

## Planting a New Church Through Education in the Abun Sausapor Tribe, Tambrauw Regency, West Papua

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### Abstract

In the life of the church members, today many have advanced socially, economically and educationally compared to the church members in the land of Abun Regency, Tambrauw, West Papua which is in the mountains so that there is a wall separating the order of life. Likewise with the Abun Tribe in Sausapor, Tambrauw Regency, they switched to Islam after previously only adhering to animism. And this separation wall makes it difficult for God's people who are advancing in reaching the Abun tribe in Tambrauw Regency, West Papua. With this, the church goes through several approaches to the local community in carrying out the mission of Allah and planting a new church, namely how to reach the Abun tribe community through Education. The Church can grow but it needs those who are willing to give themselves earnestly to that highest calling. Above all, the strategic ability that is the cause of the growth of a church is due to the power of the Holy Spirit. There are various methods of church growth through evangelism and one of them is through formal educational means, namely schools organized by the church, and schools can also be used as a means and strategies for church growth and planting. Furthermore, the students in the church-run school are a wonderful mission field for church planting. From this mission of church planting through education, the church seeks to manage a school, organize branches of the Sabbath School and enter new territory. And build churches in the places of the Sabbath school branches. And there are many evangelistic activities carried out so that many souls are baptized.

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### INTRODUCTION

Since the late 20th century the Church Planting movement has been observed and received attention from various denominations as well as by world missionaries, and many missionaries believe that this movement is the sovereign Word of God. The ministry of God's work through the planting of the church is the construction of an organized institution for believers in a new place. Church planting is evangelism at its best, (Evans, 2013) and in a missiological context, church planting is defined as initiating a reproductive partnership that reflects God's kingdom in the world (Gailyn 1991). It brings forth a spirit of pioneering and creates in those involved a greater expectation of God.

The process of planting a church involves evangelism, discipleship for new believers, training for church leaders, and church organization is in accordance with the New Testament model. (Acts 6:7); (Romans 15:19). The church planting movement is also more than just a revival of existing churches. Revival is highly desirable, but it is not the planting of the church. The KKR program and the

individual ministry (witnessing) program can lead thousands to come to Christ, and that is wonderful, but it is not the same as the church planting movement.

In church planting the features of a church are quickly reproduced or developed, (Garrison, 2004). Garrison further stated that the closest possibility to church planting but still not church planting is where the local church is deployed to build a church.

The purpose of church planting is to make the members of the Church more mature spiritually, so that the churches in the church-planting movement emit a bright shining light, like new stars born under the pressure and heat of the dark universe.

The mission of planting a new church provides an understanding of the story of God's mission through His people in their engagement with the world for the sake of all of God's creation. Through the church can serve His mission to bring the gospel to the world (Acts 9:31). (Nichol, 1980) added in his writings, Christ's Church on earth was organized for missionary purposes, and God desires to see the entire church design ways and means by which the low, rich and poor can hear the message of truth.

How important is church planting? According to (Jim, 2011) there are three main characteristics of a church-planting movement: the church is growing rapidly, the churches are multiplying, and that the churches are indigenous.

Church planting was so biblical, that every time the Apostle Paul traveled on a missionary journey through an area, he always sought to spend his time in each city to build up a local institution of believers. Within a week Paul had established a new church through church planting and training the leaders there (Acts 14:21-23).

The Apostle Paul tried to revisit these churches to reassure and encourage God's people to grow in faith (Acts 15:41; 1 Thess 3:2). The churches built by the Apostle Paul would then send missionaries, so that the work of planting new churches would be continuous (1 Thess 1:8).

