

4-2016

Apostolic Church Planting: Birthing New Churches from New Believers. By J. D. Payne

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Recommended Citation

Brady, Anderline (2016) "Apostolic Church Planting: Birthing New Churches from New Believers. By J. D. Payne," *Journal of Applied Christian Leadership*: Vol. 10: No. 1, 89-90.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/jacl/vol10/iss1/13>

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dent success are explored throughout the book's 14 chapters, which are arranged in three sections.

Section I, *The Interior Life of Thriving Leaders*, suggests that the journey of leadership is a like a call. Moreover, awareness of place and openness to other perspectives make a difference in the strength of a leader's influence; this is especially true in times of relational conflict, change, and crisis. Section II, *The Social Intelligence of Thriving Leaders*, is practical in focus, giving attention to specific strategies like storytelling, intentional listening, and mentorship, all of which result in an environment of mutual trust, shared values and covenants. This section also offers a chapter to help non-faculty administrators understand and effectively work with faculty culture. Section III, *How Leaders Can Shape a Thriving Organizational Culture*, broadens the scope of the book as it speaks to building a campus-wide culture that extends beyond hospitality and leading well in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

Overall, the topics addressed in *Thriving in Leadership* are relevant and packed with supporting citations from leading thinkers in leadership theory and research (there are over 60 in-text book references). Yet, "these authors can settle some of our most stubborn ideas about leadership" by the way they are approached in this work (p. 310). Their personal stories about challenge and triumph are candid yet hopeful. If one is searching only for "tips" on leadership, this book will seem a bit too long. However, its length is appropriate for encouraging the kind of reflection necessary for those who dare to lead and thrive, with Christ as center and guide. I highly recommend this book for both professional and personal growth.

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APOSTOLIC CHURCH PLANTING: BIRTHING NEW CHURCHES FROM NEW BELIEVERS

By J. D. Payne

Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press (2015)

Softcover, 126 pages

Reviewed by ANDERLINE BREDY

The heart of *Apostolic Church Planting* is understanding and establishing how church planters define the local and universal church. In the words of the author, "ecclesiology is supremely important. It shapes everything" (p. 21). Over his years of training church planters, Dr. J. D. Payne encountered questions that were not addressed in his previous work *Discovering Church Planting*. Thus *Apostolic Church Planting*, in Payne's words, "is my attempt to respond to some of those questions and to connect the practical steps in a more developed manner" (p. 9).

The principles of *Apostolic Church Planting* are outlined in 12 chapters, which range from defining church planting to having ethical guidelines for a church plant. Each chapter discusses the content with the recent questions from various church planters in mind, and then offers a summary of practical steps and critical principles.

Throughout *Apostolic Church Planting*, the author discusses the importance of organic growth as mod-

eled in early church history in Acts, the allowance of time for the power of the Holy Spirit to move in the community, and the importance of choosing leaders from within the church plant. The author places a special emphasis on allowing the Holy Spirit to direct the timing of the church plant stages. This is important because the sanctification process of the new disciples can only be determined with time in relationship and in community, as shown in the lists of qualifications for a good leader in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. As the author states, “the Bible has delineated the requirements and expectations for those who oversee churches. Your team must hold to these and do not deviate from them” (p. 100). Further, the six stages of planting proffered are relationally interconnected steps that will require role changes for the church planter, at different times serving as learner, explorer, evangelist, teacher, developer, mentor or partner as prayerfully determined in relationship with the Holy Spirit. Simply understood, “church planting is a process” (p. 54).

Apostolic Church Planting is a concise and current addition to the subject of church planting. Readers will enjoy the easy-to-read format, simple strategies and answers to questions that are current to their time. This book is recommended as a small group study tool for new church planters or as a refresher study for seasoned church planters. General readership will find great principles applicable to forming small groups.

ANDERLINE BREDY is a native of Grande Goave, Haiti, by way of Stratford, Connecticut, but is currently a graduate student at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she is pursuing Master of Divinity and Master of Social Work degrees.