

The 10 Most Common Mistakes Made by Church Plants

1. Taking Spiritual Warfare Lightly

- Spend time in fasting & prayer (as an association, as a launch team, etc.)
- Get God's perspective
- Realize this is "war" and those involved are in the line of fire and will be wounded; therefore, adopt a plan to deal with the wounded.

2. Attempting to plant a church that reaches everyone

- No Focus; therefore, no strategy
- No target, no plan EXCEPT that it will change with each new addition
- Identity: what makes us unique? -- Issue of Emphasis
- Strategy: Forget to focus on what will put people in the seats

3. Premature Launch -- always shows up in "post-mortem"

4. Recruiting ceases after the "grand opening"

- Point person now forced out of "recruiting role and into "pastoral" role
- Majority of time spent on those who come through the door, rather than those who are not yet in the door.

5. No plan for the other 6 days of the week

- Must have a process whereby people are connected to each other & to God, DURING the week
- Orient attendees to the mission of the new church

6. Fear of talking about money until it's urgent

- It takes money to conduct ministry
- More ministry costs still more money
- --failure to build in "rainy day" funds &
- Absence of stewardship disciple making
- Build in a "operations" budget
- Conduct yearly one-time gifts

7. Not differentiating a church plant from an established church

- It's a developmental issue
- You have to "act your age"
- Must have a few key elements in place so that you give the appearance of being developmentally sound

8. Formalize leadership too quickly

9. Once the project is up and running, Fail to reFocus on the target

- Too much time discussing "church in a vacuum" creates hardening of categories
- Must accommodate those who actually come and modify what's working and what isn't
- Don't hold each other to those things which no longer matter
- Failure to match target & strategy
- Failing to adjust to what God seems to be doing

10. Relying on the Advice of Experts

- Tempted to listen to successful people -- **THEIR SITUATION IS NOT YOURS!**
- It's not my vision -- I keep my hands off
- My role: To keep you sober; To make sure your judgment is clear!