

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
ABSTRACT . . . . .	.viii
CHAPTER I: THE PROBLEM	1
Country Profile: Costa Rica	2
Land and Climate	3
Demographics	3
Economy	4
Education	6
Religious Profile of Costa Rica	6
The Evangelical Alliance of Costa Rica (FAEC)	10
Socio-religious Research Committee (CISRE)	12
Evangelical Growth Background	13
Theoretical Background	18
Ministry Background: Christ for the City	19
Potential Limitations	20
Definition of Terms	21
Research Questions	23
Importance of the Study	25
Personal Importance of the Topic	25
CHAPTER II: PRECEDENT RESEARCH	27
Conclusion	31
CHAPTER III: RESEARCH PROCEDURE	33
Research Strategy	33
Procedures of Implementation	35
Variables of Interest	36
Participant Selection	38
Instrumentation of the Survey	39
Interpretation of the Data	39
CHAPTER IV: RESEARCH FINDINGS	41
Overview of Research	41
Introduction	42

Part 1 - General Background	43
Ministry Realities	45
The Pastors	64
Summary	79
Part 2 - Rural vs. Urban Pastors	82
Ministry Realities: Rural vs. Urban	85
The Pastors: Rural vs. Urban	93
Summary	98
Part 3 - Small-church Pastors vs. Large-church Pastors	100
Ministry Realities	105
The Pastors: Small vs. Large	114
Summary	121
Part 4 - Interviews with Pastors	124
Pastor's Needs	125
Pastor's Education	126
Obstacles to Church Growth	129
Relationship with Communities	131
Importance of the Church in the Lives of Members and Outsiders	133
Summary	136
 CHAPTER V: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	 138
Conclusions	138
Recommendations to Pastors	139
Recommendations to Denominational Leaders	142
Recommendations to Educational Institutions	144
Recommendations to Mission Agencies	145
Recommendations to The Evangelical Alliance of Costa Rica (FAEC)	146
Future Avenues of Research	148
Final Words	149
 APPENDIX	
A. Map of Costa Rica	150
B. San José Greater Metropolitan Area	151
C. Pastoral Survey	152
D. Interview Questions	155
E. Tabulated Survey Summary	156
 REFERENCE LIST	 173

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Item</u>		<u>Page</u>
Table 1.1	Work Force Categories . . . . .	. 5
Table 1.2	Work Force by Groups . . . . .	. 5
Table 1.3	Provincial Distribution of Religious Groups and Number of Protestant Churches . . . . .	. 16
Table 4.1	Denominational Participation . . . . .	. 43
Table 4.2	Denominational Participation by Province . . . . .	. 44
Table 4.3	Missionaries Currently being Supported . . . . .	. 51
Table 4.4	Pastoral Salary Range. . . . .	. 70
Table 4.5	Level of Education . . . . .	. 74
Table 4.6	Distribution by Denominational Family . . . . .	. 83
Table 4.7	Distribution by Province	102
Table 4.8	Denominational Distribution	103
Table 4.9	Pastor's Educational Level	118
Table 4.10	Interview Ratios	124
Table 4.11	Obstacles to Church Growth	131

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Estimated Evangelical Population 1935 - 1997	. 15
Figure 4.1	Denominational Participation Distribution by Major Groupings	. 43
Figure 4.2	Survey Distribution by Province	. 45
Figure 4.3	Years when Churches were Established	. 46
Figure 4.4	Number of Churches vs. Average Size	. 48
Figure 4.5	Ministries in Churches	. 52
Figure 4.6	Community Openness	. 53
Figure 4.7	Community Problems.	. 54
Figure 4.8	What Attracts	. 55
Figure 4.9	What Repels Unbelievers	. 56
Figure 4.10	Why Evangelicals Leave	. 57
Figure 4.11	Evangelistic Methods .	. 58
Figure 4.12	Frequency of Evangelistic Events	. 59
Figure 4.13	Willingness to Cooperate in Evangelism	. 60
Figure 4.14	Moral Status of the Country	. 60
Figure 4.15	Current Age Distribution of Pastors	. 64
Figure 4.16	Age at Conversion, Costa Rican Pastors	. 65
Figure 4.17	Length of Time in Present Church	. 66
Figure 4.18	Years in Pastorate	. 67
Figure 4.19	Number of Churches Pastored	. 68
Figure 4.20	Pastoral Home Background	. 69
Figure 4.21	Salary levels	. 71
Figure 4.22	Pastor Salary Source	. 71
Figure 4.23	Pastor's Educational Level	. 72
Figure 4.24	Years of Theological Studies.	. 74
Figure 4.25	Areas of Most Need	. 75
Figure 4.26	Congregational Needs	. 77
Figure 4.27	Obstacles to Church Growth	. 78
Figure 4.28	Why Pastors Leave	. 79
 Part 2: Rural vs. Urban		
Figure 4.29	Year Churches were Started	. 84
Figure 4.30	Ministry Areas	. 85
Figure 4.31	Community Problems.	. 86
Figure 4.32	What Attracts People	. 87
Figure 4.33	What Repels Unbelievers.	. 88
Figure 4.34	Why People Leave Evangelical Churches	. 89
Figure 4.35	Why Pastors Leave	. 90

Figure 4.36	Evangelistic Methods . . . . .	. 91
Figure 4.37	Evangelism Events per Year . . . . .	. 91
Figure 4.38	Cooperation . . . . .	. 92
Figure 4.39	Pastor Salary Levels . . . . .	. 94
Figure 4.40	Educational Levels . . . . .	. 95
Figure 4.41	Pastor's Area of Need . . . . .	. 96
Figure 4.42	Congregational Needs . . . . .	. 97
Figure 4.43	Obstacles to Church Growth . . . . .	. 98

Part 3 Small-church Pastors vs. Large-church Pastors

Figure 4.44	Size of Churches	101
Figure 4.45	Years the Churches were Started	105
Figure 4.46	Ministries in Churches	106
Figure 4.47	Community Problems	108
Figure 4.48	What Attracts	109
Figure 4.49	What Repels Unbelievers	110
Figure 4.50	Why Evangelicals Leave	111
Figure 4.51	Why Pastors Leave	111
Figure 4.52	Evangelistic Methods	112
Figure 4.53	Cooperation Level	113
Figure 4.54	Pastoral Salaries	116
Figure 4.55	Pastor Salary Source	117
Figure 4.56	Pastor's Area of Most Need	119
Figure 4.57	Congregational Needs	120
Figure 4.58	Obstacles to Growth	121