



# OREGON CHURCH PLANTING NEWSLETTER

Issue Eight

**“When a New Church comes to town... Lives Change.”**

## Where should I attempt to plant a new Congregation?

### 1. Go Where People Similar to You Live

Unless you have a cross-cultural missionary calling, you will best reach people of similar background and cultural style.

A church planter needs to embrace the fact that issues of culture, education, style, music, values, and ethnicity will greatly affect who will participate in the new church. While the pastor may not be the one who attracts first-time visitors, he is a major reason people come back.

### Avoid Mismatches

When a significant number of people in your target area do not resemble the church planter there is a mismatch. Non-intellectual pastors do not do well in an Ivy-league college town. Well-to-do, white pastors do not do well in multi-racial blue collar worker areas.

The average pastor does not have a cross-cultural gifting, and if he should find himself in a cultural mismatch it's time to seek the Lord about where to relocate or with whom to team up. (Source: “Coaching Church Planters” by Steve Nicholson, Chapter 11 - Make the Decision to Start).

What kind of people do I naturally relate to, and what kind do I have a harder time understanding?

### 2. Go Where You Find Receptive People

Although young children are most receptive to the gospel, adults need some major life transition or pressure to become receptive. Examples of transition are relocation, forced employment change, divorce, marriage, childbirth, illness, or a death in the family.

Because people moving into a new neighborhood or city are more likely to consider a new church, many church planters target rapidly growing areas. (Source: “Planting Missional Churches” by Ed Stetzer, Chapter 11- Choosing a Focus Group. Additional info in Stetzer’s book “Breaking the Missional Code”)

What areas will most likely keep growing over the next five years?

### 3. Go to Large Population Centers First

Since it is God’s intent to bless “all the families of the earth” (Genesis 28:14), and since it is our mission to take the gospel to every person (Mark 16:15), the church begins where we can reach the most people.

This was Apostle Paul’s strategy. He traveled on the main highways of his day from big city to big city. The exact timing, and which big city was next was guided by the Holy Spirit.

In Oregon, think Portland (east of the river), Bend, Eugene, Medford, and Corvallis.

#### 4. Go to a Nearby City

If a good number of commuters are coming in to your congregation from a nearby city, releasing them makes a great way to launch a new church.

This saves people commute time, and they are more likely to invite their friends and associates to the new nearby church. It also gives many more people opportunity to use their spiritual gifts. It also avoids the distraction and trauma of a building program for the sending church.

#### 5. Go to an Unsaturated Area

The Vineyard manual "Coaching Church Planters" says, "Generally we 'protect' the territory of a new church plant for two years in an area up to 50,000 population. (This gives them a chance to get going and get established.) After that point, someone can come into the same area."

However, the manual goes on to say that a new church in the same area as an established Vineyard will likely experience difficulties unless there is "some sort of significant distinction...such as different ethnic target, or some difference in philosophy or age range or style."

A Vineyard church planter should also check if the area is already saturated with life-giving evangelical/charismatic churches. Tom Cheyney at Churchplantingvillage.net says that saturation may have been reached if there exists one "thoroughly evangelical church" per 1000 people.

#### 6. Seek Wisdom (Proverbs 4:5-7)

Wisdom listens to both subjective and objective forms of guidance from the Lord. Subjective reasons are words, visions, dreams and the intuitive sense the Lord has given you directly and also prophecies from others.

Objective reasons are practical guidelines and counsel from experienced leaders in church planting.

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**TARGET GROUP CLARITY** – Here is an assignment that the Columbus Vineyard gives to their church planters in training.

Write out a brief statement regarding each of these topics for your community.

If you don't know an answer, ask someone in your target community about this topic.

- Marriage Patterns
- Education Patterns and Background
- Typical Occupations
- Child-care Options
- Hobbies and what people do for fun
- Housing Patterns (rent; own for decades; apartments; condos ???)
- Types of music people like (what are the top 5 radio channels in your community?)
- What are the major social concerns?
- What are the school districts in your community like?
- What are some of the major *felt needs* in your community?
- What is it that connects people in your community? (work, family, school, hobbies, sports??)
- What kinds of fears do the people have in your community?
- What is the history of your community? (financial, racial, education, business, economy)
- What is the religious background of people in your community? churched, nominal believers, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, etc...

## Reaching Our Six Larger Population Areas

### 1. Benton County (Population 86,120)

- 10.2% growth since 2000
- Corvallis (52,000)

### 2. Deshutes County (Population 167,017)

- 44.8% growth since 2000
- Bend (80,995)
- Redmond (25,445)

### 3. Jackson County (Population 205,304)

- 13.3% growth since 2000
- Medford (76,850)
- Ashland (21,485),
- Central Point (17,160)

### 4. Lane County (345,880)

- 7.1% growth since 2000
- Eugene (154,620)
- Cottage Grove (9,445)
- Florence (9,410)

### 5. Marion (314,866) & Polk (68,235) Counties - 10% growth since 2000

- Woodburn (23,355)
- Monmouth/Independence (17,595)
- Dallas (15,360)
- Stayton/Sublimity (10,100)
- Silverton (9,540)
- Salem (152,000) – According to Vineyard guidelines, there is room for at least one more Vineyard here.
- Suburbs just outside of Salem – Hayesville (20,000), Keizer (35,500), Pratum (10,000)

### 6. The Northern Six Counties Area Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton. There were 2 million people in these six counties as of July, 2008.

