

Church Planting Myths

Myth 1. Church planting is about planting flowers, etc. around the church building (more than one person has made this mistake). Church planting is about the most effective evangelistic strategy—starting new churches.

Myth 2. Our church has room for more people. Many average size churches do not have sufficient sociological and/or physical room to assimilate even one new family. Very few churches have sufficient sociological and/or physical room to assimilate people equal to five percent of their average attendance.

Myth 3. There are enough (too many) churches in our area. No matter how well other churches are doing, almost any place where there are more (often less) than a thousand people within a fifteen or twenty minute drive one or more additional churches will add people to the Kingdom.

Myth 4. Planting a church near us will harm our church. One church that planted several churches using people from their own church found that within six months (sometimes less than a month) God would send them about two new people for every person they sent to the new church. Many other churches have had similar experiences.

Myth 5. We can't afford to plant a church. Some ways of planting new churches are very expensive but others require very little or no outside financial support. While the more money that is put into a church plant the more likely it is to be "successful," putting large sums into church plants reduces the number of churches that can be planted. Where the Kingdom is growing the fastest, a lot of low cost churches are being planted rather than a few expensive "high quality" church plants.

Myth 6. We need to get bigger to plant a church. A church in the Boston area that never reach one hundred in average attendance had twenty daughter and granddaughter churches by the time the church was twenty-five years old. Churches of less than twenty have planted daughter churches. Churches that wait until they get to some bigger size usually never plant a church—in part because they often never reach that size.

Myth 7. Everyone is welcome at our church. You may want and try to make everyone feel welcome at your church but because of differences in culture and personality one person will find your church just what they want while someone else will find your church a "turn off." (Remember culture is about how people think and there is no necessary connection to racial or ethnic background. However, a persons background usually plays a significant role in that persons cultural thinking.) Multi-culturalism is a separate culture.