

# 10 Characteristics and 60 Micro-Skills of a Church Planter

by Scott Thomas, Acts 29 Network Director

## I. Spiritual Vitality

1. He gives evidence of a personal relationship with Jesus and a transformed life.
2. He has a vibrant devotional life, prayer life and spiritual disciplines.
3. He has a deep commitment to Biblical authority
4. He shows evidence of the fruit of the Spirit and that the gospel is presently at work in his life.
5. He gives evidence of a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led and Spirit-controlled life.
6. He confesses the life of an Elder above reproach.

## II. Theological Clarity

1. He possesses a clear understanding of the doctrines of faith.
2. He has a right understanding of the centrality of the gospel
3. He holds to a Reformed soteriology.
4. He is committed to the local church as an expression of a gospel community on mission.
5. He exercises grace toward those who hold to other views of theology.
6. He holds to an ecclesiological model of Father-Son-Spirit to male elders to congregation.
7. He demonstrates an ability to learn, grasp and communicate theological concepts.

## III. Clarity and Strength of Calling

1. He communicates a compelling personal call to plant a church in this area at this time.
2. His wife shares his calling to plant.
3. He has demonstrated commitment and sacrifice in obeying the call to plant a church.
4. He has a clear, compelling vision for the church plant that motivates others.
5. He has been commended for ministry by my sending church.

## IV. Strong Marriage and Family Life

1. He exhibits a healthy marriage (loving, serving, mutual submission, kind, communicative, respectful)
2. He demonstrates integrity and stewardship in managing finances.
3. His family members exhibit joy in serving the mission.
4. He has shown commitment to raising and providing for his family in an exemplary way.
5. He understands balance with family and ministry.
6. He professes healthy sexual relationship and purity in his marriage

## V. Relationship Building

1. He establishes and maintains healthy relationships.
2. He takes the initiative to meet new people; he is friendly.
3. He is a conversationalist, including listening skills.
4. He is a team builder who equips others for effective ministry.
5. He is empathetic and compassionate towards others.
6. He displays patience and sincerity with others.



## **VI. Leadership Abilities**

1. He has a clear and reproducible system for leadership development.
2. He has shown that he is able to accomplish tasks with limited resources.
3. He has the ability to raise up men to become leaders in church, home, business and community
4. He portrays resilience under opposition and setbacks.
5. He is adaptable to meet needs, identify barriers and articulate vision
6. He organizes teams of people to accomplish goals (using time, resources and personnel effectively).
7. He demonstrates courage to lead others who are not easily following.

## **VII. Emotional Health / Stability**

1. He is able to identify his own strengths and weaknesses.
2. He displays confidence without arrogance.
3. He is able to accept constructive criticism and input from other
4. He is willingly accountable to others in community.
5. He exhibits flexibility and adaptability to changes and needs.
6. He is a problem-solver.

## **VIII. Missional Lifestyle**

1. He consistently and effectively shares his faith with others in a manner understood by the unchurched.
2. He is committed and passionate to reach the unchurched throughout the entire city.
3. He understands the cultural context of his proposed church plant (behaviors, attitudes, idols.
4. He leads others in a missional lifestyle.
5. He has meaningful relationships and rapport with unchurched people.
6. He is a cultural fit to the area where the church will be planted.

## **IX. Disciple-Making Skills**

1. He has a clear and effective plan for discipleship.
2. He preaches with effectiveness.
3. He is skilled in establishing and multiplying gospel communities (discipleship, missional small groups, learning teams, etc).
4. He inspires others toward spiritual maturity.
5. He models a lifestyle of following Jesus.

## **X. Entrepreneurial Aptitude**

1. He has demonstrated past successes in starting new ventures
2. He is an innovative and strategic visionary.
3. He is highly energetic and enthused about starting a new work.
4. He shows ability to enlist others in new ventures.
5. He is a self-starter.
6. He has a willingness to work intensely for an extended period of time.

