

CHAPTER 5

PRIORITY NEEDS FOR NEW CHURCH PLANTING

As became evident in the preceding chapter, the needs for new church planting in Canada are desperate and diverse. Some areas of the nation are adequately churched while other areas, such as the province of Quebec, are in fact fresh mission fields. The population-to-Trinitarian-church ratios by census sub-division in this nation vary from 27,630 people to 1 church to less than 100 persons to 1 church.

How can this disparity be corrected?

We must plant thousands of new churches in the precise locations where they are most needed. We must avoid the type of misjudgments which have made Kenya the nation with the most Christian missionaries per capita and Iran the nation in which no missionaries were known to be ministering before the outbreak of the Gulf War.

The research outlined in the previous chapter enables us to locate more precisely the geographic areas in which new churches are most urgently needed to bring the gospel within reach of each Canadian in the "home language" in which each

church must be planted.

Our interim plan then, is to give equal opportunity to all unchurched Canadians to hear, see, and personally respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ by providing one evangelizing church seeking to reach each community of two thousand Canadians in their "home language" by 2000 AD.

This chapter focuses specifically on the numbers of evangelical churches needing to be planted, in which locations and languages.

A. Priority Church Planting Needs By Province and Territory

When Canada is viewed by province with the intention of providing an evangelizing congregation for each 2000 Canadians by the year AD 2000, we discover a revealing picture, outlined in Table 8.

Table 3 has the provinces and territories arranged in descending order of new evangelical churches required, then in descending order of population-to-evangelical-church ratio.

Several realities are striking as we reflect on the meaning of this table.

One is the immense disparity between the provinces. The provinces with the greatest density of population and the greatest total populations, Quebec and Ontario, are the provinces with the greatest need for new evangelical churches, followed by British Columbia and Alberta. Our greatest efforts must be in these provinces. Quebec

particularly, as a distinct society within our great nation, requires a concerted effort of new church planting by evangelicals from across the nation.

Table 8:

"New Evangelical Churches Required by Province
in Order to Provide an Evangelical Church
for Each 2000 Canadians by AD 2000"

Province	Population in 2000 AD	Current Num. of Ev.Chs.	Current Pop-to- Ev.-Ch.	Number of New Ev. Churches
Ratio	Needed			
Quebec	6912459	496	13013	2960
Ontario	10503852	2398	3753	2854
B.C.	3382925	1245	2287	446
Alberta	2758377	983	2380	396
Manitoba	1132125	464	2261	102
Saskatchewan	1063290	516	1929	16
P.E.I.	130672	60	2084	5
Newfoundland	558830	291	1938	0
Nova Scotia	920219	476	1815	0
N.W.T.	58219	29	1791	0
New Brunswick	717265	402	1746	0
Yukon	31903	18	1293	0
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CANADA	28169108	7378	3391	6707

The northern territories and eastern provinces benefit from the best population-to-evangelical-church ratios. But evangelicals living in provinces and territories where there is an evangelical church for each 2000 Canadians living in that region still know of many non-Christians living in their area.

New churches with styles and approaches that differ from

existing churches may be what is required to reach the vast numbers of unchurched peoples living in these areas.

Furthermore, existing churches in the eastern provinces and northern territories are not necessarily evenly spaced among the population and there remain areas and language groups in every province and territory where there is not the desired goal of one church for each 2000 Canadians.

In those regions where this goal has been reached it is time to find the groups which have the greatest need and begin to move the population-to-evangelical-church ratio down below the 2000 to 1 ratio, to a ratio between 500 and 1000 to 1. Table 9 shows the vast numbers of new churches which need to be planted as we seek ratios of 1500:1, 1000:1, and 500:1 to work toward the completion of the Great Commission.

Table 9:

"New Evangelical Churches Required to Move Nearer to the Completion of the Great Commission"

Desired Ratio	New Evangelical Churches Required
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1500:1	11,406
1000:1	20,798
500:1	48,975

Details of provincial and territorial breakdowns of Table 9 may be found in Appendix 9.

B. Priority Church Planting Needs By Census Division

When Canada is viewed by census division it becomes evident that every province and territory, with the exception of the Yukon, has divisions which require new evangelical congregations in order to provide an evangelizing congregation for each 2000 Canadians AD 2000.

