



COMPETENCIES & MICRO SKILLS

Acts 29

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COMPETENCIES**

PREAMBLE

The following is a list of competencies & skills for Acts 29 church planters around the world. Three provisions should be kept in mind:

1. Whilst cultural variation is to be expected, the following are a generic set which allow for appropriate cultural texture.
2. Even when trying to assess someone relatively young & inexperienced, these competencies & skills should be present, at the very least, embryonically. There should certainly be nothing in the life of the aspiring planter that undermines or contradicts the following.
3. The biblical references should not be cited as proof texts, but are illustrative & for general guidance.

SPIRITUAL VITALITY

1. Serious about holiness (Leviticus 11:44-45; John 14:15; Ephesians 1:3-4; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 1 John 5:3) and humility (Phil 2:1-11; 1 Peter 5:5)
2. Gives evidence of a personal relationship with Jesus (Matthew 7:16-20; 22:35-40; Romans 8:15-16; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 John 2:3-6; 4:13)
3. Displays a deep commitment to the authority of the Bible in both personal life & public ministry (Psalm 119; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)
4. Knows the importance of prayer, not only as a means to the end of gospel ministry but also as an expression of an intimate & dependent relationship (Colossians 1:3-5; Philippians 1:3-8)
5. Displays the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:12-17) and a clear sense of reliance upon the Holy Spirit for all godliness and every aspect of ministry (Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12-14)
6. Reflects the requirements of an elder (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

THEOLOGICAL CLARITY

1. Committed to the centrality of the gospel in doctrine, life, and ministry (1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Galatians 1:6-10; Philippians 3:7-14)
2. Possesses a clear understanding of sound doctrine (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 1:5-9; 2:1, 15; Jude 3)
3. Embraces the sovereignty of God's grace in saving sinners (John 1:12-13; 6:44; Acts 16:14; Romans 9:14-18; Ephesians 2:4-10; Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13; Titus 3:3-7)

4. Celebrates a missionary understanding of the local church & her role as God's primary mission strategy in the world and for the world (Matthew 16:18; 28:18-20; Romans 1:8; Ephesians 3:10; 1 Peter 2:9-12)
5. Knows the power of the gospel to reconcile and works this out according to the available opportunities and presenting needs, resulting in ethically, socially and economically diverse churches which display the power of the gospel to bring people together (Ephesians 2:11-22; Galatians 3:28-29; Revelation 7:9-12)
6. Displays grace toward those who differ from him in both doctrine & practice (Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 14:1, 10-13; 2 Timothy 1:13-14; 1 Peter 3:15; James 1:19)
7. Deeply committed to the spiritual & moral equality of male & female, alongside the principle of male headship in the church & home (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:18; Acts 18:24-26; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 3:1-7; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Peter 3:1-7)
8. Calls believers to active participation in & humble submission to the local church (Matthew 18:15-20; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 3:15; Titus 2:15)
9. Demonstrates an ability to understand & communicate theological truths in a manner consistent with the gospel (Acts 20:20, 27; 1 Timothy 4:13; 5:17; 2 Timothy 1:13-14; 4:2; 1 Peter 3:15)
10. Shows grace & flexibility in teaching & discipling others (Acts 20:28; 2 Timothy 2:2)

CONVICTION & COMMENDATION

1. Communicates a compelling personal conviction to plant churches (Acts 16:6-10)
2. If married, his wife commends him for the task & shares his conviction to plant (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6)
3. Willingness to sacrifice in order to discharge the conviction to plant a church (John 10:11; 15:13)
4. Compelling vision for the church plant that motivates others (Romans 12:8)
5. Clear strategy for planting a church-planting church (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; 16:9, 12; Titus 1:5)
6. Commended for ministry by other churches & church leaders (1 Timothy 3:7)

MARRIAGE (IF MARRIED)

1. Exhibits a healthy marriage (loving service, kind, communicative, mutual honoring, cherishing) (Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-21; Hebrews 13:4)
2. Demonstrates integrity and wisdom in managing finances (1 Timothy 3:3-5; 6:7-9; Hebrews 13:5)

3. Family does not undermine his leadership, nor behave so as to discredit his witness (Ephesians 5:22-28; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Timothy 3:4-5)
4. Leads his family in a lifestyle that commends Christ (Matthew 7:12; 20:25-28; 1 Timothy 3:2-7; 4:12; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:2-3)
5. Committed to providing for the family in an exemplary way (1 Timothy 5:8)
6. Does not neglect his family in the pursuit of ministry (1 Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:7-9)
7. Acknowledges a healthy sexual relationship & purity in his marriage (Exodus 20:14; Proverbs 6:32; Matthew 5:27-28; Ephesians 5:25-27; Hebrews 13:4)

