

NATIONAL CHURCH PLANTING OFFICE

CHURCH PLANTER APPLICATION



Thank you for your interest in church planting. By completing this form, you will allow us to become acquainted with you as we begin the process of qualifying you as a church planter of the National Church Planting Office of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International.

The purpose of the NCPO is to enlist, train, equip, qualify, and support candidates who have a desire to plant churches in emerging communities. Your answers and responses on this form will be evaluated with this in mind and will be kept confidential. The people who will have access to this information will be limited to those who may have a role in evaluation and assessment, those who will be coaching your ministry, and others whom you authorize.

The next steps in our process will include:

- 1) Contact with references and getting background and credit checks. Reference checks will begin after you give permission for us to contact the people you list.
- 2) An invitation to an assessment lab with you and your spouse where you will go through a personal evaluation process that will help identify qualities and special attributes you possess.
- 3) Enrollment in a required training module sponsored by the National Church Planting Office of the BBFI
- 4) Presentation for approval at a national BBFI fellowship meeting
- 5) Attachment to a mentoring church near your target area

Please be as clear as possible in your answers and responses to this form. Brevity is a virtue, but please use as much space as needed to give an accurate report.

APPLICANT PROFILE

Introductory information

Date: _____

Applicant's Name

Spouse's Name

Social Security Number

Phone Cell Phone

Home Address

Email

City, State, Zip

Current driver's License Number State

Birth Date Age

Place of birth

Marital Status Single Married

Children's names and ages

Are you a U. S. Citizen? Yes No - If naturalized, When and Where _____

Immigration Status and Number _____ Date of Entry into U S _____

Employment information

Current employer

Title or Position

Business

Years employed

Address

Phone

City State Zip

Email

Ministry information

Current Church

Years involved

Paid

Volunteer

Ministry responsibilities

Address

Phone

City State Zip

Email

Previous ministry information

1

Ministry name

Years involved

Address

Responsibilities

City State Zip

Full time Part time Volunteer

2

Ministry Name

Years involved

Address

Responsibilities

City State Zip

Full time Part time Volunteer

If you have had cross-cultural ministry experience, indicate the nature and some of your responsibilities.

If you have had experience as a church planter, list the place, length of time, effectiveness, present status of congregation, etc.

Which of the following would most accurately describe your involvement in evangelism?

Gift Skill Passion - Explain:

Indicate your effectiveness in personal evangelism that has a Great Commission Vision (soul-winning, baptizing, and discipling): More than Ten Less than Ten

Indicate your view of your abilities/gifts in the following areas, using a scale of 1-5 with 5 being high:

Teaching	1	2	3	4	5
Preaching	1	2	3	4	5
Administering	1	2	3	4	5
Vision casting	1	2	3	4	5
Developing	1	2	3	4	5
Counseling	1	2	3	4	5

Are you currently licensed? Yes No When _____ What Church _____

Are you currently Ordained? Yes No When _____ What Church _____

What is your religious affiliation? _____

Personal information

Describe briefly your conversion and subsequent spiritual growth.

Describe briefly your call to ministry and target area

What are your spiritual gifts?

What are your skills and strengths?

What are your hobbies and interests other than family and employment?

How much debt do you have? Specify mortgage, vehicle, school loan, credit care, personal loan, other.

Are people who know you best supportive of your desire to become involved in church planting? Yes No

Are you willing to move to a new area? Yes No

Do you have a preferred target area Yes No

If yes, where? _____

Education information

Please list the higher education institutions you have attended, degrees earned, and the major or focus of study for each. Attach transcripts from each institution.

