

SPECIAL REPORT
PART TWO: DETAILS
THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT

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

by

John M. Stephenson
Biblical Worldview Ministries
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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.***

Biblical Worldview Ministries
PMB 283
1111 West El Camino Real #109
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
biblicalworldviewministries.com
jstephenson@biblicalworldviewministries.com

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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.**

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

PART TWO: DETAILS

**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**

**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. ●2 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. ●3

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.

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

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1. **SUMMARY:** The **SUMMARY** of this Report is a separate document on my web site.
 2. **INSIDE TO OUTSIDE:** Quote from *Secrets to Spiritual Power* page 266 by Watchman Nee.
 3. **THE WORLD OR GOD'S KINGDOM:** Quote from *Secrets to Spiritual Power* page 159 by Watchman Nee.

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. ●4 They become agents of social change, or "change agents."*●5

*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.*●6

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.●7

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.●8 The modern 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.

4. 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.)

5. 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.

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

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

8. KEEPING PEOPLE IN THE CHURCHES: It is thought that bringing people to have many friends in the church, that people will not leave, even if they are displeased with what is happening, because they want to be with their friends.

This is resulting in a dumbing down process of teaching using but little of God's Word.●9 These churches mainly do not use the accurate King James and New American Standard Bibles.●10 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.●11 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 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.***

9. **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.

10. **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.

11. **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.

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.●12 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●13 about their approach to study and ministry. ●14 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 he teaches, but instead, what he greatly leaves out of his teachings.***●15 ●16

12. **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.

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

14. **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.)***

15. **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.

16. **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:

(continued...)

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.●17

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.●18 Warren is going world wide with help to 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. ●19. Warren's efforts are going exceedingly greatly extra-biblical and he appears to be joining with the United Nations.●20 ***Some of this can be good rom a human perspective. But it does not bring salvation and maturity in Christ to the world.***

16(...continued)

"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

17. **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.*"

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

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

20. **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.***

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 is an enemy of God. So where does Warren stand ●21

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?)

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.

21. **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.

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.)

**ANOTHER RELATED FACTOR:
NEW (REALLY LACK OF) TOLERANCE LAWS ●22**

New laws are coming (are they here now) that will make it illegal for anyone to speak against another's religion and faith and/or states that his is the only right one (which in practice is speaking against other views).●23 The concept is that all religious beliefs are equal. ***This is a denial of the existence of an absolute God with absolute Truth as placed in His Holy Bible. It is a denial of the perfect God we, as believers, all love. It is a denial of the need to have justification for sin. It is great compromise and sin. It is death of the true biblical church.***

With the new tolerance, comes: (1) the death of Truth - departure from the Bible; (2) the loss of conviction - all are correct; (3) not a correct faith - all are equal - not allowed to do what you believe - all must believe the same; (4) human rights are removed - most go with the majority; (5) the dominance of feeling - forget Truth; (6) the exaltation of nature; and (7) the decent into extremes - departure from the Bible.

When we add this to the Church Growth Movement when people have but little doctrine, we can have a most terrible melding of the practices of the Church Growth Movement with those of the New Tolerance. Of course this will depend much on the individual and the doctrines they understand. But both will bring a most devastating result of a major falling away of the Church from the active true Christian faith. It will have a most terrible negative effect on our bringing people to believe in Christ.

**MORE ON THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT
(Its Teaching, Church Services, and Music, Causing the Church to Fall Away)**

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Using rock music, our churches are abandoning the hymns. ***They believe that music is amoral - neutral. It is not.*** These churches are going away from the great Bible truths to how we feel about things and what we think we should believe and do. They are using the world's method of advertising. They are attempting to preach bringing people solutions to their felt needs, instead of by God's Whole Counsel. They want to share love and bring them connection with other believers for fellowship. But biblically, we must be in fellowship with and agree with God first before we can be in true godly fellowship with and agree with each other.

1 John 1:6-7 - If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light (having fellowship with God), we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

22, **NEW TOLERANCE:** This information was taken from chapter five of *The New Tolerance* by McDowell and Hostetler.

23. **WITNESSING:** When I witness the Gospel, I do not speak against the religions of others. I do not say the Bible and Christianity are the only way. I simply say this is what the Bible teaches. I trust God to work in them and convict them with His Word that is shared. I do say, that in the judgment before God, we do not get to vote. So you want to be right. Thus, one should investigate Christianity for the case it is correct.

The love we are to live is in sacrificial service to others in need as directed by God. They avoid teaching about negative things such as divine discipline, Hell, and the Lake of Fire. We are going away from the Bible absolutes and completeness to ambiguity by not teaching the whole picture - God's Whole Counsel.

The Church Growth Movement is establishing small home groups using a facilitator with horizontal sharing of pabulum (milk of God's Word). They work for group consensus rather than for the Truth of the Bible - thus saith the Lord. They have gone from "I know from what the Bible teaches," to what "I feel" and what "I think" resulting in group consensus. The facilitator often works for a predetermined outcome. The people's beliefs are based on consensus, not what the Bible teaches. This is apostasy. It is a departure from God's absolutes. Going world wide, it will lead to a global religion based on what man thinks, not what the Bible teaches. In the movement, all beliefs are equal without the Bible's absolutes. The trends, in this movement, are leading to churches and a religious system that will no longer preach justification for sin.●24

They have abandoned vertical teaching and discipling with in depth-breadth teaching (meat of God's Word). Thus, they are changing from the biblical vertical to the human horizontal. Going the facilitator route without vertical factual teaching is keeping the depth-breadth of God's Word from the Church people. **Increased attendance can come out of this movement, but with not much spiritual growth in Christ. What percentage are actually being saved?** It limits growing to great maturity as God commands. The person who shares with biblical facts in these small groups now is often considered by some as a trouble maker - one who disrupts. The facilitator works for people to share, controls the answers for a predetermined outcome, but generally he does not teach. Churches can buy in so to speak in different amounts. Although we see the trends, only God knows the actual situation and the hearts of the leaders and people. Only God knows how much of His will is actually being implemented. Of course, the degree this is being done depends upon individual churches. Not all churches have bought in to the full extent. We make our judgments of the trends based on Bible doctrines.

We encourages churches to recognize the causes of the symptoms of the Church Growth Movement and turn to obey God's greater will. If this does not happen, as introduced, will not God not judge leadership and the Tribulation come without recourse? This is what I believe. We all may receive some judgment.●25 ●26

GOOD MUSIC: Professional musicians (e.g. those having a phd in music and/or play professionally in classical music orchestras) teach that good music has the melody

24. **SMALL GROUPS:** God may