

November 2013 and May 2014 with particular attention to references. The interviewing panel will be aware that we are not recruiting fully trained church pastors, but leaders with potential to recruit a team to gather and grow small bible-study groups into house-plants.

Cohort 1 will **come to Revive 2014**, where they will be commissioned and prayed for during the Co-Mission plenary session. They will **commence their training in September 2014** and

will share in the benefits of our established Ministry Training scheme. Before the plants are established, the pioneers and their teams may (depending on circumstances) be closely involved in the life of existing Co-Mission congregations and clusters. As well as being part of Co-Mission, it is expected that as these house-plants become established they will be a **mix of Anglican and Free Churches in a wide variety of contexts** including socially deprived areas and different ethnic minority communities.

## THE ADVERT

### LONDON CALLING

Are you willing to give yourself for the Gospel to launch a house-plant church in a world city desperately in need of Christ?

#### WE'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE:

*Godly* (servants of Christ & his Word), *Mobile* (flexible & willing to move), *Robust* (resilient & up for a costly challenge), *Able* (to learn how to teach God's Word, disciple new believers & gather a house-church), *Part-funded* (willing to earn & raise some finance)

#### WE WILL:

- *Train you* over 3 years for a "Co-Mission Church-Planting Certificate" which provides Biblical Training in: *Theology* (with

lectures from Oak Hill & LTS), church-planting *Missiology* (with lectures from West-Porterbrook & experienced Co-Mission church-planting "Coaches"); *Bible-teaching* (training in expository preaching & Bible-handling skills from Co-Mission Staff); *Spiritual Development* (from a personal Mentor & Co-Mission Church family)

- *Help you* identify appropriate locations, find venues, gather core teams and learn how to evangelise your community,

whether city centre, housing estate, suburb or ethnic minority

- *Part-fund you* with "pump-priming" finance from our "Antioch Planting Fund" making grants for your training and to get you started
- *Partner with you* with constant encouragement and prayer. We can't guarantee that you'll manage to establish a church, but we do know that when we "make disciples of all nations" Jesus keeps his promise, "I am with you always" (Matt. 28)

## PRAY BOLDLY

Please pray for the Antioch plan: *ask the Lord to raise up and bless the pioneers, the Mentor, the Board, the house-plants and London. Pray that the Antioch plan will significantly increase the population of heaven to the glory of God alone.*

the  
antioch  
plan

[www.co-mission.org.uk/antioch](http://www.co-mission.org.uk/antioch)  
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the  
antioch  
a pioneer planting strategy plan

CO-MISSION:  
A PASSION... FOR PLANTING... FOR LONDON... FOR CHRIST

“Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to **Antioch** and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord” **ACTS 11**

It was hugely significant when the early Christians first evangelised and planted a church among the Greeks in Antioch. For the first time in God’s amazing plan of salvation, believers intentionally reached into a very different social context to reach the lost for Jesus. God blessed their initiative and the church in Antioch became the new base for cross-cultural mission to the world. That bold initiative lends its name to a new Co-Mission pioneer church-planting strategy for London, “the Antioch plan”.

## **OUR GOAL** GOD-WILLING

The ultimate goal of all Co-Mission congregations and ministries is to glorify God by obeying Christ’s great commission to make disciples of all nations through preaching the gospel. We read throughout the New Testament of how the planting of local churches is both the result of gospel preaching and then the base from which more gospel preaching is done. One scholar observes, “the multiplication of churches is as natural in the book of Acts as the multiplication of individual converts”. We also read

of an emphasis upon church-planting in cities. The Apostle Paul clearly went to the urban population centres in order to launch evangelism and church-planting for their regions.

London is not only the capital and largest city in Great Britain, but has enormous influence in Europe and the World. The spiritual history of London means that making disciples can be done in part by developing existing thriving congregations and by rescuing neglected congregations through gospel ministry. But London also needs many hundreds of new gospel churches if the millions of unbelievers from countless different communities in this spiritually desperate city are to be saved from hell for heaven. The Antioch plan aims to enable Co-Mission to plant and establish, in its first two phases, up to **30 new gospel-based** churches across London by 2020. We’re praying that, through the Antioch plan, the Lord will graciously raise up “pioneer” planters and through them and their teams evangelise and gather people into a culturally mixed variety of “house-plant” congregations across this great city. The Antioch plan aims to

co-operate with existing “clusters” of Co-Mission churches to nurture these house-plants until they are “established” and ready to be adopted into the Co-Mission Clusters as stable and net-contributing evangelical churches. We pray that in doing this we will learn an effective and repeatable model of “pioneer church-planting” for London (which may be helpful for other westernised cities).

## **THE PLAN** EMERGING

The plan is to recruit, train and deploy two successive groups (“cohorts”) of 10-15 pioneer church-planters (“pioneers”) who will be trained and supported in trying to carefully establish “house-plants”. These will be mission-minded house-groups that are learning how to become “established” as a church in Christ with elders (including their own teaching-pastor) and public Sunday meetings. Such a “house-plant” model is entirely normal around the world today. We believe that there will be significant benefits in training each cohort of pioneers together, with their own dedicated ministry “mentor”, for a **“Co-Mission church-planting certificate”**. We have commitments to provide lectures in a variety of courses from Oak Hill, LTS and WEST theological colleges as well as providing input from our own experienced staff. We will help the pioneers identify appropriate locations; find venues; gather core teams; and learn how to evangelise their local community, whether city centre, housing

estate, suburb or ethnic minority. We will part-fund them with “pump-priming” finance from our “Antioch planting fund” including grants for their training. We have **£1 million already pledged** to this fund, and once established, Antioch plants will be expected to replenish the Antioch fund to enable more planting. (Most pioneers will need their own income from a part-time secular or church job to supplement the grant they receive.) Across Co-Mission, we will support these pioneers with constant encouragement and prayer. We cannot guarantee that they will manage to establish a church, and plants that are not working can be closed before teams become too exhausted. But we do know that the Lord will be with them as they try. We pray that as we learn how to recruit, train and deploy such pioneers, a series of future cohorts may follow. The Antioch plan is a new way for Co-Mission to seriously impact London for Christ going forward.

## **RECRUITMENT** CAREFULLY

We aim to recruit cohort 1 by June 2014 through personal networking and through advertising in “The Briefing” magazine and the “Evangelicals Now” Christian newspaper (see the Advert on the back of this leaflet). An **“Antioch board” chaired by Rupert Standing**, will form an interviewing panel (in close co-operation with any Co-Mission churches wanting involvement with particular candidates) to interview applicants between