



FEDERATION DES EGLISES EVANGELIQUES
BAPTISTES DE FRANCE

47 rue de Clichy – 75311 Paris Cedex 09

Evangelism Department
« Yellow Book »

POLICY OUTLINES

Evangelism, Is LIFE !



SUMMARY

YELLOW BOOK

*Evangelism,
Is LIFE !*

**POLICY
OUTLINES**

*Department
Evangelism
B.H.M.*

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PREFACE

YELLOW BOOK

This is **the Evangelism Department's "Yellow Book"**. It is aimed at church planters, evangelists, pastors, mission personnel and Christians who are committed to work with us to develop God's Kingdom in France.

It presents various **"Policy Outlines"**. As this term suggests this booklet brings together in a coherent way texts which outline our activities so that we can work and develop our vision for evangelism in the member churches of the FEEBF in an efficient and realistic manner. We are not trying to tell God what he should do but we simply want to present a vision strong on objectives.

As you read these pages remember the importance of dialogue. The way we have expressed our proposals is certainly not perfect. Some may seem vague or hard to accept. **Let's talk about it !** Don't hesitate to call us or write to us so that together we can go forward in mutual understanding.

To make progress we must remain flexible. That's not to say that we should not be committed to our principles. We are aware that the context is different according to the region (city centres, suburbs, provincial towns, local communities, country villages). We know that we will have to take that into account.

We want to plant **new "church sites"¹** and develop mature, stable, solid churches. Together as a Mission we want to take up the challenge.

Thank you for your interest. We're here to help you!

*The FEEBF Evangelism Department
The Baptist Home Mission Committee*

We want to plant new **"church sites"** and develop mature, stable, solid churches.

1. see page 18 for a fuller explanation of this term

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WORK AND VISION

THE EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT – BAPTIST HOME MISSION

France is a mission field.

As such it is the FEEBF's first calling in terms of work and evangelism. The Evangelism Department - Baptist Home Mission (EDBHM) as part of the FEEBF wants to help churches respond to this missionary call.

ITS VISION

(The terms used for this vision are those which were presented to the Annual Assembly in Orleans in 2003. They may change as situations and needs evolve. Any changes will need to be approved by the Annual Assembly).

Evangelism - Is Life !

A vision for ALL the churches in our Federation.

We want to achieve **ONE GOAL** : open faith's door to the French!
(Acts 14:27)

This goal can be split up into three lines of action :

Line 1 - To make God known and communicate the Gospel to our generation.

Line 2 - To plant new "church sites" through planting daughter churches (expansion) and/or new initiatives (pioneer work).

Line 3 - We need to encourage growth in our local churches.

To achieve our goal we intend to:

Action 1 - Develop communities of disciples who love each other (John 13:35), and multiply (Colossians 1:6). Appropriate teaching is necessary to ensure this development.

Action 2 - Encourage new generations of Christians to commit themselves to serve the Lord Jesus Christ motivated by his love.

Action 3 - Find and make available the resources needed to help such communities live out their Christian faith naturally, powerfully and with enthusiasm.

Action 4 – Keep our mind open to

- ⇒ what the Spirit is doing in order to discern where God is working.
- ⇒ the needs and expectations of the men and women of our generation.

Action 5 - Establish the principle of team work

- ⇒ recognizing different ministries and bringing them together at local and regional level.
- ⇒ developing partnerships with other evangelical churches and movements.

YELLOW BOOK

Ch. 1

France is a mission field.

A vision for all the churches in our Federation.

Encouraging
new generations

Developing
communities of disciples

Mobilising
resources

Keeping
an open spirit

Establishing
the principle of team work

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ITS ORGANISATION

It helps to see the ED-BHM in the context of the overall structure of the FEEBF which is as follows:

- I. The Annual Assembly
- II. The Council of the FEEBF
- III. The Baptist Home Mission Committee, a statutory body which directs the ED-BHM with authority delegated from the Council.
- IV. The Region
- V. Established church plants and initial church plants

In the FEEBF, we describe our church plants as being at one of two stages. An *Initial Church Plant* describes a situation where a couple or a small team start a new work from scratch. An *Established Church Plant* describes a congregation of between 15 and 50 members, with a pastor and a leadership committee, progressing towards becoming an independent *Member Church* of our Federation.

I / THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Annual Assembly is regularly informed of the work and progress of ED-BHM projects. The Annual Assembly has to decide on all matters concerning evangelism and church planting where member churches are involved.

The Annual Assembly alone can decide by vote whether or not to accept :

- an initial church plant as a BHM established church plant
- a BHM established church plant as a member church

II / THE COUNCIL OF THE FEEBF

The Council has the statutory charge of directing the BHM. It is regularly informed of the BHM Committee's work by the Director of the ED-BHM. This Committee has power delegated by the Council to ensure the smooth running of the ED-BHM and that decisions taken are acted upon. The ED-BHM Director attends Council meetings in an advisory capacity. The Council decides on propositions and projects presented by the BHM Committee not coming within the Annual Assembly's jurisdiction. It decides on proposed texts for resolutions concerning established church plants which are to be put before the Annual Assembly for its approval.

III / THE BHM COMMITTEE, THE ED-BHM DIRECTOR, AND THE BHM EXTENDED COMMITTEE

The BHM Committee directs the ED-BHM with authority delegated by the Council. It also has power conferred by the FEEBF statutes to direct the BHM. It ensures that the ED-BHM's vision mentioned above (page 3) is put into practice. It is at the heart of the ED-BHM's work. The President of the Council, the General Secretary, the ED-BHM Director and the Training Department

The Annual Assembly is informed of the Evangelism Department's activities.

The Council decides on propositions and projects presented by the BHM

The BHM Committee is at the heart of the ED-BHM's work

THE ED-BHM : ITS WORK AND VISION

Director are automatically members of the BHM Committee.

The Committee meets several times during the year to debate and decide on propositions submitted by the ED-BHM Director, hear the Director's report of his activities, mandate the necessary authority to him and give him general policy guidelines.

The Committee is responsible for managing the ED-BHM budget in liaison with the FEEBF Treasurer.

The BHM Committee will have no more than 10 to 12 members to enable it to remain operational, dynamic and responsive to situations. Its members are nominated by the existing Committee and appointed by the Council.

The BHM Committee works in strict collaboration with the FEEBF Council, the Ministries Commission and the Regional Presidents.

Meetings of the Committee are minuted and the minutes are signed by the President and the Secretary.

The ED-BHM Director is appointed by the FEEBF Council for a 3 year term which is renewable.

He works in strict collaboration with the FEEBF General Secretary and the Training Department Director.

He is responsible for the ED-BHM's smooth running and its "road map", the vision mentioned above. A Job Description details the terms of his mission. He reports regularly to the Council on the progress of his mission.

His ministry can be resumed as follows:

- In liaison with Regional representatives and in strict collaboration with those in positions of responsibility in BHM established church plants, he helps to guide these established church plants towards becoming member churches of the FEEBF.

- Through contacts with the member churches he helps stimulate their vision for evangelism and for both spiritual and financial support for the BHM's work. He visits these churches, proposes different forms of evangelism and encourages initiatives, ministries and services coming from the churches in this respect. He takes care to ensure that the FEEBF's missionary zeal remains fervent (starting new "church sites").

- He represents the Council and the General Secretary in all matters concerning evangelism and develops relationships with all possible national and international partners.

The BHM extended Committee is essentially a group for discussion, reflection, discernment and prayer.

YELLOW BOOK

Ch. 1

The **Director** is responsible for the Department's smooth running.

He helps to guide established church plants towards becoming member churches of the FEEBF.

He stimulates member churches in their vision for evangelism.

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THE ED-BHM : ITS WORK AND VISION

It is made up of regular members of the BHM Committee and the Regional Presidents. It allows the Regions to participate in formulating policy and strategy for evangelism. Where necessary other commission or committee members can also be invited (Youth, Baptist Women, etc.).

The extended Committee meets at least once a year. The meeting may last all day.

The extended Committee meetings are minuted.

IV / THE REGION

The Region is the structure through which new churches come into being. It enables joint projects to be developed and local churches to get involved in clearly defined projects.

The Region is the basis for the work of the BHM, allowing it to be carried out in a spirit of brotherly love and providing any help in ministry which may be needed.

