



Ministry Profile

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Jesus of Nazareth. (c. 30 AD.)

Matt. 9:37-38





Background

The 'new' South Africa has brought many changes to our country's urban landscape. In the wake of political and economic reforms, the demographics of our cities are inevitably changing with local communities becoming increasingly pluralistic in terms of their ethnic, cultural and religious composition. Increasingly the impact of these changes are being seen and felt at grass-root level as new forms of social expression begin to develop and challenge established traditions and practices.

The religious front is no exception: great shifts have taken place in the make-up of the established church.

Many 'cultural Christians' have walked away from the faith altogether; others have passionately recommitted themselves to traditional inward focused conservatism. Another group have become dissatisfied with the key tenets of the faith and embraced liberal theology, while a fourth group, earnestly in search of authentic Christianity, has found a home in the charismatic movement.

At the same time many ideological and structural barriers that previously separated Christians from one another have disappeared in the process. As a result new forms of association are emerging, including the need for Christians to increasingly express and live out the unity which is theirs in Christ.

Vision

In the midst of all this spiritual change and confusion, we believe that there is an increasingly pressing need for contextually relevant, biblically sound evangelical churches in our country. Churches which on the one hand, fervently hold to the biblical doctrines of reformed theology, yet on the other hand are open to intentionally express these Biblical truths in ways that are culturally relevant and impactful; churches where non-believers of all walks of life can encounter Jesus as Lord and where Christians will be equipped for complete discipleship.

At the same time we recognize that it will take a movement of church-planting churches to reach and serve our cities by focusing on the multiplication of faith communities that:

- Are committed to the biblical doctrines of reformed evangelical theology;
- Faithfully proclaim these truths in ways that are culturally relevant and makes most sense to a particular people group in a particular context;
- Seek to be part of a movement that has a vision to not only impact Pretoria but Gauteng and Southern Africa with the gospel.

Without such a church-planting focus established evangelical churches will ever only be able to reach a limited segment of the city's people. To reach and serve the rich diversity of people that makes up the South Africa we hold in common, there is a pressing need for multiple reformed evangelical churches. For this reason we envision a network of churches that share a common gospel-commitment and Kingdom-vision. Each of the churches in the network will however strive to sufficiently contextualize itself to reach a unique group of people, resulting in a partnership of very distinct churches yet clearly reflecting gospel unity.

Why Church Planting?

We believe that the Church is at the center of God's purpose for this age and God's wisdom will be displayed to the entire universe through the Church, to the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 3:1-13). As head of his Church Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit calls people out of this world into his kingdom

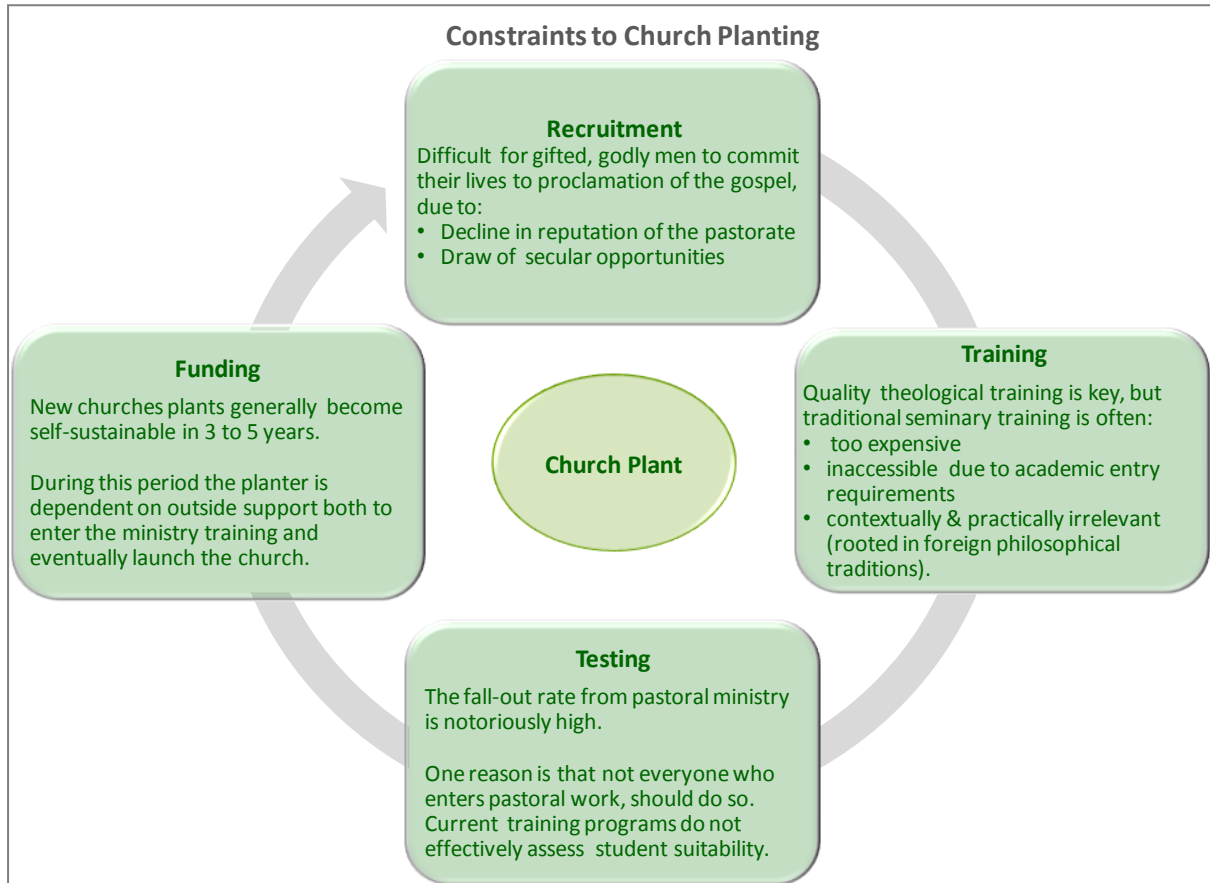
by means of the faithful preaching of his Word. He gathers believers as a redeemed community into local churches which He sets up as lamp-stands to shine forth the light of the gospel into the world (Rev 1:20, Mat 28:18-20).

