

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit in Evangelism

- * 1971 = 4% no religious affiliation
 - 2014 = 25% no religious affiliation Nat'l Post 2014
- * 10-19% Canadians attend church wkly. 20-43% Americans attend church wkly.
- 48% Canadians never attend church/yr. 17% U.S. never attend church/yr.
- # Highest 'unchurched' regions: B.C. & Que. U.S.= Oregon, Nevada, Washington, Alaska, New England Stateshttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unchurched_Belt
- * 80% Canadians believe "don't have to go to church to be a Christian"

 Stats. Can web site: Who's Religious

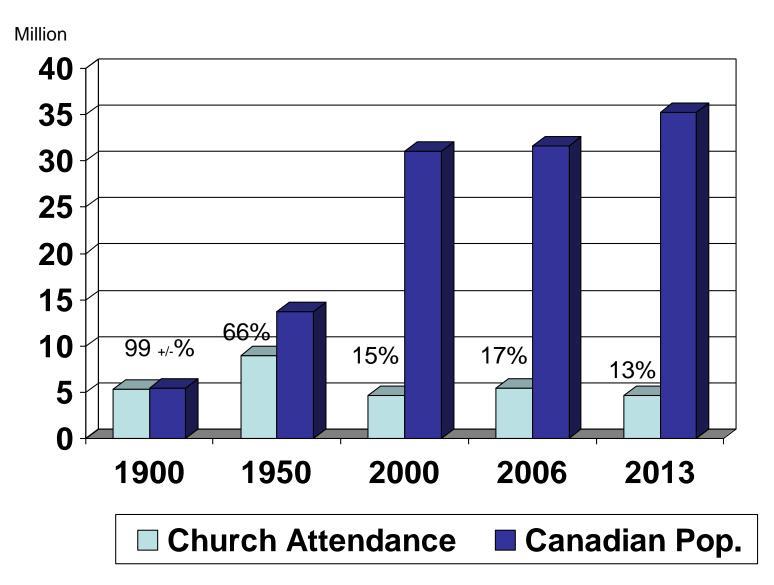
* www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/canadians-losing-their-religion-and-other-survey-highlights/article11778320/



340,000+ churches North America

- 80 85% declining/plateaued
- 14 19+% are growing because of ...
 - transfer, circulating saints
 - biological growth (babies)
- <1 % growing from 'conversion growth'</p>
- 75% of churches have <75 (av. att. = 90)
- 90% of all congregations have < 350

- 8.7 million fewer Protestants in 10 yrs.
- 3,750 churches close vs. 1,300 begin/yr.
 (in 2009 church planting temp. exceeded closures)
- Pastoral shortage: 20 30% churches?
- Bible colleges / seminaries graduating ¹/₂ number of graduates needed.
- High Drop-out rate of pastors due to:
 conflicts, feeling unproductive,
 moral/financial failures, burn-out
 marital stress (50% divorce?),
 health issues, depression





Canadians who NEVER attend church

197020%

2010 40+%



8 of 9 largest denominations in Canada are in SERIOUS decline.

(United, Anglican, Presby. each lost approx. 200,000 in 10 yrs.)

Many evangelical denominations are also in severe decline: losing 7% to 22% in last 10 yrs.

The growth of cults & other world religions in Canada in 10 yrs.