## **METHOD**

The methods used for this study are descriptive, analytical, and evaluative methods. Biblical and expert on holistic mission approaches are consulted to describe the biblical and theological foundations for church planting through holistic ministry. Books, statistical studies, and related academic works to illustrate cultural themes or characteristics of the people of northern Papua. Finally, experts are consulted to develop a holistic mission strategy for this context.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Holistic Approach Strategy for Church Planting Through Education in the Abun Tribe, Tambrau Regency**

The church can grow with evangelism and discipleship, evangelism means delivering the gospel of salvation to people who have not believed in Jesus and eventually become members of His church. This is a strategy that can be applied through a holistic approach in church planting

According to (Terry, Smith and Anderson (19980) this is a mission that should pay more attention to the role of the Holy Spirit in calling, lifting,

orientation, and nurturing. A greater emphasis on the spiritual gifts and spiritual warfare of the people is urgently needed. So spiritual renewal must be received, guided, and exploited to find new methods of evangelism, worship, and personal development.

### **Planting the Church Through Education**

Another method of evangelism is through formal educational means, namely schools organized by the church, namely church schools. So education for school-age children is important in the formation of character emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually, on this occasion the church needs to take good steps for the future of children. (Tan, 2011) argues that the first environment of children that greatly influences them is the family, school and faith community, , therefore the planting of the church through education is a step that must be taken carried out by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sausapor, especially in the Abun tribe, Tambrauw district.

### **The Importance of Church Schools for Abun Children**

Church schools are very important and necessary for the future of the children of the Abun tribe members who are members of the seventh-day Adventist Church of Tambrauw Regency. (Yeblo, 2021) said that church schools are very important for the children of church members because children attend Non-Adventist schools, Children are pressured from Non-Adventist school leaders, namely they must go to school on the Sabbath if they do not go to school, children are punished and must sunbathe in the sun from 08:00 – 11:00.

This is contrary to the faith that parents teach children about the sanctity of the Sabbath. Furthermore (Yenjau, 2021) stated, church schools are important to save children from the challenges of attending school on the Sabbath, to build the spirituality of the children of the Abun tribe will be better and to train children in terms of leadership in the church and outside the church.

White adds, (White, 1954) From the beginning the faithful in Israel have paid a great deal of attention to education. God has instructed that children, from infancy, should be taught His virtue and His greatness, especially as stated in His law and shown in the history of the nation of Israel.

(Uniwally, 2021) said that church schools are important to provide special education to the children of the Abun tribe because they have not been well served in terms of understanding the knowledge of the Bible and understanding God as the creator of the universe as well as in building good character. (Lalaun, 2021) added that church schools are the backbone of evangelism so that they can produce new souls.

Church schools are important and necessary to educate the children of the Abun Tribe according to biblical principles (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Romans 12: 1, 2; Proverbs 14:26), teaching the children of the tribe of Abun for eternal life in the future that is accountable to God. So (White, 1980) says, by understanding the principles of the Bible, children will not have their own customs and customs, with the evil practices and false principles that they will get in this world.

Forming the character of students who are balanced between physical, mental, spiritual and social, forming human beings who are lifelong learners (true learners),

forming human beings who have ethics, patience, cooperation and diligence in helping others. So that through this education it helps students understand the rules and instill discipline in children, introduce children to the surrounding world, foster good attitudes and behaviors and develop communication and socialization skills.

This step was taken by the seventh-day Adventist church in the Tambrauw area, the Sausapor congregation made a pilot project of the church, namely establishing educational facilities. In order for the regeneration of school-age children from the Abun tribe to be served in the field of formal education and understand God the creator of the universe, to understand well the content of the Bible as the basis of the faith of the followers of Christ and to create more efficient human resources of the Abun tribe. (White, 1954) Your children belong to God, bought at a certain price. Be very special, fathers and mothers, to treat them in a Christlike way. White adds, (White, 1954)

Early childhood training is a topic that everyone should study carefully. We need to make our children's education a business, because their safety depends heavily on the education given to them in childhood. Parents and guardians themselves must maintain purity of heart and life, if they want their children to be holy. As fathers and mothers, we must train and discipline ourselves. Then as teachers at home, we can train our children, preparing them for a future inheritance.

(Ultukseya, 2021) said that the current attraction of Sausapor Adventist schools is extraordinary because there are many non-Adventist school children who attend Adventist schools with 400 students. The development of the church school was extraordinary in the 4 years after it was inaugurated. So that non-Adventist children who attend Adventist schools can get to know, understand God, the creator of the universe, and then make the decision to be baptized.

