



LIVING MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

AN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY OF: REACHING • PREACHING • TEACHING

EVANGELISM INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

EVANGELISM INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

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1. LOOK BACK

Secular World

Church Emphases

Church Growth in 20th Century

Challenges facing the Church

Condition of Church

2. FOUR TRENDS THAT POSE A CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIAN EVANGELISM

- **Uncontrolled urbanization**
- **Unrelenting aggressive secularism**
- **Expanding non-Christian religions**
- **Shifting Frontiers and Emerging Fields**

3. UNCHANGEABLE FACTS

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- **Our Mandate**
 - a) **A re-discovery of the Full Biblical Message**
 - b) **Mobilization of the Whole Church**
 - c) **Explore new methods and new fields**
 - Evaluation**
 - d) **Total and Unconditional Dependence Upon God**

EVANGELISM INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

1. LOOK BACK

SECULAR WORLD

- 1960's - Promiscuous Society
- 1970's - Humanistic Society
- 1980's - Selfish Society
- 1990's - Multinational and Pagan Society

CHURCH EMPHASES

- 1950's - Evangelism
- 1960's - Social Compassion
- 1970's - Prayer Movements
- 1980's - Renewal Prophetic Ministries
- 1990's - Spiritual Warfare

CHURCH GROWTH in 20th CENTURY

Per day - 78 000 new Christians

Growth Points

- Latin America - AD1900 500 million 200%
- AD2000 2 billion
- Africa - 1 new denomination per week
- 1600 converts
- Asia - China - 1980's-20 000
- 1990's-50 million
- Korea - 30% of population Christians

1975

Church membership equally divided between western and non-western Churches 75 million

1995

Non-western Churches - 480 million

Western Churches remain 75 million

Challenges facing the Church

**Political; Social; Demographic; Economic;
Philosophical**

Condition of Church

Paralyzed and confused, torn by division and uncertainty; withdrawn into ecclesiastical ghettos; pre-occupied with its own internal affairs and unconcerned and irrelevant to deepest needs of those around us. However, the 21st century could be the greatest moment of the Church.

2. FOUR TRENDS THAT POSE A CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIAN EVANGELISM

A. UNCONTROLLED URBANIZATION

By 2000AD:

- **6 billion people (about three times the number of people living at the dawn of the 20th century.**
- **Half the world in cities - uprooted & disillusioned.**
- **50% of world's population under 25 years old.**
- **22 cities with a population of over 10 million.**

B. UNRELENTING AGGRESSIVE SECULARISM

Secularism

- **Excludes God from the world and human life**
- **Live for the present, without any reference to God or divine, moral or spiritual values, e.g. education “responsible decision making” - teachers do not tell kids what is right or wrong any more, they only teach them a process for making their own decisions.**

C. EXPANDING NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

Due to failure of secularism, there is a religious awakening taking place but it is not historic Christianity.

Islam	-	<u>16%</u> growth per year
Hinduism	-	<u>12%</u> growth per year
Buddhism	-	<u>10%</u> growth per year
Christianity	-	<u>9%</u> growth per year

D. SHIFTING FRONTIERS & EMERGING FIELDS

The last decade of the 20th century remembered by historians as one of the watershed periods of the modern era. The collapse of Marxism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has opened the door for the Gospel to reach millions.

The 21st century presents the possibility of major changes e.g. “New”(New South Africa; New Age; New World Order)

Will new doors be opening? viz., Turkey, Middle East & China

A period of religious Polarisation? Liberal & Conservative; Social & Evangelical; Inter-faith & Independents; Reformed & Charismatic

Will “Christian Nations” abandon Christian roots for the sake of trade purposes and conformity and political correctness?

So called “Christian” nations are now becoming new targets of aggressive cults for proselytizing.

3. UNCHANGABLE FACTS

(Campaign in UK – Starving people

“Band Aid”

Lost Momentum – “Compassion Fatigue”

Compassion Overload)

(a) Our Message

- **God loves and communicates**
- **Mankind has rebelled and is alienated from God**
- **God has taken the initiative to bridge the gap**
- **Hope for the future - Christ is risen; He will reign; God has not changed, nor the Gospel, nor has the heart of man**
- **The 7 recorded messages in Acts all called for a verdict**

(b) Our Mandate (Mark 16:15) The disciples obeyed this command and their ministry shook the Roman Empire. The evangelistic imperative remains unchanged.

➤ **Relevant**

➤ **Revolutionary**

➤ **Prophetic**

(i) A re-discovery of Full Biblical Message

(ii) Mobilization of the Whole Church

Professor Michael Green

“Whenever Christianity has been at its most healthy, evangelism has stemmed from the local church and has had a noticeable impact on the surrounding area. I do not believe that the re-Christianization of the West can take place without the renewal of the local churches in this whole area of evangelism.”

I Thessalonians 1:8 *“Your faith in God has become known everywhere”.*

Professor George Hunter

“Western Christianity needs a multitude of international missionary congregations — churches that will abandon the old decrepit Christian models of ministry and whose prime mission will be to reach and disciple people who do not yet believe”

Encourage gift of Evangelism

(iii) Evaluate New Methods and explore New Fields

**Be creative. Paul was “all things to all men.”
Methods are only a means to an end.**

(iv) Depend Totally & Unconditionally upon God

Archbishop George Carey at his enthronement in April 1991 stated, “It will be more woe to us if we preach religion instead of the Gospel ... woe to us if we preach a message that looks only towards inner piety and does not relate our faith to the world around. Woe to us if we fail to hand on to future generations and the unsearchable

rules of Christ, which are the very heartbeat of the Church and its mission.”

People who believe the Bible are deranged — and even dangerous.

Charles Colson in the chapter on Healthy Believing in his book “Dangerous Grace”, states that when film director Martin Scorsese updated the 1992 thriller CAPE FEAR, he made one significant change: “He turned the crazed villain into a Bible quoting Pentecostal Christian, with a cross tattooed across his back. In a scene where he tries to rape a woman, he shouts: “Are you ready to be born again?”

The message is clear: People who believe the Bible are deranged and even dangerous. The belief that religion is harmful to mental health is common in secular media and academia today: The idea goes back to Sigmund Freud, who regarded belief in God as neurosis.

But, in Christianity Today, Christian Psychiatrist David Larson exposes that assumption as mere myth. When he examined the imperial data, Larson says he found exactly the opposite. Religious people are actually healthier than the general population, both mentally and physically.

" people who believe in Christianity but don't practice it, do experience greater stress"

For example, in a literature review, Larson discovered that 19 out of 20 studies showed religion plays a positive role in preventing alcoholism. 16 out of 17 studies showed a positive role in reducing suicide. Religious commitment was associated with lower rates of mental disorder, drug use and pre-marital sex. People who attended church regularly even show much lower blood pressure levels.

The standard view that associates religion with psychological problems does have one kernel of truth, however. Larson found that people who believe in Christianity but don't practice it, do experience greater stress. People who believe in God, but who neglect church attendance and Bible reading, those who are divorced, or abuse alcohol, show higher rates of anxiety than the general population. In short, the inconsistent Christian suffers greater stress than the consistent atheist.

The committed Christian is happier and suffers less mental illness than the general population.

The most miserable person of all is the one who knows the truth and yet does not obey it.