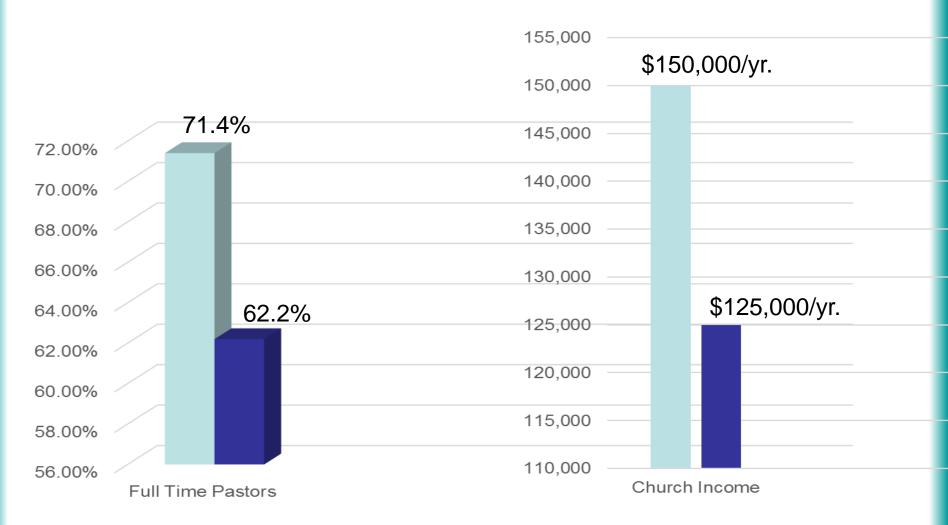


2007 - 2014

Evangelical churches DECLINED 0.9%
Catholics DECLINED 3.1%
Mainline Protestants DECLINED 3.4%

Other world religions INCREASED 1.2% Nones/Unaffiliated INCREASED 6.7%

2010 - 2015 U.S. Awkward Trends



The Church of Jesus Christ has completely lost its moral and persuasive abilities within North American culture.

The church no longer is a salting/influencing organism in society (the unchurched & all levels of governments do not care what the church says or stands for).

George Barna

Research shows that local churches have virtually **no**



influence in our culture. The seven dominant spheres of influence are: movies, music, television, books, the internet, law and family. The second tier of influencers is comprised of entities such as: schools, peers, newspapers, radio and business'. The local church appears among entities that have little-or-no influence on society.

Revolution: (118)

Thom Rainer states:



Most churches today simply are irrelevant to most of society. The language, methodology, music, organizations, buildings and sermons typically do not reflect the world in which most people live... they are a trip into a nostalgic past at best, and boring irrelevancy at worst.

Neil Cole "Organic Church"

"The local church no longer has the influence to change the world ... something is wrong with the way we are doing church here."

Lesslie Newbigin

'North America is one of the most resistant cultures to the gospel message'

WHY do churches plateau & decline? Why is the church in North America in such bad shape?



A Truism



The average church needs to replace between 5 to 11% of it's attendees every year, just to hold its own.

- 1 2% die
- 2 3 % move
- 2 6% walk away from Christ/Church

Our back door is bigger than our front door!

Ineffective Outreach & Evangelism Methods

1 % Christians will share their faith/year 5% will EVER lead someone to Christ in lifetime 50%+ churches do not see any conversions/year 85 Christians working for 1 yr. to win 1 convert

1 % of N. Am. Christians will verbally share their faith this year.

5 % of N. Am. Christians will EVER lead a person to Christ.

(Chaffin; Hunter, Church for the Unchurched 179).

George Hunter & Ron Johnson state only about 1% of Christians will share their faith this year in their day-today dealings with an unsaved friend/ family member. The 2001 edition of *Operation World* states apprx. 2% of North American Christians regularly share their faith & the most recent 2010 edition states evangelism in North America is an 'alien activity'. Thom Rainer indicates only 2% of American Christians invite an unchurched person to attend church each year. Sadly, only about 5% of Christians will ever in their life-time, lead another person to the Lord.

- Hunter, George. Church for the Unchurched, 1996 (179). Brett Chaffin: online article "Lifestyle evangelism" Feb. 17, 2005
 www.lifestyleevangelism.com/ Web site now closed
- Mandryk, Jason. Operation World, 2010. (52) also: http://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/statistics-about-sharing-faith.asp (accessed Jan. 3, 2014)
- Rainer, Thom. The Unchurched next door, 2003.
- Hunter, George. Church for the Unchurched, 1996. (179) and http://www.fffnations.com/SeptOctEng.pdf (access Jan. 3, 2014)://www.thislatehour.com/are-you-ready-for-the-coming-global-harvest.html

* Ineffective Outreach & Evangelism Methods

1 % Christians will share their faith/year 5% will EVER lead someone to Christ in lifetime 50%+ churches do not see any conversions/year 85 Christians working for 1 yr. to win 1 convert

* Church Scandal (distrust/alienate)

- high profile: abuse, financial, moral
- lifestyle/attitudes/behavior no different than those who don't attend church
- changing doctrine/beliefs (orthodoxy)

