

SEND Center

a mission outpost of a local church

The logo for Church Doctor Ministries features the words "CHURCH DOCTOR" in a large, bold, orange font with a registered trademark symbol. Below it, the word "MINISTRIES" is written in a smaller, spaced-out, orange font. The background of the logo is a dark, textured shape.

SEND Center Introduction

The new kind of Christian community for the 21st century, developed by Church Doctor Ministries, is called a SEND Center. A SEND Center is intentionally not called a “church” because unchurched people have developed a negative attitude or complete ignorance about the word “church.” A SEND Center operates as a mission outpost of a local church. It can be led by a trained SEND young adult or a gifted lay member of the church who has been trained through the DVD series *The Damascus Road*. The SEND Center is usually started in a home with a minimum of approximately 20 dedicated “spiritual entrepreneurs” with a heart for mission to unchurched people. It is considered to be an outreach outpost of the church, consisting of those who have had missionary training. Those new Christians who respond to Christ and become Christians as part of the SEND Center can either worship at the SEND Center or at the base church.

SEND graduates are trained in every aspect of mission, including raising their own support. Their training includes Alpha, the most effective and most used outreach mechanism in the world today.

The SEND Center leader is under the discipleship guidance of the pastor at the church. The pastor continues to provide regular discipling in a low control/high accountability relationship, without being directly involved in the ministry of the SEND Center.

As the SEND Center grows, it will require moving out of a home to a rented storefront or other facility, avoiding a facility that is a former “church-looking” building. The priority objective is to break from the mentality of “church

as consumer country club” to church as “mission community.” This posture continues forever for the SEND Center.

The SEND Center may recruit young adults to participate in SEND North America training. If a young adult from the SEND Center feels called to be trained through a second SEND 10-month equipping experience, they can be trained to be a SEND leader. As such, they are given all the materials at no cost and may start a SEND training community at the SEND Center. This greatly increases outreach to young adults and others within the church.

As a SEND Center grows, it is likely to start another SEND Center (under the umbrella of the founding church) before it reaches a bureaucratic threshold in which time and effort shifts from mission to maintenance. It is conceivable that a base church could have 100 SEND Centers, with an overall population of 5,000 to 25,000.

SEND Centers do not measure “members” as the base church likely measures. Instead, they measure “disciples.” Members “go to church.” Disciples “go to work.” The biblical term “disciple” reflects an “intern,” with the concept of moving into a working position, rather than a “learner.” Discipling is not a class, but a relationship development for mission. This is how God develops revivals around the world.

If you are interested in the coaching, consulting, and resources available to you to launch your own SEND Center, please call 1.800.626.8515 and ask to speak to one of our SEND Center Coaches.