CHURCH PLANTING SPONSORSHIP: A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

OF SPONSORING A CHURCH PLANT AS A MEANS OF

REVITALIZATION OF THE SPONSOR CHURCH

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Faculty

of the

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Doctor of Philosophy

in the Division of Pastoral Ministries

Jeffrey C. Farmer

B.S., Georgia Southern University, 1996

M.Div., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2001

Th.M., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2004

September 24, 2007

UMI Number: 3301075

INFORMATION TO USERS

The quality of this reproduction is dependent upon the quality of the copy submitted. Broken or indistinct print, colored or poor quality illustrations and photographs, print bleed-through, substandard margins, and improper alignment can adversely affect reproduction.

In the unlikely event that the author did not send a complete manuscript and there are missing pages, these will be noted. Also, if unauthorized copyright material had to be removed, a note will indicate the deletion.

UMI®

Report of Dissertation Defense

Candidate: Jeffrey C. Farmer

Degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Major Field: Evangelism

Dissertation Title: Church Planting Sponsorship: A Statistical Analysis of Sponsoring a Church Plant as a Means of Revitalization of the Sponsor Church

Date of Defense: November 8, 2007

Approved:

William H. Day Jr.
Guidance Committee Chairperson

Ken Taylor
Guidance Committee Member

Preston L. Nix
Reader

David F. Meacham
Chairperson of the Division of Study

Charlie Ray
Associate Dean of Research Doctoral Programs

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126

To my wife, Karen, the love of my life; and to my children, Brooke and Paige

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer wishes to thank a number of individuals who provided valuable support in writing this dissertation. First, the writer would like to express his gratitude to his wife, Karen Hopkins Farmer, for her love and support. Her sacrifice for the writer's education is something that the writer will forever honor. Additionally, his two girls, Brooke and Paige, helped by understanding their dad's long hours in the basement, yet still they gave a hug, a kiss, or a loving word at the precise moment. The writer continues to be proud of and amazed at their intelligence and graciousness.

Second, the writer wishes to acknowledge the role of both his parents, Otis and Emilie Farmer, and his wife's parents, Clyde and Shirley Hopkins, for the love and support they provided throughout the writer's life. A man is the sum total of the hard work of his parents and the guidance of God. The writer thanks God daily to have been provided exceptional role models.

Third, the writer would like to thank Dr. Bill Day for his guidance throughout the research and writing of this study, and Peggy Day, for her hospitality when the writer stayed at the "Days' Inn" while conducting research. Fourth, the writer would like to thank Richie Stanley, Ed Stetzer, and Marilynn Kelly of the North American Mission Board for the role they played in providing support, advice, and data. Finally, the writer would like to thank Marty Massengale for his assistance with proofreading.

v

CONTENTS

ix

TABLES

x

FIGURES

ABBREVIATIONS

AAEO   Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

ACP   Annual Church Profile

AMWOR   AM Worship Attendance

AVGSS   Average Sunday School Attendance

COOP   Cooperative Program Giving

DESGFT Designated Gifts

LMCO   Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

NAMB   North American Mission Board

OTHADD   Other Additions

RMADJ   Adjusted Resident Membership

SBC   Southern Baptist Convention

SPSS   Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

SSENR   Sunday School Enrollment

TBAPT   Total Baptisms

TITHES Tithes

TME   Total Missions Expenditures

TOTMEM   Total Membership

TRCPTS Total Receipts

UNDGFT Undesignated Gifts

ABSTRACT

CHURCH PLANTING SPONSORSHIP: A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

OF SPONSORING A CHURCH PLANT AS A MEANS OF

REVITALIZATION OF THE SPONSOR CHURCH

Jeffrey C. Farmer, Ph.D.
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2007
Faculty Advisor: Bill Day, Gurney Professor of Evangelism and Church Health

The purpose of the study was to determine whether or not the sponsorship of a new

church plant had an impact on selected church growth variables in the sponsoring

churches. The study involved SBC churches which reported sponsoring a new church

type mission (church plant) in 1999. Data for fifteen growth variables over a period of

eleven years (1994-2004) were collected for the 624 churches which sponsored a church

plant in 1999.

Statistical analysis was conducted utilizing paired samples t tests, comparative

analysis, and one way ANOVA. Eight variables were identified as having been impacted

by church plant sponsorship with Designated Offerings being the variable most affected.

The proximity of the church plant to the sponsor church did not have a significant effect.

This research project found that the sponsor church was positively impacted in eight

growth variables. These variables were categorized into two types: monetary variables

and worship attendance. The monetary variables included total receipts, undesignated

gifts, designated gifts, total missions expenditures, Annie Armstrong Easter offerings, Lottie Moon Christmas offerings, and tithes. Worship attendance referred to the average attendance at the church's primary worship service.

An implication of the study suggests that plateaued or declining churches should seriously and prayerfully consider sponsoring a church plant every three to five years in order to create a missional atmosphere in the local church. A missional atmosphere in the church aids the members to be more spiritually mature by being more receptive to the Holy Spirit. The members will see their community from a kingdom perspective rather than a parochial perspective. The result will be a revitalized local church, the expansion of the kingdom, and the glorification of Christ.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The Background

In a recent study, Bill Day presented a definition of a healthy church which

revealed that 89% of Southern Baptist Churches are plateaued or declining.[1] Prior to

Day's study, C. Kirk Hadaway had offered a definition which revealed that 70% of

Southern Baptist Churches were plateaued or declining.[2] In his initial study, Hadaway

defined growing churches as $\pm$ 10% membership change over a five-year period. He

found that 51.9% of SBC churches were on a plateau and 17.6% were declining. Using

either definition, one may conclude that most Southern Baptist Churches are in need of

revitalization.

C. Peter Wagner stated, "The single most effective evangelistic methodology

under heaven is planting new churches."[3] While a bold statement, research exists to

---

[1]Bill Day, "Proposed New Definitions for Growing, Plateaued, and Declining Churches in the SBC" (paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship in Atlanta, GA, 23 September 2004), Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

[2]C. Kirk Hadaway, *Growing Off the Plateau: A Summary of the 1988 'Church on the Plateau' Survey* (Nashville: Sunday School Board of the SBC, 1989).

[3]C. Peter Wagner, *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990), 11.

1

support his premise.[4] Further, many denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention, have adopted church planting as a means to further God's kingdom. Church planting seems to be an effective method for reaching the unchurched.

A crucial aspect to planting a new church is the involvement of a sponsor church. The church planter looks to the sponsor church for coaching, prayer support, financial support, and sometimes even workers. A successful church plant is often the result of a healthy church plant-sponsor church relationship. A sponsor church is crucial for a church plant. Often, though, a potential sponsor church wonders whether they are capable of sponsoring a church plant. Pastors worry that the church planter will drain funds from an already stretched budget or draw members and other resources away from the sponsor church, especially if the church plant is relatively close to the sponsor church.

The contention of the researcher is that the opposite is true and that sponsoring new church plants results in corresponding growth in the sponsoring church. Should the researcher be correct, then church planting sponsorship should be considered a viable means of church revitalization. The researcher undertook this dissertation to determine if this hypothesis is correct.

The Statement of the Problem

The importance of examining the effect of church planting on the sponsor church is more evident today than in decades past. While the SBC has been a major

---

[4]Numerous dissertations and studies have examined evangelistic effectiveness and church planting A representative sample of these studies will be covered in the State of Research section.

denomination of growth for a majority of the twentieth century, in the last several decades

a majority of its churches have experienced a waning of growth -- even finding

themselves plateaued or declining. This point is evident in C. Kirk Hadaway's statement,

"Southern Baptists *talk* more about evangelism than they *do* evangelism. Evangelism is

part of Southern Baptist mythology."[5]

Current church growth scholars and practitioners are diligently searching for

answers to the question, "How do we revitalize plateaued and declining churches?"

Wagner suggested church planting as a means of revitalizing a community when he said,

"In any given geographical area, the Christian community will grow or decline according

to the degree of effort given to planting new churches."[6] His rationale was that "a new

church in the community tends to raise the religious interest of the people in general and

if handled properly can be a benefit to existing churches."[7]

Phil Stevenson is a pastor who would agree with Wagner. Stevenson wrote his

book *The Ripple Church* in order to encourage pastors to adopt a strategy of sponsoring

church plants in order to multiply the ministry of the church. He gave practical advice to

the sponsoring church pastor on how to plant a new church, but he did not directly

examine the effect of sponsorship on the mother church.[8]

---

[5]Hadaway, 20.

[6]Wagner, 12.

[7]Ibid., 20.

[8]Phil Stevenson, *The Ripple Church: Multiply Your Ministry by Parenting New Churches* (Indianapolis: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2004).

In view of these concerns, the research problem was to analyze the impact of planting new churches on the sponsoring churches. Research was conducted by means of a statistical analysis of sample churches which sponsored a new church plant in 1999.

The Importance of the Study

Conventional wisdom seems to support the assumption that planting churches will stimulate growth in existing churches. In fact, church planting professors at Southern Baptist seminaries readily teach this assumption as fact.[9] Despite conventional wisdom and anecdotal evidence, no scientific research exists to support this assumption. A controlled, scientific analysis of current data would provide a more concrete theory of church revitalization by means of church planting sponsorship.

Furthermore, the results could be used on the field to aid pastors and church planters to make informed decisions about sponsorship of a church plant. For the local pastor, the research could be used to convince local congregations that are plateaued or declining to invest in kingdom growth through sponsorship of a church plant in order to stimulate revitalization in their local church. For the church planter, the research will provide information to potential sponsor churches about the most successful relationships between church plants and their sponsor churches. In this way, God's resources may be effectively applied for the greatest harvest.

---

[9]Jack Allen, interview by author, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA, 18 October 2004, New Orleans, author's notes.

The State of Research

Introduction

This study examined church revitalization from a scientific perspective. An abundance of resources exist which focus on church revitalization; however, while the authors sometimes use surveys, their work lacks rigorous scientific methodology. Due to the limited scientific resources in the field of church revitalization, an examination of a parallel field was deemed worthwhile. Since church revitalization has roots in the Church Growth Movement, the researcher conducted a summary of church growth.

The scientific study of church revitalization was advocated by Donald McGavran, father of the Church Growth Movement, in conjunction with the scientific study of church growth. Prior to the 1970s, when McGavran's work began to have an impact, research in evangelism and church growth primarily focused on an understanding of the biblical and theological underpinnings of evangelism.[10] The scientific study of religion developed at approximately the same time.[11] In 1962, William Petersen noted that religious research in the United States engaged few social scientists. However, the first scientific study published in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* related to

---

[10]For instance, Herschel H. Hobbs, *New Testament Evangelism: The Eternal Purpose* (Nashville: Convention Press, 1960); James E. Tull, *Take the Stand: A Theology of Witnessing* (Nashville: Convention Press, 1972); Paul E. Little, *How to Give away Your Faith* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Fellowship, 1966); C. S. Lovett, *Soul Winning Is Easy* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1954); and J. N. Barnette, *The Pull of the People* (Nashville: Convention Press, 1956).

[11]The *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* was first published in October 1961 to encourage the study of religion through the media of the member's respective science. See *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 1, no. 1 (Oct. 1961), 1.

church growth was Jon Alston's article noting the decline of several denominations in America.[12]

Donald McGavran sought to examine existing churches scientifically and to aid the churches by identifying the most efficient allocation of resources for growth. In other words, McGavran sought to revitalize existing churches through evangelism and by discovering the variables which were critical for growth.

The review of related literature is divided into two sections: (1) beginnings of the Church Growth Movement, and (2) current research in church growth and church revitalization consisting of research within the last fifteen years.

Beginnings of the Church Growth Movement

McGavran

The Modern Church Growth Movement began in 1955 with the publication of Donald McGavran's book *The Bridges of God*.[13] McGavran wrote *The Bridges of God* to propose a new approach and manner of thinking in regard to missions, reaching people for Christ. He suggested that "the era has come when Christian Mission, of younger churches as well as of older churches, should hold lightly all mission station work, which cannot be proved to nurture growing churches, and should support the Christward

---

[12]William Petersen, "Religious Statistics in the United States," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 1, no. 2 (spring 1962): 165-78; Jon P. Alston, "Social Variables Associated with Church Attendance, 1965 and 1969: Evidence from National Polls," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 10, no. 3 (fall 1971): 233-36.

[13]Donald McGavran, *The Bridges of God: A Study in the Strategy of Missions* (London: World Dominion Press, 1955; reprint, New York: Friendship Press, 1992).

movements within Peoples as long as they continue to grow at the rate of 50 per cent per decade or more."[14] It was McGavran's contention that the Mission Station Approach should never have been allowed to become institutionalized and prohibitive of a people movement.

A significant contribution of McGavran's first book, *The Bridges of God*, is the methodological approach of social-scientific analysis to increase effectiveness in mission strategy. The ensuing debate over that methodology, as well as McGavran's notion of People Movements and the Homogenous Unit Principle, led to McGavran's 1970 book, *Understanding Church Growth*.[15] In this book, McGavran presented a refined theory of church growth. Also, he argued that the establishment of churches is pleasing to God and that the size, number, ethnic and cultural composition, and relationship to the undiscipled are matters which can be measured and must be known. McGavran provided this book as a defense and explanation of the field. His purpose was to communicate that establishing churches is pleasing to God, and demographic and sociographic data are helpful in this endeavor. An underlying purpose of the book was to foster greater mission activity to the masses.[16]

---

[14]Ibid., 110.

[15]Donald McGavran, *Understanding Church Growth* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970).

[16]For an interesting study regarding the current state of McGavran's Church Growth Movement, see John Crabtree, "The Divergence of Donald McGavran's Church Growth Movement in North America, 1955-2000" (Ph.D. diss., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2003).

Wagner and Arn

During the 1970s, McGavran taught church growth at the Fuller School for World

Missions. As a professor, he influenced the next generation of church growth leaders,

such as Ralph Winter, Arthur Glasser, Charles Kraft, Allen Tippett, and C. Peter Wagner.

While the movement continued to grow, the 1970s saw Win Arn establish the Institute of

American Church Growth and John Wimber become the founding director of the

Department of Church Growth at Fuller (now the Charles E. Fuller Institute of

Evangelism and Church Growth).[17]

In the early 1980s, C. Peter Wagner was considered to be the heir apparent to

McGavran. He had served as a missionary to Bolivia and had studied under McGavran at

Fuller, where he had been on staff since 1971. In 1981, he published the book *Church

Growth and the Whole Gospel*,[18] which thrust him into the spotlight as a potential

successor to McGavran.[19]

Wagner's subsequent fascination with the world of spiritual power and its

implications for church growth marginalized Wagner's influence on the Church Growth

Movement and provided an opportunity for a whole new set of individuals to come

---

[17]Thom S. Rainer, *The Book of Church Growth: History, Theology, and Principles* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Press, 1993), 41.

[18]C. Peter Wagner, *Church Growth & the Whole Gospel: A Biblical Mandate* (New York: Harper & Row, 1981).

[19]Rainer, 51-60. Rainer credited Wagner with providing the personal leadership to promote church growth among evangelical churches.

forward and take the Church Growth Movement to where it is today.[20] Thom Rainer

includes in this group what he calls practitioners/pastors like Bill Hybels of Willow Creek

Community Church in Chicago and Rick Warren of Saddleback Community Church in

California, sociologists and demographers like George Barna, and consultants like Lyle

Schaller and Carl F. George.[21] A result of these practitioners/pastors taking the helm of

the Church Growth Movement was a de-emphasis on the scientific study aspect of church

growth.

<div align="center">Current Research</div>

Current research, consisting of the last fifteen years or so, in the area of church

growth focuses on five key areas: methods and models, leadership, measuring growth and

decline in local churches and denominations, revitalization, and church planting.

Methods and Models

Since the early 1990s, most of the church growth literature had to do with

methods of church growth and models of church growth. Two major books were written

by Rick Warren and Lee Strobel.[22] These books describe the methods Saddleback

---

[20]Crabtree noted in his dissertation that Wagner focused on the charismatic practice of spiritual gifts as a primary method of church growth. This stream of church growth was not widely accepted by the mainstream church growth practitioners; thus, Wagner's influence was diminished.

[21]Rainer, 61-69.

[22]Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Church: Growing without Compromising Your Message & Mission* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995); Lee Strobel, *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry & Mary: How to Reach Friends and Family Who Avoid God and The Church* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993).

Community Church and Willow Creek Community Church utilized to grow to mega-

church status. Other methodology books focused on growing the church through small

groups or cell groups, assimilation, spiritual gifts, and breaking growth barriers.[23] Dan

Southerland's work represented yet another type of research of models of church growth.

He provided a case study on how to transition a traditional church to a purpose-driven

model.[24]

Leadership

A proliferation of church growth literature has focused on leadership. Leighton

Ford wrote about transformational leadership by examining the leadership model

presented by Jesus Christ. Aubrey Malphurs, however, examined leadership from a

values-driven model. Calvin Miller presented yet another model based on servant

leadership. A number of different models were based on biblical principles, and thus

many state virtually the same conclusions expressed differently.[25]

---

[23]See Randy Frazee, *The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001); Elmer Towns, C. Peter Wagner, and Thom S. Rainer, *The Everychurch Guide to Growth* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998); Donald McGavran and George G. Hunter III, *Church Growth Strategies That Work* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1980); Bill Donahue and Russ Robinson, *Building a Church of Small Groups* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001); Truman Brown and James E. Hightower, *After They Join: 10 Ways to Assimilate New Members* (Nashville: Convention Press, 1994); Joel Comiskey, *Home Cell Group Explosion: How Your Small Group Can Grow and Multiply* (Houston: Touch Publications, 1998); and Charles Lee Williamson, *Growing Your Church in Seven Days* (Dallas: Creative Church Consultations, 1995).

[24]Dan Southerland, *Transitioning: Leading Your Church through Change* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999).

[25]While the sources provided an examination of leadership as a variable of church growth, none utilized a scientific methodology. See Leighton Ford, *Transforming*

A recent leadership book by Thom Rainer was associated with church revitalization. *Breakout Churches* is an adaptation of Jim Collins's book *Good to Great* applied to the context of the church.[26] Rainer sought to describe how plateaued churches broke out of the stagnation cycle and experienced growth.

A number of books and articles extolling the necessity of proper leadership for church growth have been written. Jeffrey Fulks examined the effectiveness of church planters who utilized principles of transformational leadership. Unfortunately, Fulks recognized that two major weaknesses of his study were response bias and Type II errors, thus weakening his study.[27] Kiuyoung Bae also studied transformational leadership, but he focused on leadership as it applies to church growth.[28]

Leadership: Jesus' Way of Creating Vision, Shaping Values, & Empowering Change (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1991); Aubrey Malphurs, *Values-Driven Leadership: Discovering and Developing Your Core Values for Ministry* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996); and Calvin Miller, *The Empowered Leader: 10 Keys to Servant Leadership* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Press, 1995). See also Lyle E. Schaller, *21 Bridges to the 21st Century: The Future of Pastoral Ministry* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994); Kenn Gangel, *Coaching Ministry Teams: Leadership and Management in Christian Organizations* (Nashville: Word Publishing, 2000); and Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol, and Ken McElrath, *The Ascent of a Leader: How Ordinary Relationships Develop Extraordinary Character and Influence* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999).

[26]Thom Rainer, *Breakout Churches: Discover How to Make the Leap* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2004); and Jim Collins, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap . . . And Others Don't* (New York: Harper Collins Books, 2001).

[27]Jeffrey L. Fulks, "Transformational Leadership and Its Relationship to Success in Developing New Churches" (Ph.D. diss., University of Texas at Arlington, 1994).

[28]Kiuyoung Bae, "Transformational Leadership and Its Application in Church Organization" (Ph.D. diss., Walden University, 2001). Bae studied the "extent to which a transformational leadership style is associated with member satisfaction, membership growth, and level of church conflict in Unity churches" (abstract). Statistical analysis of

Measuring Growth and Decline in
Local Churches and Denominations

In 1972 Dean Kelley published his research on the growth and decline of churches

in the United States. Kelley's book was perhaps the first scientifically based church

growth study of denominations within the United States. Kelley documented the decline

of the major mainstream denominations while conservative churches simultaneously were

experiencing growth.[29] This book led to a firestorm of controversy among the mainline

denominations. He postulated that less strict churches were declining and strict churches

were growing. The implications of this study made evident that mainstream

denominations were declining and conservative denominations were growing. While

David Roozen and Dean Hoge continued the research on the decline of the mainline

denominations, other scholars examined surveys as a method for helping churches grow.[30]

---

surveys and leadership tests. Bae noted relationships between transformational leadership
and membership growth, and member satisfaction.

[29]Dean M. Kelley, *Why Conservative Churches Are Growing* (New York: Harper
and Row Publishers, 1972).

[30]Dean R. Hoge and David A. Roozen, eds., *Understanding Church Growth and
Decline* (New York: Pilgrim Press, 1979). For studies focused on denominational growth
and decline, see also Wade C. Roof and William J. McKinney, Jr., *American Mainline
Religion* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University, 1987); and Elmer L. Towns,
America's Fastest Growing Churches (Impact Books, 1972).For examples of survey
methodologies, see George Barna, *User Friendly Churches: What Christians Need to
Know About the Churches People Love to Go To* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1991); and
Thom S. Rainer, *High Expectations* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999).

Revitalization

In the mid-1990s, a focus on church health arose within the Church Growth

Movement. The emphasis of church health focused on revitalizing the existing church.

Rick Warren's book *Purpose Driven Church* stipulated that healthy, growing churches

returned to the biblical purposes of the church.[31] Martin McMahan explored leadership

training as a means of revitalizing a church.[32] He accomplished his research by examining

Carl George's Meta-Church model and Church Resource Ministries' Refocusing

Networks to discover the recommendations being made to the churches.

Stephen Macchia suggested healthy churches exhibited ten characteristics. The

characteristics were based on his analysis of one hundred churches which underwent a

revitalization process. While Macchia provided ten characteristics, Mark Dever posed

nine marks of a healthy church. These marks were derived through biblical exposition

rather than scientific study. Robert Cueni focused on revitalizing mainline congregations.

As a final example, Ronald Richardson described church revitalization by means of

counseling-based family systems theory.[33]

---

[31]Warren stated, "I believe the key issue for churches in the twenty-first century will be church health, not church growth" (17).

[32]Martin A. McMahan, "Training Turn-Around Leaders: Systemic Approaches to Reinstating Growth in Plateaued Churches" (Ph.D. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1998).

