

SPECIAL REPORT

PART ONE

THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT

SERIOUS SYMPTOMATIC PROBLEMS IN TODAY'S CHURCHES BASED ON FOUR MAJOR CAUSES WITH THEIR IMPACTS AND INDICATED SOLUTIONS

by

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Christ- Centered



Biblical Training

John 2:6

***the one who says he abides in Him ought himself
to walk in the same manner as He walked.***

John 5:19

***.... "the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is
something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the
Father does, these things the Son also does in like
manner.***

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Scriptures are taken from the New American Standard Bible

REPORT IMPORTANCE: There is a world-wide Church Growth Movement that is leading our churches into a massive falling away from God's best. The falling away is helping to bring the endtimes Tribulation. The Movement targets the youth to bring long-term social change. It works for numbers using a dumbed-down training without also teaching God's Whole Counsel to mature believers in Christ-likeness. Even possibly doing some good things, the Movement is falling away from God's to a human plan. It, itself, attempts to work things together for good instead of only trusting God. The problem is not with what it teaches, but instead, what it leaves out of its teachings, such as true salvation, living under Christ's Lordship, and pursuing maturity in Christ.

The movement is working (inadvertently?) to bring the world instead of all of God into the Church. It trains people to meet man's felt needs from a human love perspective. This can be good, but it generally omits sufficiently teaching God's program under Christ's Lordship needed to gain the maturity in Christ-likeness that allows us to know and relate to God toward His fullness both now, but especially in eternity. Apart this living with God, there is nothing.

This report describes this movement, its goals and impacts, and why it is happening. It presents what we should do now if we want God's best and to avoid participating unknowingly in this wrong church movement, not gaining the maturity in Christ that He wants us to have. The main report brings an overall understanding. It is a bit long, but stick with it. There are many aspects.

INFORMATION SOURCES: This report uses information taken from: (1) the many referenced publications and (2) my web site detailed reports that develop the teachings from Scripture. These references are listed at the report's end. You are encouraged to read them. We cannot be sure of all the details re the trends because we do not have complete information - such as what individual churches are doing. But observation, the literature, and the internet show clearly the trends are happening. **There are exceptions in many churches to everything we share. Many churches are not so involved, have a mixture, or not involved at all in the trends. They have greater ministry.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT SUMMARY (Separate Document)

Report Purpose and Introduction to Our Current Church Situation: The Expanding Church Growth Movement

The Big Picture Reasons Behind the Church Growth Movement; What Is Happening to Our Churches

Identified Causes of the Church Growth Movement From the Perspective of the Churches

Impacts of the Church Growth Movement

More Detail: So What Is the Church Growth Movement?

What Is the Creation Source Of the Church Growth Movement?

Another Related Factor: New (Really Lack Of) Tolerance Laws

More on the Church Growth Movement

Our Churches Are Implementing Satanic Strategy

Doing Mostly First-level Only Training, We Should Also Train Those in Depth-breadth Who Want to Become the Gung Ho and the Very Faithful

Summary of Wrong Belief Structure

Summary: Where We Are Headed - What Are the Trends

Summary of the Church Growth Movement Trends, Actions, and Our Major Concerns

Detailed Summary of Many Actions Our Churches Are Using In the Modern Church Growth Movement

God's Purposes for His Church

Importance of Maturity Development

Needed Background Approach Understanding That Helps Us to Select (Determine) and Carry out God's Full Intended Will

Detailed Discussion: The Four Causes (Sources) of the Symptoms From the Perspective of the Churches

Summary: Impacts That Result from The Church's Cause-Source Problems

Potential Judgment

The Bottom Line - Eternal Aspects

Solutions to the Church Movement Situation: So What Approach Should We Take?; What Should We Do Now?

Expectations

Watchman Warning

Appendices: (1) Main-idea Sample Topics for Christian-life Relationship Principles Curriculum; Each Topic Has Much Depth-breadth; (2) References Consulted; (3) Reference Documents on My Web Site

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Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:6;
2 Chronicles 16:9

PART ONE

**THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT: ●1
Serious Symptomatic Problems in
Today's Churches Based on Four
Major Causes With Their Impacts
and Indicated Solutions**

John M. Stephenson
Biblical Worldview Ministries
December 14, 2006

REPORT PURPOSE AND DISCUSSION OF OUR CURRENT CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT SITUATION ●2

WHAT IS HAPPENING: *There is a Church Growth Movement composed of Seeker-Friendly, Emerging, ●3 and other Churches that is training tens, even hundreds, of thousands of churches and selling thousands or even millions of books and training documents. Many-many of our American and world-wide churches are joining this Church Growth Movement. It is leading thousands of our American and world churches into a major falling away from God's best into semi-apostasy using a mixture of first-level Bible teachings and human psychology.*

The movement's goal is mainly to reach the youth in today's culture, using the methods in the culture rather than from the Bible, to build the next generation. Those involved believe the pathway they are taking is the best way to reach them. But what kind of a generation are they building? It is one without true Bible doctrine. The Movement is targeting the youth for salvation (?) and bringing them into a love fellowship more as seen more by man than by God. It is using less than first-level Bible training without also training doctrinally in depth-breadth. It is

1. **SUMMARY:** The **SUMMARY** of this Report is a separate document on my web site.

2. **DETAILED BACKGROUND AND UNDERSTANDING:** See the latest DVD by Dr. Robert Klenck: *Diaphrax and the Church Manipulating the Church into Globalism*, and also the video by Dean Gotcher: *What is 'Diaphrax*, both of The Institution of Authority Research ([www. AuthorityResearch.com](http://www.AuthorityResearch.com)) in order to understand and know the details of the Church Growth Movement. See their other materials. They show what and why it is happening, and who is behind it. Dr. Klenck identifies Rick Warren and Bill Hybels and their churches, specifically, are promoting and leading this movement. ***It is a most serious situation in the life and ministry of the endtimes Church.***

We have many additional references (see report's end) that also: (1) show clearly and why the Church's Rapture can only come Post-Tribulational at our Lord's Second Coming, and (2) describe why loud syncopated dominate beat rock music should never be used in our churches. ***Our goal is to understand and present the movement's impacts and why it is happening. We leave it to others to determine the movement's details.***

3. **EMERGING CHURCHES:** This report deals mostly with the seeker friendly churches. The seeker friendly churches have a falling away. The emerging churches are mostly the liberal unbelieving church. They have abandoned the Bible, God's absolutes, salvation, and are using mysticism. Our goal in both situations is to bring people out of this movement with salvation to God to a maximum walk with the Lord.

**Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes
With Their Impacts and Indicated Solutions**

using the world's loud syncopated and other repetitive beat rock music with drums, ●4 paraphrased Bibles (poor translations), facilitated non-teacher teaching home community groups, and world advertising methods. The rock music deters spiritual discernment and growth. It brings questionable worship of God. There is little doctrinal substance of God's Word being taught for living under Christ's Lordship and gaining maturity in Christ-likeness. ●5

So is God directing the Movement? If God were directing and guiding this movement, we would expect Him to lead the churches to live under Christ's Lordship and mature His people to a maximum degree in Christ-likeness, the degree to which they will and can respond, and do local and foreign area-wide true evangelism, especially of the children and youth. We would expect Him to train His people to live by strong faith and by sacrificial love. We must live by faith to learn the Scriptures. ●6 We would expect Him to use music with a dominate melody. We, however, anticipate that God in His sovereignty may be using the movement in today's environment to bring many to Christ that might not come any other way and to have them gain some limited maturity. ●7 He is using it help bring the Tribulation leading to Christ's Coming and history's termination. The Church will go through the Tribulation because she is helping and causing it to come.

The movement, in our view, is moving away from God working all things together for good to man doing much of it. ●8 It is a most major world-wide movement falling away from God's best, bringing great compromises to our churches and eternally hurting God's people. In groves, churches, without doctrine and discernment, are joining (at least adopting some of its characteristics, particularly contemporary music) because it looks like a movement of God with many youth being recruited. And using the movement, without their teaching God's Word in depth, is helping to increase church attendance. This is one reason many churches are adding the contemporary music. (In our view, if they did things God's way, they would not have to use the movement's methods.)