Table 10 displays the twenty-five census divisions in Canada requiring the highest number of new evangelical churches.

Table 10:

"Twenty Five Census Divisions
Requiring the Largest Numbers
of New Evangelical Churches by the Year AD 2000"

(In Descending Order of Number of New Churches Required)

Current Number of Ev. Census Division	Current Pop. to Ev. Chs.	New Ev. Chs.	Prov.	AD 2000 Chs.	Ratio	Pop. in Need	
TORONTO METROPOLITAN M			ONT	2536935	337	6451	931
ILE-DE-MONTREAL			QUE	1850683	155	11148	770
GREATER VANCOUVER REG.			BC	1484032	364	3432	378
OTTAWA-CARLETON REG. M			ONT	700836	84	7149	266
PEEL REGIONAL MUNICIPAL DIVISION NO. 6			ONT	687970	92	6408	252
QUEBEC			AL	836848	191	3716	227
DIVISION NO. 11			QUE	492612	20	22998	226
DIVISION NO. 11			AL	942622	260	3075	211
DIVISION NO. 11			MAN	633821	159	3694	158
CHAMBLY			QUE	336712	22	14290	146
HAMILTON-WENTWORTH REG			ONT	488495	105	3987	139
ILE-JESUS			QUE	300421	15	18700	135
YORK REGIONAL MUNICIPAL			ONT	405095	77	4508	126
DURHAM REGIONAL MUNICIPAL			ONT	377017	72	4487	117
MIDDLESEX COUNTY			ONT	382998	83	3954	108
ESSEX COUNTY			ONT	364868	77	4060	105
HALTON REGIONAL MUNICIPAL			ONT	314326	54	4988	103
TERREBONNE			QUE	218639	15	13610	94

CHICOUTIMI	QUE	185760	7	24778	86
HALIFAX COUNTY	NS	323094	78	3889	84
WATERLOO REGIONAL MUNI	ONT	380874	111	2940	79
CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTR	BC	308654	79	3289	75
DIVISION NO. 1	NF	241031	48	5067	73
SUDBURY REGIONAL MUNIC	ONT	176515	18	8403	70
SIMCOE COUNTY	ONT	273697	68	3449	69

For census divisions beyond these initial twenty five, please see Appendix 10: "New Churches Required by Census Division in Order to Provide an Evangelical Church for Each 2000 Canadians by AD 2000."

C. Priority Church Planting Needs in Cities with Populations of Over 10,000 Persons (Census Metropolitan Areas)

Canadian government statistics indicate that 75.4% of Canadians lived in the 139 cities of 10,000 or more persons (Census Metropolitan Areas) in 1986. When Canada is viewed from this perspective a further sense of urgency is created. Table 11 shows the ten major Canadian cities requiring the largest number of new churches to provide an evangelizing church for every 2000 Canadians in AD 2000.¹

Some will wish to locate important cities which are not shown above. Additional Canadian communities with populations over 10,000 persons in descending order of new evangelical churches required to provide an evangelizing church for each 2000 Canadians by AD 2000 may be found in Appendix 11.

The complete list of all 139 Canadian metropolitan census areas, arranged from east to west, may be found in Appendix 12.

Those finding the number of new evangelical churches needed for their city indicated as "one" or "zero" will want to remember that the table is based upon the provision of one evangelizing church for each two thousand Canadians. If your city has reached that goal, you will want to begin working to provide an evangelizing church for each language group of one thousand Canadians in your community.

Table 11:

"Twenty Five Cities
Requiring Most New Evangelical Churches by AD 2000"

(In Descending Order of Number of New Churches Required)

