



July 2026

Dear Friends,

We recently walked through the book of Acts here at North Point. Each week, we would cover a chapter and encourage the congregation to focus in on the chapter over the course of the week, asking the questions; what change is God calling for in me, and what is God calling me to do. This simple exercise meditating on the Word through this familiar book led to a record number of baptisms (*13 in the month of May alone!*). It reminded me of why we plant churches.

Established churches often find themselves focusing on meeting the needs of the people that make up the church family. Much energy is given to existing programs and building maintenance. Those things are important to keep the church moving forward.

I currently coach a minister of such a church. There are pastoral concerns that he deals with that are radically different than those who are planting a new church work. The majority of his congregation is made up of those who have grown up in the church. They are an amazingly generous church, and support several global missionaries, Christian colleges, local missions, and church planting (*much like the church at Antioch*).

In comparison with new church plants, we find with church plants, 60-80% of the attendees come from unchurched backgrounds. The focus then becomes more outreach oriented, trying to find ways to build relationships within the community, and share the Gospel effectively with those who have never heard it.

Both are important and necessary to our Kingdom Mission. This is what I discovered as I walked through the book of Acts. And as we shared the basic Gospel message of Jesus, lives were changed...even in a 26-year-old church plant!

Thank You for being a part of NPEA and our mission of Planting Churches and Developing Leaders!

-Matt

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