

Why we plant churches Acts 13:1-3

The present situation

- Between 50 and 75 U.S. churches close their doors every week. (Barna Research)
- More than 80% of the churches in the U.S. have plateaued or are declining. (Barna Research)
- In the United States alone, there are over 200 million unchurched people, making the U.S. the third largest mission field in the world. (Barna Research)
- Since 1991, the number of adults in the U.S. who do not attend church [has nearly doubled](#). (Barna Research)
- Seventy-seven percent of Americans do not have a consistent, life-giving connection with a local church. ([Dave Olson](#))
- The largest unreached people group in America is the 20-somethings. (Barna)
- 51.9 million people in the U.S. between the ages of 20-38 are not connected with the existing churches. (Gallup Poll)
- Eight million 20-somethings alive today will no longer attend church by the time they turn 30. (Barna Research)
- The percentage of people in attendance at a Christian church has dropped from 20.4 percent in 1990 to under 18 percent in 2005. In ten years, that number is projected to be less than 15 percent. ([Olson](#))
- America has more people but fewer churches per person. There are 60 percent fewer churches per capita now than there were in 1920. (Dave Earley)

1. It breaks the devil's power.

Jesus promised his church would defeat the powers of hell. If we want to be part of the Big Plan of history we jump in with both feet. Matthew 16:18

2. It is the epicenter of God's presence in the earth, especially as the church gathers.

Two or more gather together there I am in their midst Matthew 18:20

If you want to get the presence of God in a neighborhood plant a church.

3. The church is the second biggest force in the earth to fulfill the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:18-20

The newer the church the more newer disciples emerge = More churches = more disciples

It is documented often that new churches experience significantly more conversions and baptisms in their early church-planting years compared to mature churches. "Churches over fifteen years of age win an average of only **three people to Christ per year for every one hundred church members**. Churches three years to fifteen years old win an average of **five people** to Christ per year for every one hundred church members, but churches under three years of age win an average of **ten people** to Christ per year for every one hundred church members." ([McNichol](#))

Our call is to make disciples:

1. Preach then baptize converts who then do what Jesus taught.
2. If you gather the converted who do not yet do what Jesus taught then teach them to obey.

I attest that every local church should be constantly and intentionally discipling, training, developing and then sending its best men out into mission—to make disciples of all nations. We have to get out of the mindset of building up one single church and start developing a Kingdom

mindset, a movement mindset. The mission of the church is about the movement of God and not about the monument to our self or our denomination or our tribe. Tim Keller said, "Vigorous church planting is one of the best ways to renew the existing churches of a city, as well as the best single way to grow the whole Body of Christ in a city." (Scott Thomas)

4. It is the pathway for disciples to become Christ-like.

The church models Jesus

Teaches truth that transforms life "The pillar and support of the truth" 1 Timothy 3:15

It is a crucible for transforming relationships.

It is the training ground for ministry.

5. It is what the early church did. Acts 13:1-3

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Our Responses

1. Live on mission: proclaim, pray, teach and gather.
2. Look around with vision...ask: "Where do we harvest next?"
3. Give of your time, energy and money as if progress depends on it. (Hint: It does!)

Questions:

1. Where do you individually need to have the Holy Spirit change you regarding church planting?
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to infuse your imagination about church planting. What is He showing you?
3. How does the Lord want you to step into the call for planting?