[33]Few church health books or studies, these resources included, utilize scientific methodologies. Stephen A. Macchia, *Becoming a Healthy Church: 10 Characteristics* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999); Mark Dever, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1997); R. Robert Cueni, *Dinosaur Heart Transplants: Renewing Mainline Congregations* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000); and Ronald W. Richardson, *Creating a Healthier Church: Family Systems Theory, Leadership, and*

A search for scientific studies of church revitalization resulted in only three studies. Edwin Allabough examined church revitalization as a result of the institution of a contemporary worship service.[34] He found that implementing a contemporary worship service enabled the church to reach young families who would avoid a church with a traditional worship service.

John Dodson interviewed pastors of revitalized churches in order to ascertain what variables led to the revitalization in his study, "An Analysis of Factors Leading to the Revitalization of Comeback Churches."[35] Dodson's methodology was that he first chose variables he thought led to revitalization, devised a survey measuring those variables, and then interviewed pastors of revitalized churches. A limitation to his methodology was that he seemed to lead the pastors to the conclusion that his variables were the cause of revitalization while limiting the pastors' ability to draw their own conclusions.

Finally, Don McDonald examined church revitalization by means of systemic therapy.[36] This method of revitalization viewed the church from a relational perspective, suggesting that the pastor should function in the role of therapist in order to revitalize the

---

Congregational Life (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996).

[34]Edwin Dunwoody Allabough, "The Development of a Model for Contemporary Worship in Established Churches with a History for the Purpose of Congregational Revitalization" (Ph.D. diss., University of Dubuque Theological Seminary), 2000.

[35]John Michael Dodson, "An Analysis of Factors Leading to the Revitalization of Comeback Churches" (D.Miss. diss., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), 2006.

[36]Don Cecil McDonald, "Church Revitalization and Systemic Therapy: The Pastor as Interventionist, Story Breaker, and Story Maker" (Ph.D. diss., Nova University, 1989).

church. While functioning in that role, the pastor would guide the church members to see themselves not as a dysfunctional family with emotional baggage, but as part of the meta-narrative of the *Missio Dei*.

Many researchers study the contextual and institutional variables of church growth and revitalization. However, scant research exists which examines the sponsorship of church plants as an institutional variable. While this study is not a church planting project but a church revitalization project, the establishment of the proper context for the sponsorship of a church plant is beneficial.

Church Planting Research

Churches have been planting churches since the day of Pentecost; however, the modern emphasis on church planting can be traced to its roots in the modern Church Growth Movement and to Donald McGavran.[37] Payne noted that after the International Congress of World Evangelization in Lausanne in 1974, significant interest in church planting resulted in more than seventy publications on church planting.[38] Most of these publications focus on the biblical and theological rationale for church planting and how to plant churches. Church planting involves a great deal of risk for the established church. Kevin Mannoia surmised that "it takes risk to keep the mission paramount -- to witness

---

[37]McGavran, *Bridges of God*. See also Roland Allen's *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Originally published in 1912, the bibliographic information for the version used here is Roland Allen, *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* (London: World Dominion Press, 1912; reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1962).

[38]Jervis D. Payne, "An Evaluation to the Systems Approach to North American Church Multiplication Movements of Robert E. Logan in Light of the Missiology of Roland Allen" (Ph.D. diss., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2001), 1.

for Christ and to plant new churches. Yet if we are serious about growth and making Him

known, there is no more effective way to do so than to start new churches."[39]

The importance of examining the effect of church planting on the sponsor church

is more evident today than in decades past. While the SBC has been the denomination of

growth for a majority of the twentieth century, in the last several decades a majority of its

churches have experienced a waning of growth -- even finding themselves plateaued or

declining.

In addition to the Southern Baptist Convention, among other evangelical churches

the problem is greater. Win Arn has stated, "In the years following World War II

thousands of new churches were established. Today, of the approximately 350,000

churches in America, four out of the five are either plateaued or declining."[40] Malphurs

agreed with this statement and added that most churches are not aware they are no longer

relevant, and "those who are, in general, aren't willing or able to make the changes

necessary to influence their communities."[41] This fact has led many to consider church

planting as a means of reaching the lost in the community.

Despite the inability of the established church to reach the lost, there remains a

debate over church planting and church revitalization. Malphurs, an advocate for church

---

[39]Kevin Mannoia, *Church Planting: The Next Generation* (Indianapolis: Light and Life Press, 1994), 18.

[40]Win Arn, *The Pastor's Manual for Effective Ministry* (Monrovia, CA: Church Growth, 1988), 41.

[41]Aubrey Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992), 343.

planting, stated, "While some churches will change, undergo a transition period, and renew themselves, the future lies with church planting."[42] Charles Chaney pointed out that "there has been and continues to be an aversion to church planting on the part of many pastors, elders, deacons, and other local church leaders."[43]

Research in the area of church planting has focused a great deal on the missiological issues. In fact, most research has focused on church planting outside of the United States.[44] Indeed, church planting is currently a major evangelistic strategy in foreign missions. David Garrison wrote the strategy focus in his booklet *Church Planting Movements*[45] in order to promote church planting as a means of reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Research has been undertaken on church planting in North America. Dissertations by Troy Bush, J. D. Payne, and Ed Stetzer have done much to further understanding of

---

[42]Ibid.

[43]Charles L. Chaney, *Church Planting at the End of the Twentieth Century* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1982), 64.

[44]Research includes Chongoh Aum, "The Cell Church Model as a Viable Approach for Urban Church Planting" (Ph.D. diss., Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, 1997); Christopher R. Little, "Mission in the Way of Paul: With Special Reference to Twenty-First Century Christian Mission" (Ph.D. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 2003); and David B. Woodford, "One Church, Many Churches: A Five-Model Approach to Church Planting and Evaluation" (D.Miss. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1997).

[45]David Garrison, *Church Planting Movements* (Richmond, VA: Office of Overseas Operations, International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2000).

church planting within the United States.[46] However, these dissertations examined such

issues as models of church planting, the effectiveness of church planter assessments, and

church multiplication. Other dissertations examined such factors as church planting in the

Pacific Northwest, planting in rural areas, and leadership style in a church plant.[47] While

several dissertations have dealt with church planting, little research has examined church

planting as it aids church growth in existing churches. Many variables have been

identified as being important to church growth and church revitalization. Wagner and

others have illustrated the importance of church planting for growing the kingdom, but

none have examined church planting for the purpose of revitalizing an existing local

church.[48]

---

[46]Troy L. Bush, "Effective Church Planting: A Qualitative Analysis of Selected Church Planting Models" (Ph.D. diss., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1999); Edward J. Stetzer, "The Impact of the Church Planting Process and Other Selected Factors on the Attendance of Southern Baptist Church Plants" (Ph.D. diss., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2003); and Jervis D. Payne, "An Evaluation of the Systems Approach to North American Church Multiplication Movements of Robert E. Logan in Light of the Missiology of Roland Allen" (Ph.D. diss., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2001).

[47]These dissertations include Daniel J. Morgan, "Southern Baptist Contextualization in the Pacific Northwest: Historical Prospective and Strategic Prospects for Effective Church Planting" (Ph.D. diss., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1996); Thomas P. Nebel, "Planting Churches in Small Towns and Rural Areas" (Ph.D. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 2000); and Jeffrey L. Fulks, "Transformational Leadership and Its Relationship to Success in Developing New Churches" (Ph.D. diss., The University of Texas at Arlington, 1993), respectively.

[48]Daniel Maxton wrote a Doctor of Ministry focus paper on parenting daughter churches which examined the role of church planting in medium-sized congregations. He suggested a benefit of church planting on the mother church, but his evidence was anecdotal. See Daniel Maxton, "Parenting Daughter Churches: A New Paradigm For Medium-Sized Congregations in the Baptist General Conference" (D.Min. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1994).

Delineation of the Study

The Definitions of Terms

Annual Church Profile

The Annual Church Profile (ACP) is a yearly survey sent to all churches and missions in the Southern Baptist Convention. Previously called the Uniform Church Letter, the ACP was utilized by churches to report on annual statistics, including membership, finance, program, and participation.

Revitalization

Revitalization refers to the process of breathing new life into a stagnant or dying church. While revitalization pertains to both tangible and intangible aspects of the church, the researcher focused solely on those tangible aspects which are measurable. Effectiveness in revitalization is measured through many types of growth variables. An explanation of the variables utilized to measure effectiveness in this study can be found in chapter 2.

Sponsor Church

A sponsor church is a local church which is actively involved in the creation of a new church. Also called a mother church, sponsor churches tend to be involved in the planting process at different levels. Some sponsor churches provide a great deal of resources, such as providing leadership, finances, a worship location, and a group of members. The common thread amongst all sponsor churches is a deliberate decision to help a new church get started.

The Statement of the Subproblems

The First Subproblem

The first subproblem was to determine whether significant differences existed

within selected church growth variables between the five-year time period before

sponsorship of a church plant and the five years after sponsorship of a church plant

among churches which sponsored a church plant in 1999.

The Second Subproblem

The second subproblem was determining whether certain church growth variables

were impacted to a greater degree than others due to the sponsoring of a church plant.

The Third Subproblem

The third subproblem was to determine whether proximity of the church plant to

the sponsor church made an impact on the church growth variables identified in the first

and second subproblems.

The Hypotheses

The First Hypothesis

H_1: Significant differences existed between church growth variables for the five

years before the year of plant and the five years after the church plant sponsorship.

The Second Hypothesis

H_2: Some church growth variables were impacted to a greater degree than others

due to the sponsoring of a church plant.

The Third Hypothesis

H$_3$: Proximity of the church plant had no effect on the sponsor church.

The Delimitations

The First Delimitation

The first delimitation was that research was limited to a sample of Southern

Baptist Convention (SBC) churches which sponsored a new church work in 1999.[49] In the

1999 Annual Church Profile (ACP),[50] these churches reported at least one new "church

type mission started."

The Second Delimitation

The second delimitation was that this study examined general growth trends

without isolating the role of pastoral tenure, preaching, or other contributing factors in the

growth of the church. While these factors are worthy of examination, they were beyond

the scope of this study.[51] A diverse sample group reduced the impact of other factors

---

[49]The distinction must be made that the sponsor church is supporting a new church work rather than continuing to support an existing mission.

[50]The Annual Church Profile is an annual church study which reports variables such as membership, baptism, Sunday School enrollment and attendance, and financial data. This profile is reported by local churches and compiled by Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. The researcher received the ACP data from the North American Mission Board.

[51]For further study on the impact of multiple variables contributing to church growth, see Jackson W. Carroll, "Continuity and Change: The Shape of American Religion," in *Religion in America: 1950-Present*, Jackson W. Carroll, Douglas W. Johnson, and Martin E. Marty, eds. (New York: Harper & Row, 1978). In this book, Carroll concluded that single cause explanations for church growth attract attention, but to explain growth by any one factor oversimplifies a very complex set of relationships.

while measuring the common variable of the church plant's sponsorship. The variables which were examined were derived primarily from the Annual Church Profile and were self reported by the churches.

While the possibility of error in reporting existed, the risk was no greater than with other self-reporting survey instruments. Statistical theory suggests that this limitation can be overcome by means of enlarging the sample group to decrease the margin of error. Therefore, the researcher utilized a large sample group.

The Third Delimitation

The third delimitation was that the growth variables used in the study were limited to those variables provided by the ACP from 1994 to 2004, as well as data received from a North American Mission Board study for one variable dealing with proximity of the church plant to the sponsor church.

The Assumptions

The First Assumption

The first assumption was that the data submitted by the individual churches on the 1994-2004 ACP was complete and accurate.

The Second Assumption

The second assumption was that the survey data submitted to the North American Mission Board Sponsorship Survey was complete and accurate.

The Third Assumption

The third assumption was that the survey utilized by the North American Mission Board was a valid and reliable instrument for measuring the variables studied.

CHAPTER 2

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The Introduction

The data source for this research project was determined largely by the

methodology. In order to address the research problem of this project, a methodology

utilizing a multi-year examination was necessary. First, the problem of determining the

plant year was considered. To conduct a study for the five years before and after the year

of planting, the researcher had to identify a plant year which had a large enough selection

of sponsor churches but also had significant data for the five previous years and the five

subsequent years. The year 1999 was selected. This chapter will describe the data selected

and the methodology utilized for the analysis.

The Data

Data Sources

Databases stored on the network hard drives of the Center for Missional Research,

NAMB and containing the Annual Church Profile data for the years 1994-2004 served as

a primary source for this investigation.[1] The church data for each year were linked to

_____

[1] *1994-2004 Annual Church Profile*, computer database.

24

each other by Church ID number using the database program Microsoft Access 2002.[2]

The linkage permitted the study of data changes for each church across the years studied.

A second primary source of data was accessed from a Center for Missional

Research, NAMB study on church plant sponsorship.[3] The NAMB Sponsorship Study

was conducted in 2006. Surveys were mailed in March, 2006 to all 753 churches which

reported at least one new mission type church started in 1999.[4] A total of 309 churches of

the original 753 churches responded to the survey and thus comprise the NAMB

Sponsorship Survey sample group.

<div align="center">The Subjects</div>

In 1999, a total of 41,099 churches were in the Southern Baptist Convention.[5] Of

these churches, only 753 churches reported at least one new mission-type church started

in 1999.[6] The reporting churches were dispersed among forty-four states and two United

States territories (see table 1). The sponsor churches from the ACP[7] databases were then

---

[2]*Microsoft Access 2002*, computer software, CD-ROM (Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation, 2002).

[3]North American Mission Board, Center for Missional Research, *NAMB Sponsorship Survey* (Atlanta: North American Mission Board, 2006).

[4]A copy of the NAMB Sponsorship Study, pastor's letter is in appendix A. A copy of the NAMB Church Sponsorship survey is in appendix B.

[5]*1999 Annual Church Profile*, computer database.

[6]Ibid.

[7]A copy of the 1999 Annual Church Profile can be found in appendix C. A copy of the 1999 Annual Church Profile instructions can be found in appendix D.

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of
Sponsor Churches by State

State	Number of Sponsor Churches
Alabama	29
Alaska	5
Arkansas	25
Arizona	23
California	64
Colorado	14
Connecticut	2
District of Columbia	1
Guam	1
Hawaii	5
Idaho	4
Iowa	1
Indiana	11
Kansas	5
Kentucky	44
Louisiana	28
Maryland	6
Massachusetts	7
Michigan	16
Minnesota	3
Mississippi	24
Missouri	25
Montana	8

State	Number of Sponsor Churches
Nebraska	5
New Hampshire	1
New Jersey	9
New Mexico	10
New York	12
Nevada	9
North Carolina	41
North Dakota	2
Ohio	18
Oklahoma	34
Oregon	5
Pennsylvania	13
Puerto Rico	1
South Dakota	1
Tennessee	48
Texas	8
Utah	7
Vermont	1
Virginia	26
Washington	11
West Virginia	9
Wisconsin	1
Wyoming	1
Total	**624**

compared with the sponsor churches from the NAMB Sponsor Survey, and non-sponsoring churches were filtered out.

A total of 129 churches were removed from the sample group for one of two reasons. One hundred seventeen churches were removed because they responded to the NAMB Sponsor Survey stating that they did not sponsor a church plant. The remaining 12 churches were removed because they did not report for all of the years preceding the sponsorship year due to the fact that the sponsor church was not in existence in 1994. The final number of churches to be analyzed in this research project was 624. ACP data for these churches were collected for the years 1994 through 2004.[8]

The 624 sponsor churches sponsored a total of 948 church plants in 1999. The mean was 1.52 church plants and the mode was 1. The number of church plants sponsored by the sponsor church ranged from 1 to 25 (see table 2 for frequencies of church-type missions started in 1999).

The means of the growth variables in the sample group of sponsor churches were a little larger than the means of the SBC population (see table 3 for a comparison of the growth variables' means between the sponsor churches and the SBC population). The sample group made up 1.5% of the population of SBC churches. Also, the frequency distributions by state of the sponsor churches did not mirror the SBC population. The dis-proportionality of the sample group perhaps was attributable to the fact that different state conventions promoted church planting with varying emphasis.

_____

[8]Additional information about the sample group is in chapter 3.

Table 2. Frequency Distribution of Church-Type
Missions Started, 1999

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	482	77.2	77.2	77.2
2	87	13.9	13.9	91.2
3	25	4.0	4.0	95.2
4	9	1.4	1.4	96.6
5	7	1.1	1.1	97.8
6	3	.5	.5	98.2
7	3	.5	.5	98.7
9	1	.2	.2	98.9
10	1	.2	.2	99.0
11	1	.2	.2	99.2
12	2	.3	.3	99.5
13	1	.2	.2	99.7
15	1	.2	.2	99.8
25	1	.2	.2	100.0
Total	624	100.0	100.0	

Table 3. Comparison of Means between Sponsor Church Sample Group and SBC Population

Variable	Sponsor Churches N=624 Mean	SBC Population N=40507 Mean
Total Baptisms	25.17	10.30
Other Additions	23.72	11.30
Total Members	684.08	384.50
Total Sunday School Enrollment	395.83	197.80
Average Sunday School Attendance	187.55	96.20
Total Receipts	417,500.61	166503.24
Undesignated Gifts	295,805.28	136223.15
Designated Gifts	91,489.30	37430.97
Total Mission Expenditures	46,515.47	19332.81
Morning Worship Attendance	251.68	131.00
Adjusted Resident Membership	507.79	272.80
Tithes and Offerings	387,294.58	176,475.74

The Factors

Fifteen institutional variables and one contextual variable were studied in this

research project. The institutional factors were Total Baptisms (TBAPT), Other Additions

(OTHADD), Total Membership (TOTMEM), Sunday School Enrollment (SSENR),

Average Sunday School Attendance (AVGSS), Total Receipts (TRCPTS), Undesignated

Gifts (UNDGFT), Designated Gifts (DESGFT), Cooperative Program Giving (COOP),

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO), Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO),

AM Worship Attendance (AMWOR), Adjusted Resident Membership (RMADJ),[9] Total

Missions Expenditures (TME), and Tithes (TITHES). These variables were reported on

the Annual Church Profile by the sponsor churches.[10]

For each institutional factor, a before variable and an after variable were

calculated in order to conduct the appropriate statistical procedures. The calculations

were conducted as follows. First, each monetary factor was adjusted for inflation to 1994

dollars.[11] Next, variables for the five years before the church planting year were added to

form an aggregated-before-plant year variable (e.g., Total Membership for each church

was added by the following formula: TOTMEM94 + TOTMEM95 + TOTMEM96 +

---

[9]Adjusted Resident Membership is the NAMB name for the Resident Membership variable. The Center for Missional Research uses a formula for churches that do not provide an answer for Resident Membership. The formula is simply 70% of Total Membership. This formula is not used for every church. It is only used for the ones with missing data.

[10]See appendix E for tables listing Frequencies and Descriptive Data for the SBC broken down by church size.

[11]Inflation rate accessed online: http://inflationdata.com/inflation/Inflation_Rate/ HistoricalInflation.aspx, accessed 24 May 2007.

TOTMEM97 + TOTMEM98 = TOTMEMBPAG). Finally, the variables for the five years

after the church planting year were added together to form an aggregated after-plant-year

variable (e.g., Total Membership for each church was added by the following formula:

TOTMEM00 + TOTMEM01 + TOTMEM02 + TOTMEM03 + TOTMEM04 =

TOTMEMAPAG). The conversions were conducted for each factor (see table 4).

The one contextual factor was the proximity of the church plant to the sponsor

church (PROX). Sponsor churches replied to a survey sent out by the Center for

Missional Research, NAMB, and self-reported the location of the church plant in relation

to the sponsor church. The possible answers listed on the NAMB Church Sponsorship

survey included Same Building, Same Community, Different Community/Same City,

Different City, Different State, and Different Country (see table 5).

The Annual Church Profile provided the information for the institutional

variables. The NAMB Sponsorship Survey provided the data for the contextual variable.

The NAMB Center for Missional Research conducted the survey and promised the

respondents anonymity. The researcher extended the same condition of anonymity in the

current study.

Missing Data

Missing data in the study were comprised of non-reported information for a

specific year of the ACP report or from the survey. As Hair, Anderson, Tatham, and

Black stated,[12] no method of dealing with missing data exists which is free of

---

[12]Hair et al., 46-47.

Table 4. ACP Variable Names Converted to Before and After Variables.

ACP Variable	Converted Before Variable Name	Converted After Variable Name
TBAPT	TBAPTBPAG	TBAPTAPAG
OTHADD	OTHADDBPAG	OTHADDAPAG
TOTMEM	TOTMEMBPAG	TOTMEMAPAG
SSENR	SSENRBPAG	SSENRAPAG
AVGSS	AVGSSBPAG	AVGSSAPAG
TRCPTS	TRCPTSIBPAG	TRCPTSIAPAG
UNDGFT	UNDGFTIBPAG	UNDGFTIAPAG
DESGFT	DESGFTIBPAG	DESGFTIAPAG
COOP	COOPIBPAG	COOPIAPAG
AAEO	AAEOIBPAG	AAEOIAPAG
LMCO	LMCOIBPAG	LMCOIAPAG
AMWOR	AMWORBPAG	AMWORAPAG
RMADJ	RMADJBPAG	RMADJAPAG
TME	TMEIBPAG	TMEIAPAG
TITHES	TITHESIBPAG	TITHESIAPAG

Table 5. Frequency Distributions for the Variable Proximity of Church Plants to Sponsor Churches

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error
Same Building	91	554,847.8650	886,662.68804	92,947.50512
Same Community	28	539,923.6477	665,646.49615	125,795.36356
Different Community/Same City	62	660,307.1101	941,408.82919	119,559.04087
Different City	100	365,108.9543	652,092.39542	65,209.23954
Different State	4	1,644,951.4590	1,827,159.84516	913,579.92258
Different Country	12	444,549.0481	757,558.31358	218,688.24814
Total	297	521,795.7862	830,329.34739	48,180.59549

disadvantages. Missing data in this study were handled by the imputation technique of mean substitution. This technique "replaces the missing values for a variable with the mean value of that variable based on all valid responses."[13] For each variable, less than 1% of the data was missing.

The Methodology

Introduction

This study utilized a quantitative methodology. The historical method was used to collect ACP data for the study, and statistical procedures were used to analyze the data. In the study, a significance level of 0.05 was used to test all hypotheses. The following sections will describe the statistical procedures utilized for the research study and then discuss the assumptions associated with each procedure.

