



▷ **522 NEW CHURCHES IN  
5 YEARS HAVE TAUGHT US** ▷

- ***Local Churches Will Start Churches***
- ***Starting New Churches Is the Most Effective Method of Evangelism***
  - ***Nazarenes Have a Heart for New Church Evangelism***
- ***Smaller Churches Can Sponsor New Churches***
  - ***Kingdom Motivation Is What Drives Sponsorship***
  - ***District Superintendent's Leadership Is Key to Local Sponsorship***
    - ***Assessment Centers and Colleges of New Church Knowledge Increase New Church Leaders' Effectiveness***

# NEWSTART FACTS FOR MAKING DISTRICTS MISSIONAL

One of the main tasks of the district superintendent is to inspire pastors to lead their churches to effective expansion of the kingdom of God. Here's what we know about making districts missional in starting new churches.

## ***Local Sponsorship Enables Districts to Grow Faster***

- ▷ ***Ministry occurs exclusively at the local church level.*** Denominational structure, both general and district, exists for the purpose of supporting local churches in kingdom work.
- ▷ ***The district provides a network of relationships and resources.*** "A little encouragement can spark a great accomplishment."
- ▷ ***The district superintendent is a vision maker.*** A district superintendent might say to one of his pastors, "Have you thought about sponsoring a new church in that new community?" In many instances the need for a new church in an adjacent community will ignite spiritual fervor in the congregation.
- ▷ ***District growth is the result of starting new churches.*** A district superintendent's long-term effectiveness will be linked directly to the number of new churches that are started on the district.
- ▷ ***Effectiveness comes from working through the local church.*** Because ministry occurs only at the local church level, district superintendents will need to work through local churches to accomplish district goals.

## ***Pastors, Laity, and Congregations Feed What They Create***

- ▷ ***Laity make a wonderful support team for a new local church.*** Such simple matters as baby-sitting for the pastor's children or food preparation for a group function are well within the capability of laypersons in a sponsor church, but are almost impossible for a district organization.
- ▷ ***Sponsor church ownership is the foundation of a successful NewStart.*** A missional district superintendent realizes the multiplication of ministry depends on inspiring others to participate.
- ▷ ***There is a vast difference between helping and sponsoring.*** Participation means helping the district accomplish its task. Sponsorship means taking responsibility for the challenges, activities, and rewards of getting a new church going.
- ▷ ***You cannot have your cake and eat it too!*** Additional churches mean more members, larger attendance, and greater financial resources.
- ▷ ***The person in charge is sovereign.*** Either sponsorship carries with it authority and accountability or it isn't personally challenging, and no pastor is going to risk displeasing the district superintendent by meddling in his business.

## ***Local Church Sponsorship Increases District Missional Spirit***

- ▷ ***Sponsorship and control are joined at the heart.*** Who is finally in control of the new church will determine who makes the greatest investment and who stands by the project through thick and thin.
- ▷ ***Do the math.*** Many more new churches can be started by local church sponsorship than by district sponsorship, and they can be started at a faster rate.

- ▷ **Mission churches make a district missional.** As the district superintendent inspires pastors and laity to take both the initiative and the responsibility for starting new churches, a widespread missional force will emerge.
- ▷ **Win-Win!** Everyone in the entire organization wins really big when the district superintendent fills the role of inspiring pastors and local churches to become missional in both word and deed.

### ***Smaller Churches Yes—Mergers Questionable***

- ▷ **Small churches are beautiful.** Many Nazarenes, both lay and clergy, believe something needs to be done with the multitude of small, weak churches. But many people seem to greatly enjoy them.
- ▷ **The fellowship in small churches is great.** It is interesting to observe the apparent joy the people in small congregations have in assembling together. Whether the satisfaction is social or spiritual or both isn't clear. But it is very obvious they are glad to see each other and happy to be together.
- ▷ **One plus one usually equals one!** Typically, after two years, the merged congregation is no larger than the largest church involved in the merger.
- ▷ **Hang on to property.** When two churches merge the combined church keeps possession of both properties.
- ▷ **Resurrecting a dead church is a miracle too!** Across the years, various attempts at revitalization of weak churches have been attempted, in most cases without success.
- ▷ **Babies are better:** As a general rule, a new church will produce more favorable results than church mergers or attempted church resurrections.