- * Unresponsive to rapidly changing national landscape
 - 47% immigrants in last 10 yrs. are non-Christian
- Cult & religion outreach efforts are attractive options
- Over 2,000 different denominations in N. Am.
 Over 38,000 Christian denominations in world

 - Experts agree: Canada is post-Christian (pre-??)
 - Changing ethnic make-up of urban areas
 - Urbanization of society: less rural/ manufacturing

* Churches widely seen as:

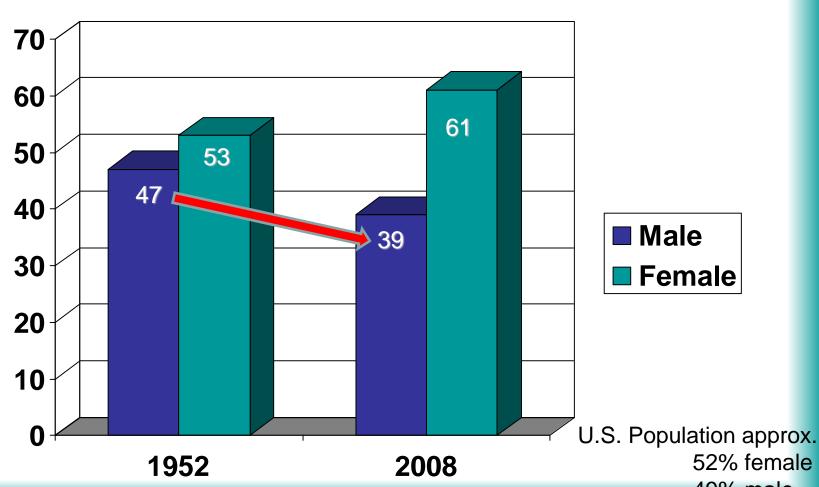
- irrelevant - oppressive - patriarchal
- out of date/touchboring money oriented



- Church lost its New Testament outreach / evangelism focus
 - primarily look after those 'in' the church
- Media portrayal Evangelicals
 - 2nd. lowest approval rating ... last only to prostitutes. Barna 2002.

- Leadership Challenges:
 - pastoral transitions 2 to 3 yrs.
 - trained to know how to 'pastor', but not lead
- Losing youth ages 18-29:
 - 10 to 12% in church *vs.*28% attended 20 yrs. ago
- Losing Men:
 - far less than ½ attend

U.S. Weekly Church Attendance by gender



http://www.ncls.org.au/default.aspx?sitemapid=137

49% male

Men's Ministry

Reach the man ... reach the whole family.

Statistically: Child saved = 3% of the family saved

Mom saved = 17% of the family saved

Dad saved = 93% of the family saved



Insanity



Continuing to do the same thing, over and over again ... yet expecting to get a different result!

Will you and your church just be another pathetic statistic OR

Will you be different type of Christian leader and led a great and effective church to the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom in this world?

Many pastors and denominational leaders seem strangely unaware or alarmingly unmoved by the anemic, ineffective, declining, marginalized and irrelevant state of the church in North America. There is no doubt the church has significantly lost its moral and persuasive influence in society.

Even more problematic is the church's apparent lack of concern for the lostness of millions of people in our nation. North America has become one of the most apathetic and resistant cultures in the world to the message & presence of Christ's church.

Is there any hope?

H O P E

Outside of North America/Western World the church of Christ is doing well ... growing explosively, vibrant & impacting.

AFRICA: Assemblies of God: tripled in 10 yrs. 2.1 million to 7 million

All Christians: Projected growth from 90 million to 1 billion by 2050

KOREA: Christian churches 1960 – 1995: 6,000 to 36,000

Christians 1960 – 1995: 600,000 to 9 million

CHINA: All Christians: 1950 – 2000: 1 million to 91 million

Estimates: Today 10,000 converts/day

INDIA: Estimates: 2000 – 2050: 50 million to 125 million

BRAZIL: Estimates: Church growth rate is twice the growth rate of population

There is hope ...

While many denominations in North America are losing 1,000's of members, some denominations are growing at an impressive rate of 29% (over 10 yrs.)