Statistical Procedures

Paired Samples *t Test*

Paired samples *t tests* were used in this study in order to determine whether to accept or reject hypothesis one.[14] The paired samples *t tests* showed whether the difference between the means of the independent variables of two related samples (i.e. before and after) are statistically meaningful. This type of analysis "is used when there are

---

[13]Ibid., 54.

[14]Andy Field, *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS*, 2d ed. (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2005), 288-95.

two experimental conditions and the same participants took part in both conditions of the experiment."[15]

Comparative Analysis

The second hypothesis was analyzed by means of comparative analysis. The statistical procedure used to derive standardized scores was the z-score. The z score is "the value of an observation expressed in standard units."[16] Standardized scores are a method of comparing variables that have different measurements. In order to be certain that variables were examined equally, a comparison of the mean values of the standardized scores of the significant variables identified in the first hypothesis were used to test the second hypothesis.

The second null hypothesis was that selected church growth variables in a sponsoring church were equally impacted by the sponsoring of a church plant. The percent change between the before plant means and the after plant means were calculated and the variable with the highest percent change was found to be affected greater than the other variables (thus rejecting the null hypothesis).

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

In this study, one-way ANOVA tests were utilized to test the third null hypothesis which states, that growing sponsor churches will predominantly plant churches outside of the mother church's community. The ANOVA showed whether the differences between

[15]Ibid., 286.

[16]Ibid., 750.

the means of the independent variable (proximity of the church plant to the mother church) had any impact on the growth effect in the sponsor church. The dependent variable for the ANOVA was determined by the results of the comparative analysis. The factor which was affected the greatest by church plant sponsorship was designated giving. Therefore, the dependent variable for the one-way ANOVA was DESGFTIAPAG.

In the one-way ANOVA, the means were computed for each case and the variances between the means were computed and assigned an F-ratio. A large F-ratio would indicate that the mean differences were greater than could be expected from chance, and the significance level of the mean difference would be less than the chosen significance level of 0.05;[17] thus, the null hypothesis would be accepted. However, if the F-ratio were small, the significance level would be greater than 0.05, indicating that proximity had no effect on the growth variables of the sponsor church.

<div align="center">Statistical Assumptions</div>

Paired Samples *t Test*

For this study, several assumptions were considered as they pertained to the paired samples *t test*. First, the assumption of independence was considered. Independence requires that the score for any one respondent is not influenced by any other respondent.[18] Since the subject churches were reporting observed data for the corresponding years

---

[17]Frederick J. Gravetter and Lori-Ann B. Forzano, *Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences* (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2003), 386-87.

[18]Frederick J. Gravetter and Larry B. Wallnau, *Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences*, 6th ed. (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2004), 358.

without any regard to this or any other study and without regard for the answers of any other church, this condition was satisfied.

The second assumption was that the population distribution of scores must be normal. Tests for normality included normality plots and Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests. The tests were conducted with each variable, and all variables were found to be normal.

Comparative Analysis

Just as the assumptions for *t tests* included independence and normality, so too did the assumptions for hypothesis tests with *z scores*. The assumption of independence was discussed in the previous section and deemed to be satisfied. Tests for normality were conducted on the *z scores* in order to determine that the *z scores* were normal. The tests included normality plots and Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests. The tests were conducted for each variable (*z score*), and all variables were found to be normal.

In addition, for hypothesis tests with *z scores*, An additional assumption of random sampling must be met. The sample group must have been randomly selected to ensure that the sample group is representative of the population.[19] For this study, the sample size was comprised of every church which sponsored a church plant in 1999, and thus was the population. Therefore, the assumption of random sampling was met.

---

[19]Ibid., 250-51.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

Finally, the assumptions for one-way ANOVA include independence, normality, and homogeneity of variance.[20] The assumption of independence was met as discussed in the previous two sections. As with paired samples t-tests, the assumption of normality was deemed significant as a result of the normality plots and the Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests. The assumption of homogeneity of variance was confirmed using the Levene test.[21] For the Levene test, a significance value greater than the chosen value of a indicated that the variances were equal.

Computer Software

Data analysis for this study was conducted by means of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences, version 12.0 (SPSS 12.0).[22] Additionally, Microsoft Access 2002 was used for data compilation.[23]

---

[20]Ibid., 432.

[21]Robert H. Carver and Jane Gradwohl Nash, *Doing Data Analysis with SPSS Version 12* (Belmont, CA: Brooks Cole/Thomson Learning, 2005), 139.

[22]Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, computer software, ver. 12.0 CD-ROM, Chicago: SPSS, 2003.

[23]*Microsoft Access 2002*, computer software, CD-ROM (Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation, 2002).

CHAPTER 3

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The Introduction

The researcher sought to analyze the impact of planting new churches on selected church growth variables in the sponsoring churches. Chapter 3 presents descriptive data and the analysis of the statistical procedures utilized to test the hypotheses of the research project.

The Descriptive Data

Data were collected on 624 churches by means of the ACP databases for the years 1994-2004. The following descriptive data describe the sponsor churches as they existed in 1999, as well as describe the variables used in the study (see table 6 for a tabular description of the data.).

Total Membership

Churches of all sizes were involved as sponsor churches. Total membership referred to every member on the church's membership roll regardless of whether the member was located close enough to attend regularly or not. The total membership of the churches ranged from 15 to 26,792. The mean total church membership was 684.08. The

39
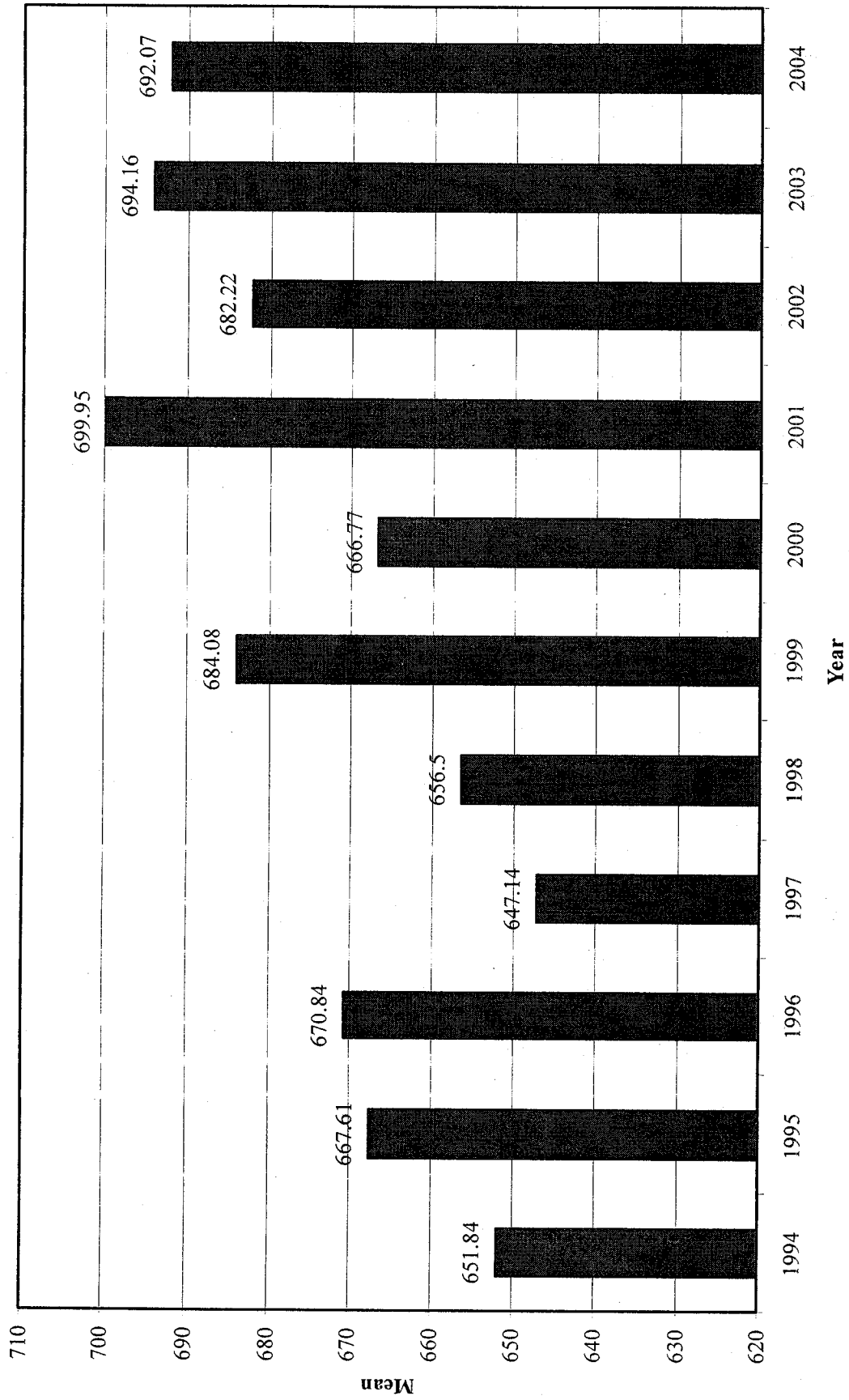
Fig. 1. Total Membership Means: 1994–2004.
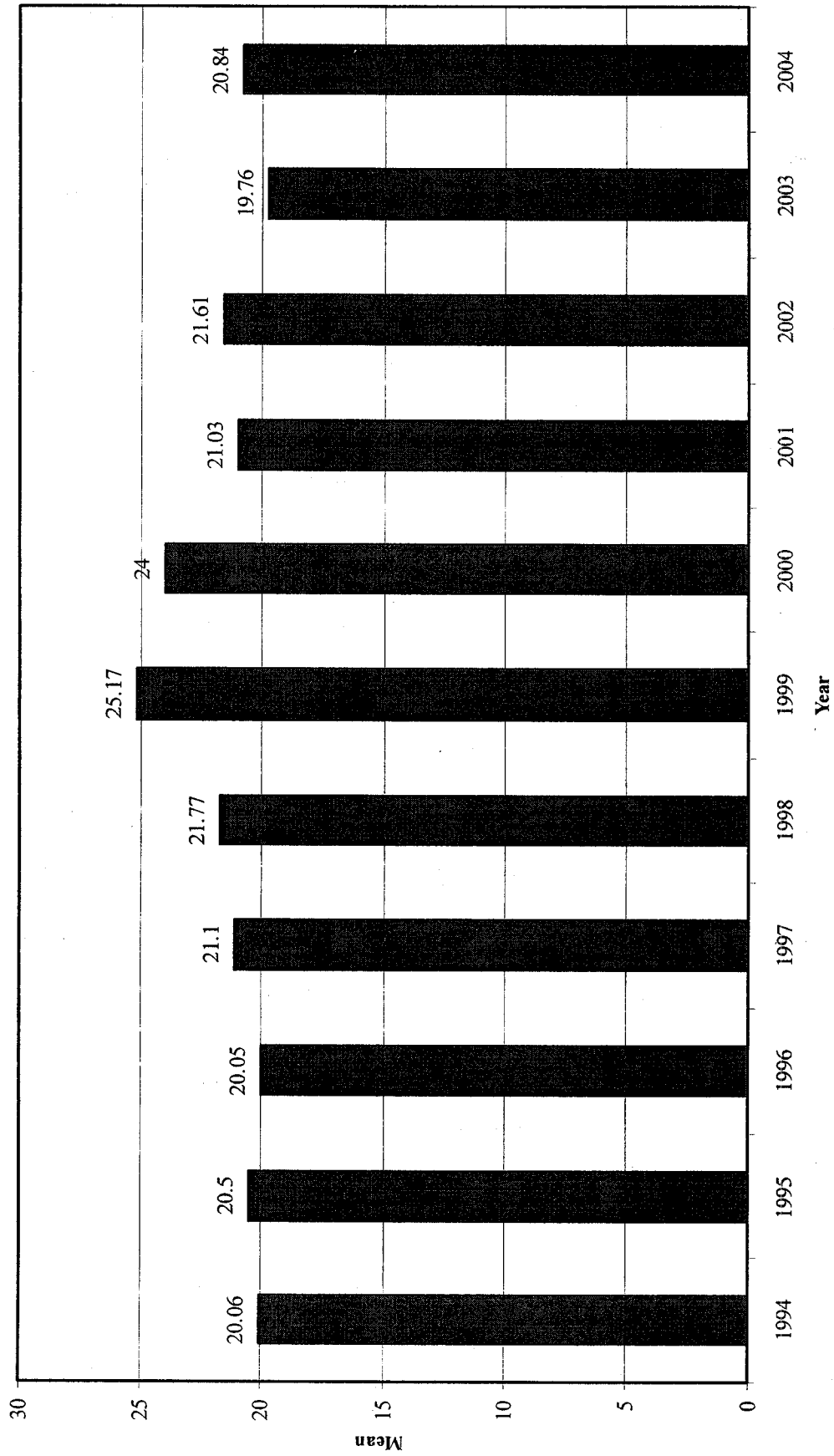
Fig. 2. Total Baptisms Means: 1994-2004.
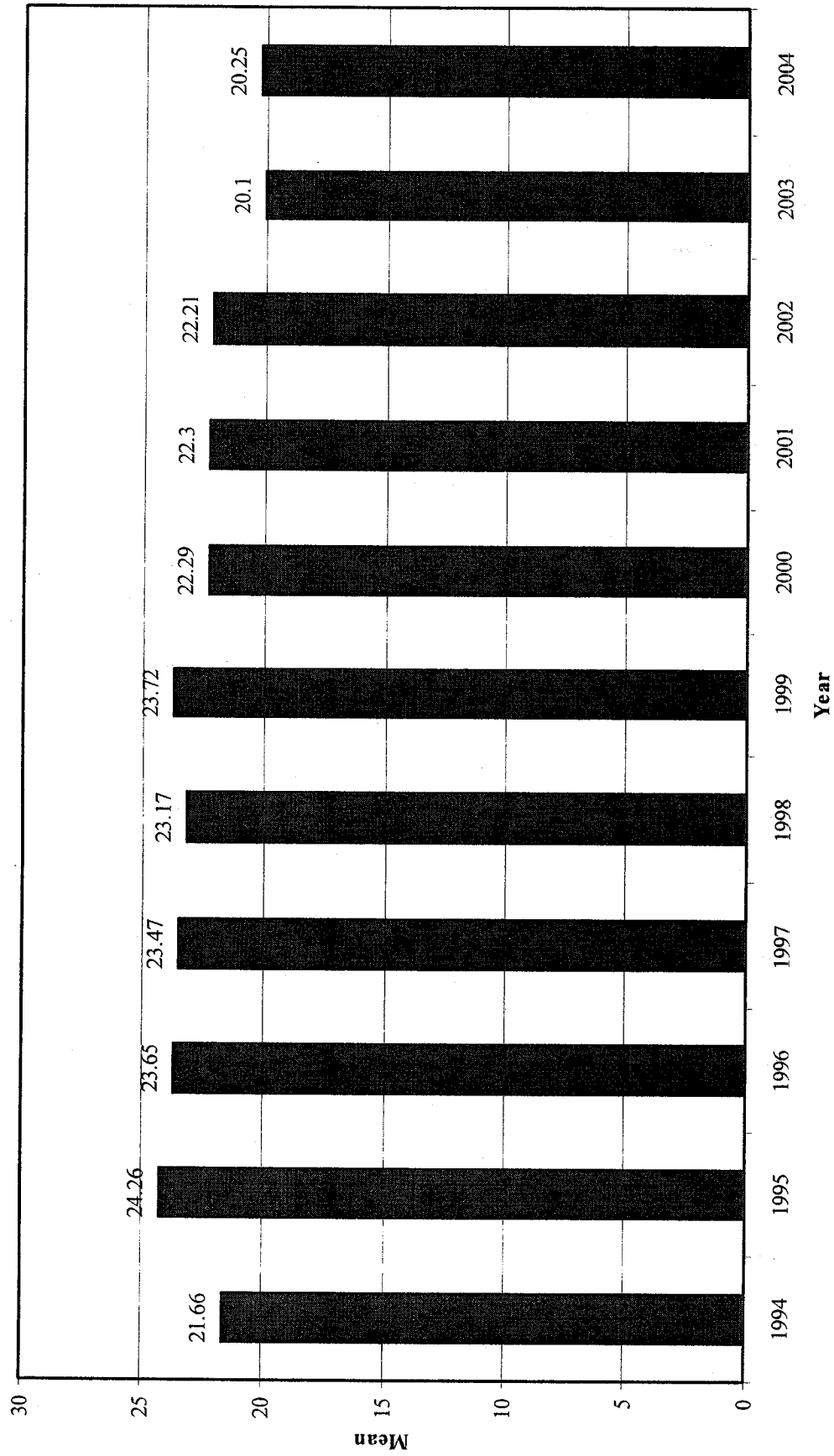
Fig. 3. Other Additions Means: 1994-2004.

standard deviation was 1,538.846 (see table 7 for a breakdown of Total Membership church sizes used in the study).

Total Baptisms

Baptisms are an important indicator of conversion. Baptisms reveal the evangelistic effectiveness of the local church. Total baptisms for the sponsor churches in 1999 ranged from 0 to 843. The mean for total baptisms was 25.17. The mode was 0. The standard deviation was 61.090.

Other Additions

The sponsor churches also had other types of additions which were new members who joined by means other than by baptism. Typically, these forms included a transfer letter from another church or by statement of faith. The transfer letter simply means that the church contacts the former church of the new member and asks for a letter of recommendation for the new member. This letter would state that the new member left the former church in good standing as well as verify that the new member was a baptized believer. Joining the church by statement of faith simply means that the new member states that he or she is a baptized believer and the church accepts that statement of faith as true. The range for the Other Additions variable was 0 to 795. The mean was 23.72, and the standard deviation was 52.980.

Table 6. Demographic Information of the Sponsor Churches for the Year 1999: Mean Values and Standard Deviations for Variables

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
Total Membership	624	15	26,792	684.08	1,538.846
Total Baptisms	624	0	843	25.17	61.090
Other Additions	624	0	795	23.72	52.980
AM Worship	624	10	8,490	251.68	521.388
Church-Type Missions Started	624	1	25	1.52	1.699
Church-Type Missions Operated	624	0	70	1.98	4.429
Average SS Attendance	624	7	7,449	187.55	425.914
Adjusted Resident Membership	624	0	20,206	507.79	1,161.180
Undesignated Gifts	624	0	17,722,096	295,805.28	884,853.805
Designated Gifts	624	0	4,324,461	91,489.30	272,007.852
Tithes	624	0	22,046,557	387,294.58	1,134,160.983
Total Receipts	624	0	26,662,318	417,500.61	1,299,030.423
Total Missions Expenditures	624	0	3,083,414	46,515.47	151,650.555
Year Church Was Organized	537[a]	1769	1994	1952[b]	49.230
Ethnicity	624	1	28	1.67	3.004
Sunday School Enrollment	624	0	14354	395.83	951.608

[a]A total of 87 churches failed to provide the organization year.
[b]The mode was reported for Year Church Was Organized rather than the mean.

Table 7. Frequency Distribution of Total Membership by Size

Total Membership	N	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1-99	108	17.3	17.3
100-199	114	18.3	35.6
200-299	86	13.8	49.4
300-499	109	17.4	66.8
500-749	62	10.0	76.8
750-999	40	6.4	83.2
1,000-2,999	87	13.9	97.1
3,000 and Up	18	2.9	100.0
TOTAL	624	100.0	100.0

Table 8. Frequency of AM Worship by Size

AM Worship	N	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1-99	267	42.8	42.8
100-199	158	25.3	68.1
200-299	70	11.2	79.3
300-499	56	9.0	88.3
500-749	32	5.1	93.4
750-999	18	2.9	96.3
1,000-2,999	18	2.9	99.2
3,000 and Up	5	0.8	100.0
TOTAL	624	100.0	100.0

AM Worship

The AM Worship variable described the attendance of the primary worship service for the sponsor church. The mean for this variable was 251.68, and the standard deviation was 521.388. The range was 10 to 8,490 (see table 8).

Church-Type Missions Started

The number of new churches sponsored by the church was recorded as Church-Type Missions Started. The range was 1 to 25, and the mean was 1.52. The standard deviation was 1.699 (see table 2).

Average Sunday School Attendance

The average Sunday School attendance of the sponsor churches ranged from as low as 7 to as many as 7,449. The mean was 187.55, and the standard deviation was 425.914.

