

ENDORSEMENTS



Sent to Flourish

A Guide to Planting and Multiplying Churches

Available October 22 | \$35, 294 pages, casebound | 978-0-8308-**5268**-0

How can church planters and their congregations flourish for the long haul? Written by a diverse team of scholar-practitioners and filled with real-world insights, stories, and questions for reflection and discussion, this guide gives church planters and their teams the tools to be theologically reflective, spiritually grounded, and missionally agile.

"The Capacity to Both Inspire and to Guide."

"As I settled in for a flight, I asked my seatmate about his work. 'I am a church planter,' he said enthusiastically. 'That's interesting to hear,' I responded, and then asked with apparent naiveté, 'So what does it take to plant a church?' 'Two simple things: a good sound system and a dynamic speaker!' This rich volume offers multifaceted wisdom about how much more church planting actually requires than just those two things. I hope my seatmate, and all who read this very helpful book, will see that church planting is about deep sowing and nurturing, about how much God has a passionate purpose in all of it, and about what a faithful adventure and daunting challenge church planting really is!"

Mark Labberton, president, Fuller Theological Seminary

"If you want to view church planting through a missiological lens, this is the book for you. Written by scholar-practitioners, this volume will be a great primer as you explore the world of church planting and multiplying."

Daniel Im, pastor, podcaster, and author of You Are What You Do, No Silver Bullets, and Planting Missional Churches

"Drawing from Scripture and the experience of many church starters and reproducing churches, this book has the capacity both to inspire and to guide planting initiatives into healthy, practical activation. Along the way, the authors remain ever attentive to helping startup teams cultivate the supportive environments and practices conducive to their flourishing and the multiplying of new churches. What a helpful resource for anyone or any church considering a role in planting!"

Daniel Steigerwald, missional catalyst and coach at Artesia ReSourcing

"Again I am proud to count Fuller's church planting program among our partners in this work. Cotherman's quick and deep picture of mission history, Woodward's clear and honest take on the work and his journey in it, and Tang's pastoral take on leadership are all gifts to the conversation. Whenever I encounter an honest response to the colonial and mission history of the church and the prevailing culture that surrounds planting in evangelical traditions, I am glad for the courage that gives it voice. This book's four-part structure offers fresh insight, and the third section, reminding us that the God who sends us is also out in front of us, already among those to whom we go, is an insight worth delving into and pushing deeper. Read this book for fresh takes, bubbling up from the canonical work of evangelical and missional theologians and embodied by the familiar voices of practitioners as well as scholars."

Karen Rohrer, director of the Church Planting Initiative, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary







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"What I wanted most as a young church planter was the advice of those who had gone ahead of me. Sent to Flourish is just that—a compilation of experienced voices answering questions that are on the hearts and minds of church planters. When many voices on several topics all begin with fostering personal growth in relationship with God and responding to the Holy Spirit, you know the wisdom that follows can be trusted. Well done!"

Robert E. Logan, author of The Church Planting Journey and The Missional Journey

"The honest, experienced, and insightful collection of *Sent to Flourish* authors clearly demonstrates the value of collaboration in church planting. Together they have blessed the church with this beneficial resource. Clearly and compellingly written not only from but for the trenches of church planting, this book reflects and will serve the work of many. Rooted deeply in biblical, historical, and narrative soil, *Sent to Flourish* is refreshingly descriptive versus prescriptive, cultivating contextualized church planting with spiritual nourishment displayed by diverse examples of fruitful ministry. Church planting is frequently biased toward action, and this book provides a healthy contrast, beginning with a foundational understanding of the *missio Dei*, followed by reflection on critical formation of church planters. The authors continue by providing examples of healthy embodiment of the gospel in and as community. They then recognize the critical importance of communities of faith moving beyond sustainment to propagation. Both scholarly and accessible, *Sent to Flourish* encourages us to prioritize the kingdom of God over our respective castles with both inspiration and evidence."

Nathan "chivo" Hawkins, regional director, StadiaChurchPlanting.org