Our churches through Church history, to some extent, have had some problems for how they carry out their ministries and worship. But, today, the situation is now greatly worsening. ***It is becoming acute because the situation is a world-wide movement, being overtly planned. It is not an***

4. **ROCK MUSIC INCLUSION:** When I refer to rock music in this paper, I refer mostly to the loud syncopated dominant repetitive beat. But secondarily, I also refer to soft rock, smooth jazz, rap, and pop and country rock.

5. **SADDLEBACK:** Check out Saddleback.com and pastors.com. Listen to sermons and music, and read the literature. This is Rick Warren's Church and he is a primary leader in the Church Growth Movement.

6. **WALKING BY FAITH:** The situation reminds me of the Jewish leaders when our Lord was on the earth. They did not walk by faith to learn the Scriptures that, when they were compared with our Lord's life, would allow them to be able to recognize Him as their Messiah. **The situation is repeating today. The Church does not recognize the signs that signal the Tribulation is coming that will lead to our Lord's Second Coming.**

7. **SPIRITUAL LAWS:** When people do not obey what they know from God, do not use faith (instead use largely human intellect) and go largely their own way, God may not allow people to gain more knowledge of the Scriptures and have a closer walk with Him. This could be happening now. But God will bring many to Himself in spite of the movement, even when involved in the movement.

8. **WORKING THINGS TOGETHER FOR GOOD:** The major impact is that when we act to work all things together for good ourselves, we act like the Most High God. This is major sin. We all, having depraved natures, do it to some extent. None of us are spiritually able to work all things together for good. This was and is the great sin of Satan. It is also the great sin of the Church, even when we do not want to do it. If we are to truly succeed under God, we must die to self such that God, not ourselves, works all things together for good. It allows Him to be God over our lives.

individual Church situation.

From a critical analysis of the big picture, even though some good things are happening at the human level, we believe the Church Growth Movement is not as much of God as many believe. Our effort is bringing help for what our churches should or can do now to implement God's best for maturity in Christ. It is to know the trends, and avoid both current wrong directions and the eternal impacts of this movement.

SUMMARY ASPECTS: The movement appears to be doing good things from and is based on a horizontal relationship implementing man's plans to help people man's ways. But it appears to be largely void of a solid vertical relationship with God, Bible theology, and His Plan to help people from God's ways to know and relate to Him toward His fullest. The movement is not biblical theology oriented. It is more on human psychology. People without discernment are joining the movement because it appears to be doing good things, helps to meet their needs as they see them, and the movement is growing. It brings them human fellowship and connection with others.

Are those involved in the movement walking by faith to gain discernment of God and the knowledge of the Scriptures concerning spiritual maturity in Christ-likeness and doing true area-wide evangelism with Christ's Gospel? In our view, the youth are being captured and locked in before they receive true evangelism and are trained to walk with God with Him directing everything. They are getting their human felt needs met.

There is nothing wrong with doing good things for people at the human level. But it is very wrong when this action is taught and represented to be God's major plan for people. It is very wrong when people do not live under Christ's Lordship to mature their people in Christ-likeness and to help do area-wide evangelism. God wants people to live by His love, righteousness, holiness, and ways, not those of man. God wants us to know and relate to Him toward His fullest. But this is not what the Church Growth Movement is doing. It has departed from God's best and intended plan for people. Does it not bring more glory to man, instead of to God? We can only glorify God when we obey what He has given to us.

REPORT PURPOSE AND BENEFITS: We bring this objective report from our great love for God and His Church. It is to carry out our responsibility to God and to His Church. We want to bring added value and God's best for the Church we all love. This is a very critical subject and situation that need to be discussed and understood. The Church Growth Movement is seriously and negatively effecting our churches world wide and God's desired walk they have with Him. It is a situation that is impeding the best we can have in eternity. Thus, we bring a discussion of what is happening and what we should now do biblically to gain God's best as defined by Him. ***We ask you to pray that its leaders will truly find the Lord and turn the movement toward God's best.*** In the mean time, we encourage all churches and believers not to join the movement or adopt any of its characteristics. We encourage all those in the movement to come out of it and join a true biblical Church for salvation, do evangelism, do expository verse by verse preaching in depth-breadth using a version of God's Whole Counsel, and to gain maturity in Christ-likeness. **This will bring much glory to God.**

DISCUSSION OF THE MOVEMENT: The movement is manipulating the churches and those joining them into globalism. The movement, though based on human love for God and man, is departing and falling away from true salvation, sound doctrine, and maturity in Christ. It is bringing a famine of God's Word and people going the way of the best of man. God's spiritual laws causes or allows these aspects when the people fall away and as a sign of judgment coming. It is a subtracting of God's Word. In our view, the movement is leading to and helping to bring the endtimes Tribulation. Church leadership does not realize these, and that they can be facing judgment. The Tribulation brings divine discipline on the Church for her falling away and on the world for sin. It also comes for the apostasy in all the nations. We are approaching the endtimes.

Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes
With Their Impacts and Indicated Solutions

2 Timothy 4:3 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;

(Is this not now happening in the Church Growth Movement? I think so.)

Amos 8:11 - "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord God, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the Lord.

(Is this not happening? It sure looks like it.)

Revelation 22:19 - and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

So is His judgment coming? It looks like it. Are people guiding and promoting this movement true believers with salvation in Christ's Cross? This is hopefully true. But are they?

Churches are joining this movement for several reasons. Because of the large numbers joining the movement and it is based on love, they believe God is leading the movement. They do this because they do not know and hold to solid biblical doctrine. They do not know the Scriptures for God's Plan for His Church to become truly saved and mature in Christ for eternity purposes. Other causes are shared.

The Movement is not truly centered in God and the Bible with the spiritual discernment of true salvation in Christ and pursuing maturity in Christ. While doing some good things such a teaching in the terms of human relationships with love for each other and for God, churches leave out key Bible doctrine, including obtaining true salvation in Christ with His Cross.

Thus, the main problem is not what they teach, but instead, what they leave out of their teachings. It is "here and now oriented" and "not adequately eternally oriented." It is a movement to build relationships with believers and unbelievers at the expense of abandoning solid biblical doctrine with its absolutes.

It is moving away from the long term institutionally based church to one of facilitated home groups that are missions oriented. The home groups, having both believers and unbelievers, are in effect working to the lowest common denominator. **Not maturing their own people, and working with priority with new people, they are not taking care of their own people. This is sin. Of course, churches are doing these in varying degrees.**

In my view, it is possibly that Satan (in influencing the Church) is leaving some minimal biblical teachings and an inadequate Gospel presentation in the training to deceive participants to believe that the movement is of God. But where, in reality, the movement is leading to a great falling away toward globalism with the eventual absence of salvation, maturity in Christ, and the great work of God from being accomplished. It is a falling away to help bring the calamity that will establish the endtimes Tribulation.

There is nothing wrong with helping people. This can be good. But it is not good when the Church moves away or departs from its God directed salvation, worship, doctrines, and ministries to join the movement. We must do all of what God wants done, not just some of it.

This is a falling away of the Church, a decay of biblical Truth.

**Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes
With Their Impacts and Indicated Solutions**

Truth decay is a cultural condition in which the very idea of absolutes, objective and universal truth is considered implausible, held in open contempt or not even seriously considered.●9

However, there are churches doing both helping people and standing strong in Christ, His worship, and His work. But as time progresses, these no doubt will be the exceptions and minimum in number as is happening now. God still has His faithful remnant who are doing His will.

We are greatly saddened by the whole situation. From our love and concern for the Church, we have responsibility before God to alert and warn. Some of us must begin to train the children and the youth doctrinally now in depth-breadth so we can have some prepared for the coming Tribulation. It is so they can become mature in Christ-likeness so they can know and relate to God toward His fullness, both now, and especially in eternity. Will you help? If we do not?

The sad part is that even with good sermons in our churches at the beginning level, they do not collectively over time take their people to maturity in Christ. This situation is worsened by not teaching otherwise in depth-breadth with a version of God's Whole Counsel.

