

## FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

### Part 1 of 3

by Ken Behnken

*This article first appeared in the March 24, 2005, Mission Moments newsletter from the Center for U.S. Missions. Permission is given to copy this article for distribution within your own congregation. Please credit the author and the Center for U.S. Missions in Irvine, California, [www.centerforusmissions.org](http://www.centerforusmissions.org). For more information, contact the Center at 949-854-8002 x1780.*

An article by Suzanne Mulvehill in *Entrepreneur* magazine,\* shares 31 factors she recommends to be considered by entrepreneurs who are starting a business. I believe that the considerations of many of these factors are equally important for those called to plant a new church. These suggestions may seem so simple and just common sense, yet the author has written books and makes a living reminding people how important these factors are if one wants to succeed. In the next three issues of Mission Moments I will share 25 of the factors she mentions in this article and how they apply to entrepreneurial church planters.

1. **Say yes to your yearnings:** If God has placed in you a yearning to be a church planter, it is important to recognize this call and be willing to say “yes.” This special form of ministry takes particular skills. Be willing to be interviewed and tested to see if you have the necessary gifts and skills. If you do, be ready to let the Lord use you as a church planter.
2. **Write down your goals:** Studies reveal that people who write down their goals are five times more likely to achieve them. What are your goals? What do you want to accomplish in the next year, five years? Write these goals down, share them with others, and then set out to achieve them.
3. **Visualize your success:** God’s intent is for you to be a successful pastor, a successful church planter. Be in prayer and let God help you establish His vision for your ministry. Ask questions like: Who are the people I can best serve? What will this church look like? Who will help me in this ministry? Research shows that entrepreneurs who created visions were the most likely to succeed.. Don’t start a ministry without a vision.
4. **Evaluate your values:** Take a sheet of paper and write down your values for yourself, the church, and your ministry,. Study these values and see if they reflect what you really believe. Perhaps you will discover that some of these values are not really your own; they may be tradition or cultural bound and your real values are different. Write down the new values you discover and determine how they will impact your goals and your ministry.
5. **Do something different every day:** It is important to shake up your routine and get used to change. Change will be an integral part of starting a new ministry. Break down your fears by doing the things you are afraid of. If you are afraid of making calls, make sure that you plan a day to knock on doors. Doing it releases fears. Get out of the office, meet people, go to different places. Make your days interesting, fun, and productive. Remember ministry is people.
6. **Act “as if”:** Start acting “as if” your church is growing, “as if” you have small group leaders, “as if” God has a special design for this ministry, “as if” you know that this ministry is in God’s hands and He is blessing it, “as if” you know that God has called you to this ministry for a special reason, “as if” the present problems are only small stepping stones to God’s ultimate plan.
7. **Finish unfinished business:** It is easy to get overwhelmed by the things we haven’t been able to do. Make a list of the things that bother you and need to be completed: the calls you need to make, the things you promised someone you would do, and the reports you need to finish. Work on the things on your list one at a time and mark them off when you are done. You will be surprised how the completion of each task will energize you. Keeping this list tied up in the corner of your mind has a way of, overwhelming, and even paralyzing, you with the fear that there is no way you will be able to get it all done.
8. **Get educated:** Knowledge is power. Take classes and attend seminars to learn practical skills. If you are called to be a church planter, take a week to attend the [Mission Planters Institute](#). There are many practical skills one does not learn as a part of a theological education. Supplement your seminary training with seminars, good books, a mentor, or classes at a local college. A good entrepreneur or church planter needs to understand finances, leadership, working with a team,

developing a mission plan, gathering and understanding demographics and many other practical tools. Don't stop learning.

**to be continued.....**

\*Suzanne Mulvehill, "Fear Factor," *Entrepreneur* magazine, April 2005