



CODE BLUE

TRAINING FOR LOCAL LEADERS

MODULE TWO

CORPS PLANTING

Session 1- Planting Purpose
Session 2- Planting Models
Session 3- Planting Preparation



LEADER'S MANUAL

The Salvation Army

Australia Territory



CORPS PLANTING
SESSION 3: PLANTING PREPARATION

AIM:

This session is designed to help participants understand the need to pursue corps planting in The Salvation Army. It will examine the role of the parent church, how and where to begin a church plant and the implications for corps and individuals.

TIME NEEDED:

90 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Participants' manual, overhead projector/multi-media, whiteboard & markers, bibles, large sheets of blank paper & markers, Appendices 4 & 5.

NAVIGATING THE SESSION:

Text in **blue** is for your information. It's also directing you to do something.

Text in **red** is for you to "read out" or "answers" for participants to fill in.

Text in **black** also appears in the participants' notes and can be followed as you read aloud.

This symbol  indicates a slide is available to display via multimedia.

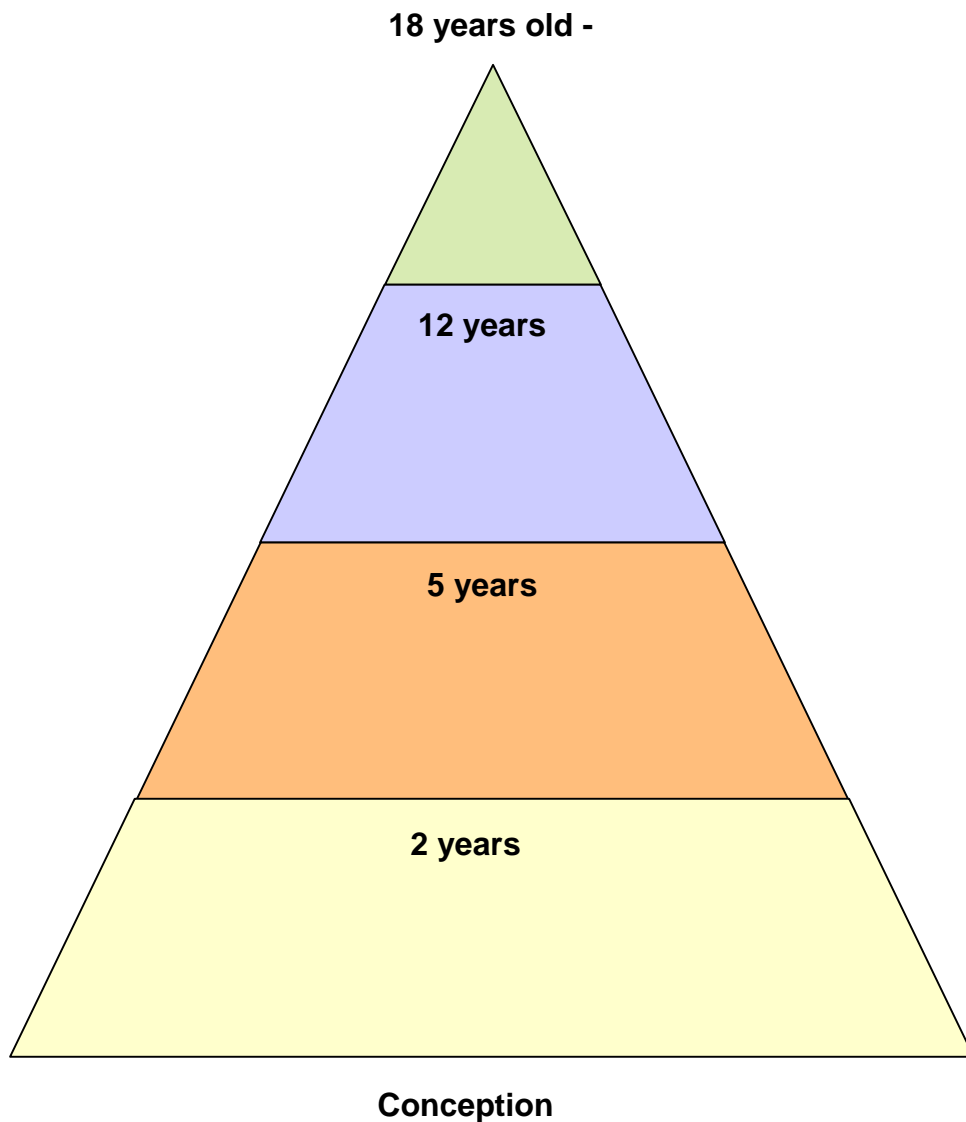
In Session 2, we examined various models of church planting focusing in particular, on the House Church model. We will now look closely at the role of the parent church.

