

Radius Church Planting Outline

For Those Doing CP Work Among Unreached Language Groups¹ in Restricted Access Contexts

A. Pre-Field Prep (2-8 years)

1. Affirmation of sending church (Often done during step 2)
2. Educational, technical and sending church preparation (1-6 years)
3. Pre-field issues and commission to service (1-2 years)

B. On-Field Prep (4-10 years)

4. Orientation to field and acquisition of National language (2-4 years)
5. Identify and move into unreached language area, establish local long-term viability, and begin culture and language acquisition of that language group. (1-3 years)
6. Finish culture and language acquisition and leverage friendships, neighborhood connections, natural and business acquaintances, to begin seeing who is interested at a deeper level in 'The Story of God'. (1-3 years)

C. Evangelism & Early CP (2-6 years)

7. Teach those who desire to know more about who the God of Scripture is, man's situation before Him, and Christ's unique answer to that dilemma. (2-12 months)
8. Gather those who profess Christ and begin discipling them in their new identity as 'His people', and all that this truth implies. Live out the life of Christ with them, teaching them, showing a commitment to them as the one who has brought the Word of God to them. (2-5 years)

D. Maturing Church (1-3 years) [Total on-field expectation = 7 to 19 years]

9. As maturation is happening the gospel worker is less prominent with them. The church planter is tapering down his role, while the local leaders are growing into complete responsibility. Teaching of the church(es) is ongoing. (1-3 years)
10. The mature church² has taken ownership of all aspects of being the witness and presence of Christ in that community and is working to spread such believing communities in neighboring areas. (Worker is now not physically present)

These 10 points are only a basic sketch of what Church Planting in an unreached language context should include (explanatory details are also available). We realize it does not answer many related questions. When we speak of 'church' in this paper we are speaking of groups of believers that can be left to function on their own with an excellent chance of continuing their Christian witness in their communities². We do recognize there is a place for infant groups of believers who, with time and teaching, may develop into churches.

¹ We realize that terms such as 'unreached people group', 'unengaged unreached people group', 'ethnolinguistic', 'socio linguistic', and other designations have become commonly used. By using the term 'unreached language groups' we are deliberately focusing on people groups still divided by their unique languages, which have no church planting endeavors currently taking place among them.

² See document, "Radius Definition of a Church".