### **Planning and Preparation**

Planning is an important thing to do correctly at the beginning of an activity or work. And have a mature strategy to achieve goals and must start with a preparation session. (Tambunan, 2008) said that, "Preparing a planned work program is one of the strategies that must be made so that it can make a study for a certain period of time and what will be made throughout the year.

Careful and proper preparation will provide direction to fulfill each step of the program from all stages of strategy. (White, 2002) adds that the work of winning souls for Christ requires careful preparation. And it also takes time, talents and commitment in doing this work.

### **Defining Goals**

Having a clear goal will provide clear direction from each program to achieve results, especially in evangelistic work. (Stetzer, 2003) said that it is not possible to establish a church without spending time with the lost. If the planter does not make evangelistic outreach a priority, the church cannot grow. If there are no core group members at first, the grower has no other job than knocking on doors, making phone calls, or meeting people. Therefore, the achievement of the program will be more effective, efficient and evaluation will be based on written objectives.

Helping students develop various potentials, both psychic and physical, including morals and values of religion, social-emotional, cognitive, language,

physical/motor, independence and art to be ready to enter higher education according to the existing level of education.

### **Spiritual Preparation**

Living as disciples of Jesus in His church, if we want to be serious about being a force for Christian education, is a must to glorify it with Jesus. In preparing them, Jesus called the disciples, training them to pray (Mark 1:35; Matthew 9:35-38) all of this one agreement continues patiently in prayer (Acts 1:14).

(Terry, 1997) says, the Lord will move in your church in a powerful way when the church leader and its members are willing to pray. The people of God in the Sausapor congregation took the example of Jesus (Mark 1:35; 9:1-29) with a 40-day prayer program from 04:00 – 06:00, in spiritual preparation for a pilot project, namely the establishment of educational facilities in Sausapor through the church.

Public evangelism is a spiritual work that requires spiritual resources. Prayer should be the first order of activity in the public evangelistic task. The most important human factor in effective evangelism is prayer. Every day Jesus challenges them by giving His vision of what will happen in the world if people treat others as their own brothers (Luke 4:18-23).

(White, 2011) states "the Savior's commandment to the disciples... encompassing all believers in Christ unto the end of time... All who have received the inspiration of heaven are entrusted with the gospel. All who accept the life of Christ are determined to work for the salvation of their fellow human beings. It is for this work that the church is established and all those who make the sacred promise thus promise to work together with Christ".

### **Determine the Target Location**

In early 2012 it was planned to build an educational facility to help the mission of the church in the Sausapor district, especially for the children of the members of the seventh-day Adventist church of the Abun tribe. And the implementation was on July 17, 2013 at the inauguration of the Sausapor Adventist Elementary School, at the location of the Sausapor Congregation church land.

In an effort to build the quality of human resources, it is inseparable from education. According to (Sunyoto, 2008) that, "the key to the problems in West Papua is human resources. The problem of low quality of Papuan human resources, which is often heard at the local and national levels. This is due to the relatively low level of education and quality of life of the community due to the lack of quality education and health services, economic problems, and the lack of infrastructure that does not reach remote areas".

Children aged 0 to 8 years are the most important age to instill moral and spiritual values, what is instilled at an early age will shape the morals and spirituality of children until adulthood as Solomon stated to educate children in a way that is appropriate for children, (Proverbs 22:6).

### **Human Resources.**

The people in an organization are the most valuable and important resource to achieve the organization's mission (Rush, 1983). Each member of the church in a local church can be a possible human resource to support the order of the strategy.

