

# Catalysts for the Kingdom: Entrepreneurial Benefactors in Missional Expansion

**Topic:** Establishing a **Church-Based Business Accelerator (CBA)** to enable **entrepreneurial benefactors** to fund missions sustainably through **biblical and economic frameworks**.

"This artifact proposes a book titled '**Catalysts for the Kingdom: Entrepreneurial Benefactors in Missional Expansion**,' which aims to develop a Church-Based Business Accelerator model for sustainable mission funding in North India."

## ACADEMIC ABSTRACT:

This doctoral project explores the development of a Church-Based Business Accelerator (CBA) model to address the challenge of financial dependency and sustainability within indigenous mission movements in North India. The project responds to the observable tension between spiritual growth and economic fragility in grassroots church planting networks, where lack of local funding hinders long-term missional expansion.

Rooted in the apostolic pattern of the Apostle Paul—particularly his model of tent-making (Acts 18)—this proposal reimagines the local church as not only a spiritual center but also an economic incubator. Through theological reflection, field research, and leadership case studies, this project will develop a replicable framework for identifying, discipling, and launching faith-driven entrepreneurs who serve as 'benefactors' to the mission. The proposed CBA model includes components such as church-based entrepreneurial training, micro-investment funds, strategic giving, and relational wealth sharing.

The final artifact will be a field-tested manual that equips church networks, mission leaders, and theological educators to cultivate economic ecosystems that support apostolic work. This work seeks to contribute to the broader field of missional theology, church-based economic development, and global kingdom leadership strategies.

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this doctoral project is to design and field-test a Church-Based Business Accelerator (CBA) framework to equip North Indian churches to cultivate entrepreneurial benefactors who can financially sustain and expand indigenous mission work. Through biblical-theological reflection, economic systems analysis, and praxis-based engagement with grassroots leaders, the project will develop a replicable strategy that transitions churches from donor dependency to local sustainability. The ultimate aim is to foster apostolic ecosystems that are theologically grounded, economically resilient, and missionally fruitful.

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## I. Introduction

### A. Background and Rationale

- The **New Testament Church model** emphasizes **self-sustaining, mission-driven funding** (e.g., Acts 2:44-47; Philippians 4).
- **Traditional Western-funded missions** face challenges such as **dependency and sustainability**.
- The **Paul-Timothy model** offers a **replicable framework** for **church-based economic empowerment**.

- **Raising local funds and benefactors** for ministry is essential for reducing **external dependency** in North India.
- Insights from the **Seek Welfare Workbook** and **Paradigm Curves Paper** highlight the need for **paradigm shifts in funding and leadership**.
- **Purpose:** To establish a **Church-Based Business Accelerator (CBA)** model integrating **biblical stewardship** with modern entrepreneurial practices.

## B. The Problem or Situation Addressed

- **Challenges:**
  1. **Raising local funds** for missions.
  2. **Developing local benefactors** to support ministry projects.
  3. **Sustaining ministry projects** without external dependency.
  4. **Creating collaborative funding networks** for kingdom expansion.
  5. **Funding the expansion of kingdom works** in a scalable manner.

## C. Significance of the Project

- **Alternative funding model** to traditional missions.
- Equips church leaders for **economic self-sufficiency**.
- Aligns with the **Paul-Timothy model** of leadership development.
- Offers a **scalable model** for economic sustainability.
- Reduces **dependency on external funding** for mission work in **North India**.
- **Strategic Funding Model:** Provides a sustainable alternative to Western-funded missions.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Equips churches to fund missions locally and independently.
- **Scalability:** Establishes a replicable model that can be implemented Nationally and the Globally.
- **Discipleship and Employment:** Integrates discipleship into business practices and creates jobs.
- **Theological Education:** Acts as a practical extension of church-based theological education ( in BILD Equip)
- Churches as benefactor communities (**Seek Welfare Workbook**).

## II. Type of Artifact: Book

- A **comprehensive guide** on establishing **Church-Based Business Accelerators**.
- **Practical and theological insights** for church leaders, enterprising start-up leaders
- Case studies from **UGM's economic initiatives** in North India.

