

Who's next? – Part 3 (May 7, 2017)



What if as you came in this morning we passed out sheets of paper to each of you, and on that sheet it said this:

The Elders of *Grace Bible Church* have determined to plant a church in Logan City. Since we can all move there or drive there, our assumption is that **all** of you are available to go on the church plant.

However, if there is a valid reason why you absolutely cannot go please contact the Elders by the end of this month.

Otherwise, we have set aside the month of June to pray and seek the wisdom of the Lord as to who should go and who should stay.

We will then announce which of you will comprise the church plant team and which of you will be staying on July 1.

If we did that – I suspect we would no longer have a space problem here at Holland Park.

Why?

Because for most of us – our thought about church planting is this:

If the Elders want to plant a church – go for it.

Me? – well – if the church plant is near me *and* I want to go – *or* I if God convicts me and calls me – yes – I will go.

But let's be clear – only **I** make that call. So, if you are pushing me to go – adios.

Now, in case you mishear me later – we will **not** be choosing who goes. Ultimately that is your choice.

But, we do want to encourage you to consider it carefully and to make your choice for the right reasons.

As J. Oswald Sanders said of most people:

They say they are willing to go, when in reality they are planning to stay.

We like to think we will go – to the mission field, on a church plant or on other kingdom ventures – but the reality is we like what we know and we dislike the unknown.

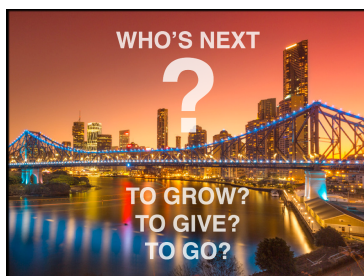
You chose to be at this church for certain reasons and a church plant may not have those reasons.

The leaders will be different, the preachers will be different, the congregation will be different, the ministries will be different, the area of outreach will be different.

The result is that for many of us – we are happy to be behind a plant – we just don't plan on going on any church plant.

This morning, I want to encourage you to think that through.

This is the third and final sermon in a three part series – **Who's Next?**



Who's Next – To Grow?

Who's Next – To Give?

Who's Next – To Go?

If you are visiting with us – please know this is not normal for us.

We are taking a short break from preaching through a book of the Bible – but Dave is about to start the book of Hebrews – so you can begin reading through that book.

But this series is so we can talk through what it will take if this church and Corinda are going to actually carry out:

Our vision:

To see the Gospel permeate and transform Brisbane and beyond through a network of biblically faithful churches.

And:

Our mission:

To proclaim Christ, to equip and mature His saints, and to plant other churches who share our vision.

We have asked the question – who’s going to be next to join us in this task to say – I own this vision and mission and I want to be a part of it?

We said that the first step was we need to be prepared – we need to **grow** and become the mature equipped saints the Lord can use.

The next step was to ask who will **give** – of their time and abilities and resources – to see this come to fruition?

This week I want to ask this question:

Who’s next – to go?

By this I want to ask:



Who is willing to count the cost by going?

Let me be clear about this. Going costs.

I have spoken at length with Ben Shannon and a number of those who went on our Corinda church plant about the cost.

I asked them – was the cost greater than you thought?

All of them said yes.

Would you do it again knowing the cost?

Yes!

It does cost a lot. You leave established relationships, you go where there are very few ministries, you have to set up and take down each week – everyone is on every roster – like it or not everyone is fully involved.

Then there are unexpected costs. Your kids can struggle. Your wife can struggle.

Some bought homes in Forest Lake then the church bought a building in Corinda.

It costs to go on a church plant. I do not want to sugar coat that reality.

But – ask them and they will tell you – the blessings are **far** greater. To see God use you – ordinary you – to be part of something amazing – building His church – seeing the lost come to Christ – seeing the weak grow – helping establish something that will outlast you and touch many – **that** is a blessing beyond cost.

So, this morning – I want to encourage you to seriously consider going.

Here is what I want to talk about in relation to church planting.

