

## **Starting Over in a Country Way!**

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### **Make Sure There Is Growth Potential in the Facility's Location.**

The area around a restart church needs to have a definable target group of sufficient size which may be effectively reached by the type of ministry.

### **Celebrate the Old Church's Past.**

Prepare the history of the church and have a day of Celebration of the Church's History. Invite present and past members and staff. This will be a good time to thank God for His Faithfulness.

### **Close Down and Start Over?**

Since you are a New Church Start then you might have close down the building for month or a short time. This could be a time to change the signs, do building repairs and fresh up the property.

### **Develop a New Structure/ By-Laws and Vision Statement**

Without a mission beyond its own survival, a restart church is neither new nor viable. "The word restart is not fully appropriate," says Mark Emerson of Littleton, Colorado. "We're not going to restart the old ministry. We're here to make a new beginning. We have a new name, a new purpose."

When we're talking about a true "restart," I am not referring to the typical small, struggling church that finds fresh life and growth. Nor am I looking at mergers or relocation of existing churches. A church that is a candidate for a restart-based church plant has already disbanded, or is almost ready to do so. The church has dwindled down to a handful of survivors who are too tired to continue. It is a church that must have leadership and resources outside itself. God uses the local director of missions or state denomination to help.

### **New Pastor with New Energy**

The pastor's energy must be focused on growth. "If the church doesn't die," observes one restart pastor, "the new life brought in by a new pastor is expected to revitalize the old traditions and there's not enough energy left to do something new." But it's like what Jesus said, 'You can't put new wine in old wine skins.' It's taken me a while to see you just should not leave everything intact so why go back to it.