TRENDS AND IMPACTS: *The trends in this Movement, over time as the younger people and young married grow older, are causing the overall Church to become immature with a serious loss of biblical intellect and having a plateau of biblical knowledge and understanding. The numbers of mature believers in Christ are decreasing. In time, few believers will know and be able to teach God's Word in any depth-breadth, including the understanding of endtimes prophecy. This is a progressive massive falling away from God's Truth and absolutes. Are we there now? ●10 Is this not satanic strategy? It sure looks like it.*

Do you see? With this continued widespread falling away and the endtimes world government making war with the Church in the Tribulation, there never will be a return to teaching solid doctrine and maturity in Christ. This will occur when the younger poorly trained become adults and are the majority in the churches. There will never be a return to the great hymns of the faith. People's detailed knowledge of the Bible will be gone forever, as long as people are on the earth. As we approach the end, there is and will be an ever increasing spiritual darkness til Christ returns after the Tribulation.

Fortunately, there will also, however, still be pockets of a few strong and faithful believers in the coming Tribulation of a very large number standing strong for Christ (Revelation 7:9-17). In general terms, these faithful believers most likely will be in an older group or generation, and most of those recently coming to Christ may not know much Bible doctrine beyond first-level understanding. But only God knows the true

9. **TRUTH DECAY:** Quote from page 22 of *Truth Decay; Defending Christianity Against the Challenges of Postmodernism* by Douglas Groothus.

10. **CURRENT CHURCHES:** I know of churches that have good sermons at the beginning level. But over time, their collection does not mature their people beyond the fundamental level. They have not taught Bible prophecy for many years. People do not know how the endtimes will unfold. They do have a beginning orientation or boot camp course for new believers that go over the basic church doctrines.

situation. We are mainly looking at the trends. We do not know the absolute situation.

Thus, it appears that our today's churches fall in the following categories:

1. Church people who are unbelievers.
2. Church people, partly unbelievers and believers, but with but little knowledge of Bible Doctrine.
3. Church people who are pursuing maturity and Bible doctrine

Those in the Church Growth Movement consist largely of numbers one and two. There can be a major falling away in the Tribulation of those in numbers one and two when the persecution comes.

Thus, as time passes and the movement matures, new believers will no longer have a maximum response to God in greater obedience, except for those who study and minister on their own. Even now, the churches involved in this movement do not understand the greater doctrines. ***If they did, they would not be involved in, promote, or adopt characteristics from the Church Growth Movement, such as using only first-level Bible training, rock music with drums, facilitated home groups, and world advertising methods.*** They do not train for maturity or take on the job to do complete local area true evangelism. They do not see that the movement is leading to bringing Revelation's events and the termination of history. When the Tribulation comes, almost no one will know and understand what is happening. They will not know Bible doctrine. Being doctrinally poor, there will most likely be a major falling away of believers from the faith in the Tribulation. ●11 ●12

11. **TRIBULATION:** We realize that our churches have different views for when the Church's Rapture will come with respect to before or after the endtimes Tribulation's coming. But, taking a new approach of showing how the Rapture and the Tribulation fit into God's Plan for history, it becomes clear that the Rapture can only come after the Tribulation. My web site references, listed at this report's end, show conclusively the Church will go through the endtimes Tribulation because her falling away is largely responsible for its coming. We discuss some reasons why in this report. The Rapture occurs at Christ's Second Coming after all people who are to live, have lived, and have made formal and binding decisions in life or by death to accept or deny the Gospel (after the tares are bundled for the fire). Our Lord comes with and for His saints at the same time. The Rapture can only occur after the heavenly court after the Tribulation at the seventh trumpet determines that Christ has won the spiritual warfare over Satan. It is when the heavenly court award Him the Kingdom of the World that becomes the Kingdom of God. Christ gains back what He lost in the Garden of Eden. This award places all believers and unbelievers and all the angels under His eternal control for the resurrections and the judgments. Believers are already under His eternal control for destination.

If you will read my web site documents and books, you will be thoroughly convinced of this Truth. **We present many doctrines not found in the standard published literature.** The view is founded on examining over 40 doctrines. If you will read my prophecy reports you will be convinced, even if your are now strong Pre-Trib, that the Rapture can only come after the Tribulation. God is not a God of partiality that He would allow some believers to miss the endtimes Tribulation by the Rapture and then place a number of other believers in the Tribulation of such a large number that no person could count them. Most of these believers believed before the Tribulation comes. ***It is most unlikely that they believe in the Tribulation after a Rapture with no one to preach the Gospel, no one is seeking after God, the world is in complete apostasy, and the government is making war with Christians.***

If you do not put in some provisions and train your children and youth, you can be caught blind sided
(continued...)

**Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes
With Their Impacts and Indicated Solutions**

Our churches have lost their excellence before God, have lost sight of His Greatness, and no longer, with discernment, know and understand the greater doctrines of the Christian faith. They are going much their own way to reach the youth of today's environment using minimal doctrine and the world's methods. They are attempting to bring them into the churches and in home community small groups. They are using mostly or only first-level teaching and contemporary rock music. They believe that today's youth cannot be reached any other way. Many-many churches are joining this expanding movement because it appears to be drawing many youth. They believe it is a movement of God. But is the movement of God and/or is it a movement that has departed from God's best? Is there satanic strategy involved? The latter is what I believe based on comparing the trends with Bible doctrine. No one, no doubt, has absolute data, and there can be some good things being accomplished.

ABOUT THIS REPORT: This report presents our view of the situation as we observed the trends, read the literature, listen to videos and DVDs, and talk with key individuals. We are judging the movement according to our understanding of Scripture. **Although the movement is most wrong and to us, is serious sin, we are not writing with the purpose to mainly condemn the movement. Instead we are writing to warn and alert of its seriousness with the goal that Christians and churches will come out of and leave the movement and no longer carry out its teachings and practices. Our purpose is that they will seek the best of God, His ways, do ministry, and have all that He plans for us, particularly maturity in Christ-likeness. If believers and churches will do this, it does not matter as much in practice the degree the movement is or is not of God and/or of Satan.**

There can be some good things in the movement. The problem is that it falls most seriously short of God's best. Thus, the problem is not so much what the movement is doing and teaching, but instead it is what the church is not doing and teaching. Regardless, we should pray that its leaders will find Christ as Savior and lead the movement toward maturity in Christ. We are in this together. We must pray for those who have fallen or are falling away. Our Lord and God do not want any to perish. That includes you, me, and them.

We share what can be best now that prepares our churches for worship, life, ministry, knowing doctrine, eternity, and the coming endtimes Tribulation. Knowing what is happening and what we should do, we can do personal critical analysis to understand what is happening, do self evaluation, and urgently make needed changes. This is so we can be sure we are implementing and doing God's best and not unknowingly going in a most serious wrong direction. Our churches may not realize the trends and their falling away. ***In our hearts, we all want to do right before God and His Church. But we must know and implement what it is. We need the commitment to carry it out with excellence.***

IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND: We will never have complete information as to what is happening and when the Tribulation will come. There are many things in the world that are contributing to the cause of its coming. If we wait for complete information before we will act, we can be caught blind sided when the Tribulation comes. We should obey God toward His fullest and live by faith on the trends and avoid using rock music. We should take urgent steps to mature and inform our children and youth. We should use teaching in our community

11(...continued)

when the Tribulation comes.

12. PROPHECY KEY: ***To understand prophecy, one needs to know what the Bible teaches that must have happened or what must be completed before God will bring the endtimes Tribulation and will bring the Rapture. My prophecy reports answer both of these questions. In order to understand prophecy, it helps to study God's Plan from Genesis to Revelation and place endtimes prophecy in as its end or terminating phase. This is what I did.***

groups and not mainly facilitation. We should be doing these anyway if we are obeying God toward His fullest. We should do these also as a hedge against believing wrong inadvertently.