#### Clackamas County – Population 376,662

- 11.3% growth from 2000
- Oregon City (30,405)
  - West Linn (24,400)
  - Gladstone (12,215)
  - Milwaukie (20,915)
  - Wilsonville (17,940)

- Canby (15,165)
- Happy Valley (11,455)

#### Columbia County – Population 48,094

- 10.4% growth from 2000
- St Helens/Columbia City (14,300)

#### Multnomah County – Population 717,881

- 8.7% growth from 2000
- Portland (575,930) – According to Vineyard guidelines, if a Vineyard were planted every 2 years, there would be room for a minimum of five more Vineyards.
- Gresham (100,000) – There is room for a second Vineyard.
- Troutdale (15,465)
- Fairview (9,735)

#### Washington County – Population 519,925

- 16.7% growth from 2000
- Beaverton (86,205)
- Forest Grove (21,465)

At the moment we are not encouraging new Vineyards on the westside of the river since we already have four Vineyards there.

#### Yamhill County – Population 94,323

- 11% growth from 2000
- McMinnville (32,400)
- Newberg (22,645)

#### Clark Co. WA – Population 418,070

- 21.1% growth from 2000
- Battle Ground (13,500)
- Camas (17,900)
- Five Corners (14,700)
- Orchards (18,000)
- Salmon Creek (20,200)
- Washougal (11,900)
- Vancouver (161,437) – According to Vineyard guidelines, there is room for two more Vineyards here.

#### **Source of Oregon Statistics:**

Population Research Center,  
Portland State University, March 2009.

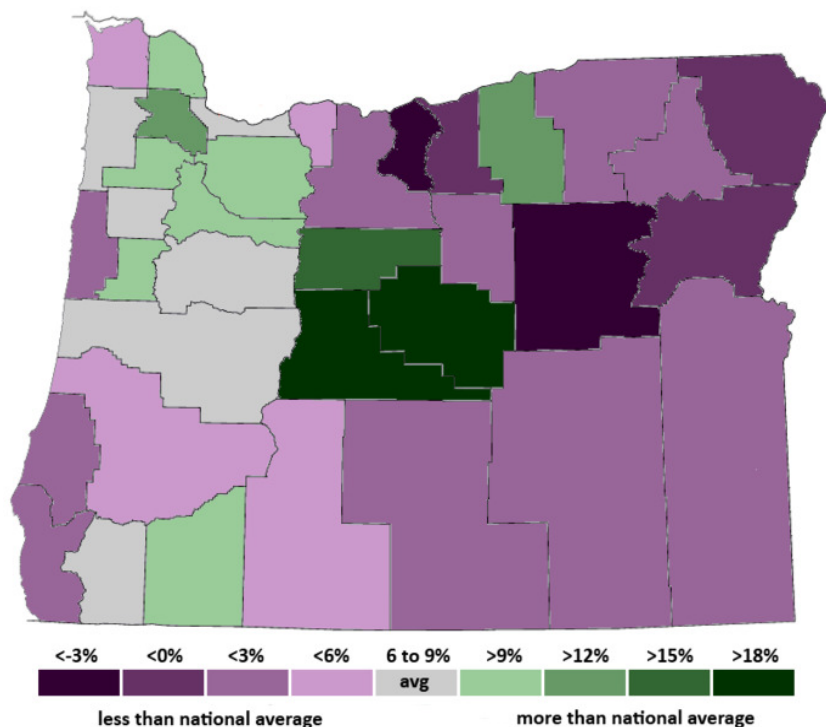
#### **Source of Washington Statistics:**

<http://www.city-data.com/>

## Oregon's 72 Largest Cities

City	Population	City	Population	City	Population
Portland	575,930	Klamath Falls	21,305	Damascus	9,975
Eugene	154,620	Roseburg	21,235	North Bend	9,855
Salem	154,510	Milwaukie	20,915	Fairview	9,735
Gresham	100,655	Wilsonville	17,940	Monmouth	9,565
Hillsboro	89,285	Pendleton	17,295	Silverton	9,540
Beaverton	86,205	Central Point	17,160	Cottage Grove	9,445
Bend	80,995	Coos Bay	16,670	Florence	9,410
Medford	76,850	Sherwood	16,420	Sweet Home	9,045
Springfield	58,005	Hermiston	16,080	Eagle Point	8,730
Corvallis	54,880	Troutdale	15,465	Independence	8,030
Albany	48,770	Dallas	15,360	Sandy	8,005
Tigard	47,150	Lebanon	15,185	Lincoln	7,875
Lake Oswego	36,590	Canby	15,165	Stayton	7,815
Keizer	36,150	The Dalles	13,170	Sutherlin	7,795
McMinnville	32,400	La Grande	12,935	Molalla	7,590
Grants Pass	32,260	St. Helens	12,325	Hood River	6,850
Oregon City	30,405	Gladstone	12,215	Madras	6,640
Tualatin	26,040	Happy Valley	11,455	Talent	6,635
Redmond	25,445	Ontario	11,435	Milton-Freewater	6,580
West Linn	24,400	Cornelius	10,955	Scappoose	6,580
Woodburn	23,355	Newport	10,580	Umatilla	6,495
Newberg	22,645	Prineville	10,370	Brookings	6,465
Ashland	21,485	Baker City	10,140	Seaside	6,445
Forest Grove	21,465	Astoria	10,080	Sheridan	6,020

**Source;** Population Research Center, Portland State University, March 2009.



**Newsletter Purpose:**

- To be of service to Oregon's Vineyard Senior Pastors in recruiting and sending out church planters.
- To be of service to potential church planters in preparing for their mission.

**Past Issues @ <http://www.providencevcf.org>**  
 Email Comments or Questions - [lesyoder@centurytel.net](mailto:lesyoder@centurytel.net)

**Source:** [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oregon\\_Population\\_Growth\\_by\\_County.png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oregon_Population_Growth_by_County.png)