Numb. Census Metropolitan Area Ratio	N'ded	Population in AD 2000	Projected Number of Evangel.	Current Pop-to- Ev.-Ch. Ev.Ch Churches	Current New Ev.Ch
TORONTO	ONT	3967421	567	5996	1417
MONTREAL	QUE	3070075	226	12684	1309
VANCOUVER	BC	1604840	409	3303	393
OTTAWA	QUE	866841	96	8431	337
QUEBEC CITY	QUE	623220	24	24246	288
EDMONTON	AL	916602	234	3322	224
CALGARY	AL	785025	174	3827	219
STONEY CREEK	ONT	643653	133	4147	189
WINNIPEG	MAN	666595	168	3677	165
LONDON	ONT	393997	96	3517	101
WINDSOR	ONT	292999	50	5021	96
KITCHENER	ONT	359769	100	3083	80
HALIFAX	NS	312114	76	3856	80
VICTORIA	BC	296097	71	3510	77
OSHAWA	ONT	235139	41	4914	77
LA BAIE	QUE	167247	7	22309	77
SUDBURY	ONT	172313	19	7771	67
NIAGRA FALLS	ONT	396173	133	2552	65
ST. JOHN'S	NF	155661	15	10472	63

TROIS-RIVERES	QUE	131385	6	20446	60
SHERBROOKE	QUE	136885	11	11619	57
REGINA	SK	194825	44	4146	53
CAPE BRETON	NS	125633	18	6554	45
THUNDER BAY	ONT	140688	32	3767	38
SASKATOON	SK	211347	70	2827	36

D. Priority Church Planting Needs by Census Sub-Division

A census sub-division (approximately equivalent to a municipality) represents the highest level of geographic detail considered by the research underlying this chapter. At this level we find the greatest help in identifying exactly where new evangelical churches are most urgently required. Due to the large number of census sub-divisions in Canada however, complete data at this level becomes quite lengthy. Table 12 is limited to 25 census sub-divisions requiring the largest number of new evangelical churches.

Table 12:

"Census Sub-Division Requirements for New Churches
In Order to Provide an Evangelical Church
for Each 2000 Canadians by AD 2000"

(In Descending Order of Number of New Churches Required)

Numb. Census Sub-division	Ratio	N'ded	Projected Current Current			
			Population in AD 2000	Number of Evangel.	Pop-to- Ev.-Ch. New Churches	
MONTREAL		QUE	1069003	93	10733	442
NORTH YORK		ONT	644610	70	7891	252
TORONTO		ONT	706724	116	5221	237
CALGARY		AL	743772	165	3823	207
SCARBOROUGH		ONT	560481	75	6404	205
EDMONTON		AL	669560	155	3664	180
WINNIPEG		MAN	633821	159	3694	158

MISSISSAUGA	ONT	434451	60	6205	157
LAVAL	QUE	300421	15	18700	135
OTTAWA	ONT	345980	39	7602	134
ETOBICOKE	ONT	351407	44	6844	132
VANCOUVER	BC	504508	137	3100	115
LONDON	ONT	310486	52	5116	103
HAMILTON	ONT	353659	77	3936	100
BRAMPTON	ONT	219122	29	6475	81
QUEBEC	QUE	173995	8	20308	79
WINDSOR	ONT	222372	38	5014	73
YORK	ONT	156810	21	6399	57
LONGUEUIL	QUE	133554	11	11336	56
OSHAWA	ONT	143284	21	5847	51
REGINA	SK	184865	44	3934	48
EAST YORK	ONT	116904	11	9107	47
MARKHAM	ONT	133172	20	5706	47
GLOUCESTER	ONT	103916	6	14841	46
BURLINGTON	ONT	135582	23	5051	45

Appendix 13 is a continuation of this table showing municipalities requiring five or more new evangelical churches in order to reach our interim of providing an evangelizing church for each 2000 Canadians by AD 2000.

Appendix 14 is a comprehensive listing of all Canadian 6,009 census sub-divisions arranged by province and territory from east to west.

E. Priority Church Planting Needs By "Home Language"

During 1986 the Canadian government asked Canadians: "Which language does the head of this home normally speak while at home?" Of the questions the Canadian government asks regarding language, this question is perhaps the most important since responses to it reflect the degree to which integration into Canadian culture has taken place, whereas a similar census question that inquires into the country of one's ethnic origin does not give us that information.

The language a person speaks at home is normally the language in which one thinks and feels. It is commonly known therefore as that person's "heart language." To receive the gospel, a person will best hear it from a caring community speaking his "heart language." It is important therefore that we learn where people in Canada live who speak languages other than English and French, and where evangelizing churches of each language need to be planted.