There is hope ...

- ➤ There are specific local churches, even within declining denominations, which are growing and effectively reaching and retaining people (i.e. Adam Hamilton, Church of the Resurrection, United Methodist, Kansas)
- ➤ Paul Cho's (retired) church in Seoul, Korea has 480,000, the largest church ever.
- ➤ The largest Methodist churches in the world are found in Korea (Kum Yan = 60,000)
- The number of mega-churches (attendance over 2,000) has doubled in N. America in the last few years (1,625 U.S. & 25 Canada)

Warren Bird: World's Largest Churches: Leadership Network Fall 2013

There is hope ...

- Around the world there are 8 churches with actual average weekly attendance (not membership) of 51,000 or more (there are none in N. America).
- ➤ In addition, outside of the U.S. and Canada there are 45 churches with actual weekly attendance of 10,000 or more.

I believe you can accomplish more for Christ than any small accomplishments | may have achieved.

The big question is not can you ... but will you with the help of God?

Our Response

83 % of N. Am. Christians believe in and practice only one form of evangelism

Friendship/Lifestyle Evangelism

PREMISE: Friendship Evangelism

If I live a morally upright life, have an exemplary home life and work ethic, and intentionally act in thoughtful, generous and kind ways towards the unsaved ...these will led to the unsaved asking questions about my faith or open up opportunities for me

to invite the person to a Christian event.

Friendship Evangelism does result in a tiny number of conversions

85% of those who begin to attend church, did so because a Christian offered a non-church friend, a personal invitation to attend church.

11 Innovations in the local Church. (223)

resulting in very, very meager conversion results in North America. For every one person who does come to church and gets saved due to friendship evangelism, 100,000's are not responding to friendship evangelism, and continue on their journey to a lost eternity.

What is going on?

The N. American church has come to believe that "Friendship/ Lifestyle Evangelism" is

THE

Biblical & most effective form of Evangelism

Friendship/Life-Style Evangelism

Built on 4 faulty premises:

- Christians are internally motivated, excited & willing to share their faith.
- 2. The life-styles of Christians are both obviously different and winsome to non-Christians.
- 3. Christians have non-Christian friends.
- 4. Evangelism is best accomplished relationally, one-on-one.

Barna's research indicates 85% of those who do not attend church recognized little-to-no difference in attitudes and behaviour between a Christian and a non-Christian.

Tim Keller

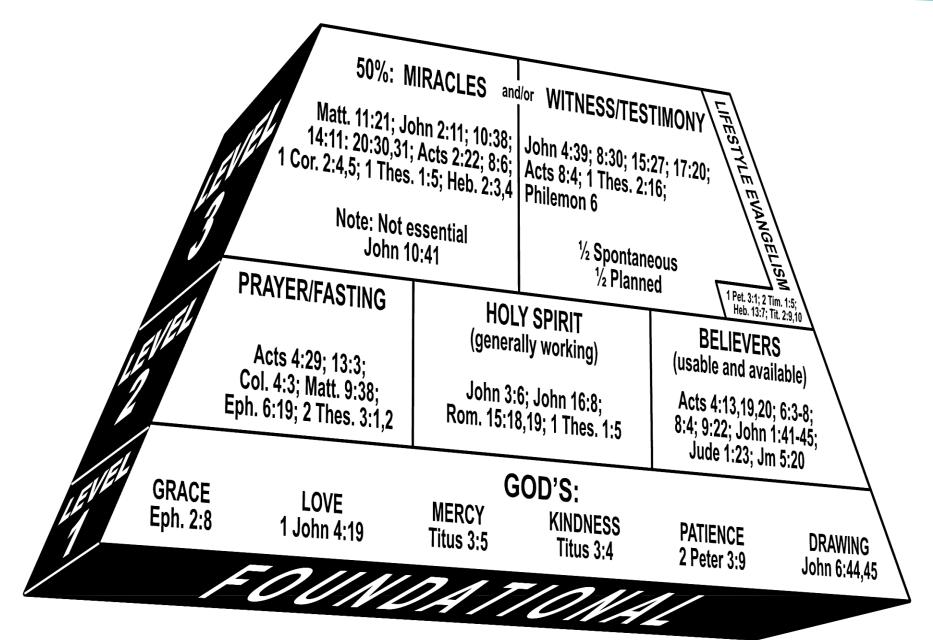
Author & Sr. Pastor Redeemer Presbyterian Church New York

"Individual morality and personal evangelism will not be sufficient witness in a secular mission field."

