ARE YOU A CHURCH PLANTER?

Most potential church planters struggle with the question, "Could I really be an effective church planter?" This question should receive strong consideration. You may have abilities that you are not aware of, gifts that are especially suited to effectively starting a new church. While this short self-assessment will not conclusively identify you as a church planter, it will provide you with some initial guidance. Mark your answers and follow the instructions at the conclusion.

1. This past year I have pursued learning about church planting by
   - a. Reading books, participating in seminars or classes (online or otherwise) and meeting with a mentor.
   - b. Reading books or listening to tapes and meeting with a mentor.
   - c. Participating in a seminar or class either online or in person.
   - d. Reading books.

2. When someone attempts to prevent me from implementing an idea, I
   - a. Attempt to persuade them to join me in accomplishing it.
   - b. Remain focused and ignore the negative influence.
   - c. Refrain from implementing the idea until others agree with me.
   - d. Often get angry and give up on my idea.

3. I am can effectively share my ideas with others and encourage them to participate in actualizing my ideas
   - a. Most of the time
   - b. Some of the time
   - c. Rarely
   - d. I most effective when I am assisting someone with their ideas.

4. I generally
   - a. Complete all projects I start.
   - b. Complete most of the projects I start.
   - c. Complete a few projects I start.
   - d. Am not good at initiating projects. I prefer working under someone else.

5. I work best when I
   - a. Am able to work from ideas that I generate.
   - b. Am able to generate a good idea and receive help in planning its development.
   - c. Am able to develop the ideas generated by another person.
   - d. Am assigned a task that is part of a larger plan.

6. I usually complete tasks
   - a. Without having to be reminded.
   - b. Just prior to the deadline.
   - c. With a reminder from an associate or supervisor.
   - d. After the deadline.

7. When I am overwhelmed with tasks I
   - a. Delegate the jobs to others.
   - b. Eliminate some of the less important jobs.
c. Ask people to assist me only when the job would fail to be completed otherwise.
d. Get frustrated and fulfill the minimum.

8. If I were allowed to start a new church, I would prefer
   a. To invest most of my time reaching unchurched people.
   b. To spend 80% of my time with church people and about 20% of my time with unchurched people.
   c. To recruit someone on my team who could communicate well with unchurched people so that I could devote my time discipling Christians.
   d. To focus on the needs of the people in the church.

9. I am currently pursuing
   a. Multiple relationships with unchurched people for the purpose of loving them and leading them to the Lord.
   b. A relationship with an unchurched person in order to love him/her and lead him/her to the Lord.
   c. Plans to develop relationships with unchurched people for the purpose of loving them and leading them to the Lord.
   d. No relationship with an unchurched person for the purpose of loving them and leading them to Christ.

10. I function best
    a. When I can fellowship with people who do not yet know Jesus.
    b. When I am relating to new Christians.
    c. When I can spend much of my time developing relationships with Christians.
    d. When I am relating to mature Christians.

11. My spouse (if applicable, otherwise, move to #12)
    a. takes an active part in the ministry of the church whether in a visible way or behind the scenes.
    b. prefers to support my involvement by filling a supportive background role.
    c. considers ministry as my responsibility, not hers/his.
    d. is concerned that ministry in the church is a detriment to our family life.

12. I make it a priority to
    a. schedule at least one time a week for relaxation and/or family activities. Only an emergency can interfere with this time.
    b. regularly schedule a time of relaxation/refreshment with my spouse or for me personally (if not married).
    c. have a date with my spouse or a personal time of relaxation (if single), when I can schedule it.
    d. have a full calendar of work-related activities with little time for recreation, relaxation or family activities because my position/work requires that of me.

13. When new people start coming to my church,
    a. I encourage others to invite them to a small group gathering.
    b. I personally visit them.
    c. I wait until they have visited a few times before inviting them to my home.
    d. I allow them to build relationships on their own.
14. The primary role of the pastor/leader is to
   □ a. train and equip people to serve and lead.
   □ b. lead and administer the work of the church.
   □ c. preach the good news of Jesus at my church.
   □ d. care for the needs of the people.

15. I believe the style of worship for a church should be
   □ a. flexible to changing culture and people.
   □ b. established when the church starts and changed only when the leadership changes.
   □ c. traditional and correspond to time-honored values.
   □ d. as the pastor prefers.

16. I prefer to learn about the needs of my community
   □ a. by becoming personally acquainted with people in the community.
   □ b. through the U.S. Census.
   □ c. by conducting a survey of the community.
   □ d. through trial and error.

17. I believe the best way to confirm my ministry competencies is to
   □ a. Participate in an assessment interview.
   □ b. Serve in various capacities and determine those in which I am most productive.
   □ c. Participate in ministry programs I enjoy most.
   □ d. wait to be asked by leaders to serve in some manner.

18. On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being the lowest and 4 the highest, I would describe my capacity for multiple assignments to be:
   □ a. 4
   □ b. 3
   □ c. 2
   □ d. 1

19. When I am in a group of Christians that are divided over an issue, I
   □ a. help them focus on what we are called to do.
   □ b. serve as referee to facilitate peace.
   □ c. use the Bible to illustrate the faults of their actions.
   □ d. find myself choosing sides.

20. In times of hardship and disappointment I
   □ a. usually strengthen my resolve to continue to follow the direction the Lord has given me for my life.
   □ b. may get discouraged for a while, but I go to the Lord and renew my pursuit of His direction for me.
   □ c. usually struggle with strong feelings of defeat and resign myself to the circumstances I am facing.
   □ d. feel isolated from other Christians and begin to ignore God.
21. On a scale of one to four how convinced are you that God has called you to plant a church? (1 being not convinced and 4 being thoroughly convinced)
   □ a. 4
   □ b. 3
   □ c. 2
   □ d. 1

To score your quiz, give yourself:
4 points for every “a” answer
3 points for every “b” answer
2 points for every “c” answer
1 point for every “d” answer

Add up your total score and determine your next steps toward church planting.

If you scored:

60-84    Talk to your senior pastor or regional pastor about church planting.
45-59    You should learn more about church planting. You could be an excellent team member for a planting team.
30-44    You may be able to fulfill a specific assignment in a church plant as an assistant to the launch team. Talk to your senior pastor or regional pastor to learn about the needs of church planters near you.
20-29    Your will probably thrive in areas of ministry other than church planting. You should continue to investigate ministry options with other ministry leaders in your life.