



RISKTAKER WITH A VISION

MALCOLM MACLEOD

MALCOLM MACLEOD, SENIOR PASTOR OF SOUTH WEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN VICTORIA HAS A HUGE VISION TO PLANT HUNDREDS OF NEW CHURCHES



My first church planting experiences were in Bible College and as an assistant Pastor in Albury NSW. In both circumstances, I assisted others who carried the vision. Over the past twenty years I have inspired, equipped and released leaders to plant over 20 churches around the south-west of Victoria. Some of these churches have been started by leaders released from our church, as well as others who came alongside of our vision.

Until recently I had never taken an aggressive, strategic approach. These church plants were the fruit of who we were and attracted both men and women willing to step up.

We focussed on encouraging leaders and networking them relationally. Pastor Roy Brake and his wife Eleanor planted six Churches while with us (11 altogether in Australia) and now at 73, plans to plant another two this year. Pioneers like him continue to inspire me and stand as examples of the type of risk taker needed to expand the Kingdom.

I felt challenged by God after returning home from a trip to North India in 2009. If we could plant so many churches without trying too hard, what could we do if we took a leap of faith and believed?

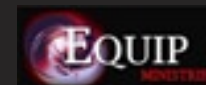
God challenged me to plant 100 churches in Australia between 2010 and 2015 and 300 churches overseas. As a leader, I know I have the ability to cast vision and gather people. I am also a connector. As I have thrown open the door I am overwhelmed by the response of men and women from several states around Australia, as well as countries like Philippines, North India, Fiji, and inner city LA.

Our goals are to plant 10 churches in Australia for 2011 and 30 overseas. We are positioned to hit these goals already. God is so good.

Early on, our networking approach drew people grateful for relationship and support, but we lacked a deliberate emphasis on systematic training and accountability. Church Planters are expected to fill in a Pre-Assessment now. In addition we have developed a much clearer training curriculum. Although training is important, Character, Heart and Spirit remain our number one emphasis. Our mandate incorporates a concise unwrapping of leadership discipleship in the subjects of Kingdom, Discipleship, Society and Church. We also follow up with experienced five-fold ministry coaches.

MALCOLM'S ADVICE TO POTENTIAL CHURCH PLANTERS:

- **The number one most important thing before you go out and plant a church is a clear sense of the call of God.** People need to hear from God before trying to plant a Church. They also need to be transformed from inside out, so as not to run out of puff along the journey.
- **Planting a Church is not a vocation but a response to the compelling of God's Holy Spirit.** They also need to be Risk Takers. Many leaders are afraid to plant and would rather take over an existing church. Risk Takers are looking for a challenge: 'Give me the mountain country where there be giants!'
- **Stop playing it safe ... and just do it!** God's pattern for extending the Kingdom across the globe is still Evangelistic Church Planting – 1/21 'First century missions in a 21st century world.'



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