

# ***FirstSteps for Planting a Missional Church***

## ***Coaching Guide #9***

### Financial Systems

Starting a church in the late 80's was a challenge. Months prior to my arriving in the town that we were going to plant our church in the "televangelist scandals" were all over the airwaves and in newsprint. I remember being in a networking setting where I was in a conversation with a local realtor. When she discovered that I had moved to the town to start a church, she said to me, "Boy, this must be a tough time for guys like you with all the scandals happening."

Handling money in a new church is a serious issue. Paul in his appeal to the Corinthian church writes, *"We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men."* (II Corinthians 8:20-21 NIV) Church planters need to take the necessary pains to set up appropriate financial systems so that they will not experience the pains of a financial scandal in a new church.

#### **Biblical Insights**

- II Corinthians 8:18-23

#### **Checklist**

- Two person financial system set up
  - Financial secretary (inflow)
  - Treasurer (outflow)
- Check signing procedure set up.
- Offering collection and counting procedure set up.
- Depositing procedure set up.
- Gift tracking set up.
- Financial reporting set up.
- Cash flow monitoring set up.

#### **Reflective Questions**

- Who will know how much individuals are giving?
- What is the amount of 90 days worth of expenses in your current budget?
- How will you manage the cash flow of your new church?
- How many check signers will you have on the church checking account?
- What do your weekly offerings need to be for the church to be self-supporting financially?
- What is the largest amount of money that can be spent without permission from the leadership team?
- Who will make sure that the church is keeping up with its financial obligations?

#### **Conclusion:**

Establishing financial accountability early in the life of a new church can bring trust and confidence in its new leadership. Active involvement from a strong financial team protects the integrity of the church, its leadership, and its desire to fulfill God's mission.