They are the necessary materials for the success of church planting. According to Webb 2010, pastors have a big role to play in convincing church members that evangelistic work does not entirely belong to pastors. The participation of church members is essential to achieving this goal. Local churches and their members will integrate to work with church leaders and administrators in this work. Church leaders need to mobilize church members to take part in the church-planting ministry. Brown (1980) explained the term mobilization. The root of the word mobilization is "mobile." This term has several meanings such as moving, changing or easily moving. Furthermore, the result of congregational mobilization is that people are ready to move and engage with the proposed program. Then, prepare a variety of practical steps to provide a vision for the planting of a church in Tanah Abun Sausapor as a whole. The steps to carry out the process of mobilizing church members are as follows:

**Identification process.** The pastor or church leader prepares the process of identifying church members. The purpose of this step is to identify the talents, spiritual gifts, competencies, or interests of the congregation. The process of identification through a spiritual gift inventory, personality assessment, or interview will help the pastor explain the member's abilities and talents for a particular ministry.

**Inventory process.** This process involves Church leaders or pastors being able to classify and register the spiritual gifts of each member by personality, ability, talents at the time the member enrolls in the ministry planned for church planting. Based on the abilities of the proposed members, leaders may have potential people to engage in a particular service. In addition, some converted church members from the Abun tribe are a powerful resource to engage in the church-planting ministry.

**Distribution process.** This process is an action step to place potential people in every ministry. There are two important things to make this process complete and successful. First, leadership motivation to church members. Motivate local citizens through the church to move people to act in an organized, targeted or planned way. Eims (1987) underlined that highly motivated people are difficult to stop. To motivate church members to be actively involved, leaders and pastors should instruct members to understand the importance and need for church planting for the Abun tribe in Sausapor. Second, service training for church members. Some potential members do not know how to engage and start a particular ministry in the process of planting a church requires training.

### **Financial Resources**

The holistic approach strategy of church planting will determine the amount of the financial budget. On the other hand, the availability of cash and supplies will determine what activities can be supported. There are three possible financial resources and facility support in the context of reaching the Abun people in the Sausapor area of Tambrau Regency.

The church's financial budget is an important element in supporting successful strategic goals. A long-term strategy to achieve success requires the involvement of all seventh-day Adventist churches in the Sausapor area of Tambrau Regency. Being well organized and the activities prepared will help the church estimate how much funding is needed. According to the report of the

treasurer of the West Papua Mission, the Ssausapor congregation has good financial support, although almost all the livelihoods of all the members are farmers. In the 2013 financial report, the Sausapor church contributed Rp 199,000,000 from offerings and tithes to the West Papua Mission Area (DMPB Financial Report, 2013). It is a good financial resource to achieve mission goals. Rommen (1994) stated that there are several approaches to collecting church mission funds. First, encourage church members to allocate a portion of their entire giving to church planting projects through "systematic giving." The second is "the faith that promises." This system of giving involves periodic commitments to give and above existing levels. Finally, church leaders and pastors can approach participating church members in giving. This method allows church members to provide in particular the necessary infrastructure construction.

### **Through Non-Formal Education – Branch Sabbath School**

From this mission of church planting through Education, the church organized branches of the Sabbath School and entered new territory. And build churches in the places of the Sabbath school branches. And there are many evangelistic activities carried out so that many souls are baptized.

Membership has increased from 9 baptized members in 2010 to 70 baptized members in 2015, with an average number of 12 people per year. The increase in church membership through visitation, Bible studies, and public evangelism continues year after year. So that God's work continues to develop in Sausapor, Tambrauw Regency from one village to another.

### **Church and School Relations**

What is the role of schools for the growth or planting of the Church or vice versa and how is the contribution and support of the church for school administrators. Church-run schools have an educational philosophy and the purpose of school education is to introduce Christ to the school's pupils.

Regarding the church's contribution to schools, the organizers stated that the church contributes a lot to the school, both contributing thoughts, providing facilities and infrastructure, namely school buildings and teaching staff or servants of God who serve intensively. (Yeblo, 2021), states that, it can be concluded that the relationship between the Church and the school is going well, especially in the spiritual field. The pastor of the congregation and the school agreed that the school could be an extension of the church in the planting of the church.

### **Final Destination**

Every Assignment has an end goal, just as an evangelistic mission has the ultimate goal of this mission which is the planting of a new church, and the church grows rapidly and rapidly because it is the main thing in the planting of the church. Holistic ministry is accepted as very beneficial and sometimes very effective for Church Planting. It must be remembered that holistic ministry also aims at the well-being of the whole human being, which means preaching the gospel fully in various dimensions.

