

# CHURCH PLANTING

Leading on the  
Edge of Mission

Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

*North New South Wales*



# INTRODUCTION

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When Jesus looked over the towns and villages that were spread out around Lake Galilee and Judea, He saw that the harvest was plentiful. He understood that, deep down in their hearts, people longed to be truly free. He spiritually sensed that they wanted to be reassured that their Father in heaven loved them unconditionally. He could also see that people longed for their lives to be supernaturally transformed. Jesus knew that the best place for people to grow spiritually is in the environment of a healthy church family.

That's why Jesus told His disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into His fields." That call is still just as powerful and needed today. Jesus is calling you into the massive spiritual harvest in NSW to connect with people and lead them into a saving relationship with Him. He is calling you to make disciples and start new churches. Would you like explore Jesus' call and vision for planting new churches?

Sven Östring  
*Director of Church Planting*  
NSW Conference



A satellite view of the Earth, showing the continents of Africa and Australia. The image is taken from space, with the dark blue of the oceans and the lighter colors of the landmasses. The lighting suggests a low sun position, creating long shadows and highlighting the textures of the land.

## DO YOU FEEL DRAWN TO THE VISION OF CHURCH PLANTING?

Have you sensed the Holy Spirit calling you to step out and start a new Seventh-day Adventist church? You are standing at the doorway of an amazing journey of faith! This spiritual adventure goes back to the very beginning of the Christian faith and the Seventh-day Adventist movement!

*"My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else."*

Apostle Paul

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*"Upon all who believe, God has placed the burden of raising up churches."*

Ellen White

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*"The single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting new churches."*

Peter Wagner

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*"The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for 1) the numerical growth of the body of Christ in any city, and 2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city."*

Tim Keller

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A person wearing a white shirt is being baptized in blue water. The person's head is tilted back, and water is splashing over their face. The background is a bright blue sky.

IMAGINE HAVING A GROWING NUMBER OF...

**NEW  
DISCIPLES**

**NEW  
CHURCHES**

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**EVERY YEAR IN NNSW**

Would this be a vision to  
pray for and work towards?

Do you feel called to be part of this  
disciple-making process?

Would you like to be part of making  
this vision become a reality?





# WE ALREADY HAVE MANY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCHES.

Some of them have quite a few empty seats on Sabbath morning. So, why would we want to start new churches?

***"New wine is stored in  
new wineskins."***

Matthew 9:17 (NLT)

**01**

There are many unreached communities and people groups who can only be reached through new churches.

**02**

Church plants that have a clear mission focus can create a welcoming culture that is attractive to spiritual seekers.

**03**

New churches give up-and-coming leaders opportunities to grow and develop in their leadership.

**04**

Our Seventh-day Adventist movement needs to keep planting new churches to keep growing.

It is also important that Jesus cares about all of our churches, even if they are struggling. Keep in mind that the NNSW Conference is committed to helping all churches become healthy and grow.













## WHAT'S THE RIGHT REASON TO START A NEW CHURCH?

Are there any wrong reasons for wanting to start a new church?

*"And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure."*  
James 4:3 (NLT)



**Because you sincerely believe that the Holy Spirit is calling you to reach a new group of people in the community.**



**Because you are frustrated, upset or angry with the pastor or elders in your current church, so you want to get out and start your own church.**



**Because you don't like the worship style in your current church and would like to start an alternative worship service elsewhere.**

*"And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for."*  
1 John 5:14,15 (NLT)






## **JESUS SENT OUT HIS TEAM OF CHURCH PLANTERS WITH THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS IN *LUKE 10:1-12***

1. See the community through Jesus' eyes—there is an abundant spiritual harvest!
2. Pray that the Lord would send more missional leaders to join your team who is heading out into the community with you.
3. Pray that the Holy Spirit would connect you with people of peace in the community who are spiritually open.
4. Eat with people of peace like Jesus did.
5. Pray that God would heal people—spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically.
6. Tell people how much God cares about them.
7. Share with people what the kingdom of God is like.





"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with people as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'."

*The Ministry of Healing, 143.*

**The steps that Jesus used:**

1. Mingled with people as one who desired their good.
2. Showed His sympathy for them.
3. Ministered to their needs.
4. Won their confidence.
5. Called them to "Follow Me."