In summary, the problems come when one: (1) does not seek salvation in Christ and does not see the need and does train to mature their people in Christ-likeness needed for eternity; (2) does not do area-wide evangelism particularly of the children and of the youth with the true Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4); (3) believes wrongly that music is amoral or neutral so they can use any music, even rock beat music; (4) believes wrongly in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, not seeing any urgent need to train; and (5) does not see and recognize the signs that signal the Tribulation can come at any time. Believers with this belief structure will most likely continue doing what they are doing. In our view, this is spiritual folly. They can be caught blind sided and inadequately prepared for eternity. We discuss these in more detail later.

MORE DISCUSSION: The situation is most serious. *The Churches are ignoring teaching adequate essentials of God's Word. Why are they doing this? Did not God give the entire Bible for a purpose? So why do we not teach it? Do they not know God's Plan for people to become mature ●13 in Christ and do they, in their disobedience, realize they can be largely responsible for the endtimes Tribulation coming? (We all can be partly responsible.) Do they have adequate discernment to know the current, long-term, and eternal impacts of what they are doing? It appears not or they would change what they are doing.*

This movement toward the Tribulation is being supported by the poor education now happening in our public schools. New teaching methods are being used. Our young people are now graduating from high school tragically with a poor education. They can hardly read or write, and they do not appear to be able to do critical analysis to determine what is happening. Many are dropping out of high school without graduating.●14

Thus, we have our young people in our public high schools and in our churches who no longer have adequate knowledge and capability to do critical analysis. Thus, as these young people become grown and are a large majority of the population, very few will know the Bible and be able to determine what will be happening when the endtimes and Tribulation come. This can only be satanic strategy. This allows Satan

13. **MATURITY:** God commands us to pursue maturity in Christ-likeness. However, we believe that the maturity one has in Christ-likeness at death, one will have forever without opportunity to increase it. We recognize the Bible does not teach declarative either way as to whether or not our spiritual maturity in Christ-likeness will or will not increase in heaven. God has left it as a matter of faith. Thus, we have to go on faith that our maturity may not increase in heaven because God commands us to pursue maturity and the Bible data teaches in many ways that we are to pursue this maturity now. It is needed to accomplish the greater work of God, send spiritual riches on ahead, and receive rewards in eternity that God wants to give. We must pursue maturity in Christ-likeness because God commands that we do and as a hedge about being wrong in case it is fixed forever at death. It is a most terrible eternal mistake if our maturity is fixed at death and we do not pursue it now as God commands. It can impede our knowing and relating to God towards His depth-breadth in eternity. We discuss this in more detail and describe why we believe that our maturity can be fixed forever at death.

14. **PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** This situation was presented on TV by a notable scientist and computer expert in the spring of 2006. The dumbing down in our public education is described *None Dare Call It Education* by John A. Stormer.

to carry out his plans in the spiritual warfare with Christ.

The situation is happening because our churches themselves, by taking charge, are attempting to work many things together for good, instead of trusting only God to do it, letting Him take total charge. This is acting like the Most High God and is major sin. As a result, our churches are implementing more of their own plans instead of only God's. Even though some good things are being accomplished, in our view as stated, the leaders of this movement are inadvertently implementing satanic strategy without accomplishing the main things that God wants done and in the way He wants them done. This will be explained. Of course, our churches involved most likely have not seen this. They all want to do right. But we must do critical analysis of our situation in light of the Bible teachings and the trends.

God plans that we, as believers, train to become mature in Christ-likeness and train our children and youth in the depth-breadth of the Bible. He would have us teach the basics. But very importantly, He would also guide us to mature our people in Christ bringing more in depth-breadth teaching - a version of His Whole Counsel. But this is not what the churches in the Church Growth Movement, in our understanding, are doing. By not maturing their people, they are in direct disobedience to Scripture, and are taking away the best their people can have in eternity. They are setting up a major falling away.

*Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, **let us press on to maturity**, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,*

This means we must train with a version of God's Whole Counsel. But to what degree are our churches doing it, particularly to walk as Christ walks?

More Scripture that teach God plans that we become mature in Christ is presented later.

We need good maturity in Christ so that we can know and relate to Him and God the Father toward their fullest in worship, life, ministry, and doctrine now and especially in eternity. ***But using man's ways, as stated, the movement is dumbing down, resulting in the Church becoming immature with a plateau of Bible knowledge and with a loss of biblical intellect.*** They are without the spiritual ability to know and relate to God in His depth-breadth. ***Fewer people are now becoming mature in Christ.*** This is a most terrible eternal result for they are forfeiting a higher quality life in eternity. Is God being glorified and worshiped in reality? It does not look like it. Apart from knowing and relating to God toward His fulness, there is nothing. So we do we not pursue maturity in Christ so we can have this relationship in excellence?

In our churches, we have the gung ho, the very faithful, and the watchers (the less commuted) with new people. The numbers and percentages of our gung ho and very faithful are decreasing. As time passes, few will know and be able to teach the Bible in any depth-breadth. ***A main reason this is happening is because our churches are giving much more priority to reaching and keeping new people than they are training and taking care of their own.*** These are satanic goals. We must train our gung ho and very faithful as a higher priority over the watchers, new people, and the lost, even though we need to train them all.●15

15. **GUNG HO AND FAITHFUL:** The number of gung ho and very faithful generally are a smaller percentage of the Church congregation. Our Lord spent more time with these (these that were or would be following Him) than any other. Thus, we are to do the same. This means we need somehow to provide in depth-breadth training for them even if their numbers are small. This training should be both academic and practical - highly applications oriented. Under the Seeker-Friendly and Emerging Church set up, as time passes, the number and percentage of this gung ho and faithful will decrease. But we should still provide the training. As time
(continued...)

**Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes
With Their Impacts and Indicated Solutions**

1 Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.

The Bible teaches that when a person knows the correct thing to do and does not do it, for him, it is sin.

James 4:17 - Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Do our churches know they should teach God's Whole Counsel to mature their people in Christ? Do they know they should evangelize **complete** local as well as foreign areas? Do they know they should train their children and youth in depth-breadth. Do they know that they must train with how to do what God asks with testimony as well as what God asks us to do?. How well is your church doing? How well am I doing?

The Bible teaches we should depart from our wrongs to greater obedience.●16

Without discernment from God's Word and training of Bible prophecy, the Church will not know what is happening when the Tribulation comes. **Few will be trained to share the true Gospel.** With a great falling away in the Tribulation, much less of God's work will be accomplished. This can only help Satan's plans to win the spiritual warfare over Christ. God will use the situation to bring history's termination.

There is no intent to criticize individuals or specific churches. God does not want us to judge His servants. We leave that judgment to God. We all may be facing some judgment, particularly if we know what to do and not to do, and are not obeying what we know. We must do what is right.

ENDTIMES: Many good things and results are still happening in our churches. We do not want to criticize these. But in the bigger picture our churches are falling away, going their own way, and bringing eternal harm to their people and to God's desired plan. They are implementing satanic strategy, even when they believe they are doing right. **With the Tribulation comes world government and the end of American and world freedom forever. We must not blindly do what we want apart from what God wants and expect our American freedom in the world's greatest nation to continue. It will not. We are going under servitude of the coming world government.**

SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND SATANIC STRATEGY (Introduction - Discussed in more detail later): In order to understand what is happening, one must understand the satanic strategy and objectives that are helping to guide this movement most likely without our churches' realization or

15(...continued)

passes, it is expected that those doing God's real work will be decreasing in number.

16. WE MUST BE CAREFUL: However, the Bible also teaches that after one knows what is correct to do and returns to an old way of life, God may not allow them to return to where He wants to take them. (The direct application of the Scripture below was that the first century Jews that return to Judaism after knowing about the Cross, could not come to repentance and be saved. This Scripture can pertain to us in application if we know we should become mature, but choose not to. We might not be able later to do so. So be careful. God may not let us after falling away to return to Him and gain maximum maturity so we can relate to Him toward His fullest.)

Hebrews 6:4-6 - For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.

Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes
With Their Impacts and Indicated Solutions

desire. ***Satan, as presented earlier, leaves some good things happening deceiving people so they will think the movement is of God. In doing this, he is taking the Church down a garden path in a great falling away from God, at least from His best. This is so Satan's objectives will be accomplished. When you see and grasp what is happening in this movement, what is causing it to happen, and know God's Plan and why, your spiritual eyes will open wide. Hopefully, you will turn to have greater excellence before God.***

In order to help accomplish his goals, Satan is leading churches and the media to use loud syncopated repeated dominant beat rock music using drums to desensitize the learning capability and most likely to give him worship. Rock music came from voodooism and immorality and is used to call up evil spirits and demons. This will be discussed in detail later.

In this movement, Satan is using the dialectic process. This process uses the Church Growth Movement as a method to take our churches and American people over time from where they are in the doctrinally based institutional church to a place and result that Satan wants to take them. This is to the liberal unbelieving church that implements his goals. This is to where very few will know the Bible, salvation, and how the endtimes will come. This is so he can eventually remove the Gospel completely and have all obey the world government that is coming, over which he and his man will rule.

It is so that all Christians and people will either conform to world government and its goals, or fall away and/or be martyred. The world government will war against Christians, Islam, and Judaism unless they conform and come under the authority of the world church movement. It will bring a loss of the true Gospel. This dialectic process and satanic strategy are presented later in much more detail.

Thus, when the Tribulation comes, our church and American people without knowledge, not having spiritual discernment, and not being able to do critical analysis will not know what is happening so they will go with this program. The Bible teaches that without knowledge the people perish - this includes they go in the wrong direction. Departing from Bible teaching into apostasy, God may no longer use these leaders in His work. And most terribly, He forgets the children.●17 Churches do not heed the warning because, in a falling away state, they may no longer have the spiritual discernment to do so.

Hosea 4:6 - My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

The process is designed to have the churches fall away so that Satan can bring the Tribulation and when it comes, the general public will not know what is happening. Because the movement is going world wide, the youth of other nations are also being effected.

In order to understand the Church Growth Movement, one needs to understand it from the spiritual warfare perspective. It wrongly appears to be of God because there is a large growth in numbers of our youth that are now attending churches or community groups. But the spiritual growth of the people is **extremely** less than that needed to mature God's people so they will do mature ministry and know and relate to God toward His best. It is so Satan can bring the endtimes without the people knowing what is happening and that they will do more of what he wants when he brings the

17. **CHILDREN**; This means when the Tribulation comes, God may not protect the children of those in the current apostate movement. This can be a most terrible result for churches adopting the major items in the Church Growth Movement. (This is practice can result from the churches not adequately training their children.) Do you want this to happen to your children and youth? Then do something - do good training, and do it now.

**Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes
With Their Impacts and Indicated Solutions**

Tribulation.

There are no doubt still many good things happening in many of our churches. They have good sermons, a Sunday School, Vacation Bible Schools, and an Awana program. But in the big picture it is a major falling away toward apostasy. The movement is more interested in gaining numbers of people, instead of living holy and righteously before our perfect God. But do these people know the Bible and are all being truly saved? How many water baptisms of new converts do they have?

Thus, having large numbers is showing that Satan can be the one that is being successful, not so much the Church. Satan is being successful because all may not believe and fewer will be involved greatly in God's work. The Church has sin if she is not maturing her people and doing adequate and accurate evangelism. All things must be led of God for no sin to occur regardless of how good things look. Thus, those involved should be trusting God to lead when they obey His ways and bring the results. But is this happening? Do our churches lack discernment to know what is really happening? Or do they believe what they are doing and the results they are obtaining show they are definitely obeying God?

The key aspect, as previously mentioned, in the movement is that it is man and Satan acting to work all things together for good instead of trusting God to do it. Thus, in many ways, the churches, without their realization or desire are operating like the Most High God. This has been Satan's way and major sin from the beginning. For God to work, man must cease from his work. Man must let God do it. They must do things His way. This means the churches need to know Bible doctrine.

IDENTIFIED CAUSES OF THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE CHURCHES

This movement is happening because churches, lacking discernment and sufficient understanding of Bible doctrine, are operating much under their own authority instead of only under God's (and His Holy Bible). They are doing what is right according to their own eyes. Their actions in falling away implement satanic strategy that is symptomatic of at least four major causes. Not understanding the causes, they are work to reach the youth, believers and unbelievers, with limited teaching and the world's methods to build a new generation. But this new generation is leading to and becoming a major world-wide apostasy.

These identified causes are (they are discussed in more detail later):

CAUSE ONE - NOT APPRECIATING GOD'S GREATNESS: Church leadership, in departing from sound doctrine, does not have discernment and appreciation for God's Greatness. Thus, they do not search the Bible for all He wants done (all that they can find) and do it with commitment. There are not determining the scope and intent or degree of what He wants done. They do not have the desire to study the Scriptures and know and relate to God to His maximum with all their hearts.

As will be stated many times, apart from knowing and relating to our perfect God in His Greatness, there is nothing. We must thoroughly grasp this if we are to have the greatest that God plans for us. We must become mature in Christ to the maximum so we can relate and know God to the maximum.

Church leadership does not realize that our perfect God will put in His Bible ALL that is needed for direction and that which must be obeyed. Nothing has to be determined by humans

**Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes
With Their Impacts and Indicated Solutions**

for direction for anything. They are determining their own direction for what is to be done and how it is to be done. They are looking at the world in the eyes of man instead of in the eyes of God. In doing so, they deny the Greatness and Absolutes of God. Although maybe doing many good things with good results, our churches are not attempting to properly evangelize complete local areas and mature their people with a version of God's Whole Counsel.

CAUSE TWO - INADEQUATE SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND WRONG PRIORITIES: Churches do not see the need to pursue and become spiritually mature in Christ, as God commands, ●18 in order to become the person that God intends. This maturity is needed so that we can know and relate to God toward His fullness and depth-breadth both now, but especially in eternity. They do not see that the spiritual maturity we have at death, we may have forever, without further increase. They only see the need that people become Christians (?) and have some spiritual growth. Thus, they do not need to train in depth-breadth as God commands we do to become mature in Christ-likeness. They can dumb down their training without hurting their people. They are not outcome oriented. This is spiritual folly.

If they had excellence before God and wanted to know and relate to Him to His maximum, would they not pursue maturity in Christ with high priority and excellence? This is what I think.

Churches are working with an inverted priority. They are working with unbelievers, new people, and the less committed watchers in priority over working with their own gung ho and the very faithful.●19 Thus, in time, there will be fewer gung ho and the very faithful. Less of God's true work will be happening. Such a movement, as presented, leads to an immature Church with a plateau of Bible knowledge, and a loss of biblical intellect. It leads to the situation that very few know and can teach the Bible in any depth-breadth. Fewer are becoming mature in Christ.

Believers being more matured in Christ, by means of depth-breadth training, will become more involved in God's work and will bring more glory to God. They will send more spiritual wealth on ahead, and will receive more heavenly rewards that God wants to give. They would be able to know and relate to God more fully.

CAUSE THREE - SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND SATANIC STRATEGIES: Churches do not have the discernment and doctrine to see that what they are doing is implementing key satanic strategy. It is causing a falling away that helps Satan bring the endtimes Tribulation and is not preparing their people for the soon-coming endtimes. **Not being mature, the people will not be so involved in God's Word to evangelize. Thus, it helps to impede the elect from believing and from**

18. REFERENCES FOR GAINING SPIRITUAL MATURITY: Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 3:19; 4:11-13; Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 6:1; 11:35; James 1:2-4.

19. PRIORITIES: We need to understand that churches are composed of the gung ho, the faithful, and the less committed watchers with new people. The gung ho and the faithful want the more advanced teaching and to become mature. They want to be in ministry, know God in His depth-breadth, and have a heart worship of God. So adequate training must be provided for them in some manner. The watchers and new people may be satisfied with the low level teaching. But even among the watchers and new people, there are those who want to become the gung ho and the faithful. So however we arrange our teaching and church services, we must accommodate this situation.