Adjusted Resident Membership

The adjusted resident membership of the church referred to the number of members who live close enough to attend church services regularly. The North American Mission Board adjusted the Resident Membership variable for churches with missing values in the variable. The adjustment was exchanging the missing value with 70% of the total membership. The researcher did not have access to the number of churches for which the adjustment was necessary. The range of the Adjusted Resident Membership was 0 to 20,206. The mean was 507.79, and the standard deviation was 1,161.180.
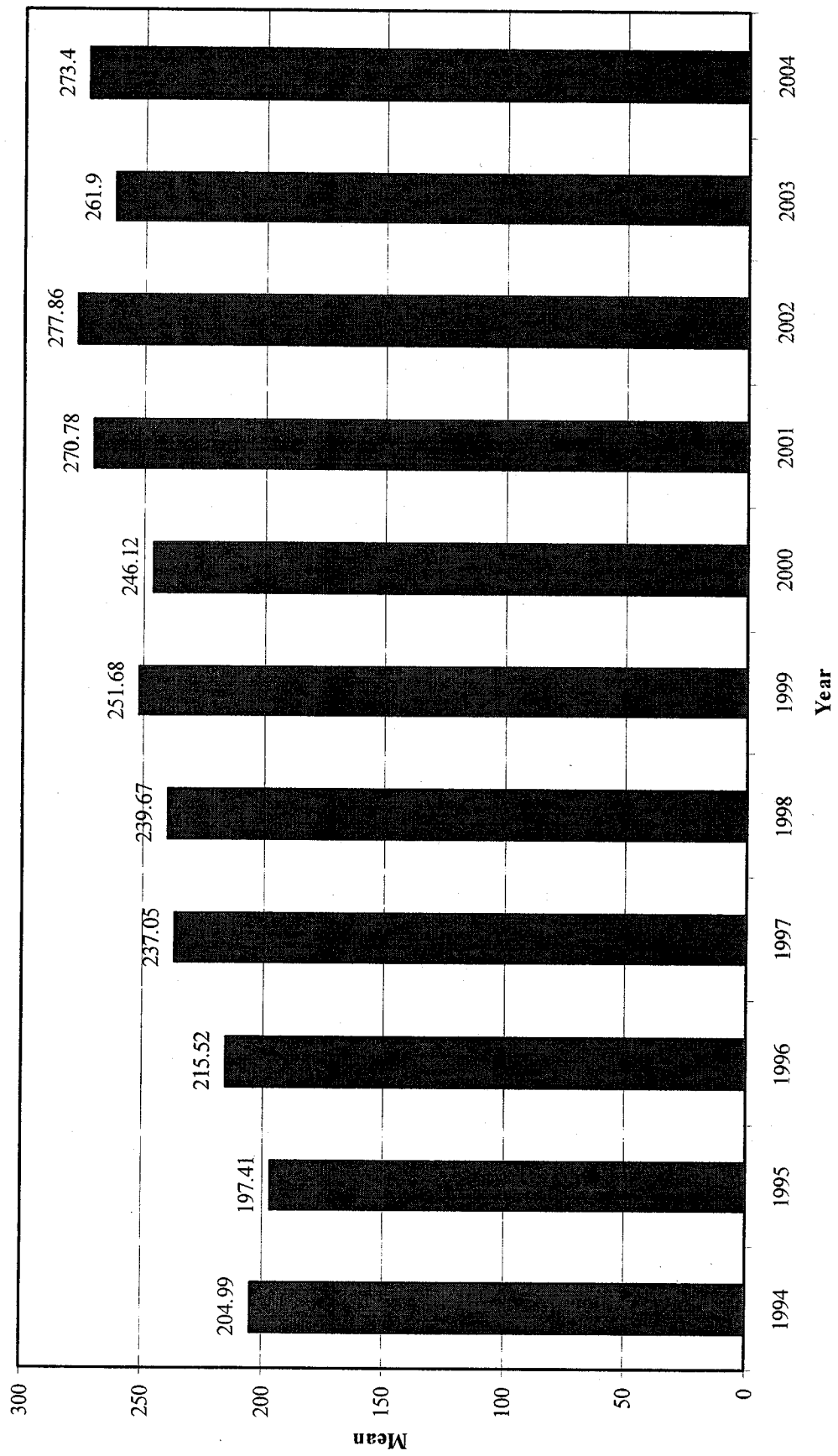
Fig. 4. AM Worship Means: 1994-2004.
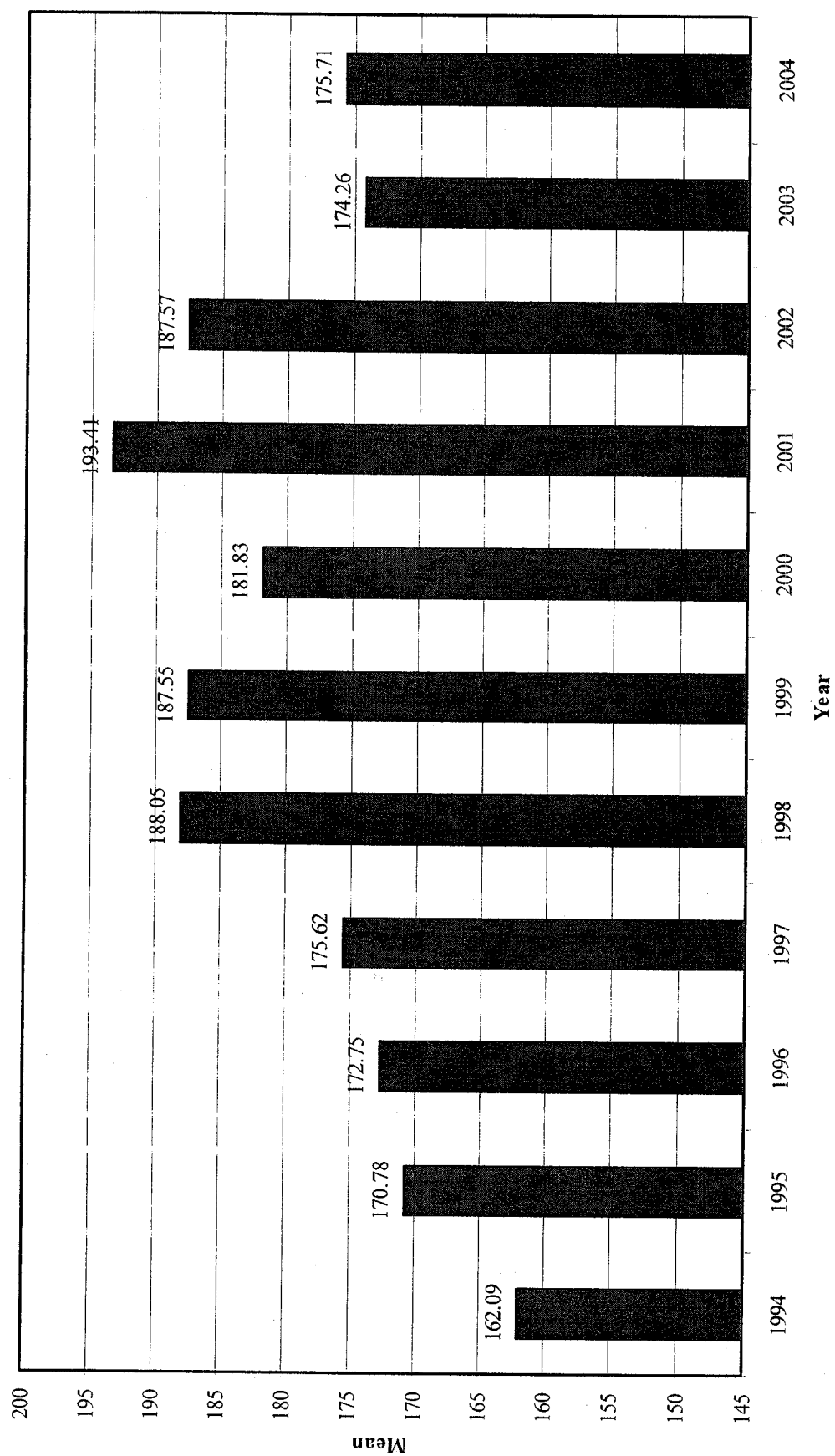
Fig. 5. Average Sunday School Attendance Means: 1994-2004.
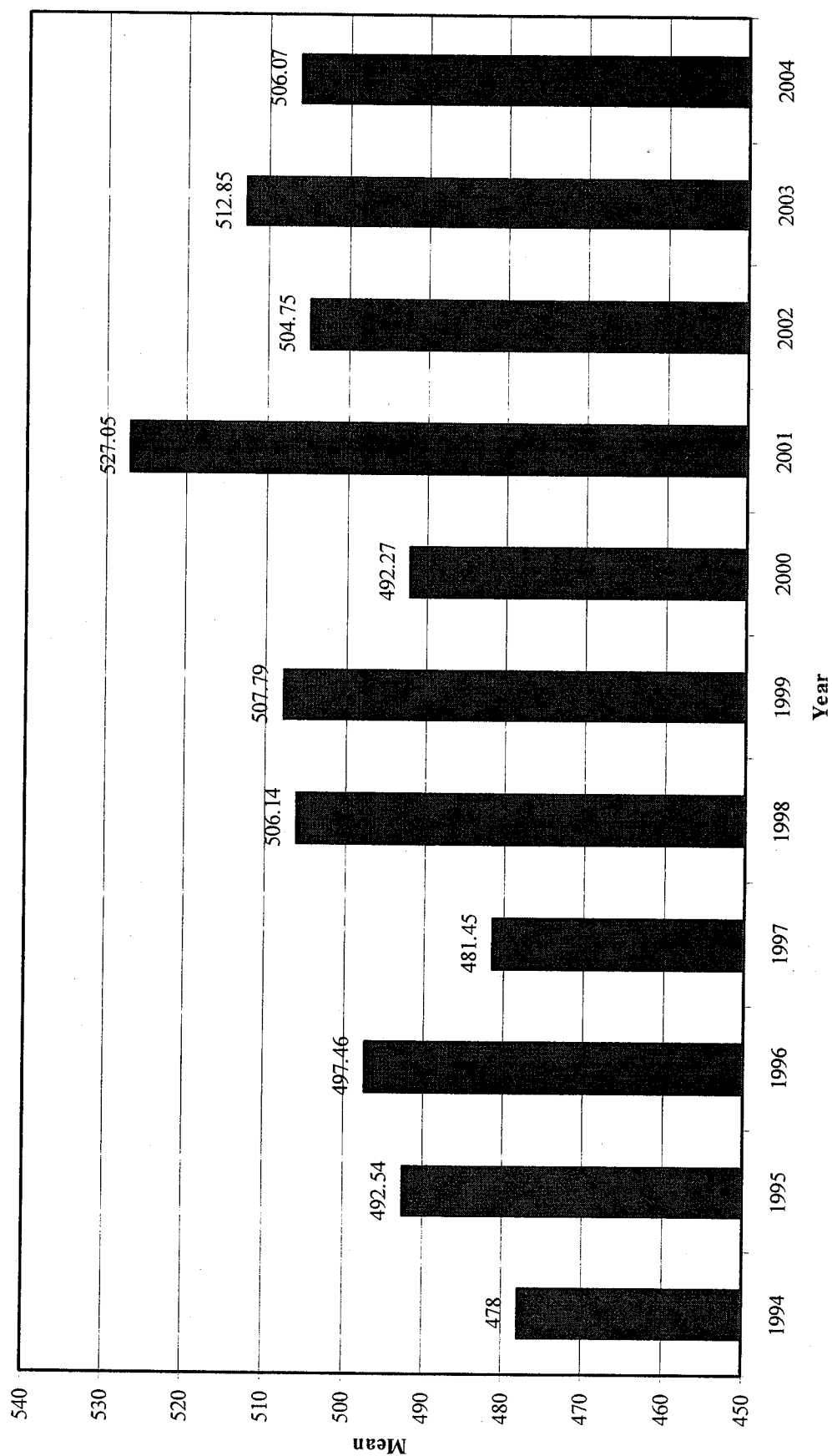
Fig. 6. Adjusted Resident Membership Means: 1994-2004.

Undesignated Gifts

Undesignated Gifts were gifts that were given to the church's general operating budget. The mean for this variable was $295,805.28, and the standard deviation was $884,853.805. The range was $0.00 to $17,722,096.00.

Designated Gifts

Designated Gifts were offerings that were given toward a specific line item in the budget or for a specific project (i.e., mission trip, debt reduction, or love offering). The range for this variable was $0.00 to $4,324,461.00. The mean was $91,489.30, and the standard deviation was $272,007.852.

Tithes

Tithes were essentially the money given to the church in the offering. The mean was $387,294.58, and the standard deviation was $1,134,160.983. The range was $0.00 to $22,046,557.00.

Total Receipts

Total Receipts referred to all money that was given to the church for any reason. The range for Total Receipts was $0.00 to $26,662,318.00. The mean was $417,500.61. The standard deviation was $1,299,030.423.

Total Mission Expenditures

"Total Mission Expenditures" was the variable that reported the specific amount of money spent on missions by the church for the year 1999. Financial support for the
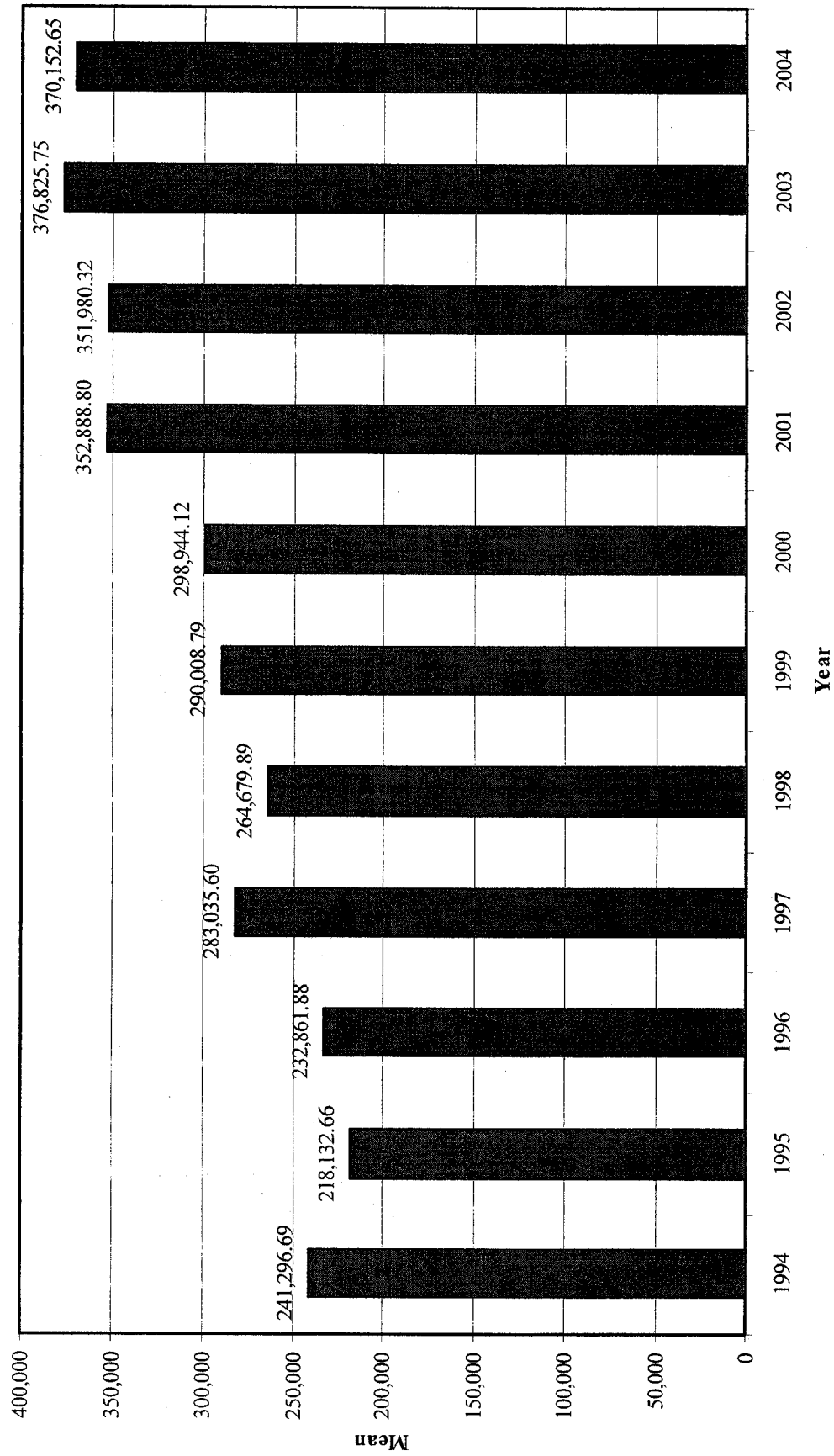
Fig. 7. Undesignated Gifts Means: 1994-2004.
(adjusted for inflation)

51
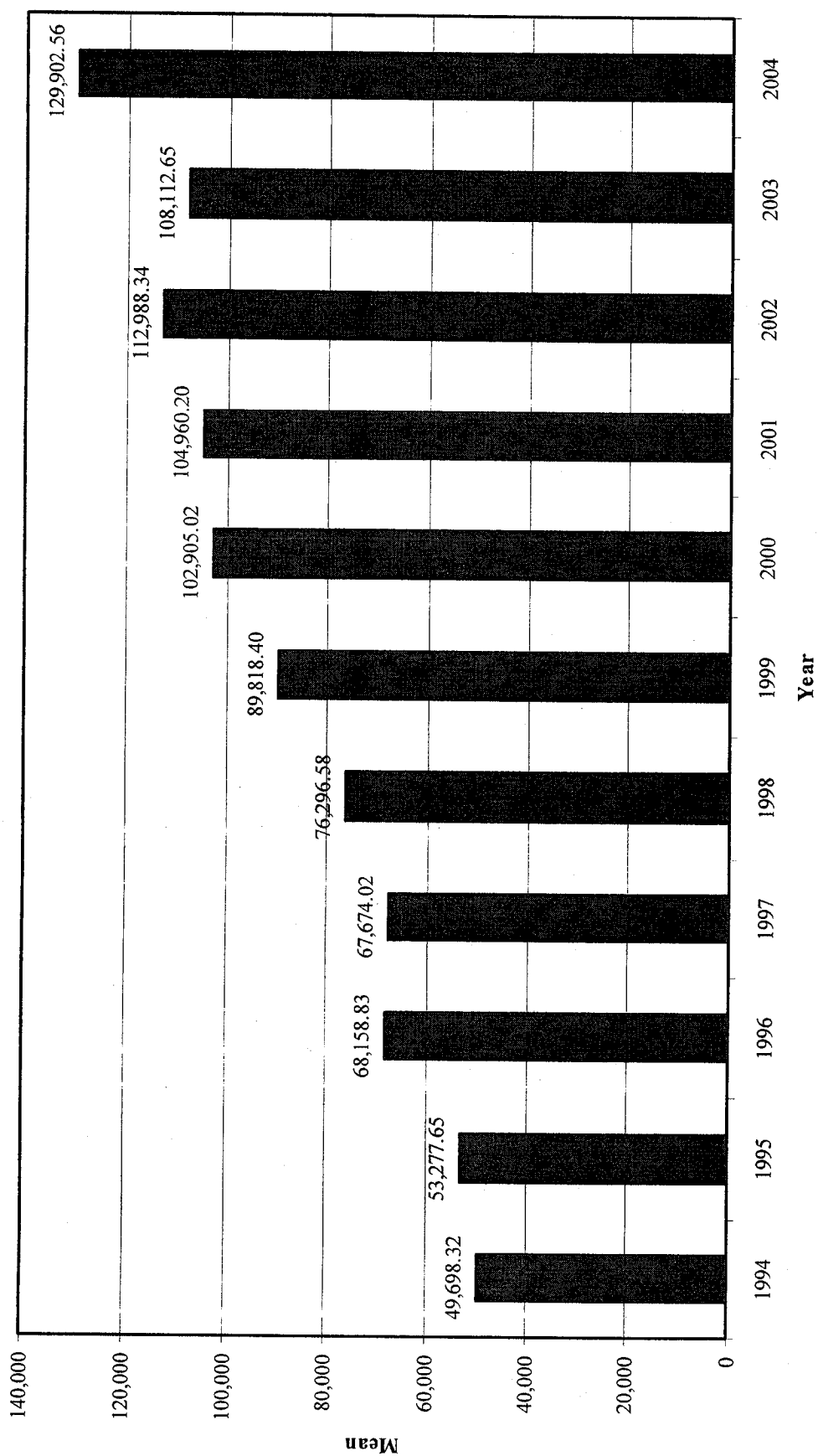
Fig. 8. Designated Gifts Means: 1994-2004.
(adjusted for inflation)
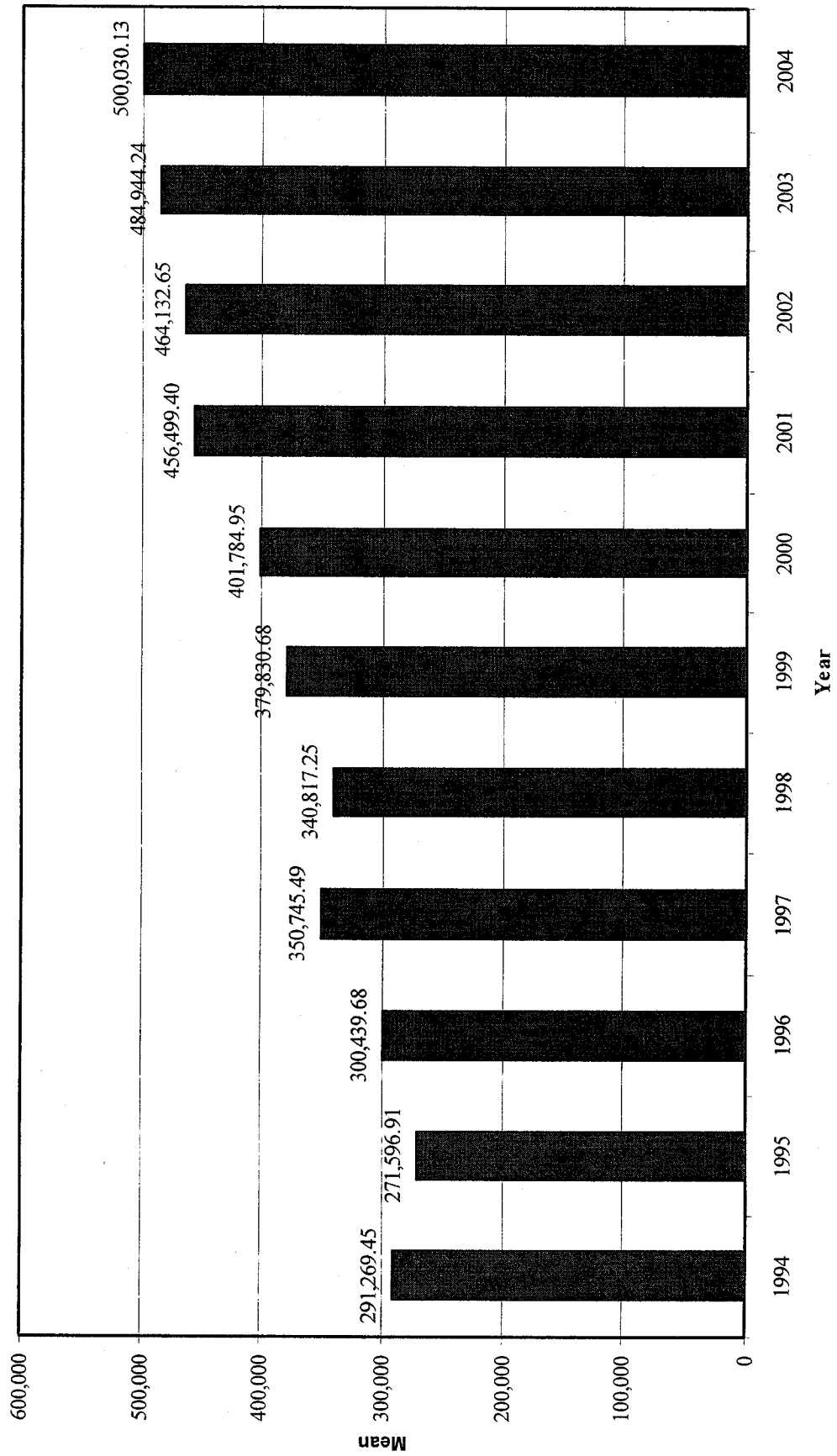
Fig. 9. Tithes and Offerings Means: 1994-2004.
(adjusted for inflation)
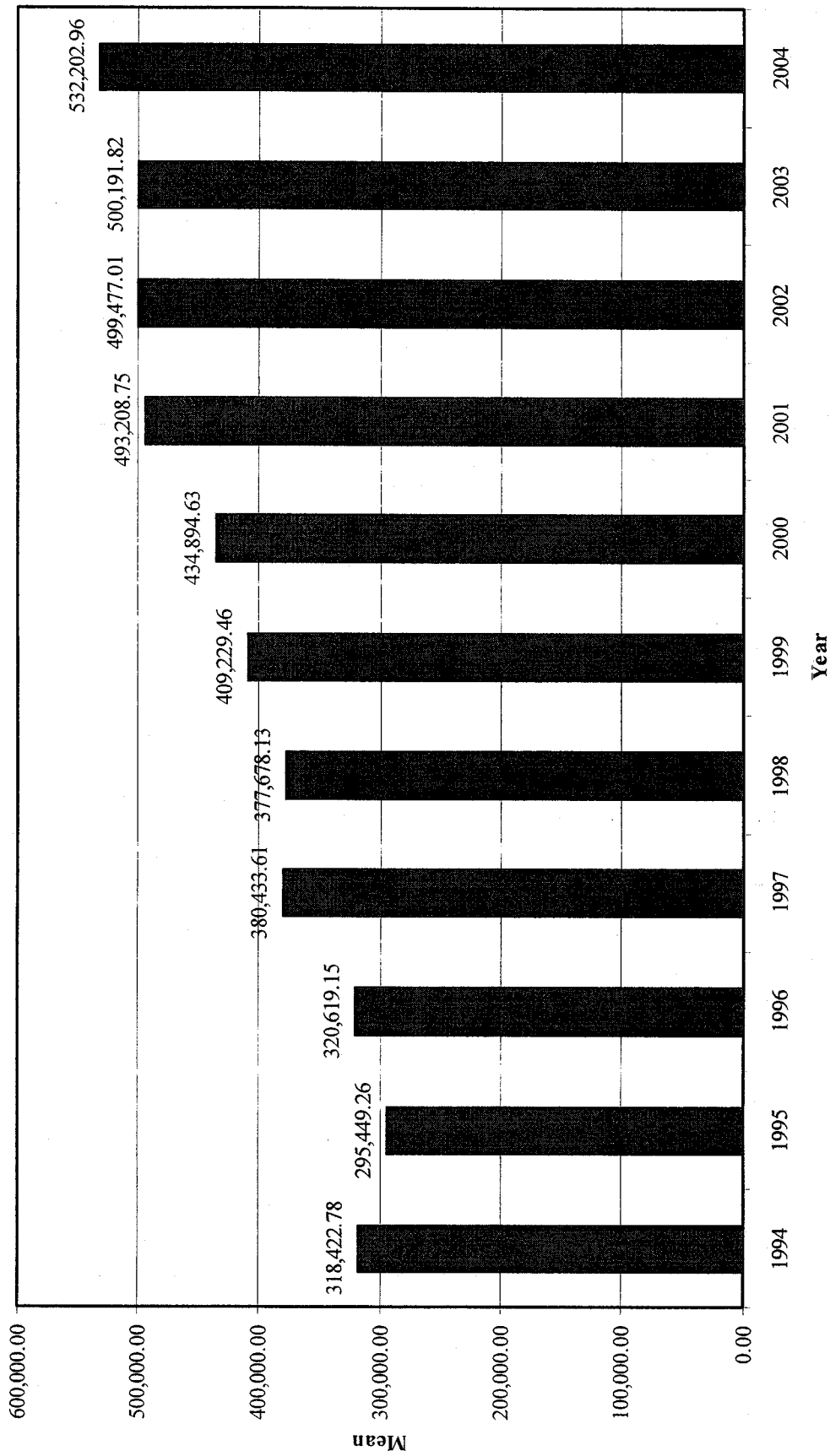
Fig. 10. Total Receipts Means: 1994-2004.
(adjusted for inflation)
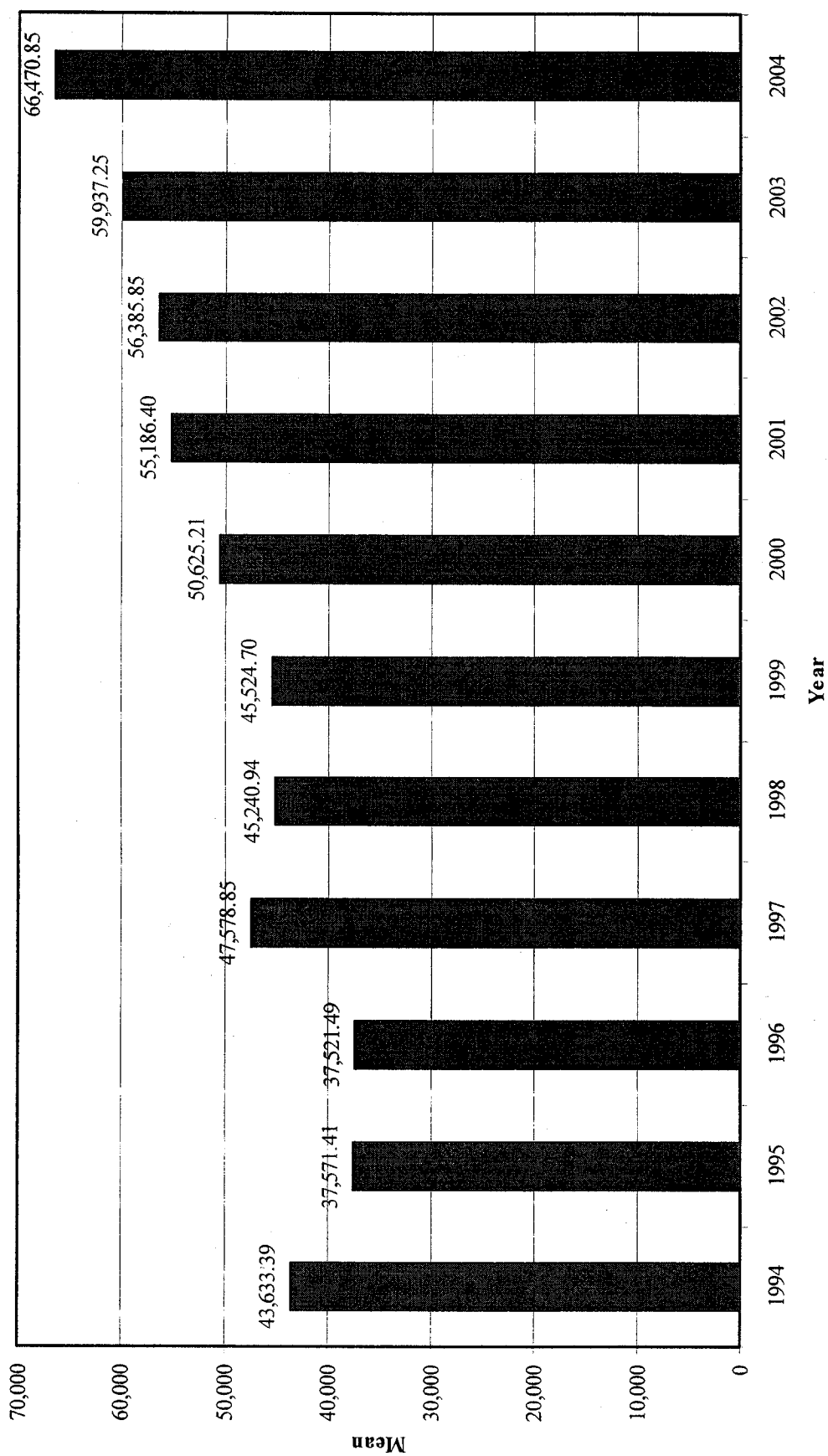
Fig. 11. Total Mission Expenditures Means: 1994-2004.
(adjusted for inflation)

