

**Building Effective Ministry Teams
for Aspiring Church Planters**
Reverend Paul Martinez

ABSTRACT

Relationships are one of the most essential facets of both humanity and deity. The importance of relationships seen throughout Scripture stands in stark contrast to the highly individualistic culture found presently in the United States of America and other Western nations. A specific example of the influence of an individualistic culture can be seen in the efforts of the singular church planter who often works in isolation to start a church. However, the church planter who works alone will encounter a sense of loneliness and discouragement because of the complexities of the church planting process.

Planting a church using a team-based model of ministry can help address this issue. Church planters who recognize the value of teams and consequently implement a team-based approach to ministry at the foundation of the planting process will ultimately have a greater likelihood of building a successful, healthy church.

The purpose of this project is to train a group of church planting students at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (AGTS) in the team-building process of forming, storming, norming, and performing. The process will not involve the actual planting of a church, but will train students to build highly effective teams that can be used in church-planting endeavors.

The project is process-oriented and utilizes the methodology of small group discussions, mentoring, and team-building exercises. Throughout the project, participants

will be assessed according to their understanding, knowledge, and aptitude in building effective teams. It is recommended that AGTS subsequently use the principles of the project to develop courses that train and teach students the value of building teams for effective church planting ministry.