Institution	Degree(s) Earned	Major/Focus
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please list any formal training (seminars, courses, conferences) from which you have received help in the following areas:

Subject	Event	Value to you:
Evangelism		
<hr/>		
Church Planting		
<hr/>		
Church Growth		
<hr/>		
Church Leadership		
<hr/>		
Counseling		
<hr/>		

Describe any experiences you have had as an intern in these areas:

List some of the significant books you have read in the past two years that have been influential to you in ministry and personal development

Book title	Author	Value to you

The Articles of Faith of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International

Of The Scriptures: We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

1. By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written does not only contain the Word of God, but IS the very word of God.
2. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

Of The True God: We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Of The Holy Spirit: We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer

Of The Devil, Or Satan: We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy; the lord of the antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness – destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Of The Creation: We believe in the Genesis account of creation and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly and God's established law was that they should bring forth "after their kind." Since God created mankind into genders distinctly male and female, we believe that the only legitimate marriage is that between a man and a woman. He has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God rejects any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

Of The Fall Of Man: We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Of The Virgin Birth: We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son.

Of The Atonement For Sin: We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all sufficient Savior.

Of Grace In The New Creation: We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life

Of The Freeness of Salvation: We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

Of Justification: We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us.

Of Repentance And Faith: We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.

Articles of Faith Continued:

Of The Church: We believe that a Baptist Church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, said church being understood to be the citadel and propagator of the divine and eternal grace; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers of ordination are pastors or elders whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions of men and women in the home and in the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to hold the leadership positions (pastors and deacons) in the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible of licensure and ordination for pastor by the church. We believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission; first, to make individual disciples; second, to build up the church; third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Of Baptism And The Lord's Supper: We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's supper, in which the members of the church, by sacred use of the bread and the fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Of The Perseverance Of The Saints: We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

Of The Righteous And The Wicked: We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Of Civil Government: We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth

Of The Resurrection And Return Of Christ And Related Events: We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily "The third day according to the Scriptures"; that He ascended "to the right hand of the throne of God"; that He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in thing pertaining to God"; "that this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven," bodily, personally, and visibly; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first"; that the living saints "shall be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump"; "that the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David" and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet."

Of Missions: The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches. Matthew 28:18-20 "*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of he Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*" Mark 16:15, "*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*" John 20:21, "*As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*" Acts 1:8, "*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*" Romans 10:13-15, "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*"

Of The Grace Of Giving: Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the Faith. 2Corinthians 8:7, "*Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.*" We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (Common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week. 1Corinthians 16:2, "*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*" Under Grace with give, and do not pay, the tithe – "Abraham GAVE the tenth of the spoils, – Hebrews 7:2-4, - and this was four hundred years before the law, and is confirmed in the new Testament; Jesus said concerning the tithe, "*These ought ye to have done.*" Matthew 23:23. We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church. Leviticus 27:30, "*the tithe ... is the lord's.*" Malachi 3:10, "*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*" In the New Testament it was the common treasury of the church. Acts 4:34, 35, 37, "*And brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down at the apostles' feet ... Having land, sold it and brought the money, and laid it AT THE APOSTLES' FEET.*"

Do you wholeheartedly concur with and hold to the Articles of Faith of the BBFI as stated above? Yes No
If No, Explain _____

Pastoral Qualification information

This is a true saying, If a man desires the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. I Timothy 3:1-7

Based upon the above passage outlining the qualifications of a pastor, please answer the following.

1. Do you sense the call of God upon your life as a Pastor? _____
2. Does anyone have personal issues with you that need to be resolved? _____
3. Is your moral conduct fitting as a faithful husband to one woman in that you abstain from moral misconduct? _____
4. Do you consider yourself as cautious, vigilant and alert concerning dangers in ministry? _____
5. Do you practice discretion and courtesy in the area of conversation? _____
6. Are you friendly and hospitable toward people you don't know? _____
7. Would you consider yourself able to teach as well as being teachable? _____
8. Do you use alcohol or tobacco? _____
9. Have you ever been physically confrontational since being in the ministry? _____
10. What is your opinion concerning personal financial investments? _____
11. Would you consider yourself somewhat patient or somewhat impatient? _____
12. Do you consider yourself as peaceable or prevocational? _____
13. Do you have a tendency toward envy or jealousy? _____
14. Is your wife supportive of your decision to become a church planter? _____
15. Are you experiencing any major behavioral difficulty with your children? _____
16. Do you feel like you have enough ministry experience to become a church planter? _____
17. Would you consider yourself to have a good reputation at work and in the community? _____
18. Do you consider yourself personally qualified as a church planter in accordance with the above passage? _____
19. Do you see areas where you need improvement? _____ If yes where _____
20. Do you have a written plan and ministry model for your new church plant? If yes, please include a copy. If no, please work with your sending pastor to develop one.
21. Have you ever been dismissed from a church for moral misconduct? _____