WHAT IS A PARENT CHURCH?

In groups of three, discuss:



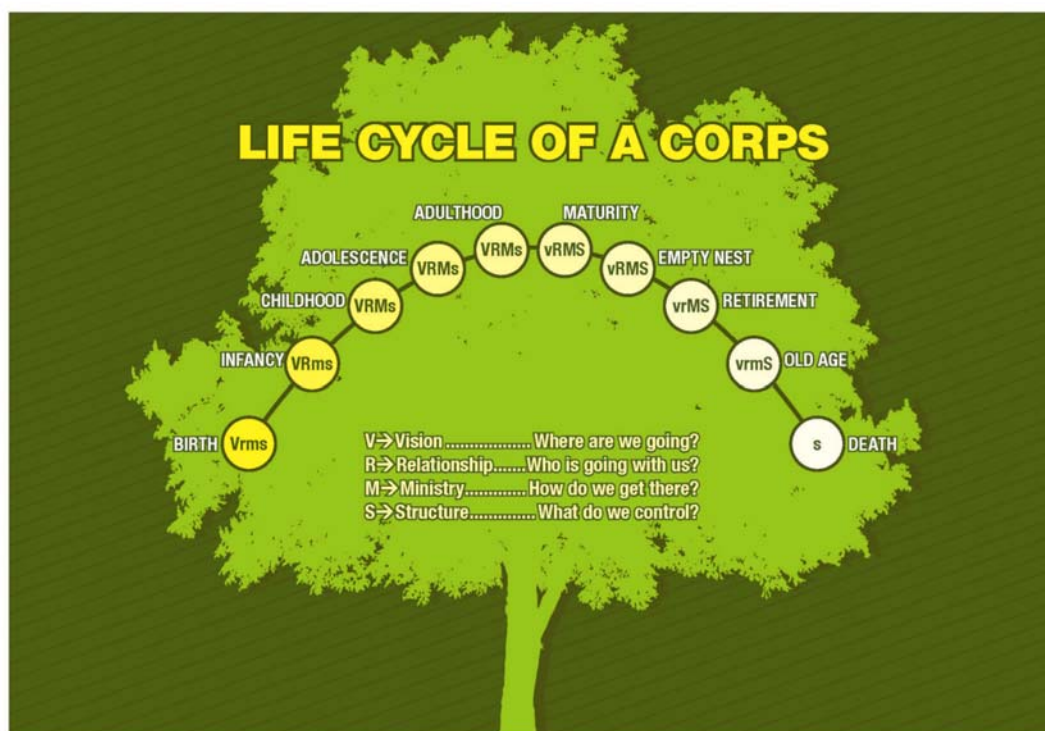
What does a parent do? List the things that a parent does for their child at each stage.
(Write your answers in the wedge)



Consider how the role of the parent changes over time:

- How do you know when to allow the child to have more personal responsibility?
- How does the relationship change over time?

In order to discover the role of a parent church, we first need to look at what we call the life cycle of a church.



In Bullard's Life Cycle adapted by Paul Borden we are able to identify specific characteristics of a church's development evident at each stage. (See diagram opposite.)

In your groups (of 2-3) discuss:

1. Why should we start a new life cycle in the church?
2. What are the potential dangers of starting a new life cycle:
 - Too early (at the child/adolescence stage)?
 - Too late (at the empty nest/retirement stage)?
3. What part of the life cycle is your corps presently at?
 - To answer this, use the Bullard Life Cycle adapted by Paul Borden to identify the key characteristics of your corps.
 - ☒ tick which box you fall into under each category. You may fall into a number of different stages. Wherever the majority of your ticks fall will indicate which stage you are in.
4. What does your corps need to do to maintain vitality (life)?



