



# Starting New Churches



# Starting New Churches

2nd Edition

by Larry Pate

*AN INDEPENDENT-STUDY TEXTBOOK*

Developed in Cooperation with  
Global University Staff

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## THE GU CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the GU Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for the order of study in the series, which is divided into three units of six courses each.

*Starting New Churches* is Course 4 in Unit II. You will benefit greater by studying the courses in the proper order.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program have been prepared in a self-teaching format especially for Christian workers. These courses provide a student with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. You may study this course in order to receive credit toward a certificate, or for personal enrichment.

### ATTENTION

Please read the course introduction very carefully. It is important that you follow these instructions so you can achieve the goals of the course, and be prepared for the student reports.

Address all correspondence concerning the course to your GU instructor at the address stamped on the copyright page near the front of the study guide.

## **COURSE INTRODUCTION**

Do you know that you can have an active part in accomplishing the building of Christ's church? Certainly this is implied in Jesus' statement of purpose in Matthew 16:18: "I will build my church." Ever since the church began on the Day of Pentecost the followers of Christ have been planting the church in all the world.

In this course you will learn the value of the direction of the Holy Spirit in planning strategy for the founding and development of new churches. The Bible gives principles and purposes which are a guide to planting the church among all cultures and peoples.

The New Testament describes the beginnings and the development of the church and how it spread through the known world at that time. From the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the early church you will learn principles and patterns that continue to the present time. You will consider how every Christian has a responsibility to work with other members of the body of Christ to plant new churches. You will examine methods of motivating other believers to become involved in church planting.

As you study this course, allow the Holy Spirit to show you His plan for your part in building the church of Jesus Christ. Let Him reveal to you the blessing and value of your local church within the larger, worldwide context of the body of Christ.

## Course Description

*Starting New Churches* is a practical course of study which stresses the importance of establishing new churches as a means of evangelizing the world. It gives guidelines so that any local church can be involved in the task of planting churches, thereby becoming a multiplying church.

The course is designed to help a person in three ways: 1) It will help one understand the purpose and function of the church as described in the New Testament; 2) It will give one an understanding of the meaning and the importance of the concepts of self-government, self-propagation, and self-support; 3) It will help one see the methods by which the church can be planted and multiplied under all conditions and in all cultures.

## Course Objectives

When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Understand that planting churches is both the goal and the means of evangelism.
2. Understand and value the role of the local church in the outreach ministry of the church universal.
3. Explain the meaning of the multiplying church concept.
4. Describe good church planting strategies among specific groups of people.
5. Formulate and evaluate your plan for planting a church.

## Textbooks

You will use *Starting New Churches: An Independent-Study Textbook* by Larry Pate as both the textbook and study guide for the course. The Bible is the only other requirement.



## Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

## Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: 1) lesson title, 2) opening statement, 3) lesson outline, 4) lesson objectives, 5) learning activities, 6) key words, 7) lesson development including study questions, 8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), 9) answers to the study questions. Answers to each self-test are at the back of your textbook before the unit student reports.

The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student report.

*Do not look ahead at the answers until you have given your answer.* If you give your own answers, you will remember what you study much better. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are very important. They will help

you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

## How to Answer Questions

There are different kinds of study questions and self-test questions in this study guide. Below are samples of several types and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
  - b)** 66 books.
  - c)** 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
  - (b)** 66 books.
  - c)** 27 books.
  - d)** 2 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

### *Example*

- 2** Which statements below are TRUE?
- a)** The Bible has a total of 120 books.
  - (b)** The Bible is a message for believers today.
  - c)** All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
  - (d)** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such *as* names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

### Example

**3** Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- |                |   |           |
|----------------|---|-----------|
| ..... <b>1</b> | <b>a</b> . Received the Law at Mt. Sinai    | 1) Moses  |
| ..... <b>2</b> | <b>b</b> . Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| ..... <b>2</b> | <b>c</b> . . Marched around Jericho         |           |
| ..... <b>1</b> | <b>d</b> . Lived in Pharaoh's court         |           |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to Moses, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to Joshua. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

## Ways to Study This Course

If you study this GU course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although GU has designed this course for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his instructions.

Possibly you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes

## Unit Student Reports

In the back of your study guide are located the unit student reports and answer sheets. These are to be completed according to the instructions included in the course and in the unit student reports. You should complete and send each unit answer sheet to your instructor for his grading and suggestions regarding your work. Send one when you complete each unit.

## Certificate

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the unit answer sheets by your GU instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award.

## About the Author

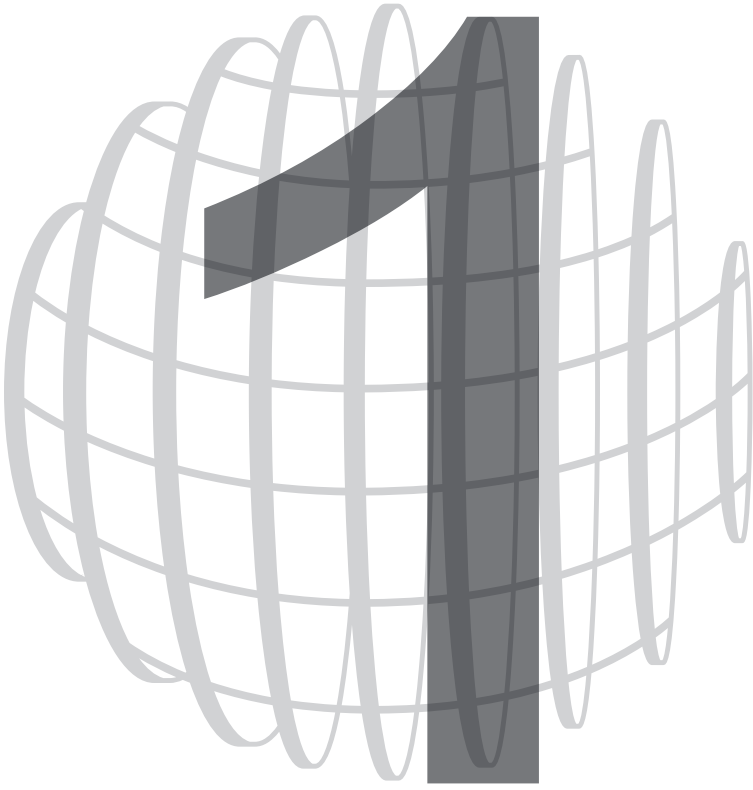
After searching for truth in several forms of religion, Larry Pate made a commitment to Jesus Christ just before entering the University of California, Davis. After studying for two years, he answered God's call to the ministry. He transferred his studies to Bethany Bible College in Santa Cruz, California, receiving his B.S. degree.

Mr. Pate was active in the ministry as an evangelist, associate pastor, and pastor for eight years before entering missionary service in 1974. He has done graduate studies at the University of Santa Clara and the Assemblies of God Graduate School, receiving a master of science degree in missions science. He has done further graduate studies at the School of World Mission of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He served as a missionary to Bangladesh for six years and later was instructor of cross-cultural ministries at Southern California College, Costa Mesa, California. Mr. Pate and his family are now missionaries to Brazil.

## Your GU instructor

Your GU instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit student reports, please feel free to ask him. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you study *Starting New Churches*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.



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# The Model for Churches

## Lessons

- 1 Churches in the New Testament
- 2 Churches and Their Mission