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Introduction JASCG Summer 2000

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Introduction

Gary L. McIntosh, Editor

I really believe in setting goals. They give us something to work for and clearly point out our success or failure. Yet, underneath the goals we need to think souls not goals.

As many of us have discovered, church leaders who try to sell goals to their people, without helping them see the souls within the goals, most often fail. We must major on souls not simply goals. While the Church Growth Movement has always encouraged the setting of goals, the underlying concern has clearly been the finding of lost souls.

This issue of the *Journal of the American Society for Church Growth* begins with an article that encourages a new look at God's search for lost souls. Dr. Charles Van Engen writes "Is the Church for Everyone? Planting Multi-Ethnic congregations in North America." His article is a lengthy one, but it will be worth your time to read it. The obvious multi-ethnic environment in which most of us now minister will continue to challenge our ability to "seek and save the lost." Van Engen's article provides a new way of looking at this old issue. Another missiologist, Dr. Tom Steffen, writes "A Response to Chuck Van Engen's 'Is The Church for Everyone?'" His additional insights will provide a thoughtful perspective on multicultural issues.

Dr. C. Peter Wagner's article, "The Church's One Foundation, Part Two: What Apostles Have" completes his two-part series which began in the last issue. I am certain you will find his ideas and thoughts on apostles to be challenging.

Our final article will draw you back into the 1970s – bell bottoms, tie-dyed shirts, stacked heel shoes – with an interesting

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look at “The Spontaneous Generation: Lessons from the Jesus Movement for Today.” Dr. Alvin Reid builds on his studies of revival and the Great Awakening, to draw out principles from the past youth movement which are applicable to all our churches.

So, enjoy this issue of our journal, but remember throughout all your reading to think souls not simply goals.

– Editor