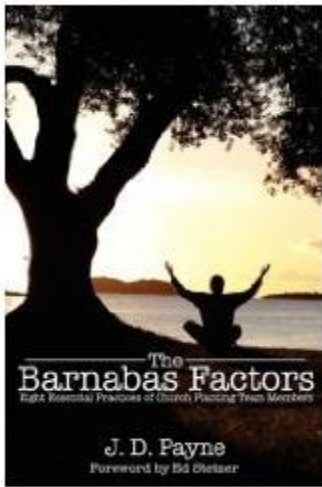


Review by Scott Lamb, as posted on the blog “Wisdom of the Pages” (<http://www.achristianmanifesto.com/wisdomofthepages/?p=391>) on 1/4/09



The Barnabas Factors: Eight Essential Practices of Church Planting Team Members by J.D. Payne (Missional Press: 2008) 155 pages, \$15.

J.D. Payne is a national missionary with the North American Mission Board and an Associate Professor of Church Planting and Evangelism at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also puts forth a great amount of resources at his web site NorthAmericanMissions.org.

In *The Barnabas Factors*, Payne shows the crucial importance of evaluating potential church planters by the gold standard of the Bible. Gleaning principles from the life and ministry of Barnabas, Payne finds eight practices that must be present in the character of an effective church planter.

A “Barnabas Factor” worker is one who:

1. Walks with the Lord
2. Maintains an outstanding character
3. Serves the local church
4. Remains faithful to the call
5. Shares the gospel regularly
6. Raises up leaders
7. Encourages with speech and actions
8. Responds appropriately to conflict

The strength of Payne’s work is how he sets his whole work on the foundation of Bible study, applying the oft-neglected question, “What does the Bible teach about this subject?” to the topic of assessing church planters. Payne writes: “The unique focus of this book is the use of Barnabas as a model for assessing the personal characteristics and practices of church planters. This work addresses a critical element in missions that is often overlooked: the necessary personal character qualities and practices of effective church planters.”

In the end, the eight “Barnabas Factors” should form the character of any pastor, whether they plant churches or not. Therefore, this material is good reading for all pastors.