

The 10 Most Common Mistakes Made by Church Plants

By Jim Griffith

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
 - Identify: 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!