- **How to grow**
- **How to know**
- **How to go**

First, I want to talk about:

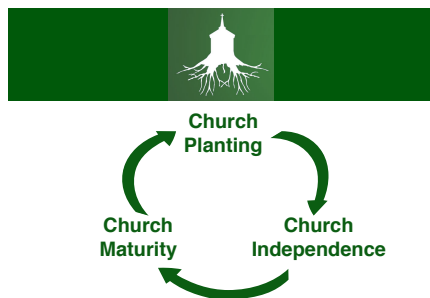
- **How to grow**

What I want to suggest is that the Bible gives us the pattern of *normal* church growth. What a healthy church is supposed to look like and do.

That cycle is:

Church plant
Church independence
Church maturity

Or perhaps I can picture it this way:



Throughout the New Testament the consistent example given is that the first Christians went out not just to evangelise – but to plant churches.

We often talk about making disciples who will make other disciples.

As well, the Bible talks about planting churches who will plant other churches.

Perhaps the clearest example of this cycle of growth is found in the book of Acts.

The cycle begins and ultimately completes with **church planting**.

After the Christians were scattered from Jerusalem – they planted churches.

One of the most prominent was the church in Antioch. This church was founded when some Jews shared with the Greeks in Antioch. Many believed and turned to Christ.

Later, Barnabas was sent off to Antioch by the Jerusalem church. Barnabas then decided he needed some help and went over to Tarsus and brought Saul back. It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

This church grew and became mature – and they realised the next step was for them to plant other churches.

Acts 13:1–4:

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Remember – Acts occurred in a foundational period.

What we find in Acts are principles not exact patterns.

Here, the church is worshipping and fasting – seeking direction and the Holy Spirit directly intervenes to set aside Saul and Barnabas.

That is not the usual pattern today. At our prayer meeting coming up – we are not expecting a divine voice to say – set aside Dominick and Tim for the church plant.

However, there are principles we can glean from this passage.

The church grew under the leadership of these gifted men. In Acts 13:1, the Greek construction indicates that Barnabas, Simeon and Lucius were classed as prophets. And Manaen and Saul were functioning as teachers.

By Acts 13, this church was mature and they desired to plant other churches.

The Holy Spirit indicated that those who were to be set aside for this task were Barnabas and Saul.

Note that these men were leaders in the church and no doubt among the most gifted and able in the church.

Church plants have leaders on them as well as ordinary struggling Christians.

I can tell you that one of the hardest things about planting a church is sending leaders. They are hard to replace. They leave a gaping hole.

That is why churches are sometimes guilty of not encouraging their ablest men and women to go.

Fred is gifted, we need him to teach Adult Sunday School. Jim is a godly young man, let's tag him for Youth Pastor. Juliette is great, we need her for the women's ministry. Jack and Dora need to keep leading the Children's Sunday School.

Well that leaves Toby and Jemma. For sure we can manage without them, so it I think they should be the ones to go.

No! Going is to include the ablest, godliest and most outstanding individuals in a church. Those who have learned to trust God in difficult circumstances.

I can tell you this, Saul and Barnabas were not the leftovers, they were among the best. Losing them would have hurt.

They were sent as a team. Jesus sent out the disciples in pairs. The church at Antioch sent them out as a team. Later they added to the team. Right after this John joined them and later others did.

These men had already demonstrated their faithfulness, giftedness and willingness to serve. They had differing gifts – prophet and teacher.

Note that the church prayed about who to send. It was not just a question of asking for volunteers.

Here and throughout Acts there is a lot of tapping on shoulders and encouraging to go.

Edwin L. Frizen writes this:

It is apparent that New Testament congregations were consulted and involved in the sending role. It seems evident from scripture that in the New Testament church the Holy Spirit used the corporate initiative of congregations or the initiative of missionaries in selecting people. The New Testament church selected, commended, commissioned, supported, and prayed.¹

Paul and Barnabas were challenged to go.

Read Acts – many others were challenged to go.

It seems as well as those who volunteered – the churches went and said to some – we think you should go. The church plant will need you.

We may well encourage some of you to consider going even if you don't put your hand up. If no or few musicians, sound guys, Sunday School teachers put their hand up for

¹ Edwin L. Frizen, Jr., "Missionaries and Their Sending Churches," *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 16 (April 1980), p. 71.

our church plant – we might have to tap a few on the shoulder and ask you to consider going.

What did those who were sent do?

They evangelised and when there were a few believers – they formed churches.

