

Obstacles to Church Planting Movements in the U.S.?

(Some Possible Reasons Why House Churches Are Not Multiplying in the U.S.)

(These are my educated? guesses, not established facts)

1. Lack of prayer
2. People are too busy (2 incomes, 2 jobs, kids activities, etc. time strictly scheduled)
3. Wrong target – may work better in lower class areas (It has worked in Europe in some of the lowest classes. Neil Cole, *Organic Church*, appears to be having some success in lower class areas of the U.S.)
4. Leadership issues
 - Anti paid leaders (not needed for individual churches but for groups of churches)
 - May need one paid servant leader for every 10 to 15 house churches.
 - Traditionally leader training is events rather than mentor/coach on the job training
 - Leader qualification bar set too high (takes too long to develop new leaders)
 - Too little time available to lead well (See 2. above)
5. Small groups/cells (Sunday school classes) part of many “traditional” churches These fill some of the functions of house churches.
6. Holy huddle tendency – no multiplication
 - Members don’t want to break up group
 - Forced break up often kills groups
7. Culture issues
 - Emphasis on rights, privacy, etc., especially in the suburbs
 - Hospitality not often practiced
 - Expectations of host
 - Clean house
 - Fancy dishes
 - Kids not part of event
 - Little contact with neighbors
 - Air conditioning (don’t sit on front porch any more)
 - TV and other entertainment
 - Paid yard work
 - Shift in ‘50s from front porch to back porch/patio/deck
 - Even nuclear families often don’t eat together
 - Don’t drop in on friends
 - Frequent moves
 - Independence
 - Expectations of “church”
8. Few perceive crisis – no reason to change
 - Expect problems to be solved by working harder or new program from _____
9. American affluence (no need for God)
10. American religious freedom (no persecution)