

Allen Roth, June 30, 2015 – Church Planters' Forum and Retreat

Some Church Plants Falter because of:

1. Discouragement
2. They underestimate the spiritual opposition they will encounter.

Satan is the great hinderer through good things and bad things. He seeks to distract us.
3. Lack of clarity about the type of church plant that they envision
 - a. Swarm (transplants) -6, 10, 20 families
 - b. Clarify right up front – if you swarm, your church probably won't be made up of locals
 - c. Lack of clear focus on what kind of church and which kind of people
4. Lack of clear vision for church planting
5. Lack of people with outreach gifts
6. Disunity in the team – Satan will try to divide and conqueror – before you begin, sit down and talk – Divorce and Remarriage, Outward Appearance, etc.
7. Lack of clarity about where the buck stops
8. Lack of support and oversight and mentoring
9. Lack of clarity about broader affiliation
10. Uncertainty or embarrassment about beliefs, applications, or identity
11. Lack of prayer with fasting – (we seem to have time for prayer and feasting)
12. Insufficient prayer support for the team – we don't request intercessory prayer from outside the church
13. Neglect to give clear, verbal gospel presentations with a call for a decision (over and over)
14. They gather dissatisfied people from church backgrounds. (The higher the pedestal, the greater the disappointment when people realize that we are human.)
15. They don't befriend and consult and learn from local pastors about people who are coming from their churches.
16. Lack of strategizing about how they are going to reach out.

17. Talking about how they are going to reach out but not holding each other accountable to follow through.
18. The failure to connect with the community. Not being realistic. Not learning about the history and the culture of the community.
19. Insufficient time devoted to connecting with unchurched people and to planting the church. (Especially a problem for bi-vocational church planters.) Not enough relationships.
“What amount of time do you spend every week to include unchurched people? If you don’t do it – church planting ain’t gonna happen.”
20. Not distinguishing between non-negotiable Bible commands and negotiable applications of principles.
21. Reluctance to draw the net in forming a charter membership.
22. Lack of vision and courage and persistence to recruit, use, and train local people for leadership positions. Not involving them in church life.
23. Over control by the team or by the sending church
24. Lack of prayer for local families to become part of the church to befriend your children.
Hankering for the home youth group.
“You don’t need 6-10 Anabaptist families to build a stable church. You only need 1-2 families if you can stand the loneliness and are able to persevere.”
25. Spouse doesn’t share the vision. Lack of praying through as a couple before moving.