The next step was **church independence**.

Getting a church to the place where it could function by itself – leadership, finances, fellowship.

We know from places like Titus 1:5 that the pattern was to appoint leaders who then took responsibility for the church.

That is what happened here. Look down to Acts 14:21-23:

When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Once there were believers who were growing, Paul and Silas went back to those churches appointed leaders and committed them to the Lord.

These churches were now independent.

Then note the third step – **church maturity**.

When you read Acts and the rest of the New Testament – the Apostles kept visiting the churches, sending gifted men like Apollos and Timothy, writing letters – all with the goal of maturity.

Ephesians 4:11–12:

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

No part of this cycle comes easily.

Remember that it was the Jews from these cities who had persecuted Paul and stoned him and left him for dead. I suspect everything inside him would have cried out, “It is not God’s will for a church there. Paul, don’t go back there – you’ll be killed!”

But, these churches were fledgling. They needed teaching, encouragement, direction, support. Paul couldn’t leave these newborn infants to just manage as best they could.

He kept ministering to them and sending leaders and letters until they were ready to stand on their own two feet.

And then these churches were involved in beginning a new cycle of **church planting**.

If you read the New Testament we find that these churches then sent money, leaders, assets to help found new churches.

For example – Acts 16:1–5:

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. [The very churches we saw him plant in chapter 14].

A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ... Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him ... So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

Now these churches are in a position to send godly men to plant more churches and to strengthen and mature a new group of believers.

I think those who were there when Paul and Silas first arrived – who had seen that church planted and grow and mature – would have wept to see Timothy and others leave to take the gospel to other cities.

There is no greater blessing than being a part of sending those who ministered with.

Read the New Testament. This same pattern is repeated again and again. Men and women were evangelised, churches planted and matured and they then reached out to plant daughter churches. This is God's pattern for us to follow.

But:

There is **no** such thing in the Bible as a church cycle that is designed to end with the church saying – wow we made it – we are mature – our job is done.

A church that turns inward is a church in sin.

A church at rest is not a mature church.

A mature church looks out and says – where next?

Our job is only done when the Lord returns.

That brings us to the next point.

How to know

How do you know if you are called to go?

For many of us we think we need a call and for a call we need God to appear to us in glorious splendour and said – GO. I mean the Holy Spirit set aside Saul and Barnabas – so if He sets me aside – I will go.

But, since that hasn't happened – I have not received the call.

Really?

I want to talk about this 'call.'

First, I want to talk about – **what the call is not**.

False notions about this mysterious call have left some tremendous men and women waiting for a call that never came.

1. *A call is **not** a thunderbolt from heaven or a mystical urge or experience.*

Some consider that the call is based on some incredible experience. A theophany where God speaks directly to them. An angelic appearance directing them to go. Or at the very least some earthshaking emotional experience that redirects their life.

Unfortunately, some missionary stories and common myths have perpetuated this idea. But, this is **not** the call God normally uses today.

Yes, the Apostle Paul got calls on the road to Damascus, in Antioch and a call to Macedonia. But, that was exceptional – not normative.

If that were the call, missions and church planting would have died with Paul and Christianity would have ceased to exist in the first century.

Yet, some are still waiting for this thunderbolt. Others are just glad because they salve their conscience by saying, 'God hasn't told me to go.'

Some, will tell you the call is not a thunderbolt, but to them, it is some type of mystical urge or experience. Well, where does the word say that? That is more of a New Age philosophy or something like the Mormon burning breast.

Don't wait for an earthmoving call before you act.

2. *A call to go is **not** found in a particular burden.*

What do I mean by this? Some people have read missionary biographies and church biographies and believe that a call goes like this:

At a young age, God places a burden for a particular people group or location on our heart. This grows and develops. Later a door of opportunity opens up to those people. It was meant to be.

I have even heard people say that a true call is very specific. You know where to go and which people to work with – so if you don't have that – you aren't called.

Really, then how come some of the greatest missionaries and church planters got it so wrong?

The Apostle Paul was heading to Asia, but the Holy Spirit forbade Him. He headed to Bithynia and the Spirit stopped him. Finally, he wound up in Macedonia.

