

# COUNTING THE COST

## Phelps County, Missouri

**Population** in 2010 = 45,156

Population in 2000 = 39,825 (Increase of 5,331 = +13.4%)

2010 Newborn to Age 17: 9,792 (21.7%)

2010 Ages 18-64: 29,207 (64.7%)

2010 Ages 65+: 6,157 (13.6%)

**Illiteracy** Rate 2003: 8.4%

2010 High School graduates: 85.9%

2010 College graduates: 25.3%

**Adherents** in 2010 = 18,673

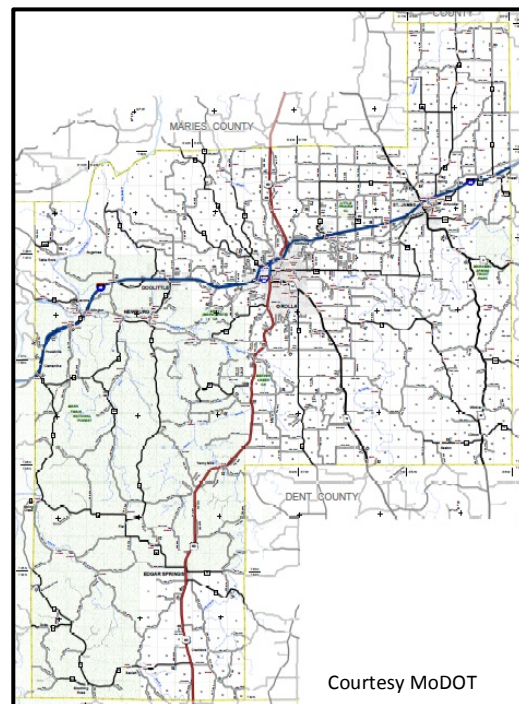
Adherents in 2000 = 18,193

Change 2000 to 2010 = 480 = 2.6%

**Total Congregations** in All Religions in 2010 = 80

Total Congregations in All Religions in 2000 = 68

Change from 2000 to 2010 = +12 = 17.6%



**Average Size per Congregation** All Religions in 2010 = 233

Average Size per Congregation All Religions in 2000 = 268

**Unclaimed Population** based upon All Religions in 2010 = 26,483 = 58.6%

**Evangelical Church** Members In 2010 = 13,306 = 29.5% of population

**Southern Baptist Convention** = 23 churches (28.8%) and 6,253 members (47.0%) = 272 per church

**Non-Evangelical Population based upon Evangelical Totals** in 2010 = 31,850 = 70.5% of population

**Evangelical Congregations Needed** (Evangelical Base data only used) based on 73 Members per new non-Catholic congregation after three years = 436 new congregations if they are started by traditional means of land, building, and fulltime pastoral staff. Nationally, the U.S. has a 68% survivability rate after four years.

### **Cost of Evangelical Congregations needed**

1. The funded planter/pastor is recommended to raise a minimum of \$250,000 for three years for the planter, part-time worship leader and rent. This means \$109,000,000 must be raised in advance.
2. A building is typically built at \$1.5 million per 159 congregations reaching 200 members = \$238,500,000 if they are started by traditional means of land and building.

**Congregations needed** (Evangelical base data used) Based on 40 members using non-paid laity to start new congregations = 796. Approximate number of Lay pastors needed = 796.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau: <http://quickfacts.census.gov>; Assoc. of Religion Data Archives: [www.thearda.com](http://www.thearda.com); Literacy stats from PatchworkNation.org. Cost formulas are based on the North American Mission Board, SBC, "2007 Survivability Study" and the amount for an average church loan and members. Start-up funding estimate is from Generis. Appreciation goes to Jim Slack, IMB, for the original model and source of a non-paid laity starting new congregations. This study was provided by Mark Snowden, Evangelism/Discipleship Strategist, Missouri Baptist Convention, 2012.