**Appendix A**

**Expectations Worksheet**

This section below is taken from *Church Planting Thresholds* by Clint Clifton.

Every new church planter has expectations about how things will turn out in the early stages of church planting, but not all expectations will become reality. How well a church planter manages his expectations will contribute a great deal to his since of personal effectiveness in ministry. Just this week, I met with two new church planters and I asked them both the same question. “If I could somehow look into the future and I tell you that one year from now your church would have an average of 75 in attendance each week, how would that make you feel?” The first church planter responded positively by saying, “I’d be amazed that seventy-five people would come to hear me preach.” the other one honestly confessed, “I’d quit”. You see the only difference between these two guys is their expectations. If they both had the exact same experience, one would finish the year ready to give up and the other would be encouraged.

Knowing this, I’d like to challenge you to spend some time exploring your expectations for the first year of ministry. Below is a list of questions that will help to reveal your expectations. After you understand your expectations you can begin to consider how you will respond if and when your expectations are exceeded or unrealized.

The wise church planter will remember the scriptures warnings concerning the accomplishment of our plans and will evaluate his success not on his own accomplishments but on the promised guidance provided by our savior day to day.

* “Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.” – Proverbs 19:21
* “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” – Proverbs 16:9
* “I am with you always, even until the end of the age” – Matthew 28:20

*For 12 years I was pastor of a church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. One day a farmer said to me, “Henry, come out and visit with me at my farm.” He then gave me directions that I wrote down. One day, with the directions in hand, I set out for the farm. After many wrong turns, I finally got there.*

*The next time I went to the farmer’s house, the farmer was with me. What did I have to do to get there? I simply had to listen to him and obey him. Every time he said, “turn,” I did just what he said. The farmer was my “map” because he knew the way.*

*-* Henry Blackaby, *Experiencing God*

What do I expect will be true by the end of my first year of public worship services?

EXPECTATION REALITY

My family will settle into a “normal” rhythm to our life and ministry.

I will enjoy the work.

My family will be settled into a stable housing and school situation.

The church will have a strong, committed base of at least 10 families.

I will be as excited about the ministry as I am now.

We will have other significant ministry partners serving with us.

The church will have held its first baptism service.

The church will have a stable meeting location.

The church will average more than 100 people in weekly worship services.

The church will have a quality worship leader.

The church will have affirmed at least one other elder.

Our church constitution will be written and agreed upon.

The church will have deacons.

The church will have members.

The church will have a membership course.

The church will have given monetary support to another work

The church will have identified and prepared another planter.

The church will have executed a foreign mission trip.

Our worship services will be described as joyful and meaningful.

The leaders of each ministry are spirit filled, obedient Christians.

The men and women who serve closest to me respect my leadership.

The people who serve closest to me in the work respect my walk with God.

The men and women who serve closest to me are my closest friends.

People who attend our church will invite others to attend regularly.

I will be able to see the result of my preaching in the lives of my people.

I will have had a major conflict with a key member.

I will have angered someone so much they left our church.

I will have a good relationship with the church planters in my network.

I regularly help other church planters with advice or encouragement.

I will have at least one major regret concerning the way I led so far.

I read and study regularly.

My prayer life is meaningful and frequent.

I am pastoral in my home with my wife and family.