### ***Organize District for Extensive Healthy Growth***

- ▷ **Strengthen the weak.** A significant responsibility of any district superintendent is to provide ongoing help and encouragement for all the churches on the district.
- ▷ **Coordinators and consultants are helping.** The task is so crucial to growth that someone needs to be attending to it on a regular basis.
- ▷ **Organizing mission zones is a powerful strategy.** District Superintendent Charles Zink has created nine mission areas. Two mission directors lead each area. Their task is: (1) to develop a clear mission vision and goals for new churches and growth, (2) to create a strong sense of connectedness and unity for the purpose of mission fulfillment in each area, and (3) to enhance the supportive network and fellowship in each area.
- ▷ **Small churches are sponsoring new churches.** Whenever someone proposes to engage in a mission, there is frequently someone else with money who wants to be a part of the mission.

### ***Sponsorship Plan Can Be Custom-Made for Each Church***

- ▷ **There is a form for determining significant sponsorship.** By following the step-by-step form, the pastor can determine if the church provided: (1) a number of attendees for the core group equal to 10 percent of the sponsor church membership, or (2) financial support equaling 2 percent of Raised for All Purposes, or (3) gifts in kind equaling 3 percent of the previous year's Raised for All Purposes. A church may qualify based on any of the three bases.
- ▷ **The sponsorship plan is flexible.** Smaller churches may not be able to give members to the core group but they may be able to contribute a sufficient amount of money or gifts in kind.

### ***Prime the Pump with District Financial Incentives***

- ▷ ***Provide financial incentives for sponsorship.*** Local churches are missional by nature, but it is still advisable to give them financial incentives for sponsoring new churches.
- ▷ ***Use the funds from the sale of disorganized churches.*** Many districts have funds from the proceeds of the sale of disorganized church properties.
- ▷ ***Home mission booster clubs raise funds for new churches.*** Many districts create “Booster Club” type organizations to help fund new church starts.
- ▷ ***Extended subsidies are not a good idea.*** The sooner a new church can function without financial subsidy the greater is its viability.
- ▷ ***No subsidy is one of the secrets of small church sponsorship.*** They find ways of getting the new church going and gathering financial support from within its own ministry context.

### ***Helping Churches Reach Beyond What They Are Able to Dream***

- ▷ ***Group sponsorship works well.*** In many instances two or more churches will cooperate to sponsor a new church.
- ▷ ***Some churches are sponsored across district boundaries.*** A nearby community that needs a new church may be on a different district from the sponsoring church.
- ▷ ***Many churches can start a new multicultural church.*** There is a continually increasing opportunity in America to do evangelism among minority groups.
- ▷ ***Mission offers the new and the daring.*** The very nature of mission generates anticipation. People generally are interested in anything new and intrigued by daring adventures.
- ▷ ***Mission is a magic word.*** While some are disenchanted with mission education and organization, few, if any, are disinterested in mission itself.
- ▷ ***Promote sponsorship at the annual home mission service.*** An annual home mission service at district assembly is a preferred time and method for generating excitement for starting new churches.
- ▷ ***Keep the promotion going all year long.*** To keep the excitement going throughout the year, regular promotion in publications and at district gatherings is important.
- ▷ ***Promotional ideas abound.*** Logos, giveaways, theme songs, web sites, contests, banquets, brochures, skits, and many other items are routinely used to maintain excitement for mission on the district.
- ▷ ***One district raised home mission funds through the NYI.*** In the 1950s and 1960s, before the division of the old Northern California District, the NYI (formerly NYPS) used to have an annual banquet at which they raised money to start new churches. It was one of the most exciting events on the district.

