



10 Ways to Care for a Planter

Planting a church on the edge of lostness is often difficult and lonely work. Yet, the long-term success of a plant is intimately tied to the spiritual, emotional and physical health of the planter and his family. One of the best things you can do as a Sending Church is to serve your planter by taking a proactive role in encouraging and caring for him and his family.

Here are 10 practical ways you can care for your church planter:

- 1. Call them, ask good questions and pray for them.**
Consider asking your planter: What has been the greatest part of planting for you thus far? What has been the hardest part? But don't just ask questions; pray with your planter to praise God for his successes/joys and for God's help in the challenges.
- 2. Have small groups write personal notes of encouragement.**
- 3. Remember their birthdays by sending a gift card with a personal note from the church's staff on the planter's and spouse's birthdays.**
- 4. Remember their anniversary by sending a gift card with a book on marriage and a personal note on their anniversary.**
- 5. Remember the planter's children at Christmas by sending gift cards to them with a short note thanking them for what they do for Jesus!**
- 6. Once a semester, work with the planter to schedule a spa day for his spouse.**
- 7. Once a semester, send a team to babysit the planter's kids for an overnight getaway with his wife, and pay for their getaway.**
- 8. Once a year, host the planter and, if possible, his wife, to have him preach at your church.**
- 9. Once a year, send your lead pastor to visit and preach at your planter's church. Take the planter and his family out to lunch after church and pick up the tab.**
- 10. Once a year, if needed, provide a biblical counselor for your planter to utilize, just for a refresher. Offer this whether you think it is needed or not.**