The case for church planting is persuasively expressed by Tim Keller (Redeemer Presbyterian Church, NYC):

*“The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for the **numerical growth** of the Body of Christ in any city, and the continual **corporate renewal and revival** of the existing churches in a city. Nothing else – not crusades, outreach programs, para-church ministries, growing mega-churches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes – will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow raising statement. But to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial.”*

At the same time we recognise that such a vision will require established churches to join hands in facilitating and supporting new church plants and in the process develop a movement of church-planting churches that will impact Gauteng and Southern Africa with the gospel.

In particular this will require established churches to cooperate in the area of recruiting, training and supporting leaders at all levels, but especially church planters: qualified men who are able to establish and lead those churches under God. Such cooperation is vital in view of the manifold constraints inherent to the church planting endeavour.



TRANS:mission's Story

To proactively address these constraints TRANS:mission was formed in January 2011 when a number of local churches in the Pretoria and greater Johannesburg area came together to form a ministry and church planting training network. As such TRANS:mission functions as a trans-denominational, inter-church partnership that aims to recruit, develop and train gospel workers and leaders for church planting.

Starting out with a two-year Bible school and ministry apprenticeship program, the program now also includes a B.Th / M.Th program in partnership with the *Antioch School of Church Planting and Leadership Development*, a division of the US based *BILD international*. As a next phase in its training program TRANS:mission is hosting its first *Church Planting School* for prospective urban planters from across Southern Africa, in August 2013. Schematically the training process can be illustrated as follows:



A key distinctive of TRANS:mission's philosophy is that its training programs must be church-based and in-service oriented. Students therefore not only remain under the care and oversight of their local churches during their studies, but also actively continue in such ministry activities as determined by their pastors and governing church bodies. The advantages of such a church-based paradigm are manifold:

- Local churches are actively involved in raising leaders for ministry from their own midst, taking responsibility to entrust the deposit of faith to faithful men (2 Tim 2:2).
- In addition to acquiring the knowledge base necessary for ministry (head), students are given the opportunity to develop and hone their skills in real life situations (hands) under the guidance of experienced pastors and elders (1Cor. 3:10).
- The program's dedicated mentorship program is furthermore designed to also help shape students' character (heart); that they may truly become men of God, having the mind of Christ (1Co 2:16).
- While not all students may opt to go into full-time ministry, they will nonetheless have been shaped for various leadership and ministry roles within their congregations.
- Students that already are in part- or full-time ministry can work towards a formal qualification, while remaining in ministry.

We believe that God has uniquely equipped the participating Churches in the TRANS:mission network over the last few years to play a significant part in seeing such a plant established.