sponsor church generally was reported in this variable, but not necessarily so. The range was $0.00 to $3,083,414.00. The mean was $46,515.47, and the standard deviation was $151,650.555.

Sunday School Enrollment

Sunday School Enrollment referred to the total number of all persons enrolled in ongoing Sunday School ministry or any similar strategy involving ongoing, open Bible study groups. The range for Sunday School Enrollment was 0 to 14,354. The mean was 395.83, and the standard deviation was 951.608.

Year Church Was Organized

Churches of all ages were involved in sponsoring a church plant. The oldest church to sponsor a church plant was organized in 1769. The newest church was organized in 1994. The mode for this variable was 1952.

Ethnicity

The ethnicity of the sponsor church was also various. A majority of the sponsor churches were White, Non-Hispanic. However, there were numerous ethnic congregations represented as sponsor churches. The ethnic congregations included African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, Haitian, and Middle Eastern. A small percentage of Multi-Ethnic congregations were also sponsor churches. Also, while not a specific ethnicity per se,
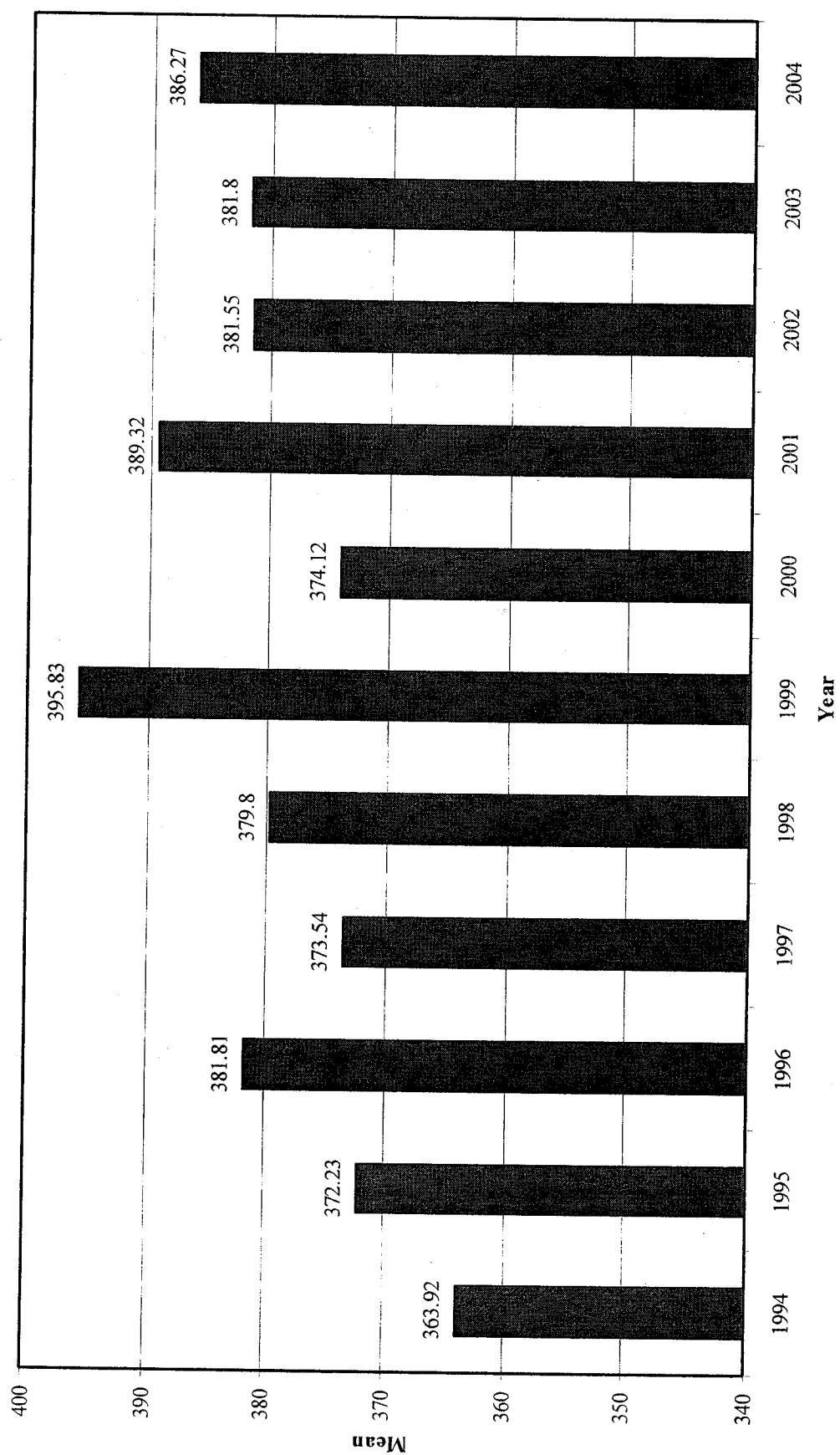
Fig. 12. Sunday School Enrollment Means: 1994-2004.
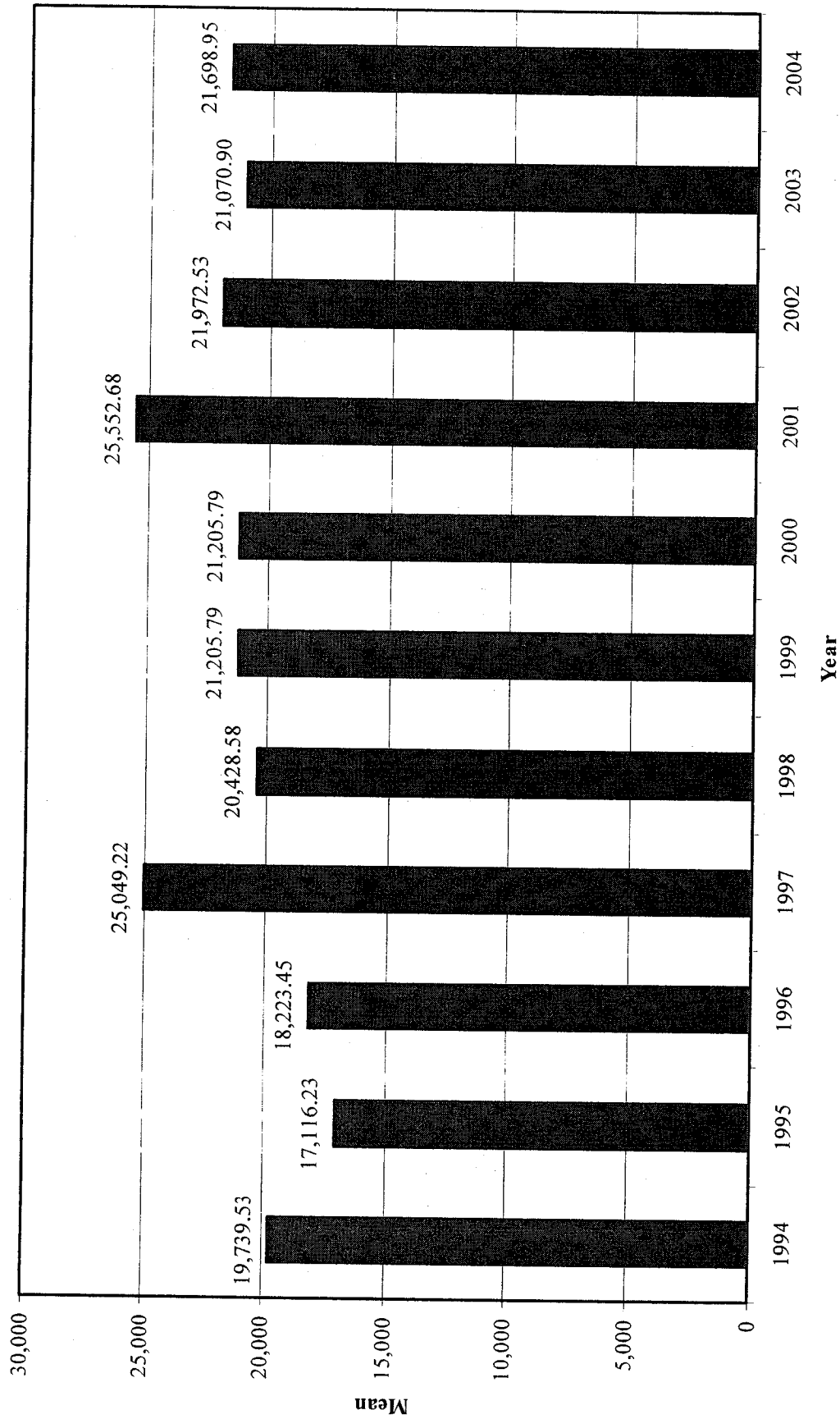
Fig. 13. Cooperative Program Gifts Means: 1994-2004.
(adjusted for inflation. variable was not reported in 1999 or 2000, Mean substitution was utilized for this chart.)

58
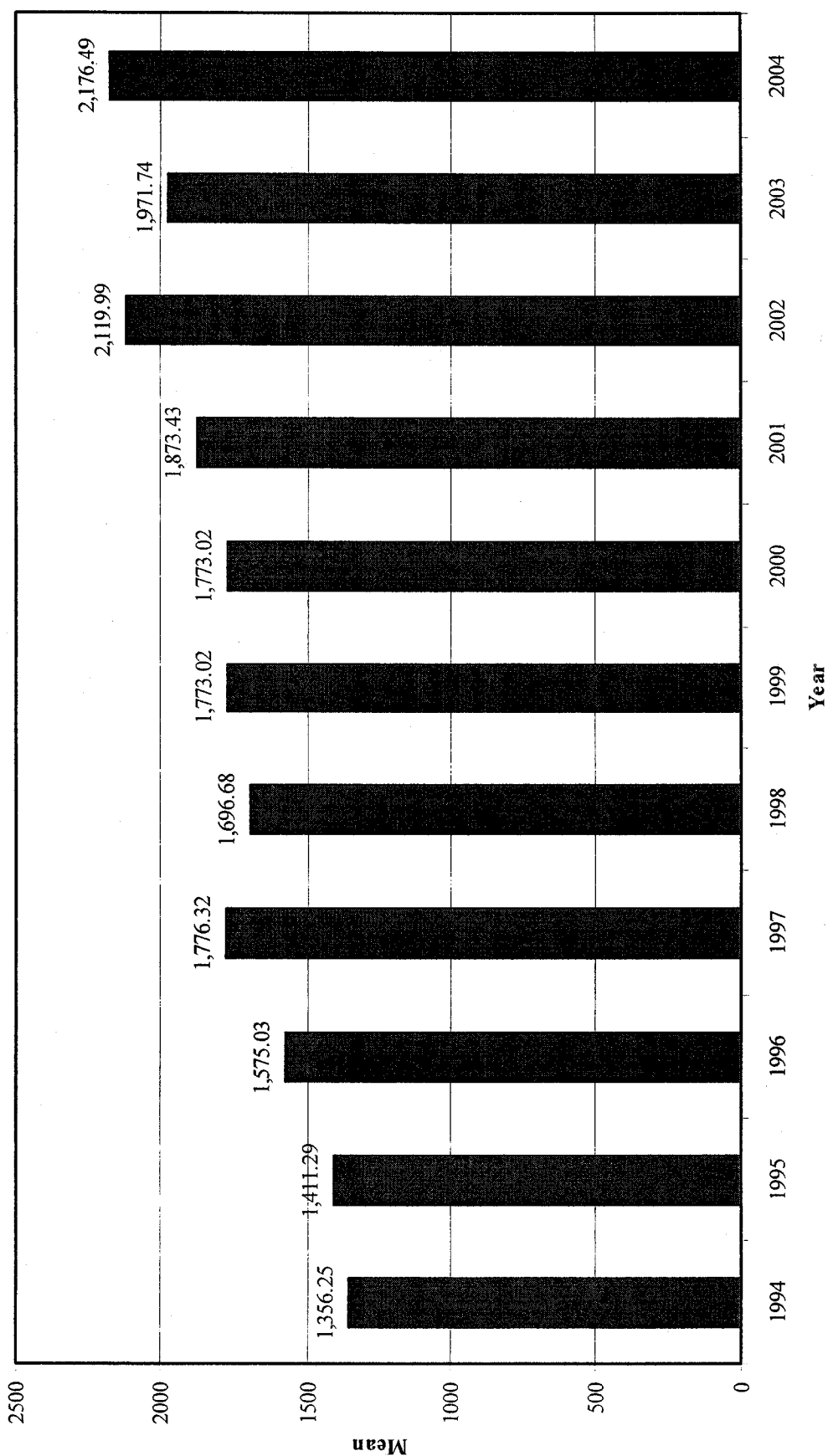
Fig. 14. Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Means: 1994-2004.
(adjusted for inflation., variable was not reported in 1999 or 2000, Mean substitution was utilized for this chart.)
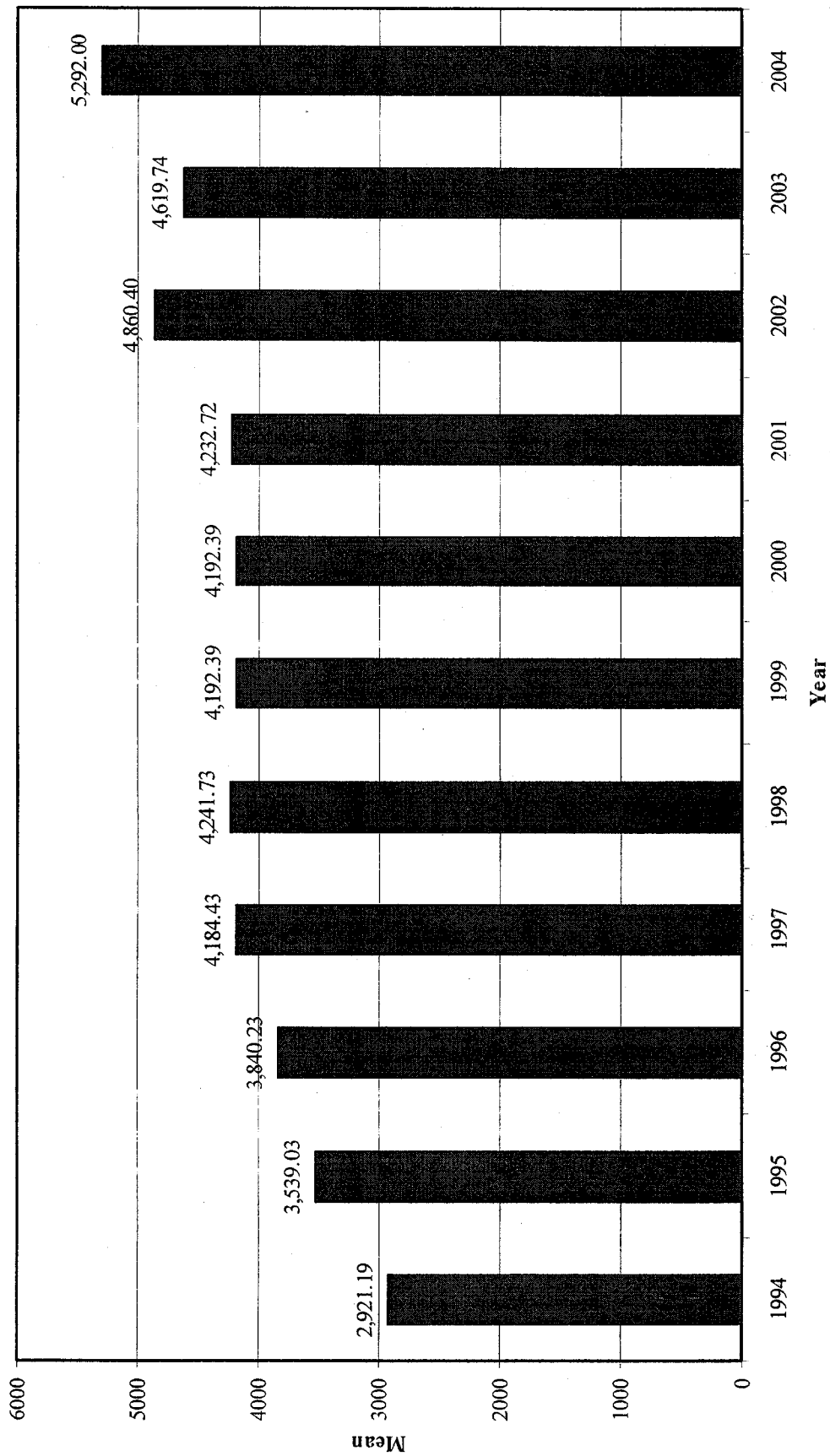
Fig. 15. Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Means: 1994-2004.
(adjusted for inflation. variable was not reported in 1999 or 2000, Mean substitution was utilized for this chart.)

deaf congregations were a part of the ACP ethnicity category, and also among those who sponsored a new church plant (see table 9 for a frequency distribution of sponsor church ethnicity).