## III. Possible Mentors

Potential Mentors	Mentor Type	Expertise Field
Jeff Read	Theology & Parading Framework	Church Based Theological Education & Missions Paradigm.
Dr Bill Burns	Theology & Biblical Framework	Church Based Theological Education & Missions Paradigm.
Dr Stephen	Theology & Higher Education Development	Church Based Theological Education & Missions Paradigm.

Dr Eappen John	Research & Data Analysis	Impact assessment, qualitative & quantitative research, ministry evaluation
Micheal Macusland	Business & Entrepreneurial Startups, Incubation	BAM, microfinance, sustainable business strategies
Nelson Jennings	Financial Management & Funding	Missions funding models, financial planning, governance
Gary Lovelace	Networking Synergy	Kingdom Collaboration Partnerships & Networking

## IV. Expanded Research Questions to be Asked

1. How can **church-based entrepreneurial benefactors** sustainably fund missions?
2. What **biblical precedents** exist for **local funding** in missions?
3. How can a **Church-Based Business Accelerator** be established effectively?
4. What are the **best practices for integrating business and discipleship** in a church-based context?
5. How can the **Pauline economic model** be adapted to modern **church-based business accelerators**?
6. What are the **cultural and contextual challenges** of implementing CBAs in **North India**?
7. How effective are **microfinance and cooperative models** in reducing financial dependency in church missions?
8. What **metrics and KPIs** best reflect both the **spiritual and economic impact** of church-based enterprises?

## V. Expanded Annotated Bibliography of Key Resources

1. **BILD Encyclicals, Pauline Epistles, Roland Allen's Missionary Methods.**
2. **"Business for the Glory of God"** by Wayne Grudem – Biblical basis for integrating business and missions.
3. **"The Mission of God"** by Christopher Wright – Biblical theology for mission strategies.
4. **"When Helping Hurts"** by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert – Financial dependency risks.
5. **"Disciplined Entrepreneurship"** by Bill Aulet – Business model frameworks.
6. **"The Starfish and the Spider"** by Ori Brafman and Rod Beckstrom – Insights on decentralized networks.
7. **"Transforming Mission"** by David Bosch – Paradigm shifts in missions.
8. **"Paradigm Curve Paper"** – Micheal Vos
9. **Research articles on Microfinance and Cooperative Funding** – Effectiveness in mission contexts.
10. **'I will be expanding this Reading list further more in next level '**

## VI. Possible Paradigm Issues to Address

- **Commercialization of Ministry:** Balancing business activities within church-based initiatives without compromising spiritual mission and integrity.
- **Dependency vs. Empowerment:** Transitioning from financial reliance on external donors to sustainable, locally driven economic empowerment.

- **Biblical Integrity:** Ensuring that financial and business operations are in alignment with biblical principles of stewardship, avoiding exploitation or ethical conflicts.
- **Spiritual vs. Business Tensions:** Addressing the challenges of integrating entrepreneurial activities while maintaining a Christ-centered mission focus.
- **Resistance to Change in Mission Funding:** Overcoming traditional reliance on external missionary support by demonstrating viable, biblically grounded economic models.
- **Resistance to Entrepreneurship in Ministry:** Addressing skepticism and theological concerns about using business models as a vehicle for ministry impact and sustainability.
- **Church Authority vs. Marketplace Influence:** Clarifying the role of church leadership in overseeing business ventures while maintaining appropriate boundaries between spiritual leadership and financial decision-making.
- **Funding Paradigm Shift:** Moving from donor-driven financial structures to self-sustaining, community-based funding mechanisms.
- **Leadership Paradigm Shift:** Transitioning from centralized, top-down leadership to decentralized, apostolic-style leadership models that empower local elders and leaders ( **Sodal & Modal**)
- **Economic Paradigm Shift:** Integrating profitable business ventures within the church framework while maintaining a clear distinction between profit-driven motives and mission-focused goals.
- **Church Based Benefactor Shift :** The approach & role of **Benefactors** in contemporary Mission Strategies is fragmented and disassociated from Apostolic Team and mission strategies.