NB. *To help new projects to develop why not contact the appropriate regional president when a committed Christian changes region?*

In this respect anyone in a region who is asked to intervene in a church plant situation commits him or herself to:

1. respecting the character, style and spiritual tendency of the church plant even if these do not fit in exactly with their own personal views.
2. behaving as delegates authorised by the BHM Committee to carry out a precise mission.

V / ESTABLISHED CHURCH PLANTS

Up until a church plant reaches the stage where numerically, financially and spiritually it can apply to become a member church it remains under the responsibility of the BHM Committee.

This relationship, even though it has all the characteristics of fellow believers working together, does involve a certain number of obligations aimed at helping to monitor progress and provide any help necessary for the development of the church plant.

These obligations and the way they are to be carried out can be found in the Policy Outlines for BHM established church plants (see page 10). The Policy Outlines also contain the required information concerning how the established church plant is to be organised until it reaches "maturity".

The **BHM extended Committee** allows the Regions to participate

The **Region** is the structure through which new churches come into being

Established church plants come under the responsibility of the BHM Committee

Ch. 1

The development of a BHM church plant can be compared with that of a child

Responsibility

The development of a BHM church plant can be compared with that of a child. A child is a whole person but one who needs to be taught and trained in the skills necessary for adult life. He or she has to learn how to be an adult.

It's the same with a newly formed Christian community. Members have to be given the training required so that the new community can learn how to become a people according to God's own heart, responsible and able **to reproduce itself by creating new Christian communities.**

The BHM Committee's role is to follow this development and to see that the church plant progresses in the best possible way and in accordance with the objectives found on page 10 and following. To do this it works in strict collaboration with those having pastoral charge in the church plant who themselves know well the aims set by the Evangelism Department. The BHM Committee has confidence in those with pastoral charge of the church plants and provides them with the care and help needed so that they too can accomplish the different aspects of their ministry to the full.

Furthermore, the BHM Committee is directly responsible to the FEEBF Council for all the administrative aspects concerning established church plants and initial church plants which are not registered as associations. It is the Committee's responsibility to teach these newly formed communities how to operate in strict accordance with the FEEBF's administrative requirements.

The BHM Committee is directly responsible to the FEEBF Council for all the administrative aspects concerning established church plants and initial church plants

INITIAL CHURCH PLANTS

A foreign mission worker approved by the FEEBF and having raised his own support...

or

A French pioneer evangelist with his own regular guaranteed support or a secular employment...

or

A church leader set apart and supported by a member church...

or

A group of Christians who come together to develop a project...

...who move in to a town and work with a view to making disciples and forming them into a church.

WHILST not rejecting the principle that individual people can receive a call for such work, we are nonetheless aware of the difficulties of being isolated, and working without the support of a dynamic local church. We encourage and would prefer such work **to be done in teams**.

At this stage the BHM is a partner

Over a period of 5 years the BHM will provide the spiritual cover for an initial church plant. The BHM will take care to meet with, to encourage, to counsel and to help those involved as much as it can. Where a mission worker is concerned the BHM will maintain contact with the sending mission if necessary. There will be an annual work assessment.

At the end of the 5 years:

- A. If the work has not seen a significant development (about 10 converts regularly involved in the work) there will be a discussion with the church plant team and an evaluation of the work done. Then:
 - i. either the BHM will stop the partnership
 - ii. or if the BHM and the church plant team are agreed, the partnership will be continued for a further 2 years at the end of which, if there is clearly no significant progress, the partnership will cease.
- B. If the work:
 - a. brings together 15 or so converted and committed adults (not including the families of the church plant team),
 - b. demonstrates that the group is committed to proclaiming the Gospel
 - c. and demonstrates their capacity to participate financially in certain projects,
 - i. the BHM committee will study **the possibility of accepting the work as a BHM established church plant**.
 - ii. this decision will have to be ratified by the FEEBF Council and formally adopted at the Annual Assembly.

Sometimes pioneer ministries are too isolated

We encourage teamwork

Providing spiritual cover for initial church plants

Ch. 2

What means do church planters have at their disposal ?

1. **The backing of the Federation experienced in practical ways at regional level** in the area where the new work is being started. As soon as the church plant begins, others belonging to the Federation in the area will be encouraged to take an interest. The regional representatives will regularly ask after news of the work's progress and will make sure that those involved in the new ministry are encouraged, every effort being made to enable them to participate in regional meetings.