The greatest responsibility and longing of God's people in Abun-Tambrauw is to try to stay true to what God is actually doing in the church planting movement

while avoiding the temptation to determine or predict how it should work. Schools and churches as well as all the people in Tambrauw long to implement Church Planting through education.

To achieve the final goal, the main thing is prayer and the next surrender are some that need to be considered, namely:

The nine bases for the success of Church Planting are first, finding people with the gift of pioneering, and second, developing lay leadership. The third has a biblical understanding of the nature of the local church as well as the local population, Fourth recognizes open areas. Fifth, convey the message of the Christian faith with the concept of Christ in Luke 10. Sixth, emphasizing the formation of new congregations in homes. Seventh, hold services where people rejoice, make a regular Week of Prayer for those who have schools, Eighth, do not emphasize the "material burden" to the people served, and lastly, from the beginning of the beginning, have a priority to double the congregation.

### **Evaluation**

Every program and its performance from strategic planning to planting a church through a holistic approach among the Abun community needs to be evaluated. It is part of strategic planning to measure the level of improvement in service objectives. Rothwell (2010) defines evaluation as "placing a value or determining a value, a process of determining how much value is added and activity by a program. The level of measurement is laid on the mission objectives of the strategy that are divided within the part of each program.

The purpose of the evaluation is to clarify any failures and successes of the program implemented in strategic planning. The evaluation characteristics should not focus on failures but focus on improving services. As a result, the ultimate goal of an evaluation is to make plans for improving the performance and effectiveness of the program. The evaluation of the strategic planning of church planting to the Abun tribe involves evaluating the program and its performance.

### **Evaluation of program effectiveness**

The basic performance of this evaluation is on the progress of the program in a set of strategies and its impact on the proposed community. This evaluation requires the design of instruments and assessments that can provide data in the right time for evaluation. Based on the data findings, conclusions and recommendations can be drawn. The data includes the planned program movements that relate to the mission, and how effective they will be if each program achieves its goals. For example, the data of the Bible study group program. These include, curriculum, group members, group of interested people, group progress, meeting times, and achievement of group goals. To determine the effectiveness of each program, the evaluation will be based on the following approach.

Program impact. Steiss (2003) emphasized that the impact of a program in mission strategy refers to the extent to which a program produces the change in question. Data from each ongoing program will show the impact of the program on the Abun community. Both the positive and negative impacts of implementing the program from the preparatory stage to the establishment of a new church must be presented in the data. Therefore, the evaluation findings will provide some

recommendations for each program and several improvement approaches can be defined.

**Program customization.** Program-based evaluation of program adjustments on program characteristics to address the needs of the Abun community. The ministry church planting team that holds responsibility for each program can gather feedback regarding the program from the local community. The feedback will help the service team to make some adjustments and contextualize in improving program adjustments to meet the needs of the community.

**Personnel evaluation.** This evaluation refers to the evaluation of the person who carried out the planned program. The purpose of this evaluation is to measure the performance of individual personnel in a particular service and provide them with feedback on future service. Therefore, the purpose of the evaluation of the ministry personnel of the church planting team is to contribute each founding practitioner of the church to grow and develop the quality of their ministry.

Personnel evaluation needs an appropriate method to avoid subjective conclusions. The purpose of this evaluation is to obtain objective results. Gangel (1997) points out that personnel evaluation should not focus on the results of each program of activities but should also consider how people deal with the process of serving results. The results of the program cannot be the only indicator to conclude the evaluation. However, personnel performance, effectiveness, program efficiency, effectiveness of policies and procedures as well as service results must be indicators of evaluation (Simpson, 2005). Team services can provide and implement several approaches such as self-evaluation, peer evaluation, or board evaluation to have a balance in evaluation.

### **Evaluation schedule**

The church planting ministry is long-term strategic planning. The ministry team needs to design an evaluation schedule for specific ongoing programs and overall strategies. Long-term strategic planning is divided into several parts of short-term strategies and their programs. Strategic planning evaluation includes long-term and short-term sustainable processes. Hence, administrators can design different approaches to evaluation.