IF your Mormon, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, Jehovah Witness, Scientologist, Hindu next door neighbor cut your lawns and had a solid family life, would that incline you to become a Mormon, Muslim, Buddhist, Jew or Hindu, etc.?

IF NOT >>> then why do we think our Christian lifestyle would have a significant converting influence on others?

Biblical factors contributing to evangelistic success



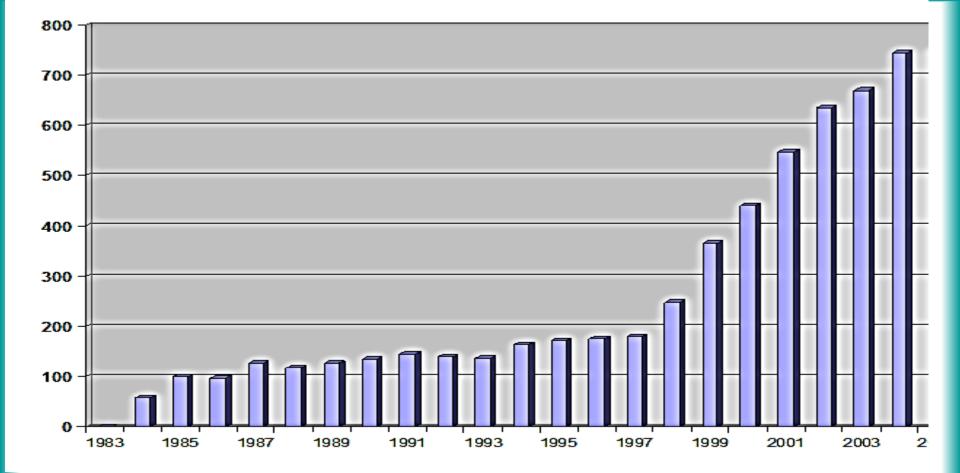
Signs, Wonders, Miracles

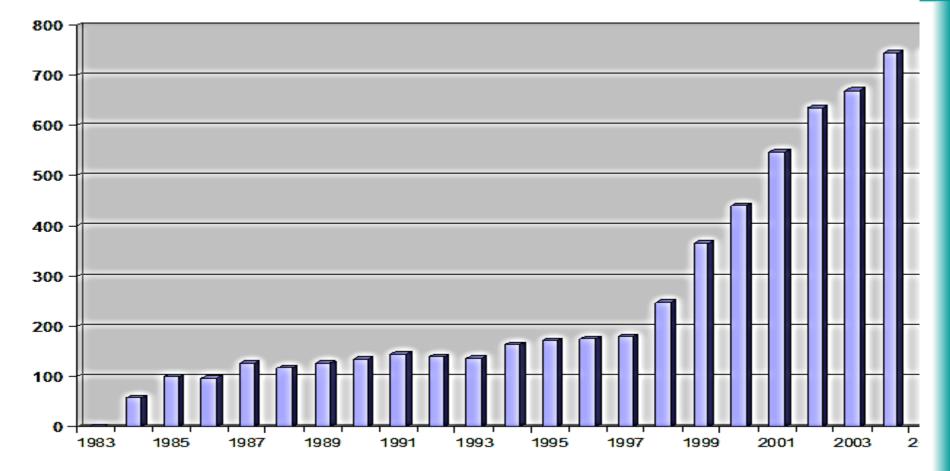
- Physical healings from disease & injury
- Exorcisms (casting out demons)
- Raising the dead
- Signs: in the sky, angel visits, rainbow, events
- Wonders: burning bush, fire on mountain
- Miracles: water into wine; multiplying fish; walking on water
- Prophecy: predict future
- Words of Knowledge: knowledge of unknowable present realities
- Speaking in tongues (angel/earthly language)
- Unusual & timely answers to prayer, provisions, protections
- Palatable Presence: "God is near ... in this place"