## VII. Brief Sketch of Methods for Further Research

- **Comparative Studies:** Faith-based accelerators vs. secular models.
- **Historical Analysis:** Early church economic models.
- **Impact Studies:** Effectiveness of BAM in funding missions.
- **Funding Models Research:** Explore alternative models like ; Kingdom Investment Funds, Microfinance, and Cooperative Businesses.
- **Field Research Plan** Surveys and interviews in North India.
  - **Surveys:** A structured assessment of local churches' financial health, funding sustainability, and economic challenges. The survey will target church leaders, congregations, and financial decision-makers to identify common funding struggles and potential solutions.
  - **Interviews:** In-depth discussions with local business leaders, pastors, and financial experts to uncover practical strategies for integrating business models into church missions. The interviews will explore real-world applications of microfinance, benefactor funding, and Business-as-Mission (BAM).
  - **Case Studies:** A comprehensive analysis of successful church-led economic initiatives. This will include examples of church-based businesses, cooperative funding models, and self-sustaining mission projects, showcasing best practices and challenges in achieving financial independence while maintaining spiritual integrity.

### Key Stages of Development:

- **Stage 1: Research and Theological Foundation**
  - Explored **biblical precedents for economic models** such as Paul's tent-making (Acts 18:1-4) and Joseph's financial management in Egypt (Genesis 41).
  - Integrated teachings on **stewardship** from the New Testament (e.g., Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14-30).

- **Stage 2: Identifying Gaps and Needs**
  - Conducted **field research** through surveys with local church leaders to understand the extent of **financial dependency and leadership challenges**.
  - Found a critical gap in **sustainable funding models and local leadership development**.
  - Fragmented approach & role of **Benefactors** in contemporary Mission Strategies.
- **Stage 3: Designing Funding Models and Leadership Structures**
  - Developed a spectrum of **funding models** including **Benefactor Capitalization Funds, Microfinance, and Strategic Collections**.
  - Emphasized the need for **S-Curve strategies** to manage growth phases for both funding and leadership.
- **Stage 4: Refinement Based on Pilot Testing**
  - Conducted a **pilot test** of the CBA model in a local church setting:
    - Assessed effectiveness of **Benefactor Funds and Microfinance**.
    - Identified challenges in **training local leaders** in financial management.
  - Made adjustments such as **simplifying funding models** and expanding training modules.

## VIII. Possible Significance of the Artifact

- **Strategic Funding Model:** Sustainable alternative to Western-funded missions.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Reduces dependency on external funding.
- **Discipleship and Employment:** Integrates business with discipleship.
- **Long-term impact:**
  - **Job creation, local economic growth, and increased discipleship.**
  - **Global applicability** of the CBA model.
  - Contribution to the **theological education** of church leaders.

## IX. Enhanced Funding Models

- **Benefactor Capitalization Funds:** Establish funds managed by local benefactors to support missions.
- **Business-as-Mission (BAM):** Focus on **tent-making enterprises** to fund missions sustainably.
- **Microfinance and Cooperative Models:** Introduce small loans and community funding pools.
- **Strategic Collections Fund:** Manage targeted collections for specific mission projects.

## X. S-Curve Paradigms for Funding and Leadership

- **4.1 S-Curve for Funding:**
  - **Early Phase:** Testing funding models.
  - **Growth Phase:** Scaling successful models.
  - **Maturity Phase:** Reinvestment and innovation.
- **4.2 S-Curve for Leadership:**
  - From **Apostolic Networks** to **decentralized governance**.
- **4.3 Benefits:**
  - **Sustainability, scalability, risk management.**

## A. Key Gaps and Recommendations

Key Gaps	Recommendations
Role of Benefactors and Strategic Funding	Propose <b>Benefactor Capitalization Funds</b> and <b>strategic collections</b> .
Financial independence and <b>BAM</b>	Develop a <b>BAM Curriculum</b> with <b>business skills and biblical principles</b> .
Indigenous leadership development	Introduce <b>church-based, modular training</b> for local leaders.
Paradigm shifts and governance	Expand on <b>Apostolic Networks</b> and <b>biblical governance models</b> .
Impact measurement	Create <b>dual KPIs</b> for <b>spiritual and financial outcomes</b> .

## B. Summary of Key Gaps and Recommendations

Key Gaps	Recommendations
Financial independence and avoiding dependency	Expand on <b>BAM, microfinance, and Kingdom Fund</b> models.
Indigenous leadership development	Include <b>church-based theological education and local leadership training</b> .
Paradigm challenges	Address risks of <b>commercializing ministry and cultural adaptation</b> .
Lay leader training	Develop a <b>dual-track training curriculum</b> for both clergy and lay leaders.
Strategic mentors and partnerships	List <b>local and international mentors</b> experienced in BAM and missions.