BULLARD LIFE CYCLE – Adapted by Paul Borden & Greg Wiens

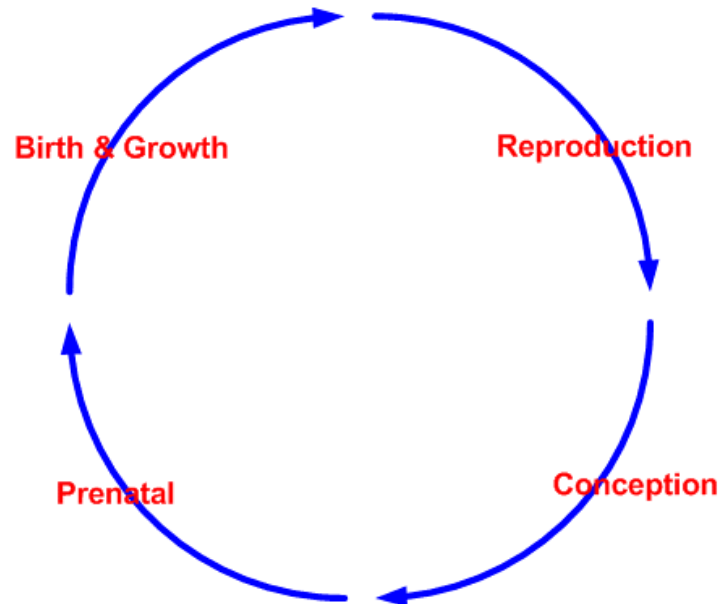
	Vision	Relationships	Ministry	Structure	Emotion	Behaviours	Issues	Needs
Birth VRMS	Dominant	Happens Unintentionally	Only what's necessary	Informal	Passion	- Est. Long term vision - Evangelism & growth philosophy est. - Est. leadership style	- Can founding pastor stay? - Will lay leadership style change?	Make relationships intentional
Infancy VRMS	Dominant	Begin strategic implementation	Only what's necessary	Informal	Passion	- Developing patterns of inclusion	- Clear values - Worship style - Lay mobilization	Quality Ministry
Childhood VRMS	Dominant	Happens though not the focus it was	High energy in implementation	Based on leaders' personalities	Excitement for the long run	Focus on Development - Staff - Ministries - Funding	- Future Staff - Focus – child under 18 - Facility needs	- Quality & Quantity needs - Establish Structure
Adolescence VRMS	Dominant	Refocus on meeting needs qualitatively & quantitatively	Refinement and further development	Lacks: - Preciseness - Order - Consistency	Excitement for quality & quantity	- Staff Development - Facility needs - Develop mgmt systems	- Competition for future agenda - VR vs. PM	- Management systems - Leadership development
Adulthood VRMS	Dominant	Produces: - growth - commitment	- High quality & quantity - Community known	- Formal system in place - Functions well	- High morale - Sense of vision/mission	- Integrated Systems - Facilities complete - Great Worship	- Few realize at peak - As good as it gets	- Change (new vision)
Maturity VRMS	Assumed & Becoming lost	- Less new people - Disciple-making strong	- High quality & quantity - Community known	- In charge - Conserving the great tradition	- Feel good - But congregation passive	- Finances high but over-budgeted - Worship great - Membership tenure high	- Lack of Focus - Less new people - Congregation aging	- Re-envision - Diminish structure - Re-engineer
Empty Nest VRMS	- Lost/missing - Loss affects most systems	Happening but not keeping up	- Begin disintegration - We try harder	- In charge - Focus of the organization	- Denial - Nostalgia - Turning to anger	- Blaming - Issue is more commitment - Lack confidence with leaders	- System functions - Severe conflict	- Re-envision - Develop new ministries - Diminish structure
Retirement VRMS	Lost completely	Long-term members no longer invite people	Try new ones to fill the church	Overly managed	- Despair Disappointment	- Ministry changes - Want new workers - Won't confront	- Change may cause split - Change to create past - Want church to bury me	- New vision - Diminish mgmt - New relational form - New ministries
Old Age VRMS	Gone	Dormant	Failed	Total control	- Fear - Perhaps bitterness	- Structure focuses on Chaplain ministry - Member gifts crucial	- Focus on member anniversary/funerals - Structure kills any creativity - Congregation at rest	- Diminish structure - Create new ministries - Re-envision
Death S	Gone	Lost	Failed	Orchestrate an orderly transition	- Numb - No positive emotions	- Closure - Transition - Celebrate the past and close	- Complete closure - Resurrection in another form - Resource new ministry	- Transition for a new ministry



ROLE OF THE PARENT CHURCH

The **LIFE CYCLE** of the parenting phase in the overall life cycle of the church.

Parenting does not start at conception but prior to it at the reproduction stage.
Preparation is essential prior to conception.



Quick overview:

REPRODUCTION PHASE

- Gain ownership of proposed planting with:
 - opinion leaders
 - congregation
- Mobilise the church planter
- Select appropriate target community
- Determine style of plant
- Prepare for the release of the new church

The role of the parent church in the reproduction phase is to cultivate vision and commitment



Reflect/Brainstorm: (individually write answers to the following questions and then share them in groups of 3-4 people from your corps/area.)

Hypothesis:	You have been asked to initiate a corps plant in your community.
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- **WHO?** - are the opinion leaders/'movers and shakers'/possible church planters in your corps?
- **WHERE?** - potential location/community
- **HOW?** - potential style of new corps/congregation
- **WHAT?** - needs to be done?(refer to Reproduction phase.)

