TEN PRINCIPLES WE HAVE LEARNT FOR EFFECTIVE CHURCH PLANTING IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

1. **The single greatest secret to effectiveness is the willingness of the workers to suffer, to endure and to die**

   This means death to:

   - popularity
   - pride – and a complete dependence on the Holy Spirit
   - racial and cultural prejudice – without this there is no effective language learning and no incarnational witness
   - material comforts (adopting a simple lifestyle) and to a feeling of security (other than in God).
   - Selfish ambition
   - A selfish home life etc.

   To achieve this there must be self-imposed discipline in the "classic disciplines" of the Christian life:

   - maintaining joy
   - a secret life of prayer
   - feeding your spirit from the Word of God
   - fasting – etc.

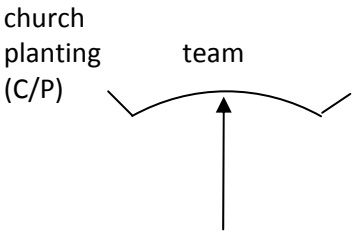
   The choice is always between the crowd and the Cross. When we choose the Cross, then eventually there will surely be a breakthrough. ***"If we suffer we shall also reign with Him"***. (2 Tim. 2:12) If we are prepared to live as Jesus did, serve as He served, suffer as He suffered, then it is true that we will share with Him the joy of the harvest.

   The Principle:
   "Crucified in weakness and living by the power of God." 2 Cor. 13:4

2. **Team: multicultural teams where everyone on the team has a clear, acceptable identity (i.e. the community looks favourably at this identity) are essential. There must be no 'job-faking'!**

   - There are many reasons why workers should work in teams.
   - There are many reasons why a high degree of diversity on a team is necessary: diversity in:
     - spiritual gifts and natural abilities
     - national/cultural backgrounds
     - mother tongues
   - Integrity is essential if there is to be **effective** incarnational witness (no job-faking!)
   - The community needs to see "the team" as an overall benefit to them.

3. **There must be a balance between "production" and "production capability" – between building up the life of the team (training, member care etc.) and the work of evangelism and discipleship.**



If the arrow goes to **team**, this is essentially navel gazing! The result is introspection. The team stays for a while. People appear happy, trainees thrive, everyone is operating in their comfort zone. No risks are being taken. They have settled for survival and nothing much is accomplished.

If the arrow goes to **C/P**, the result is high attrition. There is a loss of experienced personnel and too many short-term recruits. Language and cultural acquisition capacity on the team is too low so that not much is accomplished. How can a good balance be maintained? There is need for an objective outside consultant!

4. **Research must be carried out on "What is the <u>Good</u> News for this people?" This must be followed by a methodology of delivery (aural preference learners)**

This is the heart of contextualisation. We must passionately believe what Jesus said, ***"If I am lifted up, I will draw all men to myself".*** (Jn. 12:32) What is it in the person of Jesus that will draw that person (people group) to Jesus? It is clear that, in the past, most of our presentation of the Gospel has been either offensive or irrelevant. We must research felt needs. We must produce materials especially for aural preference learners. We must research why MBBs are coming to faith.

5. **Research how the Gospel spreads. It run's down corridors of trust.**

Expatriate, non-MBB background believers are usually very ineffective evangelists (because of low levels of trust). MBBs usually win families and trusted friends. The best use of time for a team is not in evangelism but in **discipleship and leadership development.**

6. **The key to discipleship is reproducibility**

Can the disciple model his life on mine? Can he model his prayer, his worship, his methods of evangelism and his ministry on mine? Essentially, can this church I am planting **rapidly reproduce** itself without outside intervention? It is very important to examine issues relating to money to see if long-term consequences are being considered.

7. **There needs to be a system of moving disciples through the various stages of discipleship**
[seeker – new believer – beginning disciple – growing disciple – serving disciple – shepherd/elder]

Goals need to be set for each "stage". There must be a strategy to reach those goals and a "tool box" must be developed with relevant materials.

8. **Leadership Development is crucial. It must be done in a culturally appropriate way.**

Aim for early transfer of leadership. Make sure to teach **servant** leadership. This must be **modelled**. Don't introduce "foreign" leadership structures or models. Stick very closely to the Bible. Retain as much of the culture as possible. Teach Biblical concepts of the value of culture retention.

9. A holistic approach to church-planting is essential

A new community is being formed. This means that there are many relevant issues that need to be addressed: economic, social and emotional as well as spiritual. For a church to be self-sustaining, economic issues are especially vital. This will probably involve paying attention to micro-enterprise development. All issues around "rites of passage" in the new community need to be thought through very carefully.

10. The degree of "contextualisation C1 - C5" is a sociological issue not a theological one.

Use of the "cell model" overcomes many difficulties. Most teams are working in a C3 to C5 range. Poverty, illiteracy, high unemployment and rural situations tend to move the number up to 5. An urban, middle class, professional church tends to move it down to 3. Using the cell model of church – with periodic "celebrations", creates a "unity in diversity" model.

Finally
We have found that David Garrison's analysis is extremely relevant and "spot on".

♦ **10 Universal Elements found in all CPMs**

- Prayer
- Abundant seed sowing
- Intentional C/P
- Scriptural authority
- Local leadership
- Lay leadership
- Cell churches
- Churches planting reproducing churches
- Rapid reproduction
- Healthy churches

♦ **10 Common Factors found in CPMs**

- worship in the heart language
- evangelism has communal implications
- rapid incorporation of believers into the church
- passion and fearlessness
- becoming a follower of Jesus is costly
- there is a leadership crisis in society
- on-the-job training for servant leadership
- decentralised leadership authority
- outsiders keep a low profile
- workers suffer