

Church Growth

An Annotated Bibliography

Foundational Books on Church Growth

*McGavran, Donald A., Revised and edited by C. Peter Wagner

1990 *Understanding Church Growth*. 3rd Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing.

This one book is the best outline of Donald McGavran's thought and the various editions laid the foundation for the church growth movement.

*Wagner, C. Peter

1976 *Your Church Can Grow. Seven Vital Signs of a Healthy Church*. Glendale, CA: Regal Books.

This is one of the first and most influential books by Peter Wagner. Often quoted and lectured from, many phrases from this book entered the permanent language of the movement.

*Wagner, C. Peter with Win Arn and Elmer Towns

1986 *Church Growth, State of the Art*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House.

A more comprehensive and detailed book than *Your Church Can Grow*, this book attempted to bring forth both the newest and the most mature thought of the movement.

*Rainer, Thom S.

1993 *The Book of Church Growth. History, Theology and Principles*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

A book that gives an overview and background of the movement. According to Wagner in the preface, it is a "textbook" of the church growth movement. Extensive bibliography.

Current Thinking at Fuller Seminary

*Shenk, Wilbert R.

1999 *Changing Frontiers of Mission*. Maryknoll NY: Orbis Books.
Current professor at Fuller. Mennonite. Deals with postmodernism.

Gibbs, Eddie

2000 *Church Next*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
Current professor at Fuller. Anglican. Deals with postmodernism.

Van Engen, Charles

1991 *God's Missionary People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
Current professor at Fuller. Reformed. Deals with theology of mission and the missionary nature of the local church.

“How to” Books on Church Growth

*Wagner, C. Peter

1979 *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books.
Probably the most read and followed “how to” books in Church growth ever printed. The foundation for all spiritual gifts inventories to follow.

*Schaller, Lyle E.

1983 *Growing Plans*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.
The best “how to” writer in the church growth movement. Highly practical books written from an evangelical perspective.

*Robert E. Coleman

1963 *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Old Tappan, NJ: Revel.
One of the very earliest books on discipleship. Reprinted many times.

Stedman, Ray C.

1972 *Body Life*. Ventura, CA, Regal Books.
One of the earliest and very best books on the importance of community in church growth. Written by a pastor.

*Arn, Win

1987 *The Church Growth Ratio Handbook*. Pasadena, CA: Church Growth Inc.
A small book with a great idea about what ratios should be in your church in order to grow. Very practical book.

*Dudley, Roger L. and Des Cummings Jr.

1983 *Adventures in Church Growth*. Washington DC: Review and Herald.
An SDA book published by two professors from Andrews University during the height of the Church Growth movement. Came with workbook for churches.

*Barna, George

1995 *Evangelism that Works: How to Reach Changing Generations with the Unchanging Gospel*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books.
Evangelical researcher based in Glendale California who does annual research and then writes a book to inform church leaders about how the church can better serve and win the society around them.

Theology of Church Growth

*Bosch, David J.

1997 *Transforming Mission*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books.
The very best theology of mission every printed. Period.

*Newbigin, Lesslie

1989 *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
Anglican missionary to India who was able to critique the effects of Western society on the church.

*Costas, Orlando

1982 *Christ Outside the Gate*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books
Theologian from Latin America who critique the church growth movement in relation to liberation theology and the two-thirds world.

Current Church Growth Practice

*Warren, Rick

1995 *The Purpose Driven Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
California mega-church pastor. Excellent discipleship. See pastors.com

*Hybels, Bill

2000 *Building a Contagious Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
Chicago mega-church pastor. Excellent mission.

Schwarz, Christian

1996 *Natural Church Development*. Carol Stream, IL : ChurchSmart Resources
Current professor at Fuller. Reformed. Deals with theology of mission and the missionary nature of the local church.

***In Leslie Hardinge Library at AIIAS**

Church growth is not about competing with the ministry down the street but more about developing the people God has planted in the local church to be used by God with their unique gifts. I believe people are called to churches for a specific purpose. We are all on a journey and the church helps us develop as Christians and supports our unique calling. In his book, Purpose Driven Church , Rick Warren says "since the church is a living organism, it is natural for it to grow if it is healthy. If a church is not growing it is dying..." ChurchGrowth.org is all about Identifying ministry opportunities and church growth strategies that work, for small churches and large churches. Fresh ideas for you and resources to encourage Christian growth.