

The American Church in Crisis

7 Startling Facts

Outreach Magazine Report-May/June 2006

1) *Less than 20% of Americans regularly attend church – half of what the pollsters report*

- 330,000 churches in America
- 17.7% (52 million) of Americans attend church

2) *American church attendance is steadily declining*

Evangelical 9.2%

Catholic 5.5%

Mainline 3.1%

3) *Only one state is outpacing its population growth. Hawaii*

Percentages of population attending church:

IL 19% CA 14% TX 18%

AZ 13% NY 14% WA 14%

AL 26% DC 29% CO 15%

4) *Mid-sized churches are shrinking; the smallest and largest churches are growing*

- Churches under 50 and over 2,000 are growing
 - Average attendance of Protestant church: 124
 - 1,250 mega-churches in America/one emerges every three days
- | | | | | |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| CA: 178 | FL: 85 | IL: 46 | OH: 44 | NC: 39 |
| TX: 157 | GA: 73 | TN: 44 | MI: 43 | IN: 31 |

5) *Established churches – 40-190 years old – are, on average, declining*

New church starts reach more people better, faster, cheaper than existing churches

6) *The increase in churches is only ¼ of what's needed to keep up with population growth*

- 3,000 churches close every year
 - 3,800 new church starts survived
 - Net annual gain: 800 new churches
- Net annual gain needed to keep up with population growth:
10,000 new churches*

7) *In 2050, the percentage of the U.S. population attending church will be almost half of what it was in 1990*

US Population in 1990: 248 million/20.4% church attendance

US Population in 2050: 520 million/11.7% church attendance