



How Churches Reproduce: An Interview with Ben Gardner

Thanks for joining the *Big Church Small Church* podcast. We are starting a new theme on discipleship, church planting, and multiplication! In this episode, we heard from church planter Ben Gardner, who is reaching unchurched people through his new church plant in the UK.

Ben is a church planter and pioneer in the Church of England. He is currently planting a church in Loughborough, UK, with his family. Ben was sent by his mother church in Loughborough to plant in a different part of the city to reach unchurched people.

Church planting starts with having a heart to reach the lost and a heart for mission. Starting a church from scratch should start in a place where there are non-Christians who don't know Jesus yet or don't go to church.

What is needed in church planting?

- Church planting generally needs financial support and a strategy to be sustainable.
- Planting needs a launch team using their gifts to serve and reach new people.
- The mother church supports and gives birth to a new baby church and nurtures it to grow into an adult church.
- Planting and multiplication must come from being called by God and as a large step of faith.

Why should churches plant?

- George Lings in his book *Reproducing Churches* points out that every church is made to reproduce. Lings asks the question: If you aren't multiplying church plants, are you truly a church?
- Every church was once a church plant! Even your grandma's church.
- We need to reach the lost. The best way to reach non-Christians is through church planting.
- Only 4% of churches reproduce in the U.S.
- All churches die. Churches need to give birth to leave a legacy.

I want to hear from you! Don't forget to e-mail your questions, comments, and testimonies at jonhunter@churchdoctor.org. Check out thesendmovement.com to apply for discipleship training for SEND Young Adults (18-29) or SEND+ (29+) or for coaching opportunities.

Resources

Reproducing Churches by George Lings

Planting Missional Churches by Ed Stetzer and Daniel Im

Multipliers: Leading Beyond Addition by Todd Wilson