The churches in the region concerned:

- a. will support the new work faithfully in prayer
- b. will regularly send workers / teams to give effective help
- c. will help financially in regular evangelistic activities organised with the help of the region.

2. **The Evangelism Department's resources** will be made available:

- a. people to help with training or evangelism
- b. finances to help in a well-defined project. The Evangelism Department hopes to be able to help initial church plants financially in increasingly significant ways as the budget permits. Gifts for this purpose come mainly from FEEBF churches.
- c. administrative help: concerning for example insurance for a meeting place other than the church planter's home.

3. The initial church plant will be mentioned in **the national prayer letter** produced by the Evangelism Department.

Turning towards the future...

Church planters do not always have the pastoral gifts necessary to meet the various needs of a growing church. In such cases the Evangelism Department can advise them to move on to start a new work elsewhere.

The Evangelism Department will then help the church planter and the church which is beginning to take shape to prepare for such a change.

The Federation's backing at regional and local church level

The Evangelism Department's resources will be made available

Advising the church planter

Preparing the changeover

A BHM ESTABLISHED CHURCH PLANT

A BHM established church plant is by definition **focused on evangelism**. It must include a minimum of 10 to 15 adult converts as part of the community. Those baptized by immersion on confession of their faith and taking an active part in the life of the church plant are considered as “members of the BHM church plant”. The priority of these members is to “make disciples” (Matthew 28.19) by announcing the Gospel and training new converts in the Christian lifestyle.

In all matters spiritual, legal and financial a BHM church plant is responsible to the FEEBF represented by the Evangelism Department-BHM. The BHM Committee oversees the administration of the church plant.

The contract and the aims of a BHM church plant

A BHM established church plant aims to become a member church within a reasonable period of time. **Our estimate is within 10 years.**

A BHM established church plant benefits from the pastoral supervision and help of the Evangelism Department. A **contract** is agreed between the established church plant and the Evangelism Department stating:

- The aims and the time set to achieve them.
- The conditions relating to the presence of someone with pastoral charge of the community (mission worker, FEEBF pastor, elder) or of a possible mission team. If this person belongs to a foreign mission working in partnership with the FEEBF then the contract will detail how this collaboration works in practice.
- The nature of help given to the established church plant by the Evangelism Department. If the church plant receives financial help on a decreasing scale, details of this will be written in the contract or as a codicil.

A contract is for a period of 5 years.

An assessment is made each year (or at the longest every 18 months) to encourage church plant members and leaders to stay on course to reach the set objectives.

At the end of the first 5 year contract the BHM Committee will either:

1. Propose that the established church plant is given the status of a “member church” if it appears that the work has advanced rapidly and is now able to move on to the next stage (with the agreement of FEEBF Council). See terms and conditions on page 13.
2. Encourage the continuation of the work by agreeing to a further 5 year contract (with the agreement of FEEBF Council).
3. Propose that the church plant is closed down in cases where the difficulty of the situation threatens the future viability of the church plant (with the agreement of the Annual Assembly).

A BHM established church plant is by definition **focused on evangelism**

Becoming a member church within a **reasonable delay estimated at 10 years**

An assessment is made regularly

A BHM ESTABLISHED CHURCH PLANT

If a second 5 year contract is started the established church plant's progress will be more closely followed in order to encourage the members and ensure that they do not lose heart.

At the end of the second 5 year contract, the BHM Committee will either:

1. Propose that the established church plant is given the status of a "member church" (with the agreement of the FEEBF Council).
2. Propose a **final** contract for a period of 5 years or less to be negotiated with the pastor and the team working in the established church plant (with the agreement of the FEEBF Council).
3. Propose that the established church plant be closed down if at the end of the 10 year period it is clear that the work is not developing (with the agreement of the Annual Assembly).

Being a BHM established church plant is all about learning in real-life situations how to become a member church by developing mature behaviour and the capacity to plant other new churches. The members of the established church plant must bear in mind that they remain under the responsibility of the Evangelism Department until they become a member church.

