

## Collaborative Planting

### A Massive Expansion of New Churches

If you are in any way involved in starting new churches you sense the anticipation that we are on the leading edge of something big; that God is at work through the starting of new churches and that we are in for a wild ride. Today, the churches being planted are not keeping up with the number of churches dying. We know there is no better way to evangelize than by planting dynamic, growing, reproducing churches. But simple addition will not complete the task. We need multiplication!

Massive church planting can happen in our lifetime, but it will take more than a small group of churches and organizations to get the job done. It will take a mobilization of thousands of churches willing to create a collaborative church planting movement.

As a result, a number of flagship churches and church planting organizations have united to suggest the following plan:

### The Idea

#### A Collaborative Network with Each Organization Maintaining Its Autonomy

- Four or more churches form a collaborative network and work together to plant a new church. Existing church planting organizations serve to support these networks and to help facilitate the establishment of new networks. Church planting organizations focus on planter care AND network care. Church planting organizations may choose to be one of the partners in the plant including providing financial grants and / or they may choose to serve in a leadership / coordination / facilitation role.
- The idea is for these grass roots networks to work collaboratively to raise up leaders, to provide financial resources, coaching, training and other administrative/management support. Existing church planting organizations focus on providing support to the networks who in turn directly support the planters.
- On average, it takes at least \$200,000 to start a healthy, dynamic new church. In a network of four churches, each congregation commits \$16,667.00 per year for three years to get the new church started, a figure within the means of almost any church (4 churches @ 16.7K per year for 3 years = 200k). With more than four churches in a network, the commitment is even lower. The church planter is expected to raise an additional \$50,000 (16.7K per year) in outside support during this same three year period.
- The network churches support the new church through their existing infrastructure and resources and / or they can select from proven service providers to support the startup of the new church. Service providers (or "Centers of Excellence") with a demonstrated commitment to new church work, high-quality, great customer services, and reasonable cost will be allowed to participate in the collaborative network as "endorsed service providers." The intent is to obtain volume price discounts through collaboration from an increasing number of qualified service providers who are committed to new church work:
  - Church Planter Assessment - After prayer, the most important element in a new church is the church staff. Adequate investigation and assessment are essential in the selection process of a church planting team. Organizations such as the Church Planting Assessment Center ([www.churchplanting4me.org](http://www.churchplanting4me.org)) will be included in the list of endorsed providers.
  - Coaching - New churches that have a strong relationship with a church planting coach are far healthier than those that go it alone. A number of existing coaches and organizations will be invited to join the list of qualified service providers. Additionally, a new organization called Church Coaching Solutions (

- coaching.com) is being formed to certify coaches, maintain a pool of qualified coaches, and provide an online library of coaching resources.
  - o Planning Lab / Boot Camp – Training is vital to the new church planting staff. A number of existing organizations are providing solid training. The network will maintain a list of suggested training seminars / workshops and proven training organizations.
  - o Donor Management - Donor management services will help the networks track and service donors including tracking and receipting. Organizations such as Orchard Group have this ability.
  - o Launch Plan Management / Support - There are several hundred actions required to start a healthy new church. Many planters become overwhelmed trying to manage these details. Project management support services similar to those offered by Passion for Planting ([www.church-planting.net](http://www.church-planting.net)) will free up the church planting staff to focus on people rather than the administration of starting the new church.
  - o Human Resource (HR) Management – Most planters need help with hiring staff and setting up personnel procedures.
  - o Creative Programming – Creative programming is becoming increasingly important in new churches. However, new churches seldom have the internal resources to develop consistently creative programming. Creative programming collaboration for the new church is available via organizations like the New Thing Network ([www.newthing.org](http://www.newthing.org)).
- After the new church is launched, it then joins a new collaborative network to immediately participate in birthing additional churches. Ideally, the four (or more) initial network churches also move on to start a new collaborative network. The idea is to champion an expanding number of healthy networks. See the attached graphics.

## Expected Results

Any combination of churches can partner to plant churches regionally, nationally, internationally, among specific target groups, in urban locations, or under-churched areas. Oversight of the new church remains at the local level, with assistance available from professional organizations in the field, but only as desired. As new churches are planted, every church and organization benefits, as the Kingdom of God prospers.