### ***Unique Resources: Assessment and College of NewStart Knowledge***

- ▷ ***Securing the right leader is the key to the success of a NewStart.*** If everything is just right for starting the new church, but the wrong leader is selected, the project is likely to falter or fail.
- ▷ ***Assessment Centers.*** They typically last four days to provide ample observation by multiple, trained assessors.
- ▷ ***The College of New Church Knowledge.*** The distinctive characteristic of this event is training in entrepreneurship.

- ▷ **There is value in being a denominational church.** The “college” also includes direction in beginning a denominationally connected church.
- ▷ **You can get an adequate overview of how to start a new church.** A third aspect of the “college” is training in the basics of starting a new church.
- ▷ **The logical leader may not be the right leader.** Unfortunately, a person considered the logical leader often lacks the required traits and abilities to be an effective leader of a new church.
- ▷ **Bring knowledge and desire together:** Obviously, the district superintendent has *Manual* authority and must approve the person who will be designated pastor of the new congregation.
- ▷ **Show me first your penny.** *Indeed, I have not any.* A common situation is the lack of any candidate for leadership of the new project.
- ▷ **Don't overlook gifted and highly capable lay leaders.** Highly capable lay leaders sometimes make outstanding leaders of new congregations.
- ▷ **Give serious consideration to women clergy as new church leaders.** The abilities required to form a new congregation are often native to women. Their intuition, compassion, and persistence serve them well in forming a new faith community.

### ***NewStart—a Plan for Starting Strong New Churches***

- ▷ **The plan worked but we hated it.** In the late 1970s and early 1980s it was common to hear new church advocates declare you could start a new church without any people or money.
- ▷ **The NewStart strategy is built on research.** (1) Stronger churches began with a core group of Nazarenes, and (2) they all had some financial support, and (3) the new church leader was experienced in ministry.
- ▷ **When it comes to core groups, bigger is better:** A core group of Nazarenes is recommended to give direction and stability to the new congregation.
- ▷ **A new church typically has a four-year window of opportunity.** Growth usually plateaus after the first four years, regardless of the circumstances under which a new church is started.
- ▷ **It is important to evaluate the progress of the NewStart.** A new group may report many worthwhile ministries and activities but unless they also report new converts and increasing attendance, it is in need of attention.
- ▷ **There is no set time for official organization to occur:** At what point in time a new congregation should be officially organized is a matter of question.
- ▷ **Don't force or prevent organization.** There is no denominational benefit or district advantage in early organization—as once was the case.
- ▷ **Just do it!** A district superintendent can organize practically anything he wants to.
- ▷ **Make it a celebration because it is really a Kingdom event.** What was once only a vision has become a reality. The risk and adventure has demonstrated the power of the gospel.
- ▷ **A district superintendent's job is spiritual too!** Like pastors exhorting their laity to witness, district superintendents encourage their churches to sponsor new churches. A district superintendent can count hundreds, even thousands of people who have come to Christ and the church as the result of his encouragement of starting new churches.

# A QUICK QUIZ TO CHECK OUR COMMON UNDERSTANDINGS

Check your knowledge of new church facts:

1. T F New churches are more likely to survive if they have a core group of at least 20.
2. T F District growth is the result of starting new churches.
3. T F “Ownership” is the essential ingredient of sponsorship.
4. T F All ministry is local.
5. T F Merging two weak churches will create one strong church.
6. T F Churches under 100 are not strong enough to sponsor a new church.
7. T F If a church receives an offering for a new church, they qualify for sponsor church status.
8. T F The growth of new churches usually plateaus after the first four years.
9. T F NewStart recommends returning to a sponsoring church all, or a major portion of their home mission budget.
10. T F The College of New Church Knowledge provides instruction in the principles of entrepreneurship.

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Key to T/F Quiz:	
1. False	6. False
2. True	7. False
3. True	8. True
4. True	9. True
5. False	10. True

# EXERCISES IN NEW CHURCH GOAL SETTING

The median number of new churches started by USA/Canada districts during the past 10 years was 2 (Excluding the districts that did not start any new churches). Calculate how many new churches your district will start based on past patterns.