Jesus' Evangelism Method MIRACLES, SIGNS, WONDERS

- Drew the crowd
- Credential / authenticated the speaker
- Broke apathy / indifference
- Caused a health fear / reverence for God
- Opened the minds of the unsaved to consider the claims of the Christian message
- Encouraged the church to be bold
- Confirmed the existence of God to skeptics
- Usually resulted in instantaneous faith & repentance
- Convicted people of their own sinfulness / weakness





1997: Men's ministry
Serving by Gifts
Small & Mid. Groups
Worship Focus
Vision ownership

New Facility
Leadership Development
Infrastructure - marbles
Emphasis on Holy Spirit

- "Jesus did many other miraculous signs... which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ..." John 20:30
- "My message came ... with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power" 1Cor. 2:4-5 "So Paul and Barnabas ... spoke boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and
- God did extraordinary miracles through Paul. Handkerchiefs and aprons that touched him were take to the sick, and their illness were cured and evil spirits left them ... In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power." Acts 19:11, 20

wonders." Acts 14:3

"Everyone was filled with awe and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles ... and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved ... The Apostles performed many miraculous signs & wonders among the people" Acts 4:43,47; 5:12

- Gibbons "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" ... identified 5 factors WHY the church of Jesus Christ grew so quickly in the first 300 years (120 to 5,000,000) especially given that the culture, government was VICIOUSLY anti-Christian.
- His conclusion: Christians (lay & clergy)
 commonly performed 'miracles' of healing,
 exorcism, prophecy, etc. that resulted in
 massive numbers of people becoming
 followers of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism/Missionary Work of the Apostles Paul & Peter

The truth be told: the vast majority of those Paul preached to, **did not even know him**. Paul travels to Ephesus (Acts 19:11,20) & Iconium (Acts 14:1,3) and many people became Christian ... but they didn't initially know if his life-style backed up or affirmed the Christian faith.

Peter's amazing evangelistic results, were due in large measure to the miracles, signs & wonders, healings (Acts 2:41-43; 4:4; **READ: Rm. 15:17-19**)

Life-style & friendship evangelism were, for the most part, non-factors in New Testament evangelism.

We have NOT Factored in the "WHY" people in the New Testament excitedly brought their family and friends to see/encounter Jesus.



Those who did bring their friends to Christ, did so primarily because they had personally experienced or had first-hand knowledge about Jesus' miracles.

- Come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Jn.4:29
- 4 men bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus. Mk. 2:3
- Jesus heals 2 blind men. As a direct result "they went out & spread the news about him all over that region". Mt.9:31
- Jesus raised the young boy back to life, then "This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea & the surrounding country" Lk. 7:17
- "When they heard all Jesus was doing, many people came to Him from Judea, Jerusalem & the regions across the Jordan...for He had healed many. Mk. 3:8-10

- The Bible is clear: Jesus' miraculous ministries were a significant reason why huge crowds came to see and hear Him.
- Yet today, when churches either fearfully minimize or discourage the supernatural manifestations of God & the person/ work of the Holy Spirit, we strangely expect those in our congregations to be excited about inviting their family and friends to church to meet Jesus.
- The lack of emphasis on the miraculous is like tying one of our hands behind our back. By doing so, the church is robbed of its natural ally in evangelism. Somehow we have concluded that bland, dispassionate Christians who are friendly and godly, will somehow magically and enthusiastically invite their unsaved friends and neighbours and co-workers into a relationship with Christ.



Jesus' & Biblical statements

- "At least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves" Jn14:11
- "Even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may learn and understand that the Father I in me, and I in the Father." John 10:38
- "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs ..." Acts 2:22
- "This salvation which was first announce by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles ... " Heb. 2:4
- "leading the Gentiles to obey God ... by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit". Rom. 15:19

George Barna

In identifying the 'attributes that made the first Church so attractive and effective' ...

"THE EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS OF THE FIRST BELIEVERS WERE CARRIED OUT THROUGH PREACHING ... CONVERSATIONS ... PRAYER ... PERFORMING MIRACLES TO FOSTER THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE SOURCE OF THEIR POWER ...BELIEVERS EXHIBITED A REMARKABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE & PEOPLE AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE PRESENCE OF THE SUPERNATURAL IN THEIR EVERYDAY ADVENTURES."