Demographic information

1. What is the target area? _____
2. What is the city limit's population of the target area? _____
3. What is the seven-mile radius market area population? _____
4. What was the population growth over the past ten years? (1) Actual _____ (2) Percentage _____
5. What is the projected population growth over the next ten years? _____
6. What direction is the projected population moving? _____
7. What is the ethnic percentage ratio? _____
8. What is the per-capita income ratio? _____
9. What is the average cost of a home in the target area? _____
10. What is the average household income? _____
11. What are the major industries in the area? _____
12. How many Baptist churches are in the target area? _____
13. Where is the closest BBFI church in the target area? _____
14. Have you contacted the nearest affiliated church in the area? _____
15. What major retailers, corporations and restaurants will be moving to the target area within next two to five years? _____
16. How many single dwelling units are there in the target city? _____
17. What are the age group ratios in the target area? _____
18. How many public schools are planned for the next 5 years? _____
19. Is the target area in a municipal district, an incorporated city, or a county? _____
20. What is the average price of land per acre there? _____
21. Is the target area a planned community development project? _____
22. Does the area have designated land for church use only? _____

Characteristics of a successful church planter

The questions below are based on the thirteen qualities that are considered to make up the profile of a successful church planter (according to Charles R. Ridley of Indiana University). Due to the unique ministry role of the church planter, it is important for us to know your answers to these questions. Be as brief and clear as possible but feel free to use an additional page for your responses.

1) Having a commitment to church growth.

What have you done in the last two years to help yourself grow in this area? What have been the growth patterns of your past ministries?

2) Having a visioning capacity

When you had a vision for a God-sized project, how did you gain it? How did you develop and communicate the vision?

3) Being flexible and adaptable

What did you do the last time a ministry project didn't go as planned? How did you react emotionally?

4) Being personally motivated

What is the largest, most effective project you have accomplished, and what motivated you to accomplish it?

5) Building group cohesiveness

What process have you used to assimilate people into teams or groups?

6) Creating ownership ministry

Describe a ministry or situation where people "owned" a project you were leading. How did it happen?

7) Utilizing giftedness of others

How have you helped people utilize their spiritual gifts once they were identified? Give example:

8) Exercising faith

What is the most faith-filled step you have ever undertaken?

9) Reaching the un-reached

What have you done to deliberately connect with unchurched people?

10) Responding to community

What are you doing now that has cultural relevance to your community? How do you know?

11) Building relationships

What methods have you used to build relationships with people over the last two years?

12) Gaining spousal support (if married)

Describe how you and your spouse have functioned as a team in your past and current ministries.

13) Having resilience

How have you maintained ministry momentum in difficult circumstances?

References

Please give the **names** and **email addresses** for people who know you and your work and who will serve as references for you. These need to be people who can report to us about your employment, ministry, character, skills, communication, family relationships, etc. We will contact them after receiving permission from you to do so, and give them a form to use for their responses.

Name:

Email address:

I have read and indicated my agreement with the Articles of Faith of the BBFI as it appears in this application form.

Yes No Signature _____ Date _____

The National Church Planting Office has my permission to conduct a background check

Yes No Signature _____ Date _____

The National Church Planting Office has my permission to conduct a credit check

Yes No Signature _____ Date _____

(Additional forms will be sent to you for signatures in order to complete these checks.)

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense? (Exclude any convictions for which the record was sealed, by court order, expunged or statutorily erases; exclude any misdemeanor conviction for which probation has been completed, or discharges and the case has been judicially dismissed.

Yes No

I hereby certify that all of the information given in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Please attach three pastoral recommendations who currently pastor churches in the BBFI