



MCESP – SAVE ME

Strategic Planning for Church Planting

MCESP is the process that Midwest Church Extension employs to ensure organizational efficiency and effectiveness in its ministry of planting and re-planting IFCA International churches.

MCE Administrative Staff

12/1/2004

Ministry Strategy
for
Midwest Church Extension
(MCESP / SAVE ME)

*An overview of Midwest Church Extension's approach
to strategic master planning and the
Master Plan that has emerged from that approach.*

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December 2004



Ministry Strategy

MCESP and SAVE ME

MCE Strategic Planning - MCESP

MCESP is the process that Midwest Church Extension employs to ensure organizational efficiency and effectiveness in its ministry of planting and re-planting IFCA International churches. The aim of MCESP is to relate everything that the MCE family does, from the Executive Director to the individual church planter, to the strategic “*MCEnd*” that has been identified and established for this organization, namely: *“The permeation of every identifiable Midwestern community with the hope of the Gospel through the biblical ministry of reproductive IFCA International churches.”*

- MCESP helps to narrow this organization’s focus to those methods, means, directions, and personnel that will best facilitate such permeation.
- MCESP is a continuous process that carefully and prayerfully builds upon the synthesis of MCE’s core values, purpose, distinctives, objectives, and goals.
- The strategic plan emerging from MCESP is what is considered the best approach toward achieving MCEnd at any given point in time. Recognizing that as plans are implemented, un-anticipated issues, fluid circumstances, and new concerns may indicate the need for plan adjustments, MCE will formally review its strategic plan on a biennial basis and make such modifications as may be required to maintain peak efficiency and effectiveness in its ministry. The results of such biennial reviews shall be reported to the Board of Directors.

Core Values

- **The Absolute Authority of the Scriptures**
- **The Imperative Nature of the Great Commission**

Believing that the Great Commission mandate timelessly transcends all earthly boundaries; MCE will seek, wherever possible, to cross those

barriers in its effort to permeate with the hope of the Gospel such identifiable communities as may be defined by locality, ethnicity/culture, social classification, or any combination thereof.

- **The Strengthening of Churches**

Earnestly desiring to see Christ's Church in the Midwest increase in spiritual power and might; MCE is committed to principles that will:

- Fortify existing churches by fostering a network of interdependence among IFCA International entities within MCE Country.¹
- Expand the geographic and demographic dimensions of that interdependent network through the planting and re-planting of reproductive IFCA International churches.
- Mobilize that interdependent network in the task of biblical ministry, evangelism, and the work of reproductive church extension.

- **The Dynamic Power of Prayer**

Understanding that one of its greatest and most indispensable resources is found in the faithful and fervent prayer of God's people; MCE will go to great lengths to marshal that force to undergird each of its endeavors and provide support for each member of the MCE mission family.

- **The Strategic Importance of Training**

Placing a premium on the thorough preparation and training of its ministry force; MCE shall make opportunities for internships, spiritual and practical mentoring, and specialized training an integral part of its ministry to its missionary personnel and alliance partners.

- **The Glory of God through:**

- **Excellence** – innovatively achieving the best result with the available resources and with a commitment to continual improvement.
- **Diligence** – consistently and deliberately applying oneself to the task; being undistracted, undeterred, and undiscouraged by failure or by success.
- **Integrity** – purposefully doing what is right before God with greater concern for His glory than for personal gain or loss.
- **Leadership** – leading from a position of close and personal involvement that values the balanced display of a servant's demeanor while providing the responsible stewardship of direction.
- **Accountability** – personally interacting with one another in a biblically candid and transparent way, with regard to personal

¹ MCE Country is comprised of the Midwestern States of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin. As such, it includes the territory of seven IFCA Regionals, those being: Iowa, Central Illinois, Indiana, Northern Illinois, Ohio, Southern Illinois/Indiana, and Wisconsin.

thoughts and actions, for the purpose of assessing and sharpening both spiritual and professional habits and character.