RELATIONSHIPS

1. Establishes & maintains, as far as is possible, healthy relationships with Christians & non-Christians (Romans 12:18; Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Timothy 3:7; 2 Timothy 2:24-25; 1 Peter 2:12)
2. Takes initiative to meet new people (Romans 15:2; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
3. Willing to initiate conversation with & listen to others (Proverbs 18:13; 19:20; James 1:19)
4. Shows empathy & compassion (Psalm 86:15; Matthew 9:35-36; 14:14; 22:39; Mark 1:40-41; John 11:33-35; Romans 12:15; 1 Peter 3:8; 4:8; 1 John 3:17)
5. Displays patience & sincerity (Psalms 37:7; Romans 2:7; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; James 1:3-4; 5:7-8)

LEADERSHIP

1. Excels in crafting & communicating vision (Romans 12:8)
2. Has a clear & reproducible system for leadership development (2 Timothy 2:1-2)
3. Able to accomplish tasks with limited resources (Deuteronomy 8:18)
4. Ability to raise up others to become leaders in church, home, business, community (2 Timothy 2:1-2)
5. Portrays resilience under opposition & setbacks (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 16:13)
6. Adaptable to meet needs, identify barriers & articulate vision (Acts 20:20-21)
7. Releases & resources others to accomplish goals (Acts 13:1-3)
8. Courageously leads others who do not follow easily (1 Corinthians 16:13; Galatians 6:9)
9. Proven track record of developing & implementing strategy (Proverbs 15:22; 16:3; 19:20; 20:18; 21:5; James 1:5; 4:13-15)

MATURITY

1. Ability to identify own strengths & weaknesses (Proverbs 16:18; Romans 12:3)
2. Displays confidence without arrogance (Acts 20:17-24; 2 Corinthians 10:18; Hebrews 13:7)
3. Ability to accept constructive criticism & input from others (Proverbs 11:14; 12:15, 22; 24:6; Luke 17:3; Hebrews 12:11)
4. Firm, resilient & not prone to discouragement (Joshua 1:9; Psalm 31:24; John 16:33; Romans 8:26; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Timothy 1:7)
5. Willingness to be accountable to others in community (Proverbs 27:17; Luke 17:3; Galatians 6:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; James 5:16)
6. Exhibits flexibility & adaptability to changes & needs (1 Corinthians 9:19)
7. Problem-solver even if that means knowing where to go to solve problems
8. Recognizes the appropriate value of bodily exercise (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 9:27; 1 Timothy 4:8)
9. Humbly invests in on-going personal & pastoral growth (Ephesians 5:16)

MISSIONAL LIFESTYLE

1. Demonstrates a passion to reach others through relationships & evangelism (Matthew 9:37-38; 28:18-20; Romans 1:16; 10:10-17; 2 Timothy 4:5)
2. Consistently & effectively shares faith in a manner understood by non-Christians (Acts 17:16-34)
3. Meaningful relationships & rapport with non-Christians (1 Timothy 3:7)
4. Sees lives impacted & changed through relational engagement (2 Corinthians 5:11-21; 1 Thessalonians 2:8)
5. Leads others in a missional lifestyle (1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1)
6. Understands cultural context of proposed church plant (Acts 17:16-32)
7. Cultural fit (naturally or adaptively) with the planting context (Acts 10:9-23; 16:1-5; 18:1-4; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

DISCIPLE MAKING

1. Effective plan for discipleship, emphasizing both maturity & multiplication (Acts 16:1-5)
2. Skilled in establishing & multiplying small groups (Acts 14:21-23)

3. Track record of making disciples that make disciples (1 Thessalonians 3:2; Philippians 2:22)
4. Evidence of multiplying leaders that multiply leaders (1 Corinthians 4:16-17; 2 Timothy 1:6)
5. Inspires & encourages others toward spiritual maturity (1 Thessalonians 1)

ABILITY TO TEACH

1. Demonstrates exegetical & expositional competency (2 Timothy 2:15; 4:2-4; Titus 1:9; 2:1)
2. Able to teach the Bible into specific contexts & audiences (Acts 20:20-21; Romans 1:14-15; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
3. Displays a commitment to Christ-centered preaching/teaching (1 Corinthians 1:17-18, 23; Galatians 1:6-10; 1 John 1:1-10)
4. Teaches & applies the Bible in a manner, style & tone consistent with the gospel (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:8-9)
5. Understands the role of the Holy Spirit in the task of preaching & teaching (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)
6. Preaches with effectiveness as evidenced by changed lives (Nehemiah 8:8; Luke 24:27, 44; Acts 2:1-47; Colossians 1:3-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)

ENTREPRENEURIAL APTITUDE

1. Demonstrated some successes in starting new ventures (Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 3:10)
2. Innovative & strategic visionary (Proverbs 22:29; Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
3. Energetic & enthusiastic about starting a new work (Romans 12:11; 2 Timothy 1:7)
4. Ability to recruit others into a new venture (1 Corinthians 3:10)
5. Evidences of being a self-starter (Ecclesiastes 11:4; 1 Corinthians 3:10)
6. Willingness to work intensely for an extended period of time (1 Corinthians 9:24)