

## Observations on Church

1. There are 195 million non-churched people in America, making America one of the top 4 largest “unchurched” nations in the world.
  2. In spite of the rise of mega-churches, no county in America has a greater church population than it did 10 years ago.
  3. During the last 10 years, combined communicant membership of all Protestant denominations declined by 9.5%, while the national population increased by 11.4%.
  4. Each year 3,500 to 4,000 churches close their doors forever; yet only as many as 1,500 new churches are started.
  5. There are now nearly 60% fewer churches per 1,000 persons than in 1920.
    - \* In 1920, 27 churches existed for every 10,000 Americans.
    - \* In 1950, 17 churches existed for every 10,000 Americans.
    - \* In 1996, 11 churches existed for every 10,000 Americans.
  6. Today, of the approximately 350,000 churches in America, 4 out of 5 are either plateaued or declining.
  7. One American denomination recently found that 80% of its converts came to Christ in churches less than 2 years old.
- Hence the claim of many leaders: *“The single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting new churches.”* (Peter Wagner)

By John Piper, [Desiring God](http://www.desiringGod.org)  
([www.desiringGod.org](http://www.desiringGod.org))

## Desiring to Plant a Church?

Then why not consider one of the Mid-Atlantic states? The need in our region is great! Below are some of the realities that we are faced with while living in a post-Christian context?

### THE CHURCH IS IN DECLINE

Churches in our region of the country are closing at a phenomenal rate. Dr. Win Arn reports that 3,500 to 4,000 churches close each year across our nation, and a large percentage of them that do so are right here in the Mid-Atlantic. Many of the churches in our area that are experiencing numerical growth are doing so through transfer growth, not conversion growth. This means that the overall net effect is decline.

### THE CHURCH HAS LOST ITS SALTINESS

Too many churches in our region are not producing obedient, Christlike disciples. Sadly, the lifestyle of a large percentage of professing Christians matches that of unbelievers in our culture.

### THE CHURCH HAS LOST ITS SENSE OF MISSION

The Mid-Atlantic culture is becoming increasingly post-Christian. Therefore, more Christians are needed to go into the culture and both embody the gospel and contextualize its message. Not doing this will mean failure to reach our culture and the coming generations.

If this is a challenge to which you believe the Lord might be calling, then MMA is here to help. We are looking to partner through prayer, encouragement, training, finances and on-going support

**Visit Our Website or Call Today**



## SERVING THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

- ♦ Developing new churches
- ♦ Cultivating church leaders
- ♦ Building healthy churches
- ♦ Assisting pastors and churches in crisis

*A Diverse Fellowship of Churches United by Biblical Mission*

# ... a diverse fellowship of...



The 90 churches

that comprise VCN-MA strive to be something more than just an association. We are a true biblical fellowship, with all the meaning that the term connotes. Ethnic, linguistic, socio-economic, age and stage-of-life diversity

are core values

and characteristics of our association. Diversity also speaks to vision, ensuring that the timeless message of the gospel is pursued using continually changing, culturally relevant methods.

## churches...

Our constituency consists of the most revolutionary, radical force designed by God... His Church. Our members are the Body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, in and through which the world is being transformed by the hallowing of God's name, the advancement of God's kingdom, and the accomplishment of God's perfect will. We are defined by the fact that we are not a club or a social order or a political group. We are churches... biblical, missional churches in diverse fellowship with and for one another.

## united by mission...

God has promised to build His church and He invites us to join with Him on this critical mission... preaching and living out the gospel in order that souls may be redeemed and lives may be transformed by the power of His love and mercy and grace. This mission unites us in purpose and defines us in that it is biblical. Our biblical mission is centered on the cross of Jesus Christ and is baptistic in doctrine, distinctives and practice. We are a missional association, enthusiastically pursuing the mission God has called us to.

## serving churches, pastors & church leaders in the Mid-Atlantic Region by...

### *Developing new churches:*

Regularly planting and developing new local churches of like identity and purpose.

### *Cultivating church leaders:*

Equipping pastors and other church leaders with tools and resources that allow them to pursue excellence in ministry under the sovereign hand of God.

### *Building healthy churches:*

Using consultation, evaluation, assessment and targeted tools to assist member churches in achieving and maintaining church health.

### *Assisting pastors & churches in crisis:*

A crisis can sometimes overwhelm a pastor or a church. We seek to come alongside pastors and churches in crisis to help resolve conflict, solve problems and restore relationships to the glory of God.

#### **WE VALUE COMMUNITY OVER ISOLATION**

Knowing that God has shaped each local church and each believer with different gifts and abilities.

#### **WE VALUE MINISTRY OVER MAINTENANCE**

Desiring to continually reach people with the good news of the gospel and, having reached them, equip them to live their lives to the glory of God.

#### **WE VALUE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE HEART AND LIFE OF EVERY CHRIST FOLLOWER**

Ultimately, that growth shows itself in increasing devotion and obedience to Jesus Christ.