## XI. Risk Assessment and Mitigation

- **Financial Risks:** Failure of funded businesses.
- **Theological Risks:** Concerns about commercializing ministry.
- **Cultural Risks:** Sensitivity to local contexts.

## XII. Paradigm Shifts and Governance

- **Apostolic Networks:** Replace institutional control with networks led by local elders.
- **Church-Based Governance:** Hybrid model with spiritual oversight and financial management.

## XIII. Impact Measurement: Spiritual and Economic Metrics

- **Dual KPIs:**
  - **Spiritual Metrics:** Discipleship, church plants, missions funded.
  - **Economic Metrics:** Revenue growth, self-sufficiency,
  - **Metrics Dashboard:** Template for Tracking KPIs

# XIV. Tentative Outline of the Project

## I. Introduction

1.1 Background and Rationale

1.2 Purpose of the Artifact

## II. Biblical and Theological Foundations

2.1 Biblical Precedents for Economic Models

2.2 Theological Basis for Entrepreneurship

2.3 Addressing Theological Objections

## III. Establishing a Church-Based Business Accelerator (CBA)

3.1 CBA Model Overview

3.2 Key Components of CBA

3.3 Practical Implementation Strategies

## IV. Funding Models and Financial Strategies

4.1 Enhanced Funding Models

4.2 Risk Assessment and Mitigation

## V. Indigenous Leadership Development

5.1 Dual-Track Training Approach

5.2 Modular Theological Education

## VI. Paradigm Shifts and Governance

6.1 Apostolic Networks

6.2 Church-Based Governance Models

## VII. Impact Measurement and Assessment

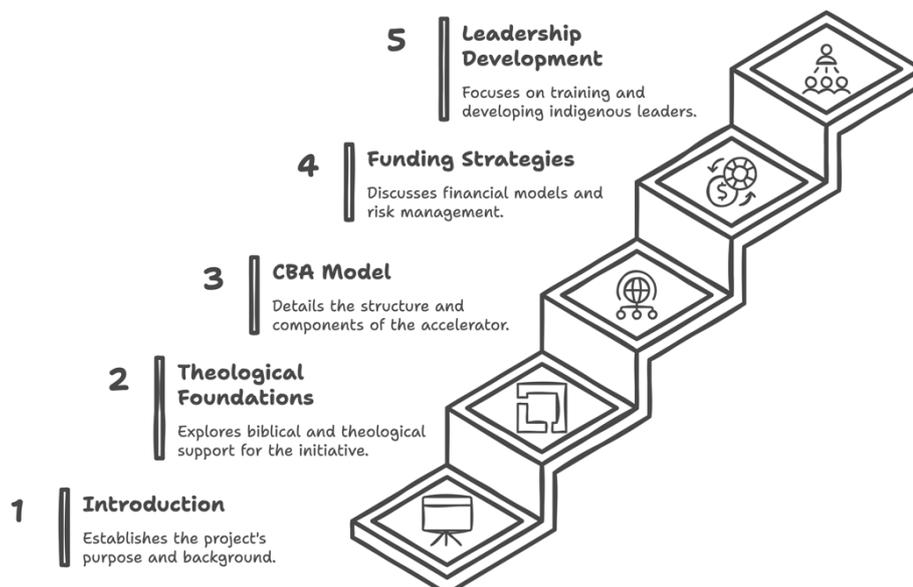
7.1 Dual KPIs for Impact Measurement

7.2 Metrics Dashboard

7.3 Feedback and Continuous Improvement

## VIII. Key Gaps and Recommendations

### Building a Church-Based Business Accelerator



8.1 Identified Key Gaps

8.2 Recommendations for Addressing Gaps

**IX. Proposed Research Plan**

9.1 Comparative Studies

9.2 Field Research in North India

9.3 Impact Studies

**X. Conclusion and Next Steps**

10.1 Summary of Key Insights

10.2 Next Steps

10.3 Vision for the Future

**Appendices**

A. Annotated Bibliography

B. Key Gaps and Recommendations Table

C. Sample Training Modules

D. Case Studies

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