

“A River Created by Many Streams” – The Global Church

Washington Community Fellowship

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The False Stereotype: The Church is White, affluent and graying

Philip Yancy: “God goes where he is wanted!”

Suggested Readings: *Fire from Heaven* by Harvey Cox, *Clash of Civilizations* by Samuel Huntington and *The Next Christendom* by Philip Jenkins.

Turning Point: The Church is no longer centered in Europe and America like it was 200 years ago (Protestant missions started in 1790). 2 Billion Christians in the world, 2050 estimate: only 1/5 will be Caucasian. Church numbers have only suffered decline in Europe.

Centers of Gravity: Asia, Africa, Latin America – places like Kinshasha, Buenos Aires, Manila, and Prince George County, Maryland (African-American Mega-Churches). Hundreds of Millions of Jesus-followers in Nigeria, Kenya, Mexico, Ethiopia, Brazil, Philippines.

Estimates: 315+ million in Asia, 360+ million in Africa (only 10 million 100 years ago!), 480+ million in Latin America, 260+ million in U.S., 500 million in Eastern and Western Europe (and not going up).

Heroes: William Wade Harris of Liberia, Archbishop Luwum in Uganda, Archbishop Romero in El Salvador, Archbishop Munxihirwa in Zaire, Archbishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa...and so many unsung heroes of the faith, like Bruce Olson (Brusko) in Ecuador...to many to name.

Pentecostal Explosion: By 2050 it is estimated that there will be 1 billion in the world. Example: Universal Kingdom of God, millions of members, own TV station, football team, political party.

Future Challenges:

Southern Church vs. Northern Church? Southern Church:

- More conservative in theology and morals
- Stronger supernatural orientation
- More emphasis on evangelism vs. Northern emphasis on social action

Clash of Civilizations: Islam vs. the Church: Country battlefronts – Sudan, Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, former Soviet Republics, and Western China. The future: Europe?

Emerging Health & Wealth Gospel in Africa and Latin America?

North American Evangelical Minimalism? See *Unchristian* by David Kinnaman & Gabe Lyons

The Role of Mary in Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy?

But, the Holy Spirit cannot be stopped!!