**Short-term evaluation.** This approach refers to evaluating the impact and results of the program on a weekly and monthly basis. This involves a detailed evaluation of the progress of the short-term goal program where the program will meet the results of the long-term strategy. For example, evaluate the progress and achievement of the church planting team's ministry training program. Whether each program reflects goals, timings, tables, barriers, and solutions. This evaluation can be done on a daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly basis. Short-term evaluations can use both formal and informal evaluations. Informal offer evaluation with casual observation of team leadership without detailed data of the intended program. This will match a minor problem or program case. However, terrative evaluation can adapt formal evaluations that involve detailed data and program and performance measurement standards.

**Long-term evaluation.** The formal evaluation approach is more suitable for the long-term evaluation method. It relates to strategic short-term program activities. For example, the evaluation of the activities of the ministry of health in

one year and its contribution and impact on church planting. A general evaluation of methods for assessing long-term approaches is a formal method. Details and valid data of each activity and accomplishment are essential to determine whether the program is effective or not. Thus, good records and administration of each program activity are significant to attract reliable evaluation findings and recommendations.

### **Evaluation Committee**

The evaluation committee is one of the elements to determine an accurate evaluation of strategic program services. The procedure for deciding on prospective evaluation committee members should be chosen when the church is making strategic planning to avoid bias and errors of evaluation committee members. Each planned strategy involves evaluation of programs and personnel. Accurate data and integrity evaluation committee members will help to have reliable conclusions. Evaluation of church planting for the Abun community can apply the following two methods.

Internal committee. Members of the evaluation committee may include internal members and ministry leadership of the church planting team. Internal committee means the members of the evaluation committee are composed of the church assembly and church members. It can be effective for the evaluation of short-term program activities. They may conduct daily, weekly, and monthly evaluations of the activities and effectiveness of the recommended program for the service in question. As a result, team services can be improved directly from findings and recommendations.

External committees. External committee refers to the composition of the evaluation committee members coming from the ministry and the leadership of the external team. However, the term external does not mean that the evaluation committee is recruited from outside the church denomination. Church leaders may recruit members of the evaluation committee from among church members or members of church assemblies within the church body organization. The task of this committee is to conduct a formal evaluation of the church planting team's ministry, achievement and performance of strategic planning involving both personnel and program activities. The evaluation committee will work on a long-term evaluation schedule based on data reports, research, and observations on an annual basis.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Church can grow rapidly in two ways: evangelism and discipleship, but it needs people who are willing to give themselves earnestly to the highest calling. Above all, the strategic ability that is the cause of the growth of a church is due to the power of the Holy Spirit.

There are various methods of church growth through evangelism and one of them is through formal educational means, namely schools organized by the church, schools can be used as a means and strategies for the growth and management of the church. Furthermore, the students in the church-run school are a wonderful mission field for church planting.

From this mission of church planting through Education, the church seeks to manage a school, organize branches of the Sabbath School and enter new territory. And build churches in the places of the Sabbath school branches. And there are many evangelistic activities carried out so that many souls are baptized.

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Church Planting is Evangelism that aims to disciple the community in strategic areas with the aim of establishing a new church that results in church growth. Church planting is the most effective way in the long term to evangelize the lost and must be done with careful planning as in Luke 14:28-31.

With the understanding that careful planning will guarantee the success of the work, a superior plan can defeat the supremacy of opponents, a quality planning gives the Lord's servants the confidence to lead the Planting of the Church successfully. Garrison states that every church planting movement has a strategy and the best strategy is the concept of Jesus Christ in Luke 10 sending out two by two."

There are many advantages if the church planting movement is implemented, including, church planting is an opportunity to rethink the church, create a pattern of church life that is more faithful to the Bible and more relevant to the local church. Church planting is the best method of evangelism, it is a multiplied growth, it is the way the church grows more effectively throughout the ages. Churches that plant churches grow, workers plant growing churches and congregations planting growing churches.

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