CONCEPTION PHASE

- 70% of fatal mistakes are made before the first public worship service
- Three things to do
 - **Planter assessment**
 - Objective evaluation
 - Reveals potential ability to plant
 - Reveals strengths and weaknesses to be aware of
 - **Planter submission of planting proposal**
 - A written response to the question:
"What is God saying to you about the shape of this church that is to be planted?"
*Commencement of some strategic planning/thinking
*If one or more planters is to be considered, this response gives clarity for the selection of personnel.
 - May articulate:
 - Core values
 - Strategy
 - Budget
 - Team
 - **Prayer Strategy commences**

The role of the parent church during the conception phase is to initiate planter selection and approval of planting proposal.

PRE-NATAL PHASE



That which needs to be accomplished before the first public worship service.

The role of Parent church in this phase is to

- **Guide** – hold planter accountable for evangelism and getting people together; keeping their focus on the main thing.
- **Give** – access to people and resources.

The role of the parent church in the pre-natal phase is to guide and give.

BIRTH AND GROWTH PHASE

- Do not control new church
- The relationship changes between the parent church and the church which has just launched.
- Ensure planter is supported through outside coaching

The role of the parent church during the birth and growth phase is to get out of the way!

In summary, the role of the parent church is

Reproduction phase

- Cultivate vision and commitment from the congregation

Conception phase

- Planter assessment and proposal
- Pray, pray, pray

Pre-natal phase

- Accountability process for planter
- Give resources and people

Birth phase

- Celebrate
- Get out of the way

COSTS OF PARENTING A CHURCH

What are the costs of parenting?



- Giving people
- Giving leaders
- Giving givers
- Facing resistance
- Delayed growth and dreams

Luke 14:28 “ Is there anyone here who, planning to build a new house, doesn't first sit down and figure the cost so you'll know if you can complete it?”

**In your hypothesis group, consider the cost of planting a new corps in your area.
What will it cost?**

Individually (to members individually)	Your corps (to your congregation as whole)

SO WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

ESSENTIAL PREPARATION



1. It's about cultivating the values that exist in healthy churches:

- Compassion for lost
 - i. See the harvest and cultivate compassion
 - ii. Do you see those who are going to a Christless eternity?
 - iii. Is your heart broken by the things that break God's heart?
- Confidence in God's ability
- Great commission orientation
- Developing and resourcing leaders
- A kingdom perspective
- Generosity
- Have a culturally relevant style

GROUP BRAINSTORM: (whole group contribution) Write the ideas on the whiteboard

In what practical ways can we implement these values into our corps?
(e.g. Preach them, study them in small groups, live them etc.)

2. Mobilise Intercession teams

- You can never begin this too early.
- Prayerful listening to God for direction
- Releases spiritual power

"Prayer is not preparation for the battle. It is the battle"



When involved in church planting, you are overtly moving into the area of the unchurched – those whom the evil one sees as his territory, therefore, an engagement in a spiritual battle.

What are some ways intercessory prayer teams could be mobilised?

Brainstorm – Write the ideas on the whiteboard

Some suggestions:

Concentrated period of prayer regarding future planting and direction

Prayer walking the streets of the proposed target area

3. Pray for workers to be raised up

Matthew 9:37-38 (Leadership is the only limitation in planting churches)

Jesus' heart is broken with compassion for the lost. We ask for workers to the degree that our hearts break over the lost.

4. Seek vision from God (See Appendix 4)

5. Bear fruit

- Be convinced of the need to be obedient to John 15

The fruit of the apple tree is more than apples. It is more apple trees. A fruitful church is one which doesn't just produce disciples, but produces churches.

- Multiply disciples
- Multiply leaders

Where to now?



ASCERTAIN THE NEED IN SPECIFICS (Appendix 5)

- Demographic research
 - Number of people in target area
 - Age distribution
 - Ethnicity
 - Socio-economic status
 - Religious affiliation
- Know growth projections for geographic area
- Survey for unchurched population

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

- Growing the church is Jesus' responsibility – Matthew 16:18

However, he calls us to be partners with him.

Our responsibility:

- Obedience
- Prayer (pray as if it all depended on God)
- Work (work as if it all depended on you)
- Casting vision for planting
- Planning and strategising



Planting is hard work and some will misunderstand our motives and criticise us.

It will bring amazing joy when the fruit is harvested and you see people's lives transformed by a living encounter with Christ because you dared to believe and obey and step out in faith and commitment to evangelism by planting a new congregation.

(Last Slide)

An opportunity exists here for you to share stories of changed lives as a result of new corps/congregation plants.

Personal Accountability: (to be done individually – optional)

By ____ date ____, I will :

Corps Officers

- ...'call a leadership meeting to discuss'... or ...'initiate intercessors group'...
-

Congregational Members

- prayer
-

To end this session: share a prayer together or in corps groups.