

# Church Plant in Mooresville

Mickey's Pastoral Direction at the Family Meeting

October 5, 2007

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## How to prepare for the mixed emotions that come with church planting.

1. The dominant emotion of excitement.
  - Mission.
  - Reaching a new region.
  - The gospel going forth.
2. The pain of sacrifice.
  - Relational sacrifice.
  - No expansion without sacrifice.
3. Temptation to be anxious.
  - Loosing key people. Some, but not all, key people need to go.
  - Those remaining will need to step up.
  - Pruning – the process where healthy branches are removed to allow the vine to become even more fruitful. That is the process of church planting.
4. The foundation of all that we do is trusting God. Pushing us away from self-sufficiency and towards Him.

## How to make a decision on whether to go or stay.

Principles from two key passages: 1 Corinthians 12:18 and Ephesians 2:10.

1. Christ is building his church.
2. God places people where he wants them.
3. God has a calling on our lives.
4. God has chosen works of service in our lives.

This gives us faith in guidance. We should seek God with a sincerity of heart – a posture of heart that fears the Lord, which is humble towards the Lord, that is full of faith, and that wants to obey the Lord.

## Thoughts and questions:

5. Specific calling is crucial, because specific calling is what will lead you to conviction and commitment. God has placed you here at CrossWay for a purpose. Is God specifically calling you away from CrossWay?
6. The new seems more exciting, the old doesn't. It can seem more spiritual to go than to stay. It's our mission to go, but it is also our mission to stay. There is a mission to start a new work and a mission to continue this existing

work. Both are critical missions. The question is, "Which mission has God called me to serve"?

7. It's so important that no one recruits people to go, or lobby for people to stay. There should be no pressure. You need to hear from God. Do not be talked into something by others. This doesn't mean you can't discuss with friends or get their counsel.
8. Make this decision with the counsel of your pastor. They have been uniquely called to shepherd your soul.
9. Do I feel called to **this** church plant? Some have expressed a heart to go on **a** church plant. A heart to go on a church plant is not enough. There should be some element of all three points below.
  - Do I have a heart for Mooresville?
  - Do I have heart to serve Brent and along side of him?
  - Is there a specific relationship that you believe that God has forged where you are called to serve together?
10. The issue and challenge of proximity. It is critical that we create a clear and distinct identity for both of these churches.
11. Mooresville is the field for where God will have you working. This may involve sacrifice.
  - In a normal church plant one moves, gets a new job, etc.
  - From our perspective, moving to Iredell County is essential.
  - If you are not among the people that God is calling you to reach, it simply will not be able to work. For the good of this church plant you must be willing to get up there.

#### Signs that you may be on the right track:

1. The peace of God upon your heart.
2. The provision of God.

#### **Concluding thoughts.**

We are entering into a strange time in the life of the church. It's natural to be excited about the church plant and to be talking about the church plant, but things are still going on here at CrossWay. As we go through this process, we need to be fully committed to CrossWay until it's time to be fully committed to the new church plant. We can't at any time be two churches in one. We always have to be one and be walking this out together. What we will be walking out together is what God is doing here. And what we will be walking out together is the process of planting a church.