Mature behaviour is seen :

- In the community's **significant, sustained** growth.
- In the teaching and training given to members to equip them in their **spiritual** life and for **ministry** in the church (**enabling the group to reproduce** itself through the planting of new churches).
- In the drawing up and regular up-dating of **a church project** (a vision with which the members identify) thus showing their determination to not always be dependent.
- In the community's capacity to encourage the ministry of its members, to develop teamwork and in their willingness to participate financially to provide for a pastor's salary.
- By respecting the FEEBF's rules (statutes, confession of faith, church principles and defining texts) and by wholeheartedly supporting its project (paying FEEBF subscriptions, participating in the offerings for the work of the BHM and the European Baptist Mission).

Little by little the aim is to move from "brotherly dependence" to "united independence".

How a BHM established church plant works

A BHM established church plant builds itself up, organises itself, and diversifies its activities.

Whilst not yet being autonomous the church plant is encouraged to take on various responsibilities:

- Organising Annual General Meetings. Decisions taken by members are subject to decisions taken by the BHM. A BHM Committee representative or the regional president will be present at the Annual General Meeting at which the church planter's report and budget are presented. If either are

Learning in real-life situations how to become a member church

Significant, sustained growth

Respecting the FEEBF's rules

A BHM ESTABLISHED CHURCH PLANT

unable to attend the church planter can be mandated to represent the BHM Committee.

- Expressing its opinion in cases where a change of pastor is necessary. This opinion will be of an advisory nature, the final say resting with the BHM.

The established church plant will be able to have a bank account in the name of the FEEBF. The president of the FEEBF Council will open the account with the following persons having the right to sign cheques :

- The FEEBF treasurer
- A member with a position of responsibility in the established church plant
- A third person being a member of the established church plant acting as treasurer. This person will be given training in book-keeping using the format required by the FEEBF's auditors.

Any expenditure in excess of 700 € (2006 level) must be agreed beforehand by the BHM Committee.

The financial reserves built up by a BHM established church plant (with a view to paying a future pastor after initial work done by a mission worker or for buying its own premises) belong legally to the FEEBF and not to the established church plant. Naturally these reserves are kept for use in funding projects to develop the church plant.

Without exception no BHM established church plant will be allowed to buy property (for a manse or a meeting place) before reaching the stage of becoming a member church.

The Evangelism Department's role

On behalf of the BHM Committee, the Evangelism Department :

- Appoints pastors or ministry teams in BHM established church plants.
- Checks that the established church plant is progressing healthily.
- Appoints, with the pastor's help, the team who will manage the established church plant with power delegated from the FEEBF Council and who will think through the project.
- Regularly visits the established church plant.
- Ratifies the document in which the project is clearly outlined.

Leadership in a BHM established church plant

Anyone exercising responsibility in a BHM established church plant must have evangelism in his blood. Having said that, pastoral gifts are also needed to build up and train, to correct and teach, to encourage and care for the members of the community. The same applies for mission teams.

He is committed to lead the congregation in the spirit which characterises FEEBF churches (respect for different tendencies, ecumenical openness - for further details see FEEBF Traditions) and to respect the terms of the contract drawn up with the Evangelism Department. He will attend regional and

A BHM Committee representative or the regional president will be present at the Annual General Meeting

The Evangelism Department checks that the church plant is progressing healthily

Church plant leadership must have evangelism in the blood

A BHM ESTABLISHED CHURCH PLANT

national meetings of FEEBF pastors. He will meet regularly with the president of his region (or his delegate) to talk openly with him about his ministry.

He will develop good relationships with the other existing Protestant and Evangelical churches in his town.

Leadership Committee of the BHM established church plant

The leadership committee is appointed by the BHM Committee on the established church plant leader's recommendation.

A BHM established church plant leadership committee brings together those who are baptised and committed to work for the good of the congregation. Members of the committee are aware that they are there to serve and are actively involved in the life and work of the established church plant. They share the BHM's vision and recognise the pastor's authority.

The leadership committee members are delegated to share this responsibility. They have a heart for evangelism. They encourage other established church plant members to play their part in the life and work of the community. In times of crisis the BHM Committee can temporarily take over from the local leadership committee.

The "Member Church" stage

When the BHM established church plant becomes strong enough spiritually, with the appropriate organisation and a membership of at least 50, the BHM Committee can propose that the church moves on to the "Member Church" stage of development.

This stage can last for between 1 and 2 years and allows the established church plant to prepare to become a FEEBF member church. During this period the church will be set up as a Religious Association (under the 1905 Act) in strict accordance with the process described in Articles 5 and 6 of the FEEBF statutes.