The tables which follow, unless indicated otherwise, are based upon a proposed population-to-ethnic-evangelical-church ratio of 2000-to-one. The actual need for new ethnic evangelical churches however may be greater, and for two reasons:

1. Ethnic communities are generally larger than the number of persons who speak a given "non-official" language in the privacy of their homes. There will be people who speak English or French who might be best won by ethnic churches offering worship and fellowship in both an official language and their ethnic language.
2. Members of English and French speaking communities usually have a wider variety of churches to choose from than do members of ethnic communities. Members of most ethnic communities however would also be more likely to be won to Christ by a church with a style appealing to them should the ethnic churches sharing their culture be greater in number and more varying in

style.

For these reasons, it is possible that the required number of new evangelical ethnic churches suggested in the following sections will be as much as three times greater than the numbers listed.

Research results on home language are reported by national summary, province and territory, census metropolitan areas, and "home language" by census sub-division.

1. Priority "Home Language" National Church Planting
Needs in Summary

The results of a survey of national "home language" evangelical church planting needs are summarized in Table 13.

Table 13:

"Number of New Evangelical Churches Required by "Home Language" in Canada by AD 2000"

Language	Ev Churches (1989)	Projected Population AD 2000	Current P/C Ratio	Num. of New Evang Churches Needed in AD 2000
<u>Official Languages:</u>				
ENGLISH	6567	20649981	2694	3758
FRENCH	334	6811143	17470	3072
<u>Non-official Languages:</u>				
CREE	16	46855	2509	7
OJIBWAY	3	10733	3065	2
INUKTITUT	1	20375	17455	9
ITALIAN	22	316373	12320	136
ROMANIAN	1	6858	5875	2
PORTUGUESE	7	122660	15011	54
SPANISH	35	64587	1581	0
GERMAN	46	129255	2407	19
YIDDISH	0	7652	-	4
DUTCH	30	15554	444	0
FLEMISH	0	1185	-	1
SWEDISH	0	1576	-	1
DANISH	0	1827	-	1
NORWEGIAN	0	695	-	0
UKRAINIAN	12	52634	3758	14
RUSSIAN	5	11253	1928	1
MACEDONIAN	0	8171	-	4
SERBIAN	0	5475	-	3
SERB_CROAT	13	1471	97	0
CZECH	0	10179	-	5
SLOVAK	9	5591	532	0
POLISH	0	63379	0	32
LATVIAN	17	4780	241	0
LITHUANIAN	0	9362	-	5
FINNISH	11	12759	994	0
ESTONIAN	2	6204	2658	1

HUNGARIAN	3	27192	7765	11
GREEK	0	84250	0	42
ARMENIAN	5	15776	2703	3
TURKIC	0	2965	-	1
ARABIC	4	25348	5429	9
HEBREW	0	3222	-	2
PERSIAN	0	8877	-	4
HINDI	1	10908	9345	4
PUNJABI	3	55604	15878	25
URDU	0	9478	-	5
TAMIL	1	3525	3020	1
JAPANESE	6	10447	1492	0
KOREAN	20	16517	708	0
CHINESE	73	267907	3144	61
THAI	0	8043	-	4
KHMER	3	9152	2613	2
VIETNAMESE	8	46780	5009	15
INDONESIAN	2	846	363	0
TAGALOG	14	29177	1785	1
CREOLES	12	6986	499	0
OTHER	92	160743	1497	0

TOTAL	7378	29202309	3391	7223

It is important to note the great disparity between the English and French population-to-evangelical-church ratios. The opportunities available to a French speaking Canadian to hear the gospel through a French speaking evangelical church in their community are nearly 650% less by population-to-evangelical-church ratio than are those available to an English speaking Canadian.

It is to be noted further that the French population-to-evangelical-church ratio is not exceeded by any other "home language" group in the nation, making the need for new French speaking evangelical churches the greatest of any language group.

Given the challenging reality that the largest numbers of new evangelical churches required, per-capita, are to be

planted in the French language, Table 14 depicts the fifteen ethnic groups requiring the largest numbers of new evangelical churches in non-official languages. These are listed in descending order of the number of new evangelical churches required to achieve a ratio of one evangelical church for each 2000 Canadians speaking a given "home language" in the year AD 2000.

