



TELL YOUR STORY!

by Glenn Smith

Every church planter needs to write and communicate his/her story!

People are drawn to passion and they are moved by stories. Every church planter has a story and they should be communicating that story with passion. To get focused and clear on it, you **MUST** write it down!

What is your story? Your story should answer the questions:

- Why are you planting a church instead of doing something else?
- Why are you planting in the location that you're planting?
- What has led you to this place?
- What do you hope for/dream of?

Your story should define your calling. It should express your passion. It should articulate your dream. You must understand that stories touch the hearts of people. When you touch the heart, people will join with you to make this new church a reality.

To succeed as a church planter, your new church must have at its foundation a story that drives and directs it day by day. And that story begins with God's story and your story! A compelling story will answer the "Why?" questions and cause others to want to become a part of that story.

Have you written your story? You should be able to do this in one page. Have you communicated your story? You should be writing letters, articles, blogs, etc. every week. Have you engaged others with your story? You should have 10 face to face appointments every week sharing your story with someone new!

You are not ready to plant a church until you have written and begun articulating your story!

What follows on the next two pages is our Essential Experience #1, "Clarifying Your Calling." Use this as a tool to help you begin to write your story!

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE #1: CLARIFYING YOUR CALLING

This worksheet is designed to be used with Unit One of our “Essentials” training for church planters. After printing this worksheet, complete the exercises and process it with your church planting coach.

An Essential Experience

Interview at least 3 Christian leaders who have made sacrifices to pursue a specific calling from God (not necessarily church planters.) Record insights that you gain from each interview.

Interview #1

Interview #2

Interview #3

Reflection: The Worksheet for Clarifying Your Calling

Complete the following worksheet for clarifying your calling. Process this with a mentor or coach.

4. Where did your desire to start a church come from? How has this desire been nurtured over time? Did any people help shape this desire? What are the key circumstances and life experiences that have brought you to this point?

5. What are the specific objections (other churches, people) and barriers (other circumstances) you anticipate facing?

6. Who are the people who have affirmed your call to start a church?