Theologian Gordon Fee and Dr. Stephen Seamands

Theologically, evangelical churches are Trinitarian in doctrine, but

BI-TARIAN in practice.

We depend nominally on the Spirit, but primarily on ourselves—our training, our skills, our personalities, our past experiences, our knowledge, our sincere efforts. As a result, what we accomplish is limited to what we can do.

Fee: Paul, The Spirit and the people of God.

Seamands: Ministry after God's own heart

Greek word/phrase for a follower of Christ.

A spectator of a miracle

What makes a church different than any other organization, institution, business in the world?

Exodus 33:16

Our strategies to get people to church, so they can know and love Jesus

Programs Competent & Likeable Staff

Events Updated facilities Music

Specials Use of media Arts

Creativity Advertising Socials

Excellence Multiple services Support

Fun activities Convenience timing

Need-meeting ministries Comfortable settings

Guest Lectures Conferences/Seminars

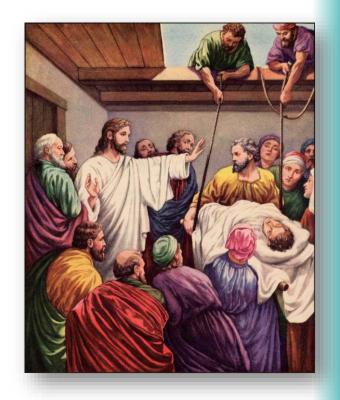
Relevance Celebrities Balloons/Clowns

Here is one of my big conclusions

The primary reason why people go to church is in the hopes of encountering & experiencing the God of the universe, and when week-after-week, month-aftermonth that does not happen ... they grow discouraged, disappointed and disillusioned, and begin to drop out. There is almost no likelihood these church attenders will enthusiastically invite their family and friends to attend church. Our powerless churches are leaving people feeling cold, unsatisfied and indifferent.

My Contention





When God shows up in power to heal, deliver, astonish, amaze, astound ... you can't keep the people away, nor stop them from inviting others to come see for themselves ... even if the worship services are taking place in a cold drafty barn, or in the sweltering heat, or on an uncomfortable mountain side.

Generally the empowering of the Holy Spirit takes place in response to the individual or the church body purposefully & passionately seeking, over an extended period of time, the purifying and empowering presence of the Holy Spirit in their life and midst.

- corporate times of extended prayer, fasting, seeking (Acts 4:31, 8:15)
- believing the empowering presence is available for you (Gal.3:5)
- humbly submitting to Jesus' Lordship (Eph. 5, esp. v.18)
- repentance from known rebellion/pride (Acts 5:32)
- individually, persistently asking for His infilling (Lk. 11:8-13)
- declaring our great need & desire for His presence (Acts 4:29-31)
- asking other Spirit-filled believers to lay hands on us (Acts 8:17-18)
- obedience to His revealed will (Jn. 2:7, 1 Kg. 18 Elijah)
- love and unity within the family of God (Acts 2:1, Jn. 17:23)

2 Interesting Notations

- There are no New Testament examples of people being filled with the Holy Spirit, by themselves.
 It may happen to the individual, but Biblically it always takes place in a group/community setting/context.
- The infilling of the Holy Spirit is usually not a 'once for all time' event. In the Bible, individuals were filled, and later re-filled, again and again with the presence & power of the Holy Spirit. (Peter & John: Acts 2:4 & 4:31; and Paul: Acts 9:17 & 13:9)
 - **D.L. Moody**: I need to be refilled with the Holy Spirit, because I leak (need a fresh anointing) Acts 10:38
 - Dr. Elliott: A person can also be filled multiple times with the Holy Spirit, because their capacity for God increases (think of a collapsible cup, expanding to hold more)

It's not that friendship evangelism is wrong ... it is just not enough.

Not nearly enough

 What would it really take to break the apathy, indifference of the average person you know, to the claims of Christ?

