

Journal of the American Society for Church Growth

Volume 10 | Issue 2

Article 1

7-1-1999

Introduction

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Recommended Citation

McIntosh, G. L. (1999). Introduction. *Journal of the American Society for Church Growth*, 10(2), 1-2.
Retrieved from <https://digitalarchives.apu.edu/jascg/vol10/iss2/1>

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Introduction

Gary L. McIntosh, Editor

This spring 1999 issue of the *Journal of the American Society for Church Growth* continues where the winter issue left off with the publication of several lectures from the Annual Meeting of November 1998.

Dr. George Hunter III brings his insight and scholarship to bear on the subject of "The Ancient Celtic Way of Being and Doing Church for the Post-Modern West." This fascinating article about the growth of the church among Celtic peoples of 5th Century AD is sure to be discussed at length in the coming years.

Noted journalist and author, Dr. Russell Chandler uses his broad understanding of churches to answer the question, "What Types of Churches Will People Stand in Line for in the 21st Century?" An award winning author, Dr. Chandler carefully discusses issues such as ethnicity and diversity, ages and stages, spirituality and experience, communication and collaboration, and branding and benefits.

Writing from a pastor's point of view, Rev. Jon Wilson addresses "What Kind of Church Does God Want to Grow?" Building on the passage of Acts 2, Jon summarizes five principles for growing churches in the 21st Century.

Yoido Full Gospel Church in Korea has been one of the main models of church growth for a number of years. Dr. Joel Comiskey presents what is likely the most thorough study of the actual attendance figures at this church ever completed. His findings and conclusions will surprise many readers and be an interesting case study for many church growth classes.

From a popular standpoint, Christian Schwarz's book on

Journal of the American Society for Church Growth, Spring 1999

natural church development is being accepted overwhelming, and also uncritically, by many pastors and church leaders. However, several scholars are raising major concerns about the research methodology employed by Schwarz. Drs John Ellas and Flavil Yeakley carefully point out what they describe as the “pseudo-science” used for the underlying research base described in Schwarz’s book. Their book review of *Natural Church Development* is must reading for all readers of the JASCG.

Two additional reviews of *Anytime, Anywhere* and *Choosing A Future for U.S. Missions* by Dr. Charles Arn and Dr. Tom Steffen conclude this issue.

—Editor