Multipliers

Baptism Issues

Who can baptize? It needs to be reproducible by locals.

- Every believer can and should baptise.
- **Re Paul 1 Cor 1.** Who then baptised them?
- Jesus and baptism. John 3: 22 John 4:1-2 did not baptise.
- It is important to avoid bringing outsiders in to baptise new believers, as it sets a wrong model, the Gospel is foreign.
- Be careful that you do not do all the baptising, show a model how to baptise, then use others. 1 Cor 1:14-17

Baptism - General comments.

- Baptism needs to be simple.
  No expensive swimming pools needed or other fancy places or clothes.
  A quiet place with some water be found (river, private bathtub, ordinary swimming pool etc.)
- Emphasize that baptism needs to be reproducible by locals.

Local issues to consider about baptism.

- Legal matters with governments.
- False ideas about baptism held by new believers.
  Baptism is not a “switching community” event.
- Security issues. Persecution factors because of baptism.
- Family issues.
- Word of **caution here about the Muslim context**. Some people baptise using “in the name of the Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit”, rather than in the name of the son only. They do this as some new believers may not yet have come to terms with understanding the term “son”. Ask yourself, did you understand with complete depth about Jesus the son when you were baptised? Formula does not make someone more baptised. In Acts people are also baptised in the name of Jesus.

Illustration - Wet Believers or Dry believers?

An easy illustration to remember about baptism is what one brother in Indonesia teaches. He asks new believers, “What do you do with a packet of noodles when you open them?” Well you place them in water! “If you have opened your heart up you need to follow with baptism”.
He uses this illustration to train others, “we need wet packet believers”, those baptised, not dry packet believers, meaning not non-baptised believers.

Common questions asked.

1. Do you really need to baptise people in water, isn't praying the sinners prayer enough?
2. How do you baptise someone? What do I say?
3. What about the thief on the cross?
4. Who is allowed to baptised someone? Isn't that the job of a pastor or elder?
5. If someone is a new believer, can they baptise people?
6. Don't we need to test them and know they're real followers of Jesus before we baptise them?
7. Should we need to make sure they do a long baptism course?
8. What if someone has already been baptised before, as a baby?
9. How old do people need to be before they can be baptised?
10. What do I do if there's no water?
11. What do I do if it's the middle of the night?
12. What if they fall away after they're baptised?
13. What does it mean in 1 Cor15:29 to be baptised for the dead?

    https://carm.org/baptism-for-the-dead-in-1-corinthians-15-29