- **Interdependence** – wisely constructing a network of mutually advantageous relationships with those who are compatibly attuned to the purposes and goals of MCE, and who are able to contribute toward the achievement of them.
- **The Cultivation of a Practical Holiness characterized by:**
 - **Intimacy with Christ** – a personal relationship with Christ characterized by a passionate, experiential desire to know, and be known by, Him that surpasses any other desire in life.
 - **Love for one-another** – a corporate relationship with other believers in the Body of Christ characterized by the utterly selfless love with which God first loved us.
 - **Concern for the lost** – a ministerial relationship toward the unsaved characterized by an overwhelming burden to reconcile them to God, assuring their entrance into His eternal presence.

Purpose

The purposes of this organization are to facilitate the planting of new churches and to re-plant struggling churches. In every case, the aim of this organization is to oversee the planting and development of IFCA International churches until they are able to function with sufficient stability and in a manner by which the Great Commission may be increasingly fulfilled through the consistent, faithful preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This endeavor shall be carried out with the intent that such churches as are planted and re-planted by this organization shall remain member congregations of IFCA International.²

Distinctives

- We are exclusively engaged in planting IFCA International Churches
- We are the IFCA International church planting organization authorized for ministry in and to MCE Country.
- We engage in specialized training and equipping of our church planters
- We serve as the network facilitator of resources for IFCA church planting in MCE Country.
- Other

Objectives

- Thorough and Relevant Research
- Productive IFCA Alliances
- Accurate Viability Assessment of Targets

² MCE Constitution

- Wise Enlistment
- Relevant Training
- Effective Mobilization
- Fruitful Engagement
- Natural Reproduction

Goals

These are specific and measurable aims that are related to targeted geographic/demographic communities and developing opportunities.

SAVE ME

PLANNING THE WORK

Survey & RESEARCH - INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

1. Identification of population centers in MCE Country
 - Metropolitan communities: 50,000+
 - Micropolitan communities: 10,000 – 50,000
 - Antepolitan communities: Less than 10,000 and are experiencing, or show promise of, growth that will enable them to be classified as Micropolitan areas.
 - Isopolitan communities: Less than 10,000 and have a flat growth profile, suggesting that they are not likely to become Antepolitan communities.
2. Demographics
3. Historical Context
 - Is there anything of historical significance that has happened in this community that may have a bearing on what we hope to accomplish here?
4. Spiritual Context
 - What IFCA International presence and/or influence (individual or church) currently exists in this community? What exists in nearby communities?
 - What has been the history, influence and current condition of “the church” (any church) in this community? Are there any Para-church, mission or other “religious” entities operating in this community? What possible impact might such entities have on MCE's strategy in this community?

ALLIANCE FORMING – EXPLORING/FORMING ALLIANCES

What alliances can be formed with IFCA International entities willing to partner with MCE to accomplish our objectives? What sort of support and to what degree will such alliances contribute to MCE's efforts?

- **Direct – On site**
 - Teaching Bible Study
 - Steering Committee
 - Seed People
 - Cooperative ministry
 - Other on-site assistance
- **Indirect – From a Distance**
 - Financial support for the local plant(er)
 - Material support for the local plant
 - Prayer support for the local plant(er)
 - Other

VIABILITY ASSESSMENT - PRIORITIZING TARGETS

This step is required by a decision making process that is pro-active, rather than reactive, in selecting communities in which churches are to be planted. While research will help to identify certain objective considerations in this process, there will always be some degree of subjectivity inherent in each situation.

The objective elements would include:

- Un-churched population
- Degree of Gospel witness and ministry
- Potential for networking
- Presence of a "core group"
- "Macedonian Call"
- Other

ENLISTMENT - RECRUITING THE MINISTRY FORCE

Planting team support

- Prayer
- Personnel
- Finances
- Other

MOBILIZATION - MOBILIZING THE MINISTRY FORCE

Review, assign, place, and coordinate

- On site plant personnel
- Alliance Resources
- MCE Resources

WORKING THE PLAN

ENGAGEMENT

- Initiate the MCE Planting Team Strategy