The "Member Church" prepares for this next stage making sure that it keeps the vision for evangelism. It takes care to see that different ministries (Youth work, Social help, etc) are recognized by the church members. "Member Churches" remain subject to the principles governing BHM established church plants until they are accepted by the Annual Assembly as member churches.

A contract can be drawn up to cover this stage of the church's development.

The church plant leader is committed to lead the congregation in the spirit which characterises FEEBF churches

A BHM church plant leadership committee brings together those who are baptised and committed to work for the good of the congregation

Preparing to become a member church

Becoming a member church

A BHM established church plant can become a member church when :

- A **project** is thought through by the congregation for the way forward for the church. Becoming a member church is not an end in itself. It's rather like becoming an adult with the rest of life before you full of possibilities for projects, job satisfaction, having children. The church project must clearly state that it intends at the right time to plant another church.
- Its **budget** shows that it can pay the salary of a full-time pastor (if that has been the way the church has seen ministry being exercised) and can finance its own activities and cover the costs of its meeting place.
- It is experiencing **sustained growth** in numbers
- **Teams are being organised** from within the church to meet the church's needs in terms of ministry and mission.
- It ratifies the document entitled "*Welcoming a new church into the Federation*" (adopted by the Council 16.03.2002) which acts as a **bona fide contract** between the member church and the FEEBF.
- It has completed all that is required in the "Member Church" stage of development and **has been recognised as a Religious Association** (1905 Act) as required by Articles 5 and 6 of the FEEBF statutes. It will have to take out civil liability insurance as well as insure the place where it meets.

The BHM will not take back responsibility for a church once it has been accepted as a member of the FEEBF.

NB:

Other ways of developing a "church site" can be envisaged which are quite different from the standard pattern outlined above (pastor + council + congregation meeting in one place). A local church can be quite different from that, we agree. We are open to consider any other formula, bearing in mind the necessity to have the BHM Committee's approval.

The Mission Team

A mission team brings together several people (singles or married couples) from one of our own or other evangelical churches who have decided to forego the security provided by their present situation to settle in another region where they will get involved in a established church plant to help in its development. They find secular employment to provide for their needs and commit themselves at the same time to the ministry that God has given them to develop the established church plant. This step of faith is the response to a call felt by those involved and confirmed during a series of meetings and through work with the Evangelism Department.

The team is subject to the contract worked out between the Evangelism Department and the established church plant.

- Project
- Budget
- Growth
- Team
- FEEBF spirit
- Association

Other ways of
developing

DAUGHTER CHURCHES

The Evangelism Department fully recognises the place of second generation church plants in the FEEBF strategy and encourages such initiatives.

A daughter church plant takes place when a member church sends out some of its members to a neighbouring town or suburb to start a new church, a new "church site".

This new church becomes the **daughter church** (DC) of a **mother church** (MC)

A daughter church in the right spirit

A daughter church is the visible expression of a basic spiritual truth: every church is called to multiply, to give birth to at least one other congregation.

A birth is a happy event that you get ready for.

If a church wants to fulfil its vocation it will need to do so in a spirit of prayer so that the daughter church:

- Will not harm the unity of the MC. "No kingdom divided against itself can stand".
- Will not be seen as the loss of a certain number of MC members.
- Will really be the fulfilment of God's will.
- Will be fully supported by the MC with conviction and perseverance.

A church will not decide on the place for a daughter church without having already taken into account the existing churches in the proposed area. The pastor will contact representatives of these other churches to explain the project to them, underlining our conviction of the need to work together.

A good start for a daughter church

A daughter church succeeds when the MC, having understood the need to multiply, sends out its best members to the new area envisaged. The team taking on this new mission must share the same vision and be united in the same spirit. It must be made up of people with complementary gifts, both natural and spiritual, which will be useful in developing the new work. Families with children, older people, but also people from different cultures: "a healthy mix" should be a characteristic of this group.

A member church sends out some of its members to a neighbouring town or suburb to start a new church

The pastor will contact representatives of other existing churches

People with complementary gifts, both natural and spiritual, which will be useful

The number of people sent out must be about 10% of the MC's membership but should not be less than 20. Indeed, for a daughter church to start well there must be real momentum in the group.