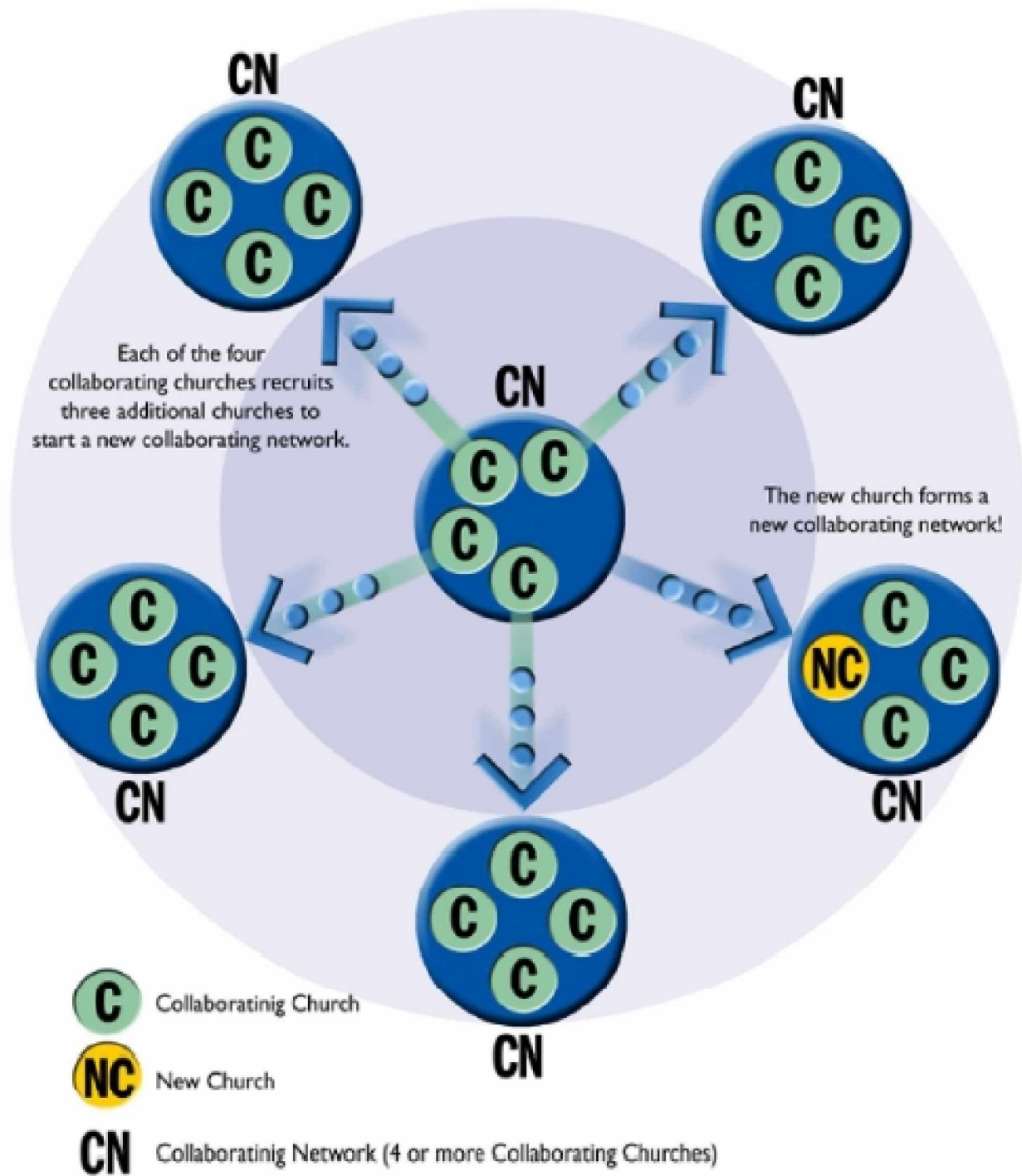
Church planting networks such as those described above are emerging across the country. As more churches and organizations see how easy it is to be involved in planting through networks, momentum will continue to build.

In these early years of a new millennium, people are searching for spirituality and calling for community more than ever before. Now is the time to unite at the grassroots level and work together to meet that need through new communities of the Kingdom.

**About Church Planting Network:** The Church Planting Network exists to help champion an explosive expansion of new reproducing churches through an alliance of collaborative church planting networks. The Church Planting Network serves existing collaborative networks and churches, organizations, and church planters seeking to get involved in collaborative networks. We are an alliance of like-minded organizations committed to starting new churches through collaborative networks. The Church Planting Network is the synergy created by its alliance members. We filter our actions through the priorities of (1) championing collaboration, (2) connecting churches, organizations, and church planters with church planting networks, and (3) equipping and resourcing church planting networks.

For more information contact Church Planting Network at 800.957.3578 or [www.churchplantingnetwork.com](http://www.churchplantingnetwork.com).

# Collaboration Network



# Collaboration Networks (cont'd.)