Different Evangelism Methodologies

I'm for them all

- friendship evangelism,
- worship evangelism,
- event evangelism,
- street witnessing,
- artistic evangelism,
- cell group evangelism,
- Socratic evangelism,
- seeker service evangelism,
- neighborhood evangelism,
- confrontational evangelism,
- · family evangelism,
- · crusade evangelism,

- hospitality evangelism,
- literature / tract evang.,
- lifestyle evangelism,
- acts of kindness evang.,
- servant evangelism,
- sports evangelism,
- film evangelism
- concert evangelism
- prayer evangelism
- spiritual warfare evang
- door-to-door evang
- media evangelism

<<< BUT >>>

Although God can and does bless most any effort to advance the gospel message (Phil. 1:15-28) ... not all approaches to evangelism bear the same fruit.

Not all fishing methods, reap the same results.

Some have said

The most effective form of evangelism is church planting.

This is simply NOT true. It is the 'second' most effective form of evangelism

The most effective form of evangelism is: revival style services which are characterized by the presence and power of God.

Persuasion Theories:

What convinces/influences another person to do or believe something?

- a. Logical/ Reason
- b. Character (trustworthy person)
- c. Reciprocal/ Goodwill (return a favour)
- d. Eloquence/Emotion (touch the heart)
- e. Power (overwhelming evidence)



What is going on?

Almost without exception the **great** revivals of the past were marked by the miraculous presence of the Holy Spirit.

Welsh, Wesley, Charles Finney, Jonathan Edwards, Ralph Horner

Revivals

- Azusa Street (Los Angeles, California) 1906 1914
 Marked by: Healings, tongues, racial reconciliation, interdenominational, signs/wonders, salvation, foreign missions work, launch of Pentecostalism
- Welsh Revival (Wales): 1904-1905
 Marked by: 150,000 conversions. Visions, deep repentance, spontaneous praise, lives and communities dramatically changed for good.
- Finney Revivals (New England): 1824 1832
 Marked by: 500,000 conversions, Prayer, conviction
- Wesley Revivals (England): 1738 1791

The Atmosphere/ Environment enlivened/charged by the Holy Spirit

- Enlivened expectation of meeting with God (perhaps a holy hush, or a strange sense of being 'warmly drawn' to encounter the God of the universe)
- Conviction for the wrongness & offensiveness of sin is more readily felt
- Awareness of the 'lostness & hopelessness' of the soul apart from Christ is felt
- Simultaneously an awareness of hope, because of God's love/grace
- Remorse/ Repentance more easily felt & expressed
- A heightened desire to respond to / follow God's will & leading is present
- Miracles, signs, wonders: more prevalent, when they are expected.

Effect of the Unction/Anointing of the Holy Spirit upon preaching.

- God speaks through the preacher, more so than the preacher speaking on behalf of God.
- Greater boldness, passion, confidence & strength.
- Sometimes the words the preacher says, totally bypasses the preacher's mind. (I had never thought those insights/words/illustrations or applications before).
- Greater number of conversions.
- The impact of the sermon is significantly higher, upon believers (more convincing, convicting, enlightening, comforting, encouraging, persuasive, challenging, joy/life giving)

Warren Bird

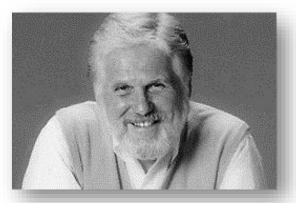
When Jesus healed and did other miracles,
He attracted a crowd. They saw needs being
met and they responded accordingly. Then,
Jesus challenge them to become true
followers... people see the miracles and
come to learn more.

The Christian church is growing explosively around the world, where the verbal proclamation of the gospel is substantiated by the miraculous presence and power of God.

Thom Rainer

In his book "The Book of Church Growth" Thom Rainer states categorically and unequivocally, "The statistics of church growth in Latin America reveal that this movement has seen MORE NEW GROWTH than ANY similar movement in church history... it momentum has been phenomenal ... with few exceptions the great numbers are coming to Christ because of power evangelism"

John Wimber



Preaching and demonstrating the gospel are not mutually exclusive activities; they work together, reinforcing each other.

What is needed?

To break the apathy & indifference in North American culture

We need the Combination of: Proclamation & Demonstration Verbalization & Visualization