

Possible Scenarios for Associations in the Future

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1. Many associations will continue to be essentially as they are now.
2. "Parent offspring" and base-satellite associations will be easily identifiable.
3. Associations will be affected by the growing movement to form clusters or compatibility-group fellowships (e.g. ethnic fellowship/black fellowship/bivocational fellowship/central city pastor fellowship/mega church pastor fellowship. A variety of terms may be used to describe such groups, e.g. fellowship, group, cluster, network, partnershi.)
4. There will probably be an increase in the number of associations of similar kinds of churches--based on doctrine, program style, and other factors.
5. There may be a reduced number of associations on the traditional pattern.
6. Associations will increasingly take on a role in world missions.
7. Some associations, particularly in new work areas, may relate to a single mega church in another state for establishing new work, training, financing, et cetera.
8. There may be a realignment of associations based on factors such as those identified above and because of the increased competition for scarce resources.
9. The characteristics of the role of the associational director of missions will shift to reflect changes in the churches and the associations.
10. Associational staffing may be affected as follows:
 - a. More DOMs with two or more associations
 - b. Some DOMs replaced by office managers
 - c. Some associations with multiple staff chosen and paid for locally.
11. DOMs will call for a restoration of their title "associational missionary."
12. Churches will be less dependent on associations for much of the information they currently receive--yet, will call for more information of other kinds from associations willing and able to provide it.
13. Associations will find their existence dependent upon the effectiveness with which they deliver desired benefits to the churches.
14. Innovations in associational life will emerge from and be tested on the field.
15. Other scenarios:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.