

References from Inspired Writings

The reason for church. “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9 NKJV).

The purpose of the church. “The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men... and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through the church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency” (Acts of the Apostles 9).

The church as a business. “If order and regularity are essential in worldly business, how much more so in the work of God!” (Gospel Workers 278).

The power of language. “‘Look!’ the Lord said, ‘The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them’” (Genesis 11:6 NLT).

Fellowship. “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place...breaking bread from house to house...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:1, 46 KJV).

Excellence. “Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children” (Education 16).

Kindness for 100. “If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be 100 conversions to the truth where now there is only one” (Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9 189).

The church and humility. “If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties” (Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9 189).

The church as a light. “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its savour, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. **You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a lampstand, and it gives light to everyone in the house...” (Matthew 5:13-15 NIV).



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Sobering Thoughts to Ponder...

“Within the United States and Canada lie one of the largest concentrations of godless nonbelievers in the entire world. In a sense, North America is like a vast unexplored territory.” How can we advance the gospel in this increasingly post-Christian society in a way that is caring, evangelistic and Spirit-filled? (MdX ThinkTank 2020)

We are a Mission Field:

- The number of religiously unaffiliated rose from 15% to 23% in 10 years, with 1/3 of those under 30 claiming no religious affiliation
- 70% of North America is 47 and younger
 - 33 Million in the United States are religiously non-affiliated
 - 6 Million in Canada are religiously non-affiliated
 - 39 Million across the US and Canada are religiously non-affiliated
- America, Europe, and Australia are the only continents where Christianity is in decline as a percentage of the population
- North America has the 3rd largest block of unbelievers in the world, only after China and India

(Mike Cauley, MdX ThinkTank 2020)

“Pastoral burnout is at a 50% rate of those who leave the profession within the first three (3) years; 25% stay only because they don’t have a backup education; 1500 pastors across denominational lines, quit every month.” (Andrews University Research)

“Our people across North America are converted in the head but not the heart.” (Bob Hayes, MdX ThinkTank 2020)

Most Poignant Way to “Love” People

Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with people as “one who desired their good... ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them ‘follow Me’ ” (Ministry of Healing 143).



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