William Carey grew up believing he was 'called' to the South Seas. He wound up in India. Adoniram Judson felt led to India. But he was expelled from India and ended up in Burma after trying to go elsewhere. David Livingstone was waiting to get to China, but the Opium Wars intervened and he found himself in Africa.

Does God ever place burdens for a particular people on someone's heart? Absolutely! Kyosti, Jason, Ben, Doug – and many others have a deep love for Logan and want to see good churches there.

But, I would say that you don't need a particular love before you act.

In fact, in Scripture we often find the opposite.

Did Paul grow up with a great love for Gentiles? No! He grew up hating those dogs.

What about Jonah? Did he have this intense love for the Assyrians? No way. When God called him to go there he refused. He hated those murdering heathen. He got on a boat headed away from Assyria. Even after God reached out to him Jonah said – I'd rather die than go to them.

Many of those called to go actually argued with God.

Here is what I am saying.

If our church plant ends up in Logan – don't tell yourself – I have no particular burning love for the people of Logan – so I should stay.

John Dawson argues – what we actually need is a love for God – so we obey Him and go. He writes:

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to have a love for the lost? This is a term we use as part of our Christian jargon. Many believers search their hearts in condemnation, looking for the arrival of some feeling of benevolence that will propel them into bold evangelism. It will never happen. It is impossible to love "the lost." You can't feel deeply for an abstraction of a concept. You would find it impossible to love deeply an unfamiliar individual portrayed in a photograph, let alone a nation or a race or something as vague as "all lost people."

Don't wait for a feeling of love in order to share Christ with a stranger. You already love your heavenly Father, and you know that this stranger is created

by Him, but separated from Him, so take those first steps in evangelism because you love God. It is not primarily out of a compassion for humanity that we share our faith or pray for the lost; it is first of all, love for God.²

3. *A call is not found in certain attributes necessary for missions or church planting.*

There are some who think that to go on a church plant we only need awesome Christians – so ordinary saints need not apply.

We only need those who are evangelistic, outgoing, hard-working, intellectual, energetic.

They look in the mirror and say – that isn't me – so I am more suited to the mature church phase than a church pioneer.

Please! If **we** built the church – you might have a point.

Let's not forget that **God** builds His church and so that we don't think it is awesome us who do it – He specifically chooses to use weak frail vessels to do the impossible so that **He** gets the glory.

1 Corinthians 1:26–29:

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

Yes, a church plant has to have some leaders – but remember that God delights to use men and women just like sinful, weak insignificant us; so that all the glory is His.

Many people assume that they are **not** called because they are too old, too young, too single, too married, too poor, too rich, too sick, too healthy, too educated, too uneducated, kids too young, kids too old.

We can all find a way to say – I am too something – I am not called.

No! God wants Faithful, Available, Willing – **not** Powerful, Awesome and Important.

In the New Testament – we meet men who say – I will follow you – **BUT ...**

We never hear of those men again.

² John Dawson, *Taking Our Cities for God*, 1989 Creation House, Lake Mary, Florida pp. 208-209.

Many of the greatest missionaries and church planters were chronically ill, single, widowed, childless – God used them mightily and He got the glory.

I think many of us misunderstand Isaiah 6.

They think Isaiah's call goes like this. Isaiah is ushered into the presence of the Lord. And God calls out asking for a volunteer:

Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?

And they imagine Isaiah thinking – I am ready – equipped, strong, awesome – a Prophet:

Here am I! Send me!

Absolutely not! Isaiah is petrified.

He saw the glory of the Lord revealed in the most incredible way. The Lord high and lifted up, Seraphim, Temple shaking filled with smoke and was terrified.

“Woe is me! For I am lost.”

I am totally unworthy.

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

And Isaiah looks around and his heart sinks. There is no one else around. God is talking to him!

So he responded.

OK – Here am I. Send me.

Unfortunately, we look around and say – there are better people around – so surely God must be calling them – not me.

I am not worthy.

Many tried that one. Moses, Jeremiah, Isaiah – all of them said I'm not ready. I'm too young. I can't speak well.

God doesn't want awesome – He alone is awesome.

He wants the Faithful, Available and Willing.

And sometimes when we aren't willing – God works on us until we are.