But we must realize and act to give our gung ho and very faithful first priority. If we do not give the training required, the numbers of our gung ho and faithful will decline and, in time, few will know and be able to teach the Bible. Is this not happening? If we do not provide in depth-breadth training, new people will not have anything for which to look forward after they complete the basic training. Christian growth and Church life will plateau. This is happening.

accomplishing God's chosen work. It helps Satan in his quest to defeat Christ in the spiritual warfare (of course this cannot and will not happen).

CAUSE FOUR - CRITICAL ANALYSIS: Churches are not doing critical analysis to understand their situation of their actual ministry and their situation in the other three causes. They are not evaluating as to whether or not they are actually maturing their people and are actually doing needed area-wide true evangelism. They do not know and recognize the signs●20 that signal the Tribulation can be soon coming. They do not see that they are partly responsible for the endtimes Tribulation coming. They do not see that they are not adequately operating under God's Greatness that would be carrying out His total will. They do not see that they do not have the desire and commitment to know as much of God and His ways that they can. They are working mostly for human based relationships. This is good, but most inadequate.

SOME KEY THOUGHTS: Because of the direction of the movement, those involved are having a major forfeiture of God's Best and of knowing and relating to Him toward His fulness. This is most terrible. And is not leadership causing it? Will they not face judgment?

A summary of key items include: (1) in eternity, we need maturity in Christ to know and relate to God toward His fulness; (2) we are commanded to leave teaching of only the fundamentals and pursue maturity; (3) God draws people to Himself using His Word, not music (He can use the lyrics of music - good hymns); (4) dumbing down does not bring maturity and implements satanic strategy; (5) we are commanded to walk as Christ walked, thinking and doing only that which comes from God the Father as a source (not from man as a source as our churches are doing in many ways); and (6) the dumbing down, using the world's music, being disobedience to God, is causing the Tribulation to come - believers will go through the Tribulation.

MORE DETAIL: SO WHAT IS THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT?

ORIENTATION: The Church Growth Movement is adapting the Church to the world, instead of the world to God and His Bible. They are doing things to draw the world, particularly the youth, based on what man thinks and not so much on what God states in His Word. It is a movement that is working from the outside to the inside, instead of working from the inside out.

One way to discern between the work of God and the work of Satan in one's spiritual life is this: God always works from the center to the circumference, while Satan works from the circumference toward the center.●21 God places the choice of heaven or the Lake of Fire before the sinner. He places before each Christian the choice of the world or His Kingdom. ●22

The Church Growth Movement is choosing the world. However, for man to change, God, not the world, must first change the man. Our major concern should be our spiritual life under and in God and not just to know some doctrine and to reach people. Our highest achievement in Christianity is a complete union with God and Christ and a total loss of self. It is death to self. It is when every thought and action for man comes from God as a source. Then man will not attempt to work all things together for good, but instead will only trust God to do it. The spiritual life is what the Church Growth Movement is missing or at least does not appear to pursue.

20. **SIGNS:** Many of the signs that signal the Tribulation can be soon coming are given in my prophecy reports including *The Pattern View of Prophecy*.

21. **INSIDE TO OUTSIDE:** Quote from *Secrets to Spiritual Power* page 266 by Watchman Nee.

22. **THE WORLD OR GOD'S KINGDOM:** Quote from *Secrets to Spiritual Power* page 159 by Watchman Nee.

We must thoroughly understand that God's objective is for us to know and relate to Him throughout eternity. We must be mature in Christ-likeness for this to occur to the fullest. Apart from being mature in Christ-likeness so that we can know and relate to God, there is nothing. The main job of the Church is to see that this maturity is developed. Thus, the main job of the Church is not to do evangelism, however important. Evangelism is a most vital and a major first main step in the process and must be accomplished, but it is not the main objective, regardless of how vital. Churches in the Church Growth Movement and many other churches do not understand this concept.

Our churches generally over the years are doing some good things with some good results. This is without question. But in the bigger picture, how well have they done and are now doing to mature their people in Christ so they can know and relate to God toward His fullness. It appears that churches believe that if they have salvation and some spiritual growth that God will take care of the rest in eternity. But why does God command that we pursue maturity? Can He use it in a different way in eternity than we can know now? Regardless of our eternal future, we should obey God now and pursue maturity in Christ-likeness. So why don't we? (Review the four causes.)

SO WHAT IS THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT?: *The church growth movement is the utilization of modern marketing techniques by the church in order to draw and hold large numbers of people (including especially the youth - my comment) (by meeting their "felt needs"). The church then "converts" them and "disciples" them through the use of modern organizational management (Total Quality Management-style) techniques, so they can effect "change" in the community, and the world. ●23 They become agents of social change, or "change agents." ●24*

*Popularly, the term **emerging church** has been applied to high-profile, youth oriented congregations that have gained attention on account of their rapid numerical growth; their ability to attract (for retain) twenty somethings; their contemporary worship, which draws from popular music styles and their ability to promote themselves to the Christian subculture through websites and word of mouth. ●25*

Religious behavior is not a given, unlike ethnicity, family, or neighborhood. Thus, religious practices transcends primary ties, and no longer does one adopt the traditions of one's parents. Individuals make their own religious choices; the emancipation of the self is manifested through the abandoning of all ascriptive barriers and the embracing of subjectivity and individual expression. ●26

There are no doubt many variations of the theme in many of our churches. But the concept is to reach many of the unchurched youth. The concept is to keep them in the churches through modern management and advertising techniques based on meeting the "felt needs of the people" - not on the required depth and great teachings of God's Word with a solid walk with Christ. ●27 The modern

23. WHAT IS THE CHANGE: *"This new paradigm is not centered in theology, but rather it is focused on structure, organization, and the transition from an institutionally based church to a mission-driven church." From *What's Wrong with the 21st Century Church?* by Dr. Robert Klenck. (The Church and its people are being transformed away from God's best to that of the world.)*

24. CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT: Quoted from page 5 of *Diaprax and the Church - An Analysis of the Church Growth Movement* by Dr. Robert Klenck. Dr. Klenck shows the start and progress of this movement and who were involved in promoting it. It is a good publication to read on where things are going. He also has videos.

25. EMERGING CHURCHES: Quoted from page 41 of *Emerging Churches* by Bolger and Gibs.

26. SELECTED BEHAVIOR: Quoted from page 23 of *Emerging Churches* by Bolger and Gibs

27. KEEPING PEOPLE IN THE CHURCHES: It is thought that bringing people to have many friends in the
(continued...)

**Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes
With Their Impacts and Indicated Solutions**

concept is that the ways of the Church must change to reach the youth in a new culture. But this is man's, not God's way. This thinking has led the churches to become "user friendly" by teaching God's Word with nomenclature in a dumbed down fashion to meet the needs of man as man sees them and by bringing in music to which he is acquainted - contemporary dominate repetitious loud beat rock music.

This is resulting in a dumbing down process of teaching using but little of God's Word.●28 These churches mainly do not use the accurate King James and New American Standard Bibles.●29 They, instead, use many paraphrased versions that have much less accuracy, even error with misleadings, but are easier to read. They are keeping them from the best that God wants to give and causing them to be casualties in the spiritual warfare.●30 They are keeping or impeding them from reaching a large maturity in Christ and knowing of God's Greatness.

And Church leadership is doing this! What spirit is leading them? Does it look like the Holy Spirit? Are leaders mature in Christ and have a good base of Bible doctrinal understanding and theology working for God's excellence? Are they responding to God's Greatness having His best for the Church? It does not look like it. The churches, even having some good biblical things, are going to a carnal humanistic type of church. So is the Holy Spirit leading us and to what extent? So are our Church leaders adequately mature in Christ?

The Bible implies that if we were mature in Christ, we would not be led to things from the viewpoint of the world. We would not be led astray.

Ephesians 4:13-14 - until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

One must be a good Berean and search the Scriptures for any truth in this movement (Acts 17:10-11). There is no Scripture that teaches we should use only first-level teaching and the world's music. These are man's ideas. (The world's music has bad effects on people because of its structure. These effects will be described.)

Our churches have lost biblical substance. We now have a cultural, not a biblical, religion

27(...continued)

church, that people will not leave, even if they are displeased with what is happening, because they want to be with their friends.

