

INSTILLING A VISION IN TONGAN PASTORS FOR CHURCH PLANTING AND GROWTH

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This project was designed to increase awareness and instill vision in Tongan pastors and church leaders regarding church planting and growth. The focus pertained to planting and growing indigenous churches in the Tongan ethnic and cultural context. Though not actually planting a church, the project trained indigenous Tongan pastors and church leaders to use effective strategies and methods relevant for ethnic and intercultural church planting.

Planting an ethnic church through teamwork, the equipping of indigenous leaders, and various methods of church-planting evangelism were addressed. Indigenous church planters were trained to recognize the value of these approaches, foundational to successful church planting and growth.

Vital to effective church planting is the biblical-theological foundation upon which godly church planters and the newly planted church itself are built. Therefore, the project serves as biblical counsel to individuals desiring to plant a new congregation. Six chapters comprise this body of work. Chapter 1 deals with the need for planting ethnic and intercultural churches within the Assemblies of God. Chapter 2 provides the biblical-theological basis for church planting. Chapter 3 contains views and suggestions made by those involved in effective church planting programs. Chapters 4 and 5 address the proposed and the actual project field test. The final chapter includes evaluations and reflective recommendations based on the findings and implications of the project.

It is recommended that these church-planting principles serve as resources to use and develop, not only for Tongans, but other ethnic ministries, missionaries, and church leaders as well.