIR SPIRITUAL AS WELL AS IN THEIR TEMPORAL WELFARE."

Church members should educate themselves to do this work. This is just as essential as to save the benighted souls in foreign countries. While some feel the burden for souls afar off, let the many who are at home feel the burden of precious souls who are around them, and work just as diligently for their salvation."

Ministry of Healing 151-152.

Level 5

MULTIPLYING CHURCH

"You are the children of those prophets, and you are included in the covenant God promised to your ancestors. For God said to Abraham, 'Through your descendants all the families on earth will be blessed.'"

Acts 3:25

Status Requirements for obtaining Multiplying Church status in the NNSW Conference Support

1. Inclusion as a recognised Multiplying Church of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the NNSW Conference.
2. Specialised training for becoming a multiplying church.
3. Coaching support for church leadership team in the areas of church health, evangelism and developing a leadership development pathway.

Status Requirements

1. An intentional strategy to connect with God regularly in prayer as a church.
2. The church has completed an NCD assessment in the last 12 months with a minimum average score of 50, a min-max difference to be less than 10 and has developed a strategic plan to address areas where the church needs to grow.
3. The church has an intentional and clear discipleship strategy that will substantially increase its annual number of baptisms by at least 7% of its current attendance each year.
4. Where applicable, the church participates and collaborates with other churches in the local region in joint worship events, evangelistic projects and the development of missional strategies.
5. In its vision and strategic plan, the church has included a strategic initiative to plant one or more church plants that also have the vision to multiply.
6. The church has implemented a leadership development pathway to develop new leaders for both the established church and the church plant(s).
7. The church board has approved a dedicated budget line for new church plant(s) that allocates a specified percentage of all local church offerings.
8. The church makes regular public calls for people to join their church planting team(s).
9. The church has a process for commissioning and sending church planting teams.
10. The church is committed to providing ongoing support for its church plant(s), including receiving regular reports from its plant(s), participating in combined worship events and evangelistic projects, and providing leadership support where needed.







FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The NNSW Conference is committed to partnering with churches that have the vision to become multiplying churches. This partnership includes providing financial support for church plants. To receive this financial assistance, a church plant needs to develop and submit their strategic plan and budget to the NNSW Conference Church Planting Department. Financial support will be allocated based on the vision and strategic alignment of the church planting project.

It is important to keep in mind that the NNSW Conference can only commit to contributing part of the total budget. Also, the Conference expects that the budget will make it clear that the Conference contribution will transition down to zero by the end of the budget.

Questions?

CONTACT US NOW!

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