New Church Goals Using <b>District Sponsorship</b> Method								
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Probable number of new churches based on past averages	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Projected goal of new churches for your district								

The following chart shows the number of churches by size categories on an actual district:

<b>Total churches on the district</b>	<b>63</b>
Number of churches 0 to 100 members	47
Number of churches 101 to 250 members	11
Number of churches 251 members and above	2

If this district were to use the **local** church sponsorship method for starting new churches, the chart below shows the number of new churches that could be started in 8 years:

Number of New Churches Possible Using <b>Local Church Sponsorship</b> Method		
If the 47 churches 0-100 were divided into 9 groups of 5 and each group started 1 new church in the eight-year period, the total number of new churches would be	If the 11 churches 101-250 started 1 new church every 4 years, the total number of new churches in eight years would be	If the 2 churches 251 and above started 1 new church every 2 years, the total number of new churches in eight years would be
<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>

The total number of new churches for the district would be 39.

Now calculate how many new churches can be started on your district using local church sponsorship:

How many churches on your district have an attendance of 100 or fewer? \_\_\_\_\_(A).

How many of your churches have an attendance between 101 and 250? \_\_\_\_\_(B).

How many of your churches have an attendance over 251?  
 \_\_\_\_\_(C).

During the 1997—2001 quadrennium there were 335 churches under 100 in attendance that were significantly involved in sponsoring a new church. The chart below is designed to calculate the number of new churches that could be started based on local church sponsorship according to size.

Enter the number of churches you have in each size category (A, B, and C) in column 1 of the chart below. Then divide each row by the number in column 2 and enter the result in column 3. Then multiply the number in column 3 times the number in column 4. Place the result in column 5. Total the numbers in column 5 and enter the total in the bottom box of column 5.

New Churches Goals for Your District Using Local Church Sponsorship Method					
Church Size Categories	Column 1 Number of existing churches	Column 2 Number of churches in sponsorship group	Column 3 Number of sponsoring units	Column 4 Sponsorship frequency	Column 5 Number of NewStarts
<b>A</b> <b>0-100</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>1</b>	
<b>B</b> <b>101-250</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	
<b>C</b> <b>251 and up</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>	

(D)\_\_\_\_\_ Enter here the number of churches you calculated you could begin using the district sponsorship model. (See chart p. 8.)

(E)\_\_\_\_\_ Enter here the number of churches you calculate in the chart above could be started by local church sponsorship. (See chart p. 9.)

(F) \_\_\_\_\_ Enter here the difference between (D) and (E).

This (F) shows the greater effectiveness of local church sponsorship.



**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
 HAS NEVER DISCOVERED A METHOD  
 OF EVANGELISM MORE EFFECTIVE  
 THAN STARTING NEW CHURCHES.**

# VISION CASTING FOR STARTING NEW CHURCHES

In the space provided below, make a list of the ways you can inspire the district as a whole, and individual churches, to adopt the philosophy of local church sponsorship and actually begin planning to sponsor a new church.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_



***“Go to the lost, confused people  
right here  
in the neighborhood.  
Tell them that the kingdom is here.  
Bring health to the sick.  
Raise the dead.  
Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons.  
You have been treated generously,  
so live generously.”  
—Matthew 10:6-8, TM***

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# NEW CHURCH FUNDING CALCULATION

The following exercise is a simple process to give you some idea of the amount and number of grants your district might be able to provide to help sponsoring churches start new churches.

Amount of income from Home Mission Budget \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount from "Booster Club" income \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Income from Home Mission investments \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other income available for Home Missions:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL FUNDS** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of present commitments:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL COMMITMENTS** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Difference between receipts and commitments \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF POSSIBLE GRANTS:**

\$ 5,000 Incentive Grants \_\_\_\_\_

\$10,000 Matching Grants \_\_\_\_\_

\$25,000 Start-Up Grants \_\_\_\_\_