Charles Simeon was the pastor of Trinity Church, Cambridge. Over two hundred years ago he learned this lesson.

When he was 47 he basically said – I'm too old and sick to for the ministry, so he stopped.

Then when he turned 60 he felt so renewed in strength it was as if:

He seemed to hear his Master saying: "I laid you aside, because you entertained with satisfaction the thought of resting from your labour; but now you have arrived at the very period when you had promised yourself that satisfaction, and have determined instead to spend your strength for me to the latest hour of your life, I have doubled, trebled, quadrupled your strength, that you may execute your desire on a more extended plan."³

God said –you think you are too old, weak and frail to serve me – no – you are just who I want – so get to it.

If you think you are too old – great.

On Thursday – the Elders were saying one of the biggest needs we will have on the church plant is for godly older saints.

If that is you – wonderful.

Listen – we need some leaders and a number have already put their hand up – but we need others.

If you think you are not up to church planting – too old, too young, too single, too married, too poor, too rich, too sick, too healthy, too educated, too uneducated, kids too young, kids too old.

Congratulations – you are just who we need – God wants – and we need you.

If you love God – and feel like Isaiah – OK God – I feel inadequate but if you are calling – here am I – send me – you are perfect for the plant.

4. *A call is not found in locating the ideal setting to minister.*

I have talked to a number of people and while they won't say it directly, it sure sounds like for them – the call to go is like this.

God says – He who does not provide for his family is worse than an unbeliever. I take that seriously.

So, I will go and reconnoitre the area and see what it's like.

If the housing seems good and if the schools are of sufficient standard, if my wife will be happy, if there are enough peers for my children, if I click with the rest of

³ John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad*, 1993 Baker Books, Grand Rapids MI, p. 108.

the team – if everything seems a good fit – so I can lead my family well – **then** I will consider going.

Listen – we are talking Logan not Liberia.

I only we took all the Scriptures as seriously.

There is a cost – but you know what – if you move to Logan there are great schools – and you can commute to work no problem.

Or if you commute to Logan for church – you don't have to move – but maybe you should.

Look, God never says going is easy – He says it will be hard.

Remember what He said to Isaiah:

Isaiah 6:9-11:

And he said, "Go, and say to this people: " 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed." Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste.

Or think of Jeremiah, the weeping prophet. No one listened to him. He was told he couldn't take a wife. He was persecuted and finally cast into the cistern of Malchijah. Later, he was carted off into Egypt where we are told he was put to death by being sawn in two.

Or consider Ezekiel. God didn't have a comfortable home in mind for his family. God killed his wife as an object lesson for the people.

Hebrews 11:35-40 speaks of what it costs to follow Christ:

Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

We are **not** called to comfort. We get that in heaven.

Here we are called to serve.

If you only look for a comfortable place to minister you don't understand the gospel.

I love the story of John Paton. He was preparing to head out with his wife to the New Hebrides. Every previous missionary had become food for the cannibals of the islands.

A well-meaning older Christian took him aside and warned him about going and the cost to his family. Here is what John Paton said to him:

Mr. Dickson, you are advanced in years now, and your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms. I confess to you, that if I can but live and die serving and honouring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by cannibals or worms; and in the Great Day my resurrection body will arise as fair as yours in the likeness of our risen Redeemer.⁴

Amen!

And Paton did pay a huge price. Three months after arriving on Tanna, his wife died. Seventeen days later his only son also died.

He counted the cost.

Listen – we are talking church planting in Brisbane and beyond – not missions to the Congo.

Kyosti assures me – no cannibals in Logan. Chances are it will not cost you your wife, your kids, your marriage.

On the contrary it will likely strengthen them in amazing ways.

But – there will still be a cost.

So, now we know what the call is not – and we need to ask:

What the call is.

This is a lot easier than saying what it is not.

Basically – you **are** called.

Scripture couldn't be clearer. **Every** Christian is called to broadcast the delights of the Lord to the world. The task of reaching the world is not for some who are specifically gifted or called. That task belongs to every one of us as we go about our lives.

Matthew 28:18–20:

⁴ James Paton, ed., *John G. Paton: Missionary to the New Hebrides, An Autobiography*, (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1965, originally 1891), p. 56.

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Go** therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Jesus commands every one of us to go and to make disciples.