Paired Samples *t Test*

Tests of Assumptions

Box plots for each variable were used to identify outliers. Variables found to contain outliers were examined case by case. The church was identified, and the researcher contacted the church in order to confirm the numbers. The data were either corrected, confirmed, or adjusted by mean substitution, as with missing data.

Normality plots and Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests for normality were conducted for each variable. All variables were found to be normal. Therefore, the assumption was that the paired samples *t tests* would provide valid results.

The Analysis

Paired samples *t tests* were conducted on the fifteen variables utilized in the study to determine whether to accept or reject the first hypothesis ($\alpha = 0.05$). The first hypothesis stated, "Significant differences existed between church growth variables for the five years before the year of plant and the five years after the church plant sponsorship." The following results were recorded (see table 10 for the results).

Table 9. Frequency Distribution of Sponsor Church Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
White Non-Hispanic	539	86.4	86.4	86.4
African American	29	4.6	4.6	91.0
Hispanic	20	3.2	3.2	94.2
Native American (American Indian or Eskimo)	9	1.4	1.4	95.7
Chinese	3	.5	.5	96.2
Japanese	2	.3	.3	96.5
Korean	6	1.0	1.0	97.4
Filipino	5	.8	.8	98.2
Vietnamese	1	.2	.2	98.4
Deaf	1	.2	.2	98.6
Haitian	2	.3	.3	98.9
Middle Eastern	2	.3	.3	99.2
Multi-Ethnic	4	.6	.6	99.8
None of the Above categories adequately fits	1	.2	.2	100.0
Total	624	100.0	100.0	

Total Baptisms

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Total

Baptisms before the Plant and Total Baptisms after the Plant (H_0: TBAPTBPAG =

TBAPTAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist between the

means (H_1: TBAPTBPAG ≠ TBAPTAPAG). The t statistic obtained (t = -0.796) was

outside the critical region ($t_{crit.}$ = ± 1.960). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted.

The total baptisms before and after the plant year were not significantly different, t(623) =

-0.796, p = 0.426, two tails.

Sunday School Enrollment

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Sunday

School Enrollment before the Plant and Sunday School Enrollment after the Plant (H_0:

SSENRBPAG = SSENRAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist

between the means (H_1: SSENRBPAG ≠ SSENRAPAG). The t statistic obtained (t =

0.949) was outside the critical region ($t_{crit.}$ = ± 1.960). Therefore, the null hypothesis was

accepted. The Sunday School enrollments before and after the plant year were not

significantly different, t(623) = 0.949, p = 0.343, two tails.

Other Additions

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Other

Additions before the Plant and Other Additions after the Plant (H_0: OTHADDBPAG =

OTHADDAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist (H_1:

OTHADDBPAG ≠ OTHADDAPAG). The t statistic obtained (t = -1.842) was outside

the critical region ($t_{crit.} = \pm 1.960$). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted. The other additions before and after the plant year were not significantly different, t(622) = -1.842., p = 0.066, two tails.

Total Membership

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Total Membership before the Plant and Total Membership after the Plant (H_0: TOTMEMBPAG = TOTMEMAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist (H_1: TOTMEMBPAG $\neq$ TOTMEMAPAG). The *t* statistic obtained (t = -1.887) was outside the critical region ($t_{crit.} = \pm 1.960$). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted. The total membership before and after the plant year were not significantly different, t(623) = -1.887, p = 0.060, two tails.

Average Sunday School Attendance

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Average Sunday School Attendance before the Plant and Average Sunday School Attendance after the Plant (H_0: AVGSSBPAG = AVGSSAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist (H_1: AVGSSBPAG $\neq$ AVGSSAPAG). The *t* statistic obtained (t = -0.694) was outside the critical region ($t_{crit.} = \pm 1.960$). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted. The average Sunday School attendance before and after the plant year were not significantly different, t(623) = -0.694, p = 0.488, two tails.

Total Receipts

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Total

Receipts before the Plant and Total Receipts after the Plant (H_0: TRCPTSIBPAG =

TRCPTSIAPAG).[1] The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist (H_1:

TRCPTSIBPAG ≠ TRCPTSIAPAG). The *t* statistic obtained (t = -5.889.) was within the

critical region ($t_{crit.}$ = ± 1.960). Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. The total

receipts before and after the plant year were significantly different, t(623) = -5.889, p =

0.000, two tails.

Undesignated Gifts

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of

Undesignated Gifts before the Plant and Undesignated Gifts after the Plant (H_0:

UNDGFTIBPAG = UNDGFTIAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference

does exist (H_1: UNDGFTIBPAG ≠ UNDGFTIAPAG). The *t* statistic obtained (t = -

5.343) was within the critical region ($t_{crit.}$ = ± 1.960). Therefore, the null hypothesis was

rejected. The undesignated gifts before and after the plant year were significantly

different, t(622) = -5.343, p = 0.000, two tails.

Designated Gifts

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of

Designated Gifts before the Plant and Designated Gifts after the Plant (H_0:

DESGFTIBPAG = DESGFTIAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does

---

[1]All monetary variables were adjusted for inflation.

exist (H_1: DESGFTIBPAG ≠ DESGFTIAPAG). The *t* statistic obtained (t = -5.050) was within the critical region ($t_{crit.}$ = ± 1.960). Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. The designated gifts before and after the plant year were significantly different, t(622) = -5.05, p = 0.000, two tails.

Total Mission Expenditures

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Total Mission Expenditures before the Plant and Total Mission Expenditures after the Plant (H_0: TMEIBPAG = TMEIAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist (H_1: TMEIBPAG ≠ TMEIAPAG). The *t* statistic obtained (t = -3.435) was within the critical region ($t_{crit.}$ = ± 1.960). Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. The total mission expenditures before and after the plant year were significantly different, t(623) = -3.435, p = 0.001, two tails.

Cooperative Program

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Cooperative Program before the Plant and Cooperative Program after the Plant (H_0: COOPIBPAG = COOPIAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist (H_1: COOPIBPAG ≠ COOPIAPAG). The *t* statistic obtained (t = -1.194) was outside the critical region ($t_{crit.}$ = ± 1.960). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted. The Cooperative Program gifts before and after the plant year were not significantly different, t(623) = -1.194, p = 0.233, two tails.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Annie Armstrong Easter Offering before the Plant and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering after the Plant (H_0: AAEOIBPAG = AAEOIAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist (H_1: AAEOIBPAG $\neq$ AAEOIAPAG). The t statistic obtained (t = -4.234) was within the critical region ($t_{crit.} = \pm 1.960$). Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings before and after the plant year were significantly different, $t(623) = -4.234$, $p = 0.000$, two tails.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Lottie Moon Christmas Offering before the Plant and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering after the Plant (H_0: LMCOIBPAG = LMCOIAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist (H_1: LMCOIBPAG $\neq$ LMCOIAPAG). The t statistic obtained (t = -4.073) was within the critical region ($t_{crit.} = \pm 1.960$). Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings before and after the plant year were significantly different, $t(623) = -4.073$, $p = 0.000$, two tails.

AM Worship

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of AM Worship before the Plant and AM Worship after the Plant (H_0: AMWORBPAG = AMWORAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist (H_1: AMWORBPAG $\neq$ AMWORAPAG). The t statistic obtained (t = -5.599) was within the

critical region ($t_{crit.} = \pm 1.960$). Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. The AM Worship attendances before and after the plant year were significantly different, $t(623) = -5.599$, $p = 0.000$, two tails.

Adjusted Resident Membership

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Adjusted Resident Membership before the Plant and Adjusted Resident Membership after the Plant (H_0: RMADJBPAG = RMADJAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist (H_1: RMADJBPAG $\neq$ RMADJAPAG). The t statistic obtained ($t = -1.176$) was outside the critical region ($t_{crit.} = \pm 1.960$). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted. The Adjusted Resident Membership before and after the plant year were not significantly different, $t(623) = -1.176$, $p = 0.240$, two tails.

Tithes

The null hypothesis was that no difference exists between the means of Tithes before the Plant and Tithes after the Plant (H_0: TITHESIBPAG = TITHESIAPAG). The alternate hypothesis was that a difference does exist (H_1: TITHESIBPAG $\neq$ TITHESIAPAG). The t statistic obtained ($t = -5.873$) was within the critical region ($t_{crit.} = \pm 1.960$). Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. The tithes before and after the plant year were significantly different, $t(623) = -5.873$, $p = 0.000$, two tails.

Table 10. Paired Samples *t test*

Variable	Before Plant Mean	After Plant Mean	t	Degrees of Freedom	Significance
TBAPT	103.48	107.25	-0.796	623	0.426
SSENR	1,871.30	1,913.06	0.949	623	0.343
OTHADD	115.97	107.19	-1.842	622	0.066
TOTMEM	3,293.93	3,435.17	-1.887	623	0.060
AVGSS	869.28	1,130.94	-0.694	623	0.488
TRCPTS	**1,692,603**	**2,459,975**	**-5.859**	**623**	**0.000**
UNDGFT	**1,241,379**	**1,751,147**	**-5.343**	**622**	**0.000**
DESGFT	**315,105.4**	**558,868.8**	**-5.050**	**623**	**0.000**
TME	**211,546.1**	**288,605.6**	**-3.435**	**623**	**0.001**
COOP	80,817.49	90,295.07	-1.194	623	0.233
AAEO	**6,459.32**	**8,141.66**	**-4.234**	**623**	**0.000**
LMCO	**15,805.41**	**19,004.87**	**-4.073**	**623**	**0.000**
AMWOR	**1,094.64**	**1,330.05**	**-5.599**	**623**	**0.000**
RMADJ	2,455.59	2,542.98	-1.176	623	0.240
TITHES	**1,554,869**	**2,307,391**	**-5.873**	**623**	**0.000**

Bold print denotes significant variables.

Comparative Analysis

Tests of Assumptions

As stated in chapter 2, the assumptions for the *z scores* were the same as for the

t tests. In the section above, the assumptions of normality and independence were shown

to have been satisfied. The additional *z score* assumption of random sampling was shown

to have been satisfied in chapter 2 by virtue of the fact that the sample group was

comprised of the population of sponsor churches for 1999.

The Analysis

In order to test the second null hypothesis, which stated that the variables would

be equally affected by the sponsorship of a church plant (H_0: TRCPTS = UNDGFT =

DESGFT = TME = AAEO = LMCO = AMWOR = TITHES), the researcher calculated

the percent change of the variables found to have been significant in the paired samples

t test. Next, the researcher converted the variables to *z scores* and then calculated the

percent change.[2] The variables examined were Total Receipts, Undesignated Gifts,

Designated Gifts, Total Mission Expenditures, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Lottie

Moon Christmas Offering, AM Worship, and Tithes. The alternate hypothesis was that

the variables would not be equally affected by the sponsorship of a church plant (H_1:

TRCPTS ≠ UNDGFT ≠ DESGFT ≠ TME ≠ AAEO ≠ LMCO ≠ AMWOR ≠ TITHES).

As evidenced in table 11, the variables were not affected equally; therefore, the

null hypothesis was rejected. Table 12 showed the significant variables in the order of

---

[2]Percent change and z scores are two methods for comparison across disparate
variables. While essentially the same, both are included for the sake of thoroughness.

most effected to least effected. The most significant variable, DESGFT, was used for the third hypothesis test.

Analysis of Variance

Tests of Assumptions

In addition to the assumptions met in the preceding sections, normality and independence, the ANOVA had a third assumption of homogeneity of variances. The Levene test was used to verify homogeneity of variances. The assumption of homogeneity of variances was met based on the Levene test.

The Analysis

The third hypothesis was tested by means of a one-way ANOVA. The null hypothesis was that proximity of the church plant to the sponsor church played no part in the effect on the sponsor church. The alternate hypothesis was that the location of the church plant would impact the effect on the significant variables. Table 13 presents the results of the test ($\alpha = 0.05$).

The Analysis of Variance revealed a significant difference between groups, $F(5, 291) = 2.645$, $p = 0.023$. A Tukey B post hoc test revealed that a difference between treatments (see table 14). Specifically, two subsets existed for proximity. The first subset consisted of Different City, Different Country, Same Community, Same Building, and Different Community/Same City. The second subset consisted of Different State.

Table 11. Percent Change of Significant Variables

Variable	Percent Change	*z score* Percent Change
TRCPTS	45.34	45.34
UNDGFT	41.07	41.22
DESGFT	77.36	77.36
TME	36.43	36.43
AAEO	26.05	26.05
LMCO	20.24	20.24
AMWOR	21.51	21.51
TITHES	48.4	48.4

Table 12. Percent Change of Significant Variables in Descending Order

Variable	Percent Change	*z score* Percent Change
DESGFT	77.36	77.36
TITHES	48.4	48.4
TRCPTS	45.34	45.34
UNDGFT	41.07	41.22
TME	36.43	36.43
AAEO	26.05	26.05
AMWOR	21.51	21.51
LMCO	20.24	20.24

An examination of the results of the Bonferoni Post hoc tests revealed that the

only significant difference was found among subset 2, Different State (see table 15).

Further examination of this treatment revealed that there were only four churches in this

group. The difference between the sample size for Different State and the other

treatments would not allow for a homogeneous variance. Therefore, excluding the

treatment Different State no significant differences were found between groups. The

researcher, then, could not reject the null hypothesis.

Table 13. One-Way ANOVA Test of Proximity

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	8,870,703,053,268.870	5	1774140610653.774	2.645	.023
Within Groups	195,205,557,185,464.900	291	670809474864.141		
Total	204,076,260,238,733.800	296			

Table 14. Tukey B Post Hoc Test

	Proximity of Church Plant to the Sponsor Church	N	Subset for alpha = .05	
			1	2
Tukey B(a,b)	Different City	100	365,108.9543	
	Different Country	12	444,549.0481	
	Same Community	28	539,923.6477	
	Same Building	91	554,847.8650	
	Different Community/Same City	62	660,307.1101	
	Different State	4		164.4951.4590

Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.

a Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 14.772.

b The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.

Table 15: Bonferroni Equation

Dependent Variable: DESGFTIAPAG

(I) Proximity of Church Plant to the Sponsor Church	(J) Proximity of Church Plant to the Sponsor Church	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Same Building	Same Community	97,120.799	468955.35846	1.000	-1290581.3052	1484822.9033
	Different Comty./Same City	-449,678.766	353665.10173	1.000	-1496221.4633	596863.9318
	Different City	73,402.506	312406.94099	1.000	-851051.7341	997856.7454
	Different State	-5,832,024.650*	997747.757	0.000	-8784494.7244	-2879554.5748
	Different Country	192,495.399	666877.31120	1.000	-1780884.4366	2165875.2339
Same Community	Same Building	-97,120.799	468955.35846	1.000	-1484822.9033	1290581.3052
	Different Comty./Same City	-546,799.565	492310.07089	1.000	-2003611.4105	910012.2809
	Different City	-23,718.293	463560.45830	1.000	-1395456.1611	1348019.5742
	Different State	-5,929,145.449*	1054888.994	0.000	-9050704.1425	-2807586.7550
	Different Country	95,374.600	749676.96371	1.000	-2123020.5660	2313769.7651
Different Comty./ Same City	Same Building	-449,678.766	353665.10173	1.000	-596863.9318	1496221.4633
	Same Community	-546,799.565	492310.07089	1.000	-910012.2809	2003611.4105
	Different City	523,081.271	346479.68837	1.000	-502198.8197	1548361.3624
	Different State	-5,382,345.884*	1008935.412	0.000	-8367921.7356	-2396770.0322
	Different Country	642,174.164	683502.32324	1.000	-1380401.3220	2664749.6507

Table 15: Bonferroni Equation

Dependent Variable: DESGFTIAPAG

(I) Proximity of Church Plant to the Sponsor Church	(J) Proximity of Church Plant to the Sponsor Church	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Different City	Same Building	-73,402.506	312406.94099	1.000	-997856.7454	851051.7341
	Same Community	23,718.293	463560.45830	1.000	-1348019.5742	1395456.1611
	Different Comty./Same City	-523,081.271	346479.68837	1.000	-1548361.3624	502198.8197
	Different State	-5,905,427.155*	995223.47108	0.000	-8850427.527	-2960426.7835
	Different Country	119,092.893	663094.65272	1.000	-1843093.546	2081279.3321
Different State	Same Building	5,832,024.650*	997747.75726	0.000	2879554.575	8784494.7244
	Same Community	5,929,145.449*	1054888.994	0.000	2807586.755	9050704.1425
	Different Comty./Same City	5,382,345.884*	1008935.412	0.000	2396770.032	8367921.7356
	Different City	5,905,427.155*	995223.471	0.000	2960426.783	8850427.5270
	Different Country	6,024,520.048*	1156545.290	0.000	2602146.673	9446893.4240
Different Country	Same Building	-192,495.399	666877.311	1.000	-2165875.234	1780884.4366
	Same Community	-95,374.600	749676.964	1.000	-2313769.765	2123020.5660
	Different Comty./Same City	-642,174.164	683502.323	1.000	-2664749.651	1380401.3220
	Different City	-119,092.893	663094.653	1.000	-2081279.332	1843093.5460
	Different State	-6,024,520.048*	1156545.290	0.000	-9446893.424	-2602146.6726

* The mean difference is significant at .05 level.

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS, CONCLUSIONS, AND CONTINUING RESEARCH

The purpose of the study was to determine whether or not the sponsorship of a

new church plant had an impact on selected church growth variables in the sponsoring

churches. The study involved SBC churches which reported sponsoring a new church-

type mission (church plant) in 1999. The study was conducted between May 2007 and

August 2007.

Summary of the Design

The study utilized institutional data reported annually for the years 1994-2004, as

well as data for one variable from a NAMB Church Sponsorship survey. The data was

accessed from the ACP databases and the Church Sponsorship Survey provided by the

Center for Missional Research, NAMB. The survey instrument was mailed to selected

churches (753) in the Southern Baptist Convention. The single variable taken from the

survey dealt with the proximity of the church plant to the sponsor church.

A total of 624 churches were utilized in the study. Fifteen growth variables were

identified and compiled for an eleven-year period (1994-2004). The variables included

Total Baptisms, Other Additions, Total Membership, Sunday School Enrollment,

Average Sunday School Attendance, Total Receipts, Undesignated Gifts, Designated

77

Gifts, Cooperative Program Giving, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering, AM Worship Attendance, Adjusted Resident Membership, Total

Missions Expenditures, and Tithes. The variables were aggregated into two time periods:

before church plant (1994-1998) and after church plant (2000-2004). All monetary

variables were adjusted for inflation. Paired samples *t tests* were conducted for each

variable, and eight variables were found to have been significantly affected.

The means of the eight variables were standardized in order that they might be

compared with each other to determine the variable most affected. Designated gifts were

found to have increased by 77.4%. This variable then was used as the dependent variable

in a one-way ANOVA to determine whether proximity of the church plant to the sponsor

church was a factor. Designated Gifts was utilized because it was the variable that was

impacted to the greatest degree. As such, it was the best indicator of the effect of

proximity of the church plant on the sponsor church.

Summary of the Results

An examination of the data revealed the following:

Hypothesis one stated that significant differences existed between church growth

variables for the five years before the year of plant and the five years after the church

plant sponsorship. Hypothesis one was accepted for eight of the fifteen growth variables

examined. These variables were Total Receipts, Undesignated Gifts, Designated Gifts,

Total Missions Expenditures, Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings, Lottie Moon Christmas

Offerings, AM Worship, and Tithes.

Hypothesis two stated that some church growth variables were impacted to a greater degree than others due to the sponsoring of a church plant. Hypothesis two was accepted. After converting the means of the eight variables discovered via the paired samples *t tests* to standardized scores, the percent change was examined and designated gifts were found to have been impacted the greatest at 77.4%.

Hypothesis three stated that the proximity of the church plant had no effect on the sponsor church. This hypothesis was accepted. The ANOVA test did not reveal a significant difference between the factors. Location of the church plant had no effect on the sponsor church.[1]

Conclusions

Does sponsoring a church plant have an impact on a church? If so, does it positively or negatively affect the church? This research project found that the sponsor church was positively impacted in eight growth variables. These variables were categorized into two types: monetary variables and worship attendance.

Monetary Variables

Seven growth variables dealt specifically with the finances of the sponsor church. Of the fifteen variables examined, eight were monetary variables, and seven of these variables were affected positively by the sponsorship of a church plant. The single variable which did not show a significant difference before and after the church plant was

---

[1]A preliminary ANOVA study of proximity utilizing AM Worship as the dependent variable supported the findings of the ANOVA with Designated Gifts as the dependent variable. See appendix F for test results.

