

Churches Planting Churches

*An Introduction to the MBA's
Church Planting Program
and Our Part in It*

Churches Planting Churches

- Minnesota Baptist Association annual meeting last week (June 25-26)
- One of the items voted on by the messengers of the MBA was a new “Planting and Watering” program.
- I will introduce you to this program this evening.

Churches Planting Churches

- I will cover four areas to give you a fuller picture of the urgent need for church planting in our state.
- MBA church planting statistics
- MBA church planting challenge
- MBA church planting program
- MBA church planting partnership

Churches Planting Churches

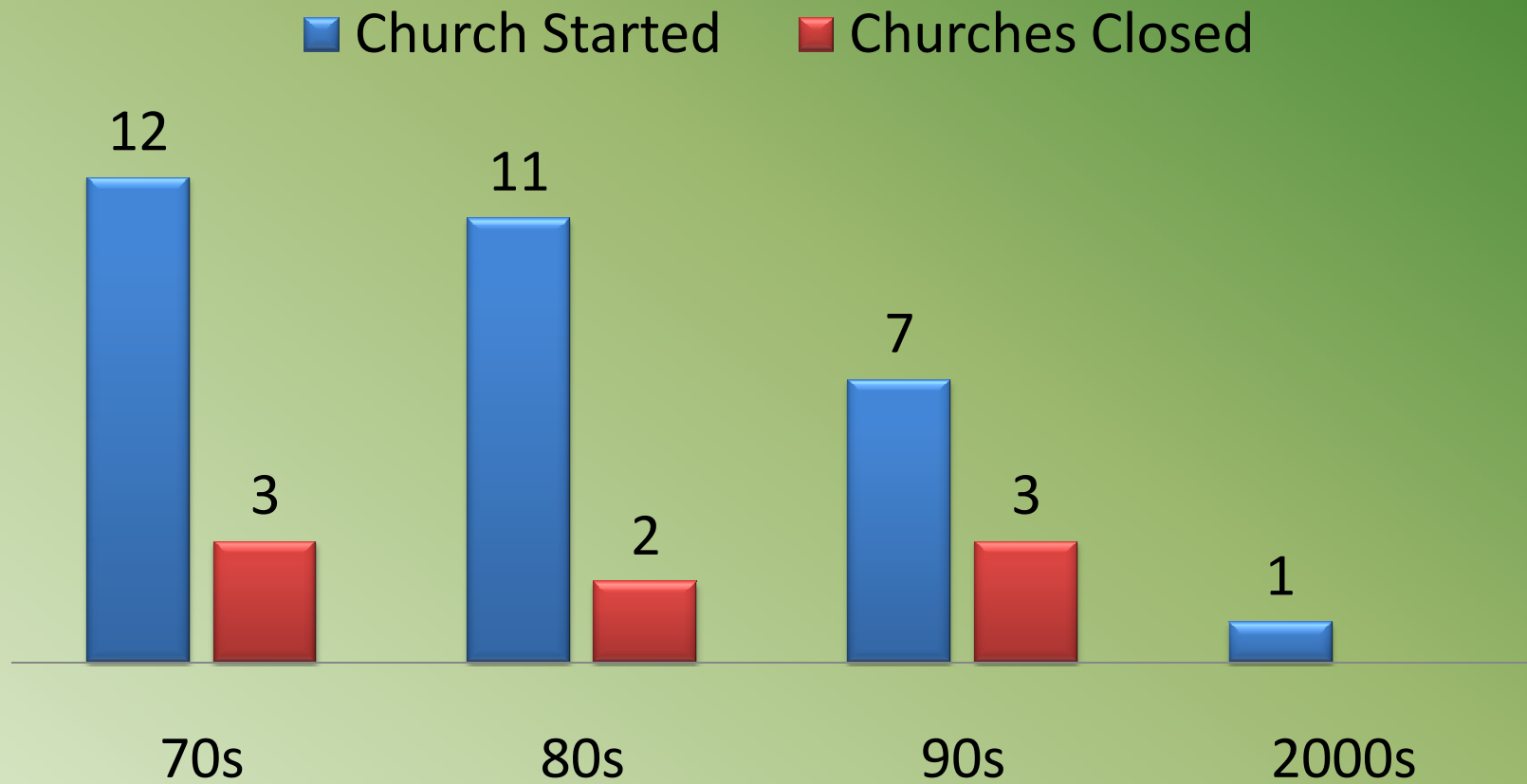
- A little background on the program:
- I chaired a church planting committee over the course of the last few months that was tasked with developing a new church planting program that would chart the church planting course for the foreseeable future.
- There were six men in all on the committee: Pastor Gerald Stephens (MBA President), Pastor Robert Fuller, Sr. (Interim State Missionary), Pastor V. Richard Jensen (Oakdale), Pastor Steve Brower (St. Francis), Pastor Matt Morrell (Plymouth), and me.

MBA church planting statistics

- Before I provide the MBA church planting statistics, I recently came across a broader statistic.
- 28% of Protestant churches participated in some way in a church plant in the past 12 months (LifeWay Research in *Christianity Today*, June 2010).
- About one out of four churches.

MBA church planting statistics

MBA Planting and Watering Statistics



MBA church planting challenge

- Our state association has been providentially brought into a new era.
- The demise of Pillsbury opens the door to a renewed emphasis on church planting (cf. 2 Samuel 20:10-13)
- The churches of our association, including ours, is now faced with the opportunity of a fresh focus on the future.
- I am excited that the dawn of a new and incredibly exhilarating day is on the horizon for our churches.

MBA church planting program

- The purpose of the program: to plant churches
- Definition and scope of the program: to focus on planting new churches
- Finances of the program: Up to \$60,000 over five years to a church planter.
- Personnel of the program: A biblically qualified church planter.

MBA church planting program

- **Duration of the program:** Five years or less. Extensions on a case-by-case basis.
- **Oversight of the program:** A planting and watering committee along with the MBA board.
- **Relationship of the program to local churches:** we want to assist in church planting but not usurp local church authority.

MBA church planting partnership

- The MBA is an association of churches.
- A group of churches can do what individual churches may not be able to accomplish alone.
- This means that BBC must be a piece of the puzzle. How?
- I do not want this to be the last church plant I'm a part of.

MBA church planting partnership

- We can and must pray (Matthew 9:37-38)
- We can and must have faith (Joshua 1).
- We can and must have a vision commensurate with the Great Commission (cp. Matthew 10:5-6 and Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8). We must be a near-sighted and far-sighted church.
- We can and must be a “going” and “sending” church (Philippians 1:7). It is easy to make this a nice objective at our stage of development rather than a high-priority mission. We can end up being inward looking rather than outward reaching.

Churches planting churches

- MBA church planting statistics
 - These need to change
- MBA church planting challenge
 - This is a providential initiative
- MBA church planting program
 - This is only a mechanism, not the answer.
- MBA church planting partnership
 - BBC can and should lead the charge! This body can rise to the challenge!

Churches planting churches

- Your input . . . How can BBC be a piece of the MN church planting puzzle?