# WHO?

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It is really important that you spend time praying about the group of people that the Holy Spirit is calling you to reach. Of course, church plants need to welcome everyone who wants to learn more about Jesus. Having a clear focus, though, brings clarity to the mission of your new church:

- You can clearly identify the needs of the people that you are called to reach.
- You can intentionally recruit team leaders who match the demographic of the group that the Holy Spirit is calling you to focus on.
- You can create a church culture that the people that you are reaching will feel attracted to and comfortable in.

# THERE ARE THREE ESSENTIAL AREAS THAT YOUR TEAM NEEDS TO FOCUS ON AS YOU BEGIN

## 01 DEVELOP YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY

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- What is the picture that God has in mind for your church plant?
- What will your church plant look like in 10 years time?
- What strategy are you going to follow to make disciples?
- How can you build the vision of planting many churches into the DNA of your church plant?

## 02 BUILD YOUR TEAM

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You can build your team by intentionally recruiting people such as:

- Friends and family who have a heart for mission
- People who are actively involved in doing Bible studies
- People who match the demographic of the people you are aiming to reach

## 03 ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

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It is important that you are engaging with your community right from the start:

- Prayer walk around your community
- Do a demographic study of your community using online information or by doing door-to-door community surveys
- Connect with influential gatekeepers in your community, like school principals, police officers, librarians and city councillors
- Join or start groups that are meeting the needs of your community, for example, that are focused on kids, health/wellness, sports, music, hobbies/crafts or spiritual interest groups
- Connect with people in the community on social media like Facebook, Instagram and MeetUp







## IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE

in reaching people and leading them to become followers of Jesus, it is important to have a good understanding of the discipleship strategy that you are going to follow. Use this framework to develop your discipleship strategy:





**Strategic  
Area****Strategic Initiatives****Connect**

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

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**Win**

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

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**Build**

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

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**Train**

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

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**Send**

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

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# THE TIMELINE FOR YOUR CHURCH PLANT

will depend on who you are trying to reach and the size of your team. However, this example timeline will give you an overview of what your timeline may look like:

0-3 months

3-6 months

6-9 months

9-12 months

Meet weekly together as a small group to plan how you will:

1. Develop your vision and strategy
2. Build your team
3. Engage with your community

Start meeting as a house church on Sabbath once a month and plan your transition to weekly Sabbath worship services.

Plan systems for your church plant including:

1. Discipleship strategy
2. Guest follow up
3. Communication system
4. Financial management
5. Leadership development
6. Evaluation system
7. Event planning and your calendar

Launch weekly Sabbath worship services for your church plant.

Plan an evangelistic program that will invite people to make a decision to follow Jesus.

## Level 1

# PRE-CHURCH PLANT EVANGELISTIC WORK

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*"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Matthew 28:18-20

### **Potential Support for Pre-Church Plant Evangelistic Work (PEW) in the NNSW Conference**

#### **Potential Support**

Pre-Church Evangelistic Work (PEW) can be recognised by the Church Plant Task Force and receive allocated funding for reaching new people groups prior to the establishment of a group, church plant or company. Grants of up to \$2,500 per year, per location, can be allocated at the discretion of the Church Plant Task Force.

#### **Eligibility for Support**

Worthiness for the evangelistic project would be required to be met to the satisfaction of the Church Plant Task Force and the parent body overseeing the project (either a mother church or the NNSW Conference).

#### **The following criteria would be measured to determine eligibility for support:**

- Perceived potential for the PEW project to lead to a future church being planted
- Leadership of the project
- Alignment with Adventist mission and values
- Financial management of the PEW project
- Compliance with AdSAFE requirements













## Level 2

# CHURCH PLANT

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*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Acts 1:8

### **Status Requirements for obtaining Church Plant status in the NNSW Conference Support**

1. Inclusion into the NNSW Conference as a recognised Church Plant of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in NNSW Conference.
2. Training for the Church Plant leader, treasury, clerk, AdSAFE leaders.
3. Basic church plant training (as defined by the Church Planting Task Force).
4. Allocation of a NNSW Conference appointed leader for monthly coaching of group leader.
5. Eligibility to apply for Church Planting and Field Evangelism Funding.
6. Invitation to regional planting gatherings and regional area ministers meetings.

