



WHY PLANT NEW CHURCHES?

ARE WE CALLED TO PLANT CHURCHES?

THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS... YES

- ✓ Christ gave the command to **evangelize the world**. It is a command that is **still as applicable today** as it was 2,000 years ago.
- ✓ And it's binding on all who claim Christ as Lord and Savior, it is the **Great Commission**, not the **Great Suggestion**.
- ✓ The heartbeat of Jesus was to **seek and save** the lost, that should be our heartbeat as well.
- ✓ When Jesus said "**go make disciples**" we believe he was speaking **specifically about church planting**.

THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS... NO

- ✓ There is **no direct mandate** in Scripture that says we have to plant churches.
- ✓ When we read about the church in the New Testament we see that it's **founding is a given**. (Matthew 16:18)
- ✓ The establishment of the church **was not questioned**, Jesus said it would happen, therefore it was **going to happen**.
- ✓ It was the **expected outcome** of obeying the Great Commission.

THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS ... PEOPLE NEED JESUS

Jesus, overhearing shot back, “Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? I'm here inviting the **sin-sick** not the **spiritually-fit.**”
(Mark 2:17 MSG)

- ✓ We live in a world that is spiritually dead, and by dead, we mean **dead like a corpse is dead.**
- ✓ And it's a proven fact that **church planting** is the **most effective way** to reach the world for Christ.

ANY OTHER REASONS?

THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS... YES

NEW CHURCHES ARE QUICKER TO ADOPT NEW STRATEGIES FOR OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM.

- ✓ In our post-Christian, post-modern society, we must meet people where they are, and speak a language they can understand.
- ✓ The Apostle Paul mastered this concept, one great example was his interaction with the Philosophers on Mars Hill. (Acts 17)

ANY OTHER REASONS?

- ✓ Church growth expert **Aubry Malphurs** puts this concept into perspective.

"Essentially, what was a church; supposedly Christian culture has become an unchurched, post-Christian culture. People in our culture are not antichurch; they simply view the church as irrelevant to their lives."

- ✓ The Gospel by it's very nature is "**relevant**," our task is to go and **unleash** that relevance on the world.

ANY OTHER REASONS?

NEW CHURCHES ARE MORE EFFECTIVE AT REACHING THE LOST.

- ✓ This is in **no way** meant to be demeaning to existing churches, who's ministry is **absolutely vital** to winning the world to Christ.
- ✓ In an average year, half of all existing churches will **not add** a single new member **through conversion** growth.
- ✓ One American denomination found that **80%** of its new converts came to Christ in churches that were **less than 2 years old**.
- ✓ Churches that plant churches **grow faster** than those who don't.

ANY OTHER REASONS?

NEW CHURCHES POSITIVELY IMPACT EVERY OTHER MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH.

- ✓ Planting Churches increases the “**effectiveness**” of all other church and para-church ministries.
- ✓ Many ministries are hindered by a lack **adequate financing** and **manpower**.
- ✓ By starting new Churches we **increase the availability** of both.

ANY OTHER REASONS?

- ✓ Every type ministry within the church **benefits** from the planting of new churches.
- ✓ The **wider** the base, the **greater** the impact!
- ✓ New **church leaders** developed.
- ✓ New **young people** challenged to enter ministry.
- ✓ New **finances** made available for ministry projects.



AREN'T THERE ENOUGH CHURCHES ALREADY?

THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS... NO

- ✓ In most Midwestern towns and even in most urban areas there is a **church on every corner**.
- ✓ So one would assume that we **have plenty of churches** to meet the needs of our communities.
- ✓ The truth of the matter is that if we were to **combine the seating capacity** of every church in a given community we would have enough room to **seat no more than 20%** of the population.

AREN'T THERE ENOUGH CHURCHES ALREADY?

- ✓ And that number **doesn't** even take into consideration those living in the **rural areas**.
- ✓ It's an **unfortunate truth** that there exists a flawed understanding in the minds of many that the **United States is already evangelized**.
- ✓ This belief is **prevalent**, and this belief extremely **dangerous**.
- ✓ Just to **meet the current demands** of our population we would need to be planting approximately **19 churches** per day.
- ✓ To meet the **demands of our growing population** we would need to be planting approximately **160 churches** per day.

IS THE UNITED STATES DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD?

WHY IS IT THAT WE OPERATE DIFFERENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES THAN WE DO IN THE REST OF THE WORLD?

- ✓ Foreign missionaries accept church planting as the **best tool** in which to reach a given people group to Christ.
- ✓ So why has growth been so extensive in other countries while being in a state of stagnation at home? – **MISSIONARIES**
- ✓ Missionaries **sold out** to the premise of reaching the world for Christ through church planting.

IS THE UNITED STATES DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD?

FOR FAR TOO LONG WE HAVE CLASSIFIED "MISSIONS" AS MINISTRY EFFORTS THAT TAKE PLACE IN SOME FOREIGN LAND

- ✓ Today the **dirt** we walk on is a **real** mission field. Do we realize that **fact**?
 - ✓ When we read Acts chapters 13-21 we see how the missionary journeys of Paul resulted in **multiple** church planting movements.
 - ✓ The bulk of our New Testament is the **byproduct** of church planting.
 - ✓ This movement was one that culminated in the **spontaneous expansion** of the church.
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