Cooperative Program gifts. Designated gifts experienced the greatest percentage increase (77.4%). Tithes were the second greatest percent increase (48.4%).[2]

Worship Attendance

Of the fifteen variables examined, seven variables dealt with people (i.e., membership and attendance). Only one of these variables was found to be significantly different after the church plant year -- worship attendance. Worship attendance increased by 21.5% for the five years after the church plant. This finding was a surprise. Conventional logic would suggest that worship attendance would decrease after the sponsorship of a church plant due to worship attenders moving to the new church plant.

Implications

A significant implication was that the variables impacted by church plant sponsorship were primarily financial in nature. Designated gifts showed the greatest increase potentially due to the financial obligation of the sponsor church to the church plant. However, an attitude of mission giving seemed to be fostered through the sponsorship relationship. Both Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings and Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings increased for the five years after the church plant.

An objection to sponsoring a church plant has been that the church did not have enough money to do so. The findings of this study suggests this objection has little merit.

---

[2]The suggestion that the SBC becoming a more affluent denomination as a factor in the increases of the monetary variables does not account for the rate of increase. A ten year period does not allow for affluency rates to increase at the rate that was noted in this study.

Not only did the church members give more to the sponsor churches, they gave significantly more. Designated Gifts increased 77.4%. Tithes and offerings increased 48.4%. Giving to missions via Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings and Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings increased by 26.05% and 20.24% respectively. Christians are more than willing to give sacrificially; however, they must be given the opportunity and the vision. Pastors must provide that opportunity and share the vision.

A second objection to sponsoring a church plant is that the church cannot afford to give up any members. Worship attendance significantly increased for the five years after the sponsorship of the church plant even though membership and Sunday School attendance did not increase significantly. The only variable that reflected a decrease for the entire sample was Other Additions. It seems that sponsorship of a church plant does not hurt a church's membership (even if it is not readily apparent that it helps the church's membership).

A third objection to sponsoring a church plant dealt more with the location of the church plant. Pastors often are concerned that a church plant in the immediate area will draw away members and prospects for their church. Though numerous solutions are available to answer this objection (i.e., seating capacity for any one church prohibits the entire community from attending any one church, prospects respond more readily to a church with similar demographic profiles, etc.), this study found that proximity did not appear to have a significant impact on the sponsor church.

In light of the findings of this research project, churches ought to sponsor church plants. Apparently the sponsoring of church plants creates an interest in missions in the

local church. This study showed that the members of the sponsor churches increased

financial support of missions and more people attended the worship services. The

researcher believes that a mission-focused atmosphere in the church aids the members to

be more receptive to the Holy Spirit, which allows the members to see their community

from a kingdom perspective rather than a parochial perspective.

Suggestions for Future Study

In the course of this study, several areas were noted that require additional study.

First, a more thorough examination of the role that church size plays in the effect of

church planting sponsorship on the sponsor church should be undertaken. An objection

that many church planters hear from pastors of smaller churches is that they are not large

enough to sponsor a church plant. While this study noted that churches of all sizes

sponsored a church plant and showed significant growth in eight of the fifteen growth

variables (and growth in six of the remaining seven growth variables even though the

growth was not statistically significant), further study of the sponsorship of church plants

by the size of the sponsor church would provide valuable information. A preliminary

examination revealed that some differences existed. However, for each church size,

proximity of the church plant to the sponsor church had no effect on the sponsor church.[3]

Second, additional research on the type of sponsorship would be beneficial.

Though the information was not available for this study, the researcher anticipated that

the type of sponsorship resembled the variables affected by the sponsorship of a church

---

[3]See appendix G for a description of the findings in the preliminary study of
church size.

plant. Anecdotally, many of the sponsor churches in the NAMB Church Sponsorship study described the nature of the sponsorship relationship to be primarily financial. The sponsor churches provided some funding and often a meeting location for the church plant. The indication is that God blesses the sponsor church in the same areas the sponsor church is giving sacrificially. Future study may support this hypothesis.

Third, several variables which did not show a significant difference for the five years after the sponsorship of a church plant had experienced a decrease in the fourth and/or fifth year. Study of the effect of sponsorship for a shorter period of three years may reflect more significant variables. Often the fervor involved with missions will fade over time. A study of a three-year period may show that sponsor churches would benefit from sponsoring a church plant every three to four years.

Fourth, an examination of the ethnicity of the sponsor church and the church plant would be interesting to note as the SBC continues to reach more and more ethnic groups. Can a denomination that is predominantly white reach a growing number of ethnic groups? Does ethnicity of the sponsor church affect the success of the church plant? Or, does the ethnicity of the church plant have an impact on the sponsor church?

Fifth, in order to isolate the impact of sponsorship in the growth of a church, certain institutional and contextual factors should be examined. Examples of institutional factors include the evangelistic emphasis of the church, the preaching style, and strictness. Examples of contextual factors include geographic location (urban, suburban, and rural) and the population growth of the community.

APPENDIX A

NAMB SPONSORSHIP STUDY, PASTOR'S LETTER

March 13, 2006

Dear Pastor:

Let me introduce myself. I am Jeffrey C. Farmer, a researcher with the North American Mission Board and a doctoral student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. I am conducting a study on the effects of sponsoring a new church plant on the sponsor church. This study is both a NAMB project and a dissertation. I need your help.

Based on the 1999 Annual Church Profile, your church sponsored a church plant in 1999. I realize that this occurred seven years ago, but it is very important that I verify certain information. Please take five minutes of your time to complete the enclosed survey. The information I am asking for is not personal. It is about your church's ministry. If you were not present in 1999 it would be perfectly acceptable to identify a church leader who is familiar with the decision to sponsor a church plant.

Upon completion of this survey please mail it in the self-addressed, stamped envelope. **Please return surveys by March 31, 2006.**

For questions, I can be reached at:

Phone: 678-682-9256
Mobile: 770-265-7178
Email: jeffreycfarmer@yahoo.com

Thank you for your participation.

Jeffrey C. Farmer

[85]

APPENDIX B

NAMB SPONSORSHIP SURVEY

Church Sponsorship Survey

Name of Sponsor Church: _____

Name of Church Plant: _____

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability:

1.   What was the targeted ethnic group of the church plant?

2.   Did the church plant constitute as an autonomous congregation?

3.   How far from the sponsor church was the church plant? (Check One)

_____ Same Building   _____ Same Community   _____ Different Community/Same
City

_____ Different City   _____ Different State   _____ Different Country

4.   Has the sponsor church planted churches other than the one in 1999? If so, when?

5.   What church growth emphases has the sponsor church (your church) used since
       1999?

6.   If the sponsor church has grown since 1999, to what does the church attribute
       growth?

[87]

APPENDIX C

1999 ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE REPORT FORM

1999 ACP Survey Worksheet

Congregation:		Church/Mission:	SBC ID:

Mailing Address:

Street Address:

Cong. Phone:		Sponsor Name:	
Cong. Fax:			
Email Addr:			
County:			

Member Information

1. Total Memb:
2. Res Memb:
3. Total Baptism:
   a. Under 6:
   b. 6 to 8:
   c. 9 to 11:
   d. 12 to 17:
   e. 18 to 29:
   f. 30 to 59:
   g. 60 and Up:
4. Other Additions:
5. AM Worship Att:
6. Ch-Type Msn Started:
7. Ch-Type Msn Operating:

Bible Study

8. Total SS:
   a. Preschool (B-5):
   b. Children (6-11):
   c. Youth (12-17):
   d. 18 to 24:
   e. 25 to 34:
   f. 35 to 54:
   g. 55 and up:
   h. General Off:
   i. Other Bible Stdy:
9. Avg Attend:

Other Program Information

10. Total Ong. DT:
11. Total Short-Term:
12. Total MM:
13. Total WMU:
14. Total Men and Boys Mission Education (formerly Brotherhood):

Financial Information

15. Total Receipts: .00
16. Undesignated: .00
17. Designated: .00
18. Total Mission Exp: .00
19. Value Cong Prop: .00
20. Congregational Debt: .00

Return To:

ACP Contact:

Mail Address:

ACP Due Date:

[89]

APPENDIX D

1999 ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE INSTRUCTIONS

1999 ITEM DEFINITIONS

1. Total members should be total of both Resident and Nonresident Members. Do NOT include in Items 1-2 persons who are members of church-type missions sponsored by your congregation. (These should appear on the ACP completed by the church-type mission.)

2. Resident members are those members who live close enough to your congregation to attend.

3. Total number of baptisms during the 1998-99 associational year. (Add Items 3a through 3g.)
   a. 5 years and under   c. 9-11 years of age   e. 18-29 years of age   g. 60 and over
   b. 6-8 years of age   d. 12-17 years of age   f. 30-59 years of age

4. Number who became members of your congregation during the year by ways other than baptism (transfer, statement, etc.)

5. Average number in Sunday morning (or primary) worship service(s). If not kept, give figure for last Sunday of associational year.

6. Number church-type missions your congregation started during year (and your congregation is chief sponsor).

7. Number church-type missions still active for which your congregation is chief sponsor (include those from Item 6 as appropriate).

8. Total number of all persons enrolled in ongoing Sunday School ministry or any similar strategy involving ongoing, open Bible study groups. This is total of Items 8a-8i. Include all Sunday School leaders. Count persons only once in total enrollment (8a-8i).
   a. Birth-Kindergarten. Include leaders and any home visitation ministries to preschoolers, such as First Contact, Cradle Roll, etc.
   b. Number 6-11/grades 1-6. Include leaders.
   c. Number 12-17/grades 7-12. Include leaders.
   d. Number 18 yrs (HS graduation)-24 Include leaders and any ministry to adults (any age) who are away for extended periods.
   e. Number 25-34 years of age. Include leaders.
   f. Number 35-54 years of age. Include leaders.
   g. Number 55 and over. Include leaders and any ministry to homebound adults, such as SS Homebound program.
   h. Number SS general leaders including pastor/staff (not counted elsewhere).
   i. Number persons enrolled in other ongoing Bible study groups not included in Items 8a-8h). If an enrollment figure is not kept, give best estimate of number who attend on a regular basis.

9. Average number of persons attending Sunday School (Items 8a - 8i) during associational year.

10. Total number of all persons (preschool - adult) enrolled in ongoing/continuing Discipleship Training groups/activities. Include leaders and gen. off. Participation in short-term discipleship experiences is NOT included here, but should be counted in Item 11.

11. Total number of all participants (preschool - adult) who attended short-term Discipleship Training (DT) studies/activities outside of an ongoing DT group. Individual (personal) study and group training done any time during the week is to be included. Include persons who participated in discipleship studies for men, women, families, senior adults, single adults, and college students. Participation at any time during the year qualifies and individuals may be counted more than once (counted for each study in which they participated). Gen. Off. and ldrs not included in Item 10 should be included. DO NOT include ongoing enrollment here.

12. Total participants in Music Ministry. Include music director, church accompanists, all choir leaders, members and accompanists, age group coordinators, and leaders and members of all handbell, vocal, and instrumental groups. Persons may be counted more than once (counted for each group in which they participated).

13. Total number of WMU members and leaders enrolled. Include all age-level organizations.

14. Total number of all persons enrolled in mission education ministries for men and boys (Baptist Men, Challengers, Royal Ambassadors, and MissionKids (coed).

15. Total amount of money received by congregation. This amount should be the total of undesignated gifts, designated gifts, and other receipts (may be income from rentals, day school or kindergarten fees, savings, pastoral aid, parking fees, etc.).

16. Total amount of all undesignated gifts given by individuals. Undesignated receipts are gifts which the congregation decides how the money will be spent (by its budget or other means). This includes regular budget offerings and loose monies from collection plate.

17. Total amount of all designated gifts given by individuals for a specific use. Designated receipts are those gifts where the giver, not the congregation, decides how the money will be spent. Examples include special offerings designated to Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, state missions, building funds, debt retirement, or any other offering/gift designated for a specific use.

18. Total amount of undesignated and designated funds given to any/all mission causes (Southern Bapt. and other mission causes) by congregation. This includes monies given to: Southern Bapt. church-type missions; any associational, state convention, or Southern Bapt. Convention ministries (includes Cooperative Program); or any other Southern Baptist or non-Southern Baptist mission cause.

19. Total value of all property owned by the congregation. Include property owned by congregation for a pastor's home, a church-type mission, or any other property owned by congregation. Use realtor's current estimate of replacement value if possible.

20. Total amount of money that congregation owed at the end of associational year. Include monies owed for the purchase of congregational property, congregational furniture, mission property, pastor's home, or any other debt from monies borrowed.

[91]

APPENDIX E

FREQUENCIES AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
FOR THE SBC BY CHURCH SIZE

FREQUENCIES AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
FOR THE SBC BY CHURCH SIZE

Resident Membership Under 100 (N=15,105)

Variable	Sum	Mean	Median
Total Baptisms	52,257.00	3.46	2
Other Additions	49,087.00	3.25	1
Total Members	1,247,290.00	82.57	70
Total Sunday School Enrollment	653,761.00	43.28	37
Average Sunday School Attendance	401,658.00	26.59	23
Total Receipts	489,167,295.00	32,384.46	23,390
Undesignated Gifts	350,904,181.00	23,231.00	16,716
Designated Gifts	79,289,212.60	5,249.20	1,037
Total Mission Expenditures	48,201,699.90	3,191.11	1,250
Morning Worship Attendance	590,852.00	39.12	35
Adjusted Resident Membership	762,090.00	50.45	50
Tithes and Offerings	430,193,393.00	28,480.20	19,853

Resident Membership 100 to 199 (N=9,610)

Variable	Sum	Mean	Median
Total Baptisms	62,017.00	6.45	4.00
Other Additions	59,801.00	6.22	4.00
Total Members	2,053,669.00	213.70	195.00
Total Sunday School Enrollment	908,331.00	94.52	84.00
Average Sunday School Attendance	515,067.00	53.60	50.00
Total Receipts	738,585,845.00	76,855.97	63,872.00
Undesignated Gifts	568,138,882.00	59,119.55	51,685.00
Designated Gifts	123,569,009.00	12,858.38	6,040.5.00
Total Mission Expenditures	78,861,118.10	8,206.15	5,115.00
Morning Worship Attendance	736,862.00	76.68	70.00
Adjusted Resident Membership	1,384,610.00	144.08	142.00
Tithes and Offerings	691,707,891.00	71,977.93	60,677.50

93

Resident Membership 200 to 299 (N=5,379)

Variable	Sum	Mean	Median
Total Baptisms	49,295.00	9.16	7
Other Additions	48,405.00	8.99	6
Total Members	1,861,966.00	346.15	317
Total Sunday School Enrollment	802,069.00	149.11	138
Average Sunday School Attendance	437,926.00	81.41	77
Total Receipts	686,378,618.00	127,603.39	109,112
Undesignated Gifts	527,824,858.00	98,126.95	89,690
Designated Gifts	12,699,473.00	23,609.31	12,982
Total Mission Expenditures	7,521,0629.70	13,982.27	10,369
Morning Worship Attendance	619,371.00	115.15	107
Adjusted Resident Membership	1,311,148.00	243.75	242
Tithes and Offerings	654,819,331.00	121,736.26	106,733

Resident Membership 300 to 499 (N=5,137)

Variable	Sum	Mean	Median
Total Baptisms	66,879	13.02	10
Other Additions	69,506	13.53	10
Total Members	2,741,148	533.61	491
Total Sunday School Enrollment	1,231,734	239.78	222
Average Sunday School Attendance	632,470	123.12	117
Total Receipts	1,116,061,363	217,259.37	188,153
Undesignated Gifts	849,266,592	165,323.46	151,049
Designated Gifts	225,864,278	43,968.13	25,695
Total Mission Expenditures	118,079,628	22,986.11	17,820
Morning Worship Attendance	877,062	170.73	158
Adjusted Resident Membership	1,962,743	382.08	374
Tithes and Offerings	1,075,130,870	209,291.58	183,691

Resident Membership 500 to 749 (N=2,542)

Variable	Sum	Mean	Median
Total Baptisms	48,585	19.11	15.00
Other Additions	57,084	22.46	18.00
Total Members	2,142,961	843.02	775.00
Total Sunday School Enrollment	1,057,195	415.89	399.00
Average Sunday School Attendance	496,527	195.33	187.50
Total Receipts	101,273,289	398,400.19	354,244.50
Undesignated Gifts	742,901,928	292,250.96	277,350.00
Designated Gifts	223,500,869	87,923.24	56,902.00
Total Mission Expenditures	104,996,811	41,304.80	35,158.50
Morning Worship Attendance	656,418	258.23	250.00
Adjusted Resident Membership	1,532,399	602.83	593.00
Tithes and Offerings	966,402,798	380,174.19	346,219.00

Resident Membership 750 to 999 (N=1,122)

Variable	Sum	Mean	Median
Total Baptisms	29,538	26.33	21.0
Other Additions	38,677	34.47	29.0
Total Members	1,332,707	1,187.80	1,125.0
Total Sunday School Enrollment	732,275	652.65	634.5
Average Sunday School Attendance	325,626	290.22	282
Total Receipts	717,479,615	639,464.90	578,250.5
Undesignated Gifts	508,169,994	452,914.43	431,901.5
Designated Gifts	176,835,174	157,607.11	110,689.5
Total Mission Expenditures	74,932,031	66,784.34	58,010.0
Morning Worship Attendance	428,984	382.34	361.5
Adjusted Resident Membership	964,426	859.56	854.0
Tithes and Offerings	685,005,168	610,521.54	563,808.5

Resident Membership 1,000 to 2,999 (N=1,428)

Variable	Sum	Mean	Median
Total Baptisms	69,712	48.82	37.0
Other Additions	94,995	66.52	53.0
Total Members	2,962,572	2,074.63	1,891.5
Total Sunday School Enrollment	1,842,916	1,290.56	1,171.5
Average Sunday School Attendance	778,561	545.21	495.5
Total Receipts	1,941,636,811	1,359,689.64	1,118,187.5
Undesignated Gifts	1,353,163,373	947,593.4	82,8465.0
Designated Gifts	457,301,946	320,239.46	210,081.5
Total Mission Expenditures	208,061,249	145,701.15	11,0231.0
Morning Worship Attendance	986,080	690.53	610.0
Adjusted Resident Membership	2,177,317	1,524.73	1,361.0
Tithes and Offerings	1,810,465,320	1,267,832.86	1,074,095.5

Resident Membership 3,000 and Up (N=184)

Variable	Sum	Mean	Median
Total Baptisms	39,290.0	213.53	142.5
Other Additions	41,706.0	226.66	189.5
Total Members	1,231,371.0	6,692.23	5,654.5
Total Sunday School Enrollment	784,261.0	4,262.29	3,662.5
Average Sunday School Attendance	310,596.0	1,688.02	1,437.5
Total Receipts	953,963,875.0	5,184,586.28	3,961,847.0
Undesignated Gifts	617,621,481.0	3,356,638.49	2,758,035.0
Designated Gifts	217,156,405.0	1,180,197.86	66,4685.0
Total Mission Expenditures	74,771,131.2	406,364.84	287,050.5
Morning Worship Attendance	410,256.0	2,229.65	1,966.0
Adjusted Resident Membership	957,346.0	5,202.97	4,332.5
Tithes and Offerings	834,777,887.0	4,536,836.34	3,570,409.0

Resident Membership SBC (N=40,507)

Variable	Sum	Mean
Total Baptisms	417,573	10.31
Other Additions	459,261	11.34
Total Members	15,573,684	384.47
Total Sunday School Enrollment	8,012,542	197.81
Average Sunday School Attendance	3,898,431	96.24
Total Receipts	6,744,546,711	166,503.24
Undesignated Gifts	5,517,991,289	136,223.15
Designated Gifts	1,516,216,367	37,430.97
Total Mission Expenditures	783,114,298	19,332.81
Morning Worship Attendance	5,305,885	130.99
Adjusted Resident Membership	11,052,079	272.84
Tithes and Offerings	7,148,502,658	176,475.74

APPENDIX F

PRELIMINARY ANOVA DATA USING AM WORSHIP
AS DEPENDENT VARIABLE

Descriptives

AMWORAPAG

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean Lower Bound	95% Confidence Interval for Mean Upper Bound	Minimum	Maximum	Between-Component Variance
Same Building	92	1376.39	1750.27495	182.479	1013.9196	1738.8630	112.00	10095.00	
Same Community	28	1367.79	1466.05882	277.059	799.3074	1936.2640	58.00	6590.00	
Different Community/Same City	64	2595.33	5828.42701	728.553	1139.4304	4051.2259	55.00	44947.00	
Different City	102	1295.00	2299.33231	227.668	843.3683	1746.6317	85.00	15480.00	
Different State	5	7442.00	9522.51246	4258.60	-4381.7609	19265.7609	435.00	23887.00	
Different Country	12	1139.50	1242.51969	358.685	350.0407	1928.9593	180.00	3878.00	
Total	303	1696.37	3471.74249	199.446	1303.8923	2088.8536	55.00	44947.00	
Model Fixed Effects			3378.79480	194.107	1314.3742	2078.3717			
Random Effects				511.125	382.4850	3010.2609			858211.250

Test of Homogeneity of Variances

AMWORAPAG

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
5.568	5	297	.000

ANOVA

AMWORAPAG

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	2E+008	5	49875447.8	4.369	.001
Within Groups	3E+009	297	11416254.3		
Total	4E+009	302			

Post Hoc Tests

Dependent Variable: AMWORAPAG

	(I) Proximity of Church Plant to the Sponsor Church	(J) Proximity of Church Plant to the Sponsor Church	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Bonferroni	Same Building	Same Community	8.60559	729.255	1.000	-2149.3587	2166.5699
		Different Community/Same City	-1218.937	549.972	.411	-2846.3767	408.5031
		Different City	81.39130	485.812	1.000	-1356.1933	1518.9760
		Different State	-6065.609*	1551.56	.002	-10656.886	-1474.3315
		Different Country	236.89130	1037.04	1.000	-2831.8388	3305.6214
	Same Community	Same Building	-8.60559	729.255	1.000	-2166.5699	2149.3587
		Different Community/Same City	-1227.542	765.573	1.000	-3492.9767	1037.8919
		Different City	72.78571	720.866	1.000	-2060.3532	2205.9246
		Different State	-6074.214*	1640.42	.004	-10928.435	-1219.9936
		Different Country	228.28571	1165.79	1.000	-3221.4587	3678.0301
	Different Community/Same City	Same Building	1218.937	549.972	.411	-408.5031	2846.3767
		Same Community	1227.542	765.573	1.000	-1037.8919	3492.9767
		Different City	1300.328	538.798	.246	-294.0471	2894.7033
		Different State	-4846.672*	1568.96	.033	-9489.4306	-203.9131
		Different Country	1455.828	1062.89	1.000	-1689.4043	4601.0606
	Different City	Same Building	-81.39130	485.812	1.000	-1518.9760	1356.1933
		Same Community	-72.78571	720.866	1.000	-2205.9246	2060.3532
		Different Community/Same City	-1300.328	538.798	.246	-2894.7033	294.0471
		Different State	-6147.000*	1547.64	.001	-10726.661	-1567.3387
		Different Country	155.50000	1031.15	1.000	-2895.8237	3206.8237
	Different State	Same Building	6065.609*	1551.56	.002	1474.3315	10656.8859
		Same Community	6074.214*	1640.42	.004	1219.9936	10928.4349
		Different Community/Same City	4846.672*	1568.96	.033	203.9131	9489.4306
		Different City	6147.000*	1547.64	.001	1567.3387	10726.6613
		Different Country	6302.500*	1798.50	.008	980.4935	11624.5065
	Different Country	Same Building	-236.8913	1037.04	1.000	-3305.6214	2831.8388
		Same Community	-228.2857	1165.79	1.000	-3678.0301	3221.4587
		Different Community/Same City	-1455.828	1062.89	1.000	-4601.0606	1689.4043
		Different City	-155.5000	1031.15	1.000	-3206.8237	2895.8237
		Different State	-6302.500*	1798.50	.008	-11624.506	-980.4935
Dunnett T3	Same Building	Same Community	8.60559	331.753	1.000	-1005.8396	1023.0508
		Different Community/Same City	-1218.937	751.058	.803	-3489.8072	1051.9336
		Different City	81.39130	291.772	1.000	-783.3552	946.1379
		Different State	-6065.609	4262.50	.853	-28040.585	15909.3675
		Different Country	236.89130	402.434	1.000	-1107.6800	1581.4626

(cont.)