This includes:

- Key staff being trained by amongst others:
 - *Redeemer City to City* (New York)
 - *The Co-Mission Network* (London)
 - *Soma Communities* (Tacoma, WA)
 - *George Whitefield College* (Cape Town, SA)
 - *Campus Outreach* (Pretoria, SA)
- Church planting experience in a Pretoria context;
- Healthy partnerships with
 - Other churches, networks and denominations in Pretoria and greater Johannesburg area
 - *BILD International* and its *Antioch School of Church Planting and Leadership Development*

Mission

TRANS:mission exists to prayerfully raise up a generation of church-planters. In order to do so our goal is, initially starting with Pretoria and Gauteng, to establish local, contextualized TRANS:mission training programs in multiple communities.

Participating Churches in the TRANS:mission Program

Currently 18 apprentices from 11 churches and 3 M.Th. students in the greater Pretoria area are participating in the TRANS:mission programs. Although from different traditions, churches who have nominated students to the program over the last three years are all of a Reformed evangelical persuasion and include:

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Antipas Reformed Baptist Church | ▪ Queenswood Community Church |
| ▪ Authentic Life Fellowship | ▪ Reformed Church Randburg |
| ▪ Central Baptist Church | ▪ Reformed Church Rietvallei |
| ▪ Christchurch Midrand | ▪ Reformed Church Brooklyn |
| ▪ City Baptist Church | ▪ Reformed Church Bergbron |
| ▪ LIG.punt | ▪ Soli Deo Gloria Church |

TRANS:mission Board

TRANS:mission is lead by a board of 7 pastors from Pretoria with a total of 78 years combined experience in the ministry., namely:

- Andrew Pitt [LTh, BTh (Hon)] Christ Church, Midrand, (22 years in ministry).
- Jacobus de Koning [B.A, B.Th., M.Th., Th.D.] Antipas Reformed Baptist Church, (12 years in ministry).
- Griffel van Wyk [B.Th., B.Th Hons., M.div., M.Th.] Reformed Church Brooklyn, (7 years in the ministry).
- Brahm Hattingh [Gr 12] Soli Deo Gloria Congregation, (10 years in ministry).
- Dewald Wagener [B.A. Theology. B.Hon. Theology] Queenswood Community Church, (10 years in ministry).
- Tobie Meyer [B.Com., LL.B., B.Th.] LIG.punt, (8 years in ministry).
- Johan Verster [B.Com Financial Management, B.Th.] LIG.punt, (9 years in ministry).



The board is required to function in accordance with the TRANS:mission constitution which defines and regulates matters pertaining to: the goal and legal status of the organisation; powers and functioning of the board; financial management; and statement of faith.

Further Enquiries

Should you wish to support this endeavour or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact any of the following:

- Koos Truter (Program Director) at 082 773 5743 / truterjt@wol.co.za
- Tobie Meyer (Board Member) at 072 565 8374 / tobie@ligpunt.com
- Griffel van Wyk (Board Member) at 082 354 2726 / griffel@gkbrooklyn.org.za

Banking Details:

Account Name:	Transmission Ministry Training
Account Number:	62377359239
Bank Name:	First National Bank
Swift Code:	FIRNZAJJ
Branch Name:	Hatfield
Branch Code:	252145



What others say about TRANS:mission:

Transmission has provided an opportunity to develop young men who have the desire to be in pastoral ministry. The practical side of the programme has especially been valuable in giving these men feedback on their progress in the area of preaching. Our apprentices at Central are at the place where they are now ministering in our Sunday services, at our retirement centres and I have been recommending them as preachers at other churches where the need arises.

***Charles de Kiewit
Pastor, Central Baptist Church***

'When I first heard of Transmission, I thought..... another seminary, but as I got more context and understanding, I realised that Transmission was more than your average seminary, it was a place where the young and old in the Faith gather to learn from each other and from the Gospel. So you can only imagine my excitement when I was asked to join. One of my many highlights was the opportunity to regularly preach in front of my peers and seasoned pastors and leaders of different churches. They would critique my sermon and give helpful and encouraging comments, allowing me to grow in my preparation of delivering God's word. I would highly recommend any young individual who is interested in attending Transmission because its a place where they can come and share ministry challenges and get relevant wisdom that can be applied immediately; a place where they know that older men not only love the Gospel that they so eagerly want to know and share with others, but love them and want to see them grow more in Christ.'

***One Mokgatle
Student and Church Planting Resident***

You will not be the same after the course! I have been equipped on so many levels for the work of ministry, especially in the line of church planting. The interaction with pastors who have been in ministry for years is one of the highlights and something you won't find anywhere else. In particular, their involvement in the ministry of the apprentices as we learn to preach, teach and ask pressing ministry-related questions have been of immense value in encouraging us in the right direction!

***Pieter Wessels
Apprentice, LIG.punt***