

The Cost of Not Investing

Dr. Don Nations, DNA Coaching, 2008

Judicatories face funding many areas of ministry and the setting of priorities can be a difficult process. It is common for a judicatory to look for ways to get some kind of positive results while limiting its investment. A common refrain is “we want results but it can’t cost too much”. Not investing in transformation, however, carries costs of its own. These include:

- Missed opportunities for transformation
- Pastors and local church leaders working to bring change but not having the tools they need to make it a reality
- Seeking to assist churches in need with no new resources to help already overloaded judicatory staff
- Lost contributions to the denomination from struggling churches which are not moving towards transformation
- Mourning the closing of churches instead of celebrating the transformation of churches
- Maintaining and declining churches that produce few dynamic, effective, young clergy
- Communities which lack a strong missionary outpost of the Kingdom of God

It is likely that a judicatory will not be able to fund every desired program at the level requested by those who champion it. Limited funding means that not everything can have the same priority. Investing heavily in the highest priorities and utilizing proven methods which are aligned with the desired outcomes are the keys to setting the stage for change. What are your highest priorities? What are the outcomes you most want to see? What strategy or process is most likely to produce those outcomes? Answer those questions and the next steps become more clear.

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