Dependent Variable: AMWORAPAG

(I) Proximity of Church Plant to the Sponsor Church	(J) Proximity of Church Plant to the Sponsor Church	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Dunnett T3 Same Community	Same Building	-8.60559	331.753	1.000	-1023.0508	1005.8396
	Different Community/Same City	-1227.542	779.456	.834	-3576.8203	1121.7355
	Different City	72.78571	358.601	1.000	-1013.2341	1158.8055
	Different State	-6074.214	4267.60	.853	-28015.904	15867.4753
	Different Country	228.28571	453.229	1.000	-1228.4299	1685.0013
Different Community/Same City	Same Building	1218.937	751.058	.803	-1051.9336	3489.8072
	Same Community	1227.542	779.456	.834	-1121.7355	3576.8203
	Different City	1300.328	763.297	.747	-1003.1207	3603.7770
	Different State	-4846.672	4320.47	.953	-26465.164	16771.8204
	Different Country	1455.828	812.062	.679	-997.5339	3909.1901
Different City	Same Building	-81.39130	291.772	1.000	-946.1379	783.3552
	Same Community	-72.78571	358.601	1.000	-1158.8055	1013.2341
	Different Community/Same City	-1300.328	763.297	.747	-3603.7770	1003.1207
	Different State	-6147.000	4264.68	.845	-28107.718	15813.7185
	Different Country	155.50000	424.838	1.000	-1229.3405	1540.3405
Different State	Same Building	6065.609	4262.50	.853	-15909.367	28040.5849
	Same Community	6074.214	4267.60	.853	-15867.475	28015.9038
	Different Community/Same City	4846.672	4320.47	.953	-16771.820	26465.1642
	Different City	6147.000	4264.68	.845	-15813.718	28107.7185
	Different Country	6302.500	4273.68	.831	-15600.156	28205.1562
Different Country	Same Building	-236.8913	402.434	1.000	-1581.4626	1107.6800
	Same Community	-228.2857	453.229	1.000	-1685.0013	1228.4299
	Different Community/Same City	-1455.828	812.062	.679	-3909.1901	997.5339
	Different City	-155.5000	424.838	1.000	-1540.3405	1229.3405
	Different State	-6302.500	4273.68	.831	-28205.156	15600.1562

*. The mean difference is significant at the .05 level.

Homogeneous Subsets

	Proximity of Church Plant to the Sponsor Church	N	Subset for alpha = .05	
			1	2
Tukey B[a,b]	Different Country	12	1139.5000	
	Different City	102	1295.0000	
	Same Community	28	1367.7857	
	Same Building	92	1376.3913	
	Different Community/Same City	64	2595.3281	
	Different State	5		7442.0000

Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.

a. Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 16.885.

b. The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.

APPENDIX G

PRELIMINARY STUDY RESULTS: PAIRED SAMPLES *t TEST*
RESULTS BY CHURCH SIZE

Preliminary Study Results: Paired Samples t-test Results by Church Size

Churches Sized: 1-99

For small churches, paired samples t-tests revealed that seven of the eight significant variables in the overall study were found to be significant. The seven significant variables were Total Receipts, Undesignated Gifts, Designated Gifts, Total Missions Expenditures, Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings, AM Worship, and Tithes. Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings were not significantly different. Also, Total Missions Expenditures were affected the greatest at 18.8%.

Churches Sized: 100-199

Paired samples t-tests for churches with resident memberships between 100 and 199 showed that ten variables were affected by the sponsoring of a church plant in 1999. These variables were Other Additions, Total Receipts, Undesignated Ggifts, Designated Gifts, Total Missions Expenditures, Cooperative Program Gifts, Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings, Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings, AM Worship, and Tithes. Cooperative Program Gifts were affected the greatest (32.11%). Other Additions experienced a decrease for the five years after plant. The before plant mean was 42.44. The after plant mean was 34.11. This represented a decrease of 19.6%.

104

Churches Sized: 200-299

Churches with a resident membership between 200 and 299, like the churches with a resident membership under 100, had seven growth variables with significant paired samples t-tests. The seven significant variables were Total Receipts, Undesignated Gifts, Total Missions Expenditures, Cooperative Program Gifts, Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings, AM Worship, and Tithes. The Cooperative Program Gifts was the most affected growth variable with a percent change of 25.3%.

Churches Sized: 300-499

Churches with a resident membership between 300 and 499 had only one variable with a significant difference for the five years after sponsoring a church plant. Average Sunday School Attendance decreased 16.48%.

Churches Sized: 500-749

Churches with a resident membership between 500 and 750 had five variables with a significant difference. These variables included Other Additions, Average Sunday School Attendance, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering gifts, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gifts, and Resident Membership. Other Additions and Average Sunday School Attendance decreased for the five years after sponsorship, while Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and Resident Membership increased. Other Additions had the greatest percentage decrease (-17.9%). Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings experienced the greatest percentage increase (41.5%).

Churches Sized: 750-999

Paired samples t-tests revealed that churches with an adjusted resident membership between 750 and 999 had six variables with significant differences between the five years before the sponsorship and the five years after. Average Sunday School Attendance was the lone variable to experience a significant decrease (16.16%). The five variables which reflected significant increases were Total Receipts, Undesignated Gifts, Designated Gifts, Total Mission Expenditures, and Tithes. Designated Gifts had the greatest percentage increase (86.99%).

Churches Sized: 1,000-2,999

Paired samples t-tests performed on variables for churches with adjusted resident memberships between 1,000 and 2,999 determined that nine variables were significantly different after sponsorship of a church plant. Average Sunday School Attendance experienced a significant decrease of 13.31%. The other eight variables which were significantly increased were Total Membership, Total Receipts, Undesignated Gifts, Designated Gifts, Total Mission Expenditures, Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings, AM Worship attendance, and Tithes. Designated Gifts had the greatest percentage increase (112.6%), however, Tithes (64.44%), Total Receipts (56.36%), and Undesignated Gifts (52.3%) all revealed percentage increases greater than 50%.

Churches Sized: 3,000 and Up

Churches with adjusted resident memberships above 3,000 had seven variables with significant increases. These variables were Total Receipts, Undesignated Gifts,

Designated Gifts, Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings, Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings,

AM Worship, and Tithes. Designated Gifts showed the greatest percentage increase

(85.53%), but Tithes (60.9%), Total Receipts (55.91%), and Undesignated Gifts (53.9%)

also had percentage increases above 50%.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* London: World Dominion Press, 1912; reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1962.

Arn, Win. *The Pastor's Manual for Effective Ministry.* Monrovia, CA: Church Growth, 1988.

Barna, George. *User Friendly Churches: What Christians Need to Know about the Churches People Love to Go To.* Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1991.

Barnette, J. N. *The Pull of the People.* Nashville: Convention Press, 1956.

Brown, Truman, and James E. Hightower, *After They Join: 10 Ways to Assimilate New Members.* Nashville: Convention Press, 1994.

Carroll, Jackson W. "Continuity and Change: The Shape of American Religion." in *Religion in America: 1950-Present,* ed. Jackson W. Carroll, Douglas W. Johnson, and Martin E. Marty, New York: Harper & Row, 1978.

Carver, Robert H., and Jane Gradwohl Nash. *Doing Data Analysis with SPSS Version 12.* Belmont, CA: Brooks Cole/Thomson Learning, 2005.

Chaney, Charles L. *Church Planting at the End of the Twentieth Century.* Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1982.

Collins, Jim. *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap . . . And Others Don't.* New York: Harper Collins Books, 2001.

Comiskey, Joel. *Home Cell Group Explosion: How Your Small Group Can Grow and Multiply.* Houston: Touch Publications, 1998.

Cueni, R. Robert. *Dinosaur Heart Transplants: Renewing Mainline Congregations.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

Dever, Mark. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church.* Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1997.

Donahue, Bill, and Russ Robinson. *Building a Church of Small Groups*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Ford, Leighton. *Transforming Leadership: Jesus' Way of Creating Vision, Shaping Values, & Empowering Change*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1991.

Frazee, Randy. *The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Gangel, Kenn. *Coaching Ministry Teams: Leadership and Management in Christian Organizations*. Nashville: Word Publishing, 2000.

Garrison, David. *Church Planting Movements*. Richmond, VA: Office of Overseas Operations, International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2000.

Gravetter, Frederick J., and Lori-Ann B. Forzano. *Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2003.

Gravetter Frederick J., and Larry B. Wallnau. *Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences*. 6th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2004.

Hadaway, C. Kirk. *Growing Off the Plateau: A Summary of the 1988 'Church on the Plateau' Survey*. Nashville: Sunday School Board of the SBC, 1989.

Hobbs, Herschel H. *New Testament Evangelism: The Eternal Purpose*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1960.

Hoge, Dean R., and David A. Roozen, eds. *Understanding Church Growth and Decline*. New York: Pilgrim Press, 1979.

Hudnut, Robert K. *Church Growth Is Not the Point*. New York: Harper & Row, 1975.

Kelley, Dean M. *Why Conservative Churches Are Growing*. New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1972.

Little, Paul E. *How to Give away Your Faith*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Fellowship, 1966.

Lovett, C. S. *Soul Winning Is Easy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1954.

Macchia, Stephen A. *Becoming a Healthy Church: 10 Characteristics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.

_____. *Values-Driven Leadership: Discovering and Developing Your Core Values for Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.

Mannoia, Kevin. *Church Planting The Next Generation*. Indianapolis: Light and Life Press, 1994.

McGavran, Donald A. *Understanding Church Growth*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.

_____. *Understanding Church Growth*. 3rd ed., revised and edited by C. Peter Wagner. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdman's Publishing, 1990.

_____. *The Bridges of God: A Study in the Strategy of Missions*. London: World Dominion Press, 1955; reprint, New York: Friendship Press, 1992.

McGavran, Donald, and George G. Hunter III. *Church Growth Strategies That Work*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1980.

Miller, Calvin. *The Empowered Leader: 10 Keys to Servant Leadership*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Press, 1995.

Montgomery, James, and Donald A. McGavran. *The Discipling of A Nation*. N.p. Global Church Growth Bulletin, [1980].

Norris, Fredrick W. "Strategy for Mission in the New Testament." In *Exploring Church Growth*, ed. Wilbert R. Shenk, 260-76. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.

Padilla, C. Rene. "The Unity of the Church and the Homogeneous Unit Principle." In *Exploring Church Growth*, ed. Wilbert R. Shenk, 285-303. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.

Rainer, Thom S. *The Book of Church Growth: History, Theology, and Principles*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Press, 1993.

_____. *High Expectations*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999.

_____. *Breakout Churches: Discover How to Make the Leap*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2004.

Richardson, Ronald W. *Creating a Healthier Church: Family Systems Theory, Leadership, and Congregational Life*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.

Roof, Wade C., and William J. McKinney, Jr. *American Mainline Religion*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University, 1987.

Schaller, Lyle E. *21 Bridges to the 21ˢᵗ Century: The Future of Pastoral Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.

Southerland, Dan. *Transitioning: Leading Your Church through Change*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.

Stevenson, Phil. *The Ripple Church: Multiply Your Ministry by Parenting New Churches*. Indianapolis: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2004.

Strobel, Lee. *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry & Mary: How to Reach Friends and Family Who Avoid God and the Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.

Thrall, Bill, Bruce McNicol, and Ken McElrath. *The Ascent of a Leader: How Ordinary Relationships Develop Extraordinary Character and Influence*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999.

Towns, Elmer L. *America's Fastest Growing Churches*. Impact Books, 1972.

Towns, Elmer, C. Peter Wagner, and Thom S. Rainer. *The Everychurch Guide to Growth*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.

Tull, James E. *Take the Stand: A Theology of Witnessing*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1972.

Wagner, C. Peter. *Frontiers in Mission Strategy*. Chicago: Moody, 1971.

_____. *Church Growth & the Whole Gospel: A Biblical Mandate*. New York: Harper & Row, 1981.

_____. *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church: Growing without Compromising Your Message & Mission*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Williamson, Charles Lee. *Growing Your Church in Seven Days*. Dallas: Creative Church Consultations, 1995.

Yoder, John H. "The Social Shape of the Gospel." In *Exploring Church Growth*, ed. Wilbert R. Shenk, 277-84. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.

Zwonitzer, Rodney E. *Testing the Claims of Church Growth*. Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2002.

Journal Articles

Alston, Jon P. "Social Variables Associated with Church Attendance, 1965 and 1969: Evidence from National Polls." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 10, no. 3 (fall 1971): 233-36.

Day, Bill. "Proposed New Definitions for Growing, Plateaued, and Declining Churches in the SBC." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship in Atlanta, GA, 23 September 2004.

De Wet, Christiann Rudolph. "The Church Growth Movement: Does It Foster Churches That Challenge the World?" *Missionalia* 14, no. 2 (August 1986): 84-96.

Flatt, Donald. "In Search of God's Bridge for Mission: A Critique of Church Growth Philosophy." *World Vision Magazine*, Jan. 1970, 18-20.

Ingram, W. T. Jr., "Conclusion." *The Cumberland Seminarian* 18 (spring 1980): 34-39.

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion 1, no. 1 (Oct. 1961).

Kilian, Sabbas J. Review of *Understanding Church Growth*, by Donald A. McGavran. *Theological Studies* 33 (1972): 182.

Larson, Ron. "The DNA of a Church Planter." In *Reaching a Nation Through Church Planting*. Compiled by Richard H. Harris. Alpharetta, GA: North American Mission Board, 2002.

McClintock, Wayne. "Sociological Critique of the Homogeneous Unit Principle." *International Review of Mission* 77 (Jan. 1988): 107-16.

McGavran, Donald A. "A Plan of Action for Churches." *Christian Herald* (October 1961): 12-19.

_____. "Open Forum on Evangelism." *Christian Herald*, October 1961, 20-32.

_____. "The Genesis and Strategy of the Homogeneous Unit Principle." Position paper presented at the Consultation of the Homogeneous Unit Principle at Fuller Theological Seminary addressed to the Lausanne Theology and Education Group, Pasadena, CA, 31 May 1977 through 2 June 1988.

Perkins, John. "Something Is Wrong at the Root." *Christianity Today*, October 1993, 17-18.

Petersen, William. "Religious Statistics in the United States." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 1, no. 2 (spring 1962): 165-78.

Steinke, Peter L. "When Congregations Are Stuck," *The Christian Century*, 116 no. 11 (7 April 1999): 386-89.

Dissertations

Allabough, Edwin Dunwoody. "The Development of a Model for Contemporary Worship in Established Churches with a History for the Purpose of Congregational Revitalization." Ph.D. diss., University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, 2000.

Aum, Chongoh. "The Cell Church Model as a Viable Approach for Urban Church Planting." Ph.D. diss., Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, 1997.

Bae, Kiuyoung. "Transformational Leadership and Its Application in Church Organization." Ph.D. diss., Walden University, 2001.

Beauchamp, Finis Pierre. "An Examination of Selected Ways the Homogeneous Unit Principle Affected the Church Growth Strategy of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention." Th.D. diss., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 1987.

Bush, Troy L. "Effective Church Planting: A Qualitative Analysis of Selected Church Planting Models." Ph.D. diss., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1999.

Crabtree, John. "The Divergence of Donald McGavran's Church Growth Movement in North America, 1955-2000." Ph.D. diss., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2003.

Dodson, John Michael. "An Analysis of Factors Leading to the Revitalization of Comeback Churches." D.Miss. diss., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2006.

Fulks, Jeffrey L. "Transformational Leadership and Its Relationship to Success in Developing New Churches." Ph.D. diss., University of Texas at Arlington, 1994.

Little, Christopher R. "Mission in the Way of Paul: With Special Reference to Twenty-First Century Christian Mission." Ph.D. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 2003.

Maxton, Daniel. "Parenting Daughter Churches: A New Paradigm for Medium-Sized Congregations in the Baptist General Conference." D.Min. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1994.

McDonald, Don Cecil. "Church Revitalization and Systemic Therapy: The Pastor As Interventionist, Story Breaker, and Story Maker." Ph.D. diss., Nova University, 1989.

McMahan, Martin A. "Training Turn-Around Leaders: Systemic Approaches to Reinstating Growth in Plateaued Churches." Ph.D. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1998.

Morgan, Daniel J. "Southern Baptist Contextualization in the Pacific Northwest: Historical Perspective and Strategic Prospects for Effective Church Planting." Ph.D. diss., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1996.

Nebel, Thomas P. "Planting Churches in Small Towns and Rural Areas." Ph.D. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 2000.

Payne, Jervis D. "An Evaluation to the Systems Approach to North American Church Multiplication Movements of Robert E. Logan in Light of the Missiology of Roland Allen." Ph.D. diss., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2001.

Stetzer, Edward J. "The Impact of the Church Planting Process and Other Selected Factors on the Attendance of Southern Baptist Church Plants." Ph.D. diss., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2003.

Van Engen, Charles E. "The Growth of the True Church." Ph.D. diss., Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, 1981.

Woodford, David B. "One Church, Many Churches: A Five-Model Approach to Church Planting and Evaluation." D.Miss. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1997.

Interviews

Allen, Jack, Assistant Professor of Church Planting, New Orleans Baptist Theological
    Seminary. Interview by author, 18 October 2004, New Orleans. Author's notes.

Computer Software Programs and Databases

1994 Annual Church Profile. Computer Database. CD-ROM. Nashville: Baptist Sunday
    School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1995.

1995 Annual Church Profile. Computer Database. CD-ROM. Nashville: Baptist Sunday
    School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1996.

1996 Annual Church Profile. Computer Database. CD-ROM. Nashville: Baptist Sunday
    School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1997.

1997 Annual Church Profile. Computer Database. CD-ROM. Nashville: Lifeway
    Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1998.

1998 Annual Church Profile. Computer Database. CD-ROM. Nashville: Lifeway
    Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1999.

1999 Annual Church Profile. Computer Database. CD-ROM. Nashville: Lifeway
    Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2000.

2000 Annual Church Profile. Computer Database. CD-ROM. Nashville: Lifeway
    Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2001.

2001 Annual Church Profile. Computer Database. CD-ROM. Nashville: Lifeway
    Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2002.

2002 Annual Church Profile. Computer Database. CD-ROM. Nashville: Lifeway
    Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2003.

2003 Annual Church Profile. Computer Database. CD-ROM. Nashville: Lifeway
    Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2004.

2004 Annual Church Profile. Computer Database. CD-ROM. Nashville: Lifeway
    Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2005.

Microsoft Access 2002. Computer software. CD-ROM. Redmond, WA: Microsoft
    Corporation, 2002.

NAMB Sponsorship Survey. Computer Database, Atlanta: North American Mission
Board, 2006.

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, Computer Software. CD-ROM ver. 12.0.
Chicago: SPSS, 2003.

Web Site

InflationData.com. "Historical Inflation Data from 1914 to the Present." Web site online.
Available from http://inflationdata.com/inflation/Inflation_Rate/
HistoricalInflation.aspx. Accessed 24 May 2007.

VITA

Jeffrey Cannon Farmer

PERSONAL
      Born: December 23, 1971
      Parents: M. Otis Farmer, Jr. and Emilie C. Farmer
      Married: Karen Hopkins Farmer, June 25, 1994
      Children: Brooke Asheley, April 11, 1999; Paige Elizabeth, March 29, 2002

EDUCATIONAL
      Public School, Tucker, GA, 1977-1990
      B.S., Georgia Southern University, 1996
      M.Div., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2001
      Th.M., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2004
      Ph.D., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2007

MINISTERIAL
      Ordination: July 19, 1998, First Baptist Church, Scotland Neck, North Carolina
      Youth Director, Brooklet UMC, Brooklet, GA, 1990-1992
      Youth Director, Trinity Baptist Church, Nevils, GA, 1992-1996
      Assoc. Pastor of Youth and Education, FBC Scotland Neck, 1997-1998
      Assoc. Pastor of Youth and Music, Proctor's Chapel Baptist Church, 1998-1999
      Minister of Students and Evangelism, East Ridge Baptist Church, 1999-2002
      Church Planter and Lead Pastor, LifeTree Church, 2006-present

PROFESSIONAL
      Fellow to Dr. Jim Cogdill, Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth, New
            Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA, 2003
      Statistics Course Guest Lecturer, University of New Orleans, New Orleans,
            Louisiana, 2004
      Fellow to Dr. Bill Day, Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth, New
            Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA, 2004-2007
      Adjunct Instructor, North Georgia Campus of Leavell College, New Orleans
            Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA, 2007
      Adjunct Instructor in the Division of Pastoral Ministries, New Orleans Baptist
            Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA, 2007

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES
      American Society for Church Growth
      Association for the Scientific Study of Religion