### **Status Requirements**

1. The Church Plant adheres to the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and is supportive of the NNSW Conference and its mission.
2. Nomination of a Church Plant Leader, who has been approved by the NNSW Executive Committee (ExCom), that will oversee the running of the Group.
3. The appointed Church Plant Leader commits to a monthly coaching session with an appointed conference leader.
4. The Church Plant team is committed to attending annual church planting training facilitated by the NNSW Conference.
5. Creation of a church plant strategic plan that has been approved by the Church Plant Task Force which demonstrates healthy goals and strategies for evangelism, service and discipleship.
6. Ongoing engagement, outreach and evangelism in the community.
7. A pathway to launch weekly Sabbath worship services.
8. The Church Plant commits to an annual NCD survey (the NNSW Conference covers the expense of the first survey).
9. The Church Plant Leader returns regular reports to their coach and the NNSW Conference.
10. Nominations of a church clerk, treasurer and AdSAFE coordinator who have been approved by the NNSW ExCom.
11. The return of tithe and offerings in accordance with the practices of a regular organised church.
12. The Church Plant fulfils AdSAFE requirements.
13. The clerk returns required reports.
14. ExCom approval of the Church Plant and inclusion into the NNSW Conference as a recognised Church Plant.

**Note:** Reporting forms can be downloaded from [nsw.adventist.org.au/ChurchPlanting](https://nsw.adventist.org.au/ChurchPlanting).

Level 3

## COMPANY

*"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders."*

Acts 2:42,43

### **Status requirements for obtaining Company status in the NNSW Conference Support**

1. Inclusion as a recognised Company of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the NNSW Conference.
2. All of the entitlements of Church Plant Level Status.

### **Status Requirements**

1. All of the Church Plant Status requirements being met.
2. 30 baptised members.
3. 30+ average attendance for the previous three months.
4. \$25,000 in projected annual tithe.
5. Assigned coach for Company Leader.















Level 4

# CHURCH

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*"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."*

Hebrews 10:24,25

## **Status requirements for obtaining Church status in the NNSW Conference Establishment**

1. Inclusion as a recognised Church of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the NNSW Conference.

## **Status Requirements**

1. All of Company Status Requirements being met.
2. 55 baptised members.
3. 60+ average attendance for previous three months.
4. 10+ individuals have joined by baptism or profession of faith since the company was organised.
5. Church has held at least one public evangelistic series.
6. \$50,000 in projected annual tithe.
7. Completion of the NCD survey.
8. Completion of a review with the NNSW Conference's Director of Church Planting or another designated individual.
9. Assigned coach for Pastor or Lay Church Leader.
10. A functional strategic plan that includes effective evangelism and discipleship.

## Level 5

# MULTIPLYING CHURCH

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*"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 mother church.
3. Coaching support for church leadership team in the areas of church health, evangelism and developing a leadership pipeline.

### **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 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 pipeline 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

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The NNSW Conference has a vision of becoming a church planting movement, so it is committed to supporting new church plants. The most effective way for you to plant a new church is have a mother church to support you. The Conference strongly encourages mother churches to provide financial assistance for their new church plants. The Conference will also partner with mother churches to sponsor church plants. Contact the local church pastor of your mother church and the Director of Church Planting at the Conference to let them know your vision and plans. You will need to develop and submit your strategic plan and 5-year budget to receive financial support.

It is important to keep in mind that financial support will be allocated based on the vision and strategic alignment of the project and 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 five-year budget.

# HELPFUL TIPS FOR FORMS AND REPORTS

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- All of the church planting application forms and templates for reports, are available from the NSW Church Planting webpage.
- Share stories how the Holy Spirit is working powerfully through your team and in your community.
- Include pictures of your church plant—a picture is worth a thousand words!
- If you need help filling out the forms, talk to your coach or the Director of Church Planting.







Questions?

**CONTACT US NOW!**

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112 Lake Road, Wallsend NSW 2287

(02) 4951 8088

[NNSWChurchPlanting@adventist.org.au](mailto:NNSWChurchPlanting@adventist.org.au)

[nsw.adventist.org.au/ChurchPlanting](https://nsw.adventist.org.au/ChurchPlanting)