For this reason the MC must be a growing church continually seeking to reach others with the Gospel, able to train new leaders and to welcome new members. The MC will usually have the possibility of creating new teams (having the drive to grow and reproduce).

The role of the mother church (MC)

The MC must pay particular attention to the needs of the DC for at least the first 3 years. It must be prepared to give considerable help in jointly prepared evangelistic activities, leading church services and providing necessary teaching.

It will faithfully intercede for the DC, regularly sending prayer teams to pray and prepare the ground spiritually (eg. times of prayer and fasting, prayer walks in the town etc.)

We recommend that for the first 3 years the DC remains legally part of the MC.

The role of the daughter church (DC)

Those involved in the daughter church are abundantly aware of their need to evangelize. Evangelism is the main thrust of this new church.

Prayer will be a priority in church life. The battle is fought in prayer.

Church members will develop good relationships with people and families living in the area where the new church is being started.

Members will regularly attend church meetings and AGMs of the MC of which legally they remain part. They will use such occasions to express their thankfulness for the support received from the MC and share testimonies to encourage the MC in her role in the new work.

A daughter church will not be classed as a BHM church plant. When the time comes it will ask to become a FEEBF member church, following the procedure set out in the FEEBF statutes. It will not need to go through the second stage of the process ('citation' in French) but will go directly to the final stage ('présentation' in French).

The mother church
will faithfully
intercede for the
daughter church

Needing to
evangelize

Becoming a member
church

PARTNERSHIPS

The Federation has built up relationships with foreign missions make available pastors or evangelists ready to work within the FEEBF structure and with the BHM in particular.

The important characteristics to be remembered in these relationships are as follows :

- Mutual respect, working together openly and with the consideration that the Christian faith demands.
- Spiritual freedom by which the partners working together recognise and accept their different methods and points of view.
- Moral integrity by which the partners respect the agreements that they have signed together.
- Effective communication which enables the partners to discuss together and to aim at mutual agreement.
- Reciprocal sharing which enables the partners to learn, work and grow together with each one both giving and receiving.

Mission personnel, in common with our own evangelists, pioneers and pastors, are required to subscribe to the terms of the Evangelism Department's "Yellow Book" which is the set of rules common to all.

A training programme will be organised to help them become integrated into French society and culture.

Partner Organizations (as at December 2006)

BMS World Mission (Great Britain)
Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ (WEC International)
Interact (a Swedish mission)
Vereinigten Deutschen Missionshilfe e.V. (VDM Germany)
International Mission Board (SBC USA)
Baptist General Conference (BGC USA)

In discussion:

Mission Chrétienne Européenne (ECM France)
Mission Horizons France (Worl Horizons)
Plumblin Ministries International
Deutsche Missions Gemeinschaft (DMG Germany)

YELLOW BOOK

Ch. 5

Relationships with foreign missions make available pastors or evangelists

The "Yellow Book" is the set of rules common to all.

F.E.E.B.F.
Evangelism
Department

NEW WAYS FORWARD...

« 1 church for every 10 000 inhabitants »

Up until now we have talked of Christian communities which are, taking everything into account, fairly standard. However, in today's post-modern society what is most important? Is it to safeguard a model of a church because it is the one that fits in best with what we believe? Or should we do everything so that men and women can be saved without, of course, compromising the fundamental Gospel message?

It seems to us that the least we can do is **to envisage the development of "new church-sites"** in order "to win some". The different models proposed in this booklet present a range of possibilities to which our Evangelism Department is open. It is not an exhaustive list. Any new idea that fits in with our vision will be seriously considered.

1/ A pastor or ministry team serving a network of house groups situated in a number of villages in a given area.

2/ The development of a children's ministry in the deprived areas of our big cities.

3/ "Ecclesia Centres" where activities are focused on non-believers :

- Celebration services on a midweek evening;
- Sports activities (looking after your body);
- Looking after children on weekdays to help parents (social activities);
- Quality artistic events at regular intervals (cultural activities).

4/ The development of a place where everything is organised in the style of a "Christian event" so as to reach the more affluent sectors of our society (businessmen, those involved in politics, culture, the medical world, etc...).

5/ ...

**... PERHAPS NOT SO NEW
AS ALL THAT !**



YELLOW BOOK

Ch. 6

New ways forward...
perhaps not so new
as all that!

Development of
"new church-
sites"

Activities focused on
non-believers

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