Table 14:

"Fifteen Canadian Ethnic Groups
Requiring Most New Evangelical Churches"

(Canada's Largest Ethnic Groups)

Language	Reported Ev. Churches (1989)	Projected Population AD 2000	Current Pop-to-Church Ratio	New Ev. Churches Needed
ITALIAN	22	316373	12320	136
CHINESE	73	267907	3144	61
PORTUGUESE	7	122660	15011	54
GREEK	0	84250	*	42
POLISH	0	63379	*	32
PUNJABI	3	55604	15878	25
GERMAN	46	129255	2407	19
VIETNAMESE	8	46780	5009	15
UKRAINIAN	12	52634	3758	14
HUNGARIAN	3	27192	7765	11
ARABIC	4	25348	5429	9
INUKTITUT	1	20375	17455	9
CZECH	0	10179	*	5
LITHUANIAN	0	9362	*	5
URDU	0	9478	*	5

Table 15 gathers the non-official language Canadian ethnic groups which, while numerically not the most numerous, are per-capita in greatest need of new church planting.

Table 15:

"Fifteen Largest Ethnic Groups in Canada
in Order of Need for New Churches"

Language	Churches (1989)	Percent of Total	Population (1986)	P/C Ratio
PUNJABI	3	0.0 %	47635	15878
ITALIAN	39	0.2 %	271030	6949
PORTUGUESE	22	0.1 %	105080	4776
VIETNAMESE	14	0.1 %	40075	2863
CHINESE	92	0.4 %	229510	2495
FRENCH	2638	12.2 %	5834955	2212
POLISH	27	0.1 %	54295	2011
GERMAN	67	0.3 %	110730	1653
TAGALOG	15	0.1 %	24995	1666
SPANISH	44	0.2 %	55330	1258
GREEK	69	0.3 %	72175	
1046				
ENGLISH	16981	78.8 %	17690380	1042
HUNGARIAN	30	0.1 %	23295	777
CREE	67	0.3 %	40140	
599				
UKRAINIAN	843	3.9 %	45090	
53				

2. Priority "Home Language" Church Planting Needs by
Province and Territory

A summary of evangelical church planting needs by province and territory, arranged from east to west, may be found in Appendix 15. This appendix shows the number of churches required in a given language to provide an evangelical church seeking to reach each 2000 Canadians speaking a given "home language" by AD 2000.

3. Priority "Home Language" Church Planting Needs by
Census Metropolitan Area:

A summary of evangelical church planting needs by cities with populations of over 10,000 persons, arranged from east to west, may be found in Appendix 16. This appendix shows the number of churches required in a given language to provide one evangelical church reaching out to each 2000 Canadians in their city speaking a given home language by AD 2000.

4. Priority "Home Language" Church Planting Needs by Census Sub-Divisions:

A summary of church planting needs by home language arranged by municipality in descending population-to-church ratio may be found in Appendix 17. This appendix shows the number of new churches which need to be planted in a given language and census sub-division to provide a church for each 2000 Canadians speaking a given home language by AD 2000. Canadian "official languages" (English and French) are followed by 47 "non-official languages" in alphabetical order. The non-official languages overviewed in Appendix 17 are listed in Table 16.

Table 16:

"Canadian Non-Official Languages"

Arabic	Lithuanian
Armenian	Macedonian
Cambodian (see: Khmer)	Malay
Cree	Norwegian
Chinese	Ojibway
Czech	Persian (see: Farsi)
Dutch	Filipino (see: Tagalog)

Estonian	Polish
Farsi	Portuguese
Flemish	Punjabi
German	Romanian
Greek	Russian
Haitian	Serbian
Hebrew	Slavic languages
Hindi	Slovak
Hungarian	Spanish
Indonesian (see: Malay)	Swedish
Inukitut	Tagalog
Italian	Tamil
Japanese	Thai
Khmer	Turkic languages
Korean	Ukrainian
Latvian (Lettish)	Urdu
Vietnamese	Other (aboriginal languages)

Endnotes:

- 1 Readers comparing statistics for Montreal or Toronto, for example, as a census metropolitan area in Table 11, with those of Montreal or Toronto as a census division in Table 10, or as a census sub-division in Table 12, should be aware that larger cities (census metropolitan areas) are composed, in most cases, of at least a number of census sub-divisions.