28. **BEGINNING LEVEL:** It is not wrong to teach at the beginning (milk of the Word) level if our churches are also teaching a version of God's Whole Counsel in depth-breadth level at the more advanced level (meat of the Word). There can be several levels of training. The teaching at the beginning level must be biblically accurate and not misleading. The teaching should meet the people's needs as God sees them, not just as man sees them.

29. **HOME MEETINGS:** I have been in home meetings when the paraphrased Bibles, including the New International Version, teach something entirely different than the King James and New American Standard Bibles teach. These other versions take more liberty with the original languages.

30. **DISCIPLESHIP:** In the major movement, there appears to be but little mature discipleship being done. But in some churches more discipleship may happen with an aim for Christian growth, instead of maturing in Christ. These groups and their training are method, not outcome oriented. The churches can be quite varied. All believers need to understand the Dialectic Process and the intent of the Diaphragm as discussed in this report.

in America. Our young people have been taken over by the culture and the world. Many of those who are Christians, particularly our youth, do not show a Christian life. Spiritual darkness is increasing.

America and part of the world today are going through a culture revolution where older forms of Church services are no longer attractive to the youth, particularly as unbelievers. They have gone to different music, lap top computers, Ipods, computer games, and cell phones. Even Christian youth are greatly effected so they are not committed sufficiently to God, His Word, His Ways and gaining maturity in Christ. The churches are thinking that if they are to reach the youth, they may have to use communication media and type of music that they use. We may have to put God's Word in a simple format to which they will listen, understand, and respond (world marketing). ***This is spiritual folly.***

To accommodate this thinking, our churches are going to easy-to-listen-to first level teaching and contemporary rock type music. How good is their statement of faith, including for salvation in Christ?

WHAT IS THE CREATION SOURCE OF THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT?

There are several known people behind, promoting, and spreading this modern Church Growth Movement. We do not like to mention people's or Church's names because it is not our objective to attack people or churches, but only wrong doctrine and non-biblical methods. As before, we leave leaders and people to God's judgment. We are not to judge God's servants (are they?). And even in this wrong direction, some good things may be being done and accomplished. We do not want to criticize these. We all can be judged.

But this movement is most seriously impeding people from having God's best, and is going world-wide. It is leading to help bring the coming Tribulation. Thus. it needs to be discussed.

References (see those at the end of this report) show that Bill Hybels of the Willow Creek Church, Rick Warren of the Saddleback Church, and Robert Schuller of the Crystal Cathedral are largely responsible for the movement.●31 They have talked to and have given seminars to tens and hundreds of thousands of pastors and church leaders world wide and sold many thousands, even millions, of books●32 about their approach to study and ministry. ●33 And many-many churches are now wrongly caught up in the movement, believing it to be right and best for now. ***As presented earlier for the movement, one main problem with Rick Warren's teachings is not so much what***

31. **RESPONSIBLE PERSONS:** These responsible persons are listed on Page 5 of *Diaprax and the Church; An Analysis of the Church Growth Movement* by Robert Klenck.

32. **EXAMPLE BOOK:** *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren.

33. **WARREN'S APPROACH** (from his seminars - a paper by Dennis Costella: *The Church Growth Movement - An Analysis of Rick Warren's "Purpose Driven" Church Growth Strategy*): Warren states that the items for church growth must include: (1) all traditional values and traditional church services must go; (2) the message must be positive and non-threatening, and meet the people's needs as they see them; (3) the organ and piano must be replaced by a band with drums; (4) the dress must be informal and casual; (5) using easy-to-read paraphrased Bibles, not the King James or other accurate Bibles; (6) evangelism only in the church (do they have the correct message?); and (7) not teaching doctrine in the church services (then when?). (They do not appear to know or teach a clear message of the true Gospel.) ***(As time goes by, Warren may correct some of these. This would be my hope and prayer.)***

he teaches, but instead, what he greatly leaves out of his teachings.●34 ●35

I have reviewed some of Warren's sermons and teachings on his web site. In my view, he describes things in human terms as man sees things. He leaves out most of how God sees things. In retrospect, his ministry is horizontal in nature from man's perspective, and is very light on the vertical from God's perspective. It comes across as human psychology instead of good and complete Bible doctrine as God sees things. And he is influencing thousands of churches and pastors!

What David Cloud observed, in his visit to Saddleback Church, from Warren's sermon that he heard, quote: "There was no specific mention of the hard things of God's Word such as sin, separation, judgment, hell, or repentance. These were replaced with general and vague references to biblical truth. No clear gospel message was given. Some of the things that were stated were good, but the error lay chiefly in what was not stated. This is the hallmark of New Evangelicalism, which is characterized not so much by the heresy that is preached but by the truth that is neglected in an effort to present the Bible in a more positive light."

The church services are extremely informal and disrespectful to God.●36

These men are church (and world) change agents. They are taking our churches from where they are to at least a semi apostate organization and ministry.●37 Warren is going world wide with help to

34. SUPPORT: Where most books and reports I have read criticize the movement promoted by Rick Warren, there is one book that backs him and his ministry. This book is: *Rick Warren and the Purpose that Drives Him* by Richard Barnes.

35. STATEMENT OF FAITH: The statement of faith on the Saddleback Church web site, on the surface, reads like one should. But it leaves out the Cross and the understanding of its satisfying God's Justice for sin. It leaves out the need to have maturity in Christ. It leaves out the details of the Lake of Fire. But is the church following it in their community groups?

From *a Visit to Saddleback Church* by David Cloud: Everything about Saddleback is shallow. Truth has been boiled down to such a low common denominator that not much is left. For example, the Saddleback Statement of Faith has six simple points. Note the following statement on salvation, which we are quoting in full:

"Salvation is a gift from God to mankind. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can we be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment we receive Jesus Christ into our life by faith."

Note that the gospel is not actually given in this statement. There is nothing about Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, nothing about His shed blood and atonement. Sinners are exhorted to trust Christ, but that is not explained in any sense whatsoever

36. David Cloud quote: *"I visited two of the three morning services at Saddleback on August 24, the one at 8 a.m. and the one at 9:45 a.m. The church complex is huge. The main auditorium seats many thousands, and there are dozens of other buildings for various ministries. The overall mood of the services is casual in the extreme. The people dress much as they would for a secular sporting event. Women are dressed in shorts, short skirts, tight pants, and other types of immodest attire. The church bulletin for that Sunday was patterned after the cover to the TV Guide. The words "TV Guide" were replaced with "SC Guide" for Saddleback Church. Television was mentioned several times in the message but there was not a hint of warning about its dangers."*

37. NAMES: ***We mention their names and their system of change so you can be on the alert when you***
(continued...)

**Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes
With Their Impacts and Indicated Solutions**

nations beyond the Bible in a peace movement to help people in their needs, but at the expense of dumbing down the churches regarding God's Plan. ●38. Warren's efforts are going exceedingly greatly extra-biblical and he appears to be joining with the United Nations.●39 ***Some of this can be good from a human perspective. But it does not bring salvation and maturity in Christ to the world.***

Their churches are working with priority at the lowest common denominator of Christians and unbelievers.

COMMENTS: Their direction results in being more concerned about numbers and reaching the world than having greater holiness, righteousness, and faithfulness under Christ. The movement is a direct disobedience to Scripture (sin of omission) because the Bible teaches we are to leave having only elementary teachings about Christ and pursue maturity, teaching more in depth-breadth. We are not to join with the world. A friend of the world in an enemy of God. So where does Warren stand ●40

Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

James 4:4 - You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? (This because when we do only what the world wants, we leave out God's truth and go in wrong ways.)

Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Because of these and bringing the world's music into the Church, it is largely a worldly movement. This is sin of commission. In our view, it is what the Bible teaches that we should not do - doing what is right according to our own eyes, instead of in the eyes of God. We are not to be friends of the world. Do those involved have fear of God because they appear to lack discernment that they should seek out and do all of what God wants done? (How many churches do the latter?)

37(...continued)

come across their literature, methods, and tapes and avoid using them and their system and doctrines. It is so you can come out of and avoid joining their Church Growth Movement. You can avoid joining what Rick Warren is doing and teaching.