The mission of the church is to take His gospel to the outermost parts of the earth – baptising them and teaching them the truths of the gospel.

This means you **are** called.

Please do not mistake what this means.

Does that mean everyone has to go overseas or go on a church plant?

No!

Does it mean everyone who is a Christian has to find a way to be involved in the Great Commission?

Absolutely.

So that brings us to our final point.

How to go

If we are all called – how do we go?

Being the control-freak, planner and organiser I am – there is a huge part of me that would dearly love to take every name and divide all of us up by need and gifting and friendship groups.

Mary – fits the church plant. well

Arnold and Deanne – no we need them here.

Then publish the list – and encourage you to see which church you are now in.

No. Football teams are picked – not churches.

God builds His church and He does it in unexpected ways.

Over the centuries He has taken small groups of saints that look like they can never plant a church and used them in amazing ways – and He received the glory.

Ultimately – you need to seek the face of God – as to your role.

But, what does going look like?

I want to suggest you can go in various ways. First:

Going by going

In Luke 10:2 Jesus said:

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

We need many more good churches in Brisbane and beyond and we need laborers who will go.

You can go – by actually going.

Committing to be a part of the church plant.

Sell and move to Logan.

Rent and move to Logan.

Stay where you are and commit to commuting regularly to Logan.

But decide – *Grace Bible Church Logan* will be my church family.

Like every family you will have times where the cost is counted – but I tell you the blessings will outweigh any cost.

Then there is:

Going by committing

You may not be able to go long term – but since the crucial time in a church plant is the first few years – you may be able to commit to go for a specific time.

You commit for a period of time and in that time you work to replace yourself at the church plant.

If you are a sound person – you find someone and train them.

If you are a Sunday School teacher – you find someone and train them.

You go to the plant homegroups, church activities, everything.

That is your church for that time.

And who knows – you might fall in love and make the commitment permanent.

Finally, there is:

Going by staying

Not everyone can or should go.

There are great reasons to go and great reasons to stay.

We may ask a few people to consider going – but ultimately that choice is yours. I just pray you make it based on kingdom principles.

Just be open to serve the Lord in any way you can.

But yes – you can help the church plant right here.

You can be pray, you can give, you can encourage and you can replace.

For everyone we send – someone has to stand up and replace them.

Every job needs twice the number – one lot for here – one lot for the church plant.

So in a sense – you can go by staying.

Whether you go, commit or stay – if you serve the kingdom – you can be a part of building something amazing. The satisfaction is seeing God use you – sinful, weak, inconsistent you – there is nothing like it.

God has called us. He has given us the pattern.

So go. Ask God – Here I am – how can you use me?

Brothers and sisters – I was thinking this week – what if this sermon is **too** good?

What if half or more of you feel motivated to go?

I suspect the leaders staying here at Holland Park would have these thoughts.

Initially – Great – Craig what have you done? – you are killing us.

But I know them – I know they would then say – No – that is awesome! We will take care of here – you guys take care of there. We will find a way. Let's be used of God to build His church.

And then together they would say – OK Holland Park, Corinda, Logan – where too next? – Is it north or is it east?

So – who's next to grow – to give – to go?

Who's Next To Go? (May 7, 2017)

Main Point: Who is willing to count the cost by going?

General Questions:

1. What are the potential costs involved in going on the church plant?
2. What are the potential costs involved in staying at the sending church?
3. Describe the normal church cycle as pictured in the New Testament?
4. Why do so few churches plant other churches?
5. If there is no specific 'call' – how should churches decide who goes and who stays when they decide to plant?
6. Do you agree that we are all called to go? Why or why not?
7. Why should you still consider going if you feel inadequate, ill-equipped, inconsistent?
8. Can our church cover the loss of those who will go on the church plant? Why? What will it take to cover them?

Application Questions:

1. Have you considered going on the church plant? Do you find the thought exciting, daunting, frightening, exciting?
2. What would make you choose to go?
3. What would make you choose to stay?
4. What would stop you from going?
5. Have you considered committing for a specific length of time?
6. If you went – how could you serve?
7. If you stayed – how could you step up to help?
8. What are the costs for you of going or staying?
9. What would most excite you about going or staying?