38. PEACE MOVEMENT: Book: *Rick Warren's Global Peace Plan vs Scriptural Teachings on Peace* by James Sundquist.

39. WARREN EXPANSION: A good source of articles on what Warren is doing is found on the web site of Berit Kjos: *Crossroad.to*. She has much information as to where the church movement is going and how world-wide spread it is, and its association with the United Nations. It is our goal to discuss the biblical and doctrinal aspects of the Church Growth Movement, but not its details. We leave the details to others. Check out this web site for details. ***Your eyes will open.***

40. GAINING MATURITY: We gain maturity in Christ-likeness as we obey God as He works in us in the trials, testings, and temptations of life. We cannot gain maturity on our own. He works in us and leads us to obey His Word that we know and understand. Thus, with more understanding of the Bible for how one lives the Christian life, God can work more in people to bring them along, as they obey God in response, to greater maturity levels. Thus, it is important to teach God's Word in depth-breadth particularly application oriented. In this, we have no choice, because God, in the Bible, commands us to teach His Whole Counsel and pursue maturity and live as our Lord lives.

**Serious Symptomatic Problems in Today's Churches Based on Four Major Causes
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Isaiah 5:21 - Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And clever in their own sight!

Deuteronomy 12:8 - "You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes;

1 John 2:15-16 - Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

Romans 3:18 - "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

There can be some good things happening. But even wanting to do right, the movement is departing from excellence to do God's best and maturing their people in Christ. It is departing from being centered in theology, living under Christ's Lordship, and using the great hymns of the faith. (Different Christian churches and/or ethnic backgrounds can use different music than the hymns as long as it is not repetitious and loud dominate syncopated beat. Many crusades are using Gospel music.) It is bringing a general dumbing down of the faith. The music, as discussed later, brings harmful effects on church people and brings God questionable worship. People attend for the experience and getting their felt needs met in addition to their desire to honor God.

Are we correct in what we see? Read the references and hear the videos and your eyes will open wide.

1 Timothy 4:1 - But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

(This verse has much application now, but its full effect no doubt occurs during the Tribulation.)

IDENTIFIED CAUSES OF THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE CHURCHES

This movement is happening because churches, lacking discernment and sufficient understanding of Bible doctrine, are operating much under their own authority instead of only under God's (and His Holy Bible). They are doing what is right according to their own eyes. Their actions in falling away implement satanic strategy that is symptomatic of at least four major causes. Not understanding the causes, they are work to reach the youth, believers and unbelievers, with limited teaching and the world's methods to build a new generation. But this new generation is leading to and becoming a major world-wide apostasy.

These identified causes are (they are discussed in more detail later):

CAUSE ONE - NOT APPRECIATING GOD'S GREATNESS: Church leadership, in departing from sound doctrine, does not have discernment and appreciation for God's Greatness. Thus, they do not search the Bible for all He wants done (all that they can find) and do it with commitment. There are not determining the scope and intent or degree of what He wants done. They do not have the desire to study the Scriptures and know and relate to God to His maximum with all their hearts.

As will be stated many times, apart from knowing and relating to our perfect God in His Greatness, there is nothing. We must thoroughly grasp this if we are to have the greatest that God plans for us. We must become mature in Christ to the maximum so we can relate and know God to the maximum.

Church leadership does not realize that our perfect God will put in His Bible ALL that is needed for direction and that which must be obeyed. Nothing has to be determined by humans for direction for anything. They are determining their own direction for what is to be done and how it is to be done. They are looking at the world in the eyes of man instead of in the eyes of God. In doing so, they deny the Greatness and Absolutes of God. Although maybe doing many good things with good results, our churches are not attempting to properly evangelize complete local areas and mature thier people with a version of God's Whole Counsel.

CAUSE TWO - INADEQUATE SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND WRONG PRIORITIES: Churches do not see the need to pursue and become spiritually mature in Christ, as God commands, ●41 in order to become the person that God intends. This maturity is needed so that we can know and relate to God toward His fullness and depth-breadth both now, but especially in eternity. They do not see that the spiritual maturity we have at death, we may have forever, without further increase. They only see the need that people become Christians (?) and have some spiritual growth. Thus, they do not need to train in depth-breadth as God commands we do to become mature in Christ-likeness. They can dumb down their training without hurting their people. They are not outcome oriented. This is spiritual folly.

If they had excellence before God and wanted to know and relate to Him to His maximum, would they not pursue maturity in Christ with high priority and excellence? This is what I think.

Churches are working with an inverted priority. They are working with unbelievers, new people, and the less committed watchers in priority over working with their own gung ho and the very faithful.●42 Thus, in time, there will be fewer gung ho and the very faithful. Less of God's true work will be happening. Such a movement, as presented, leads to an immature Church with a plateau of Bible knowledge, and a loss of biblical intellect. It leads to the situation that very few know and can teach the Bible in any depth-breadth. Fewer are becoming mature in Christ.

Believers being more matured in Christ, by means of depth-breadth training, will become more involved in God's work and will bring more glory to God. They will send more spiritual wealth on ahead, and will receive more heavenly rewards that God wants to give. They would be able to know and relate to God more fully.

41. REFERENCES FOR GAINING SPIRITUAL MATURITY: Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 3:19; 4:11-13; Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 6:1; 11:35; James 1:2-4.

42. PRIORITIES: We need to understand that churches are composed of the gung ho, the faithful, and the less committed watchers with new people. The gung ho and the faithful want the more advanced teaching and to become mature. They want to be in ministry, know God in His depth-breadth, and have a heart worship of God. So adequate training must be provided for them in some manner. The watchers and new people may be satisfied with the low level teaching. But even among the watchers and new people, there are those who want to become the gung ho and the faithful. So however we arrange our teaching and church services, we must accommodate this situation.

But we must realize and act to give our gung ho and very faithful first priority. If we do not give the training required, the numbers of our gung ho and faithful will decline and, in time, few will know and be able to teach the Bible. Is this not happening? If we do not provide in depth-breadth training, new people will not have anything for which to look forward after they complete the basic training. Christian growth and Church life will plateau. This is happening.

CAUSE THREE - SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND SATANIC STRATEGIES: Churches do not have the discernment and doctrine to see that what they are doing is implementing key satanic strategy. It is causing a falling away that helps Satan bring the endtimes Tribulation and is not preparing their people for the soon-coming endtimes. **Not being mature, the people will not be so involved in God's Word to evangelize. Thus, it helps to impede the elect from believing and from accomplishing God's chosen work. It helps Satan in his quest to defeat Christ in the spiritual warfare (of course this cannot and will not happen).**

CAUSE FOUR - CRITICAL ANALYSIS: Churches are not doing critical analysis to understand their situation of their actual ministry and their situation in the other three causes. They are not evaluating as to whether or not they are actually maturing their people and are actually doing needed area-wide true evangelism. They do not know and recognize the signs⁴³ that signal the Tribulation can be soon coming. They do not see that they are partly responsible for the endtimes Tribulation coming. They do not see that they are not adequately operating under God's Greatness that would be carrying out His total will. They do not see that they do not have the desire and commitment to know as much of God and His ways that they can. They are working mostly for human based relationships. This is good, but most inadequate.

SOME KEY THOUGHTS: Because of the direction of the movement, those involved are having a major forfeiture of God's Best and of knowing and relating to Him toward His fulness. This is most terrible. And is not leadership causing it? Will they not face judgment?

A summary of key items include: (1) in eternity, we need maturity in Christ to know and relate to God toward His fulness; (2) we are commanded to leave teaching of only the fundamentals and pursue maturity; (3) God draws people to Himself using His Word, not music (He can use the lyrics of music - good hymns); (4) dumbing down does not bring maturity and implements satanic strategy; (5) we are commanded to walk as Christ walked, thinking and doing only that which comes from God the Father as a source (not from man as a source as our churches are doing in many ways); and (6) the dumbing down, using the world's music,

43. **SIGNS:** Many of the signs that signal the Tribulation can be soon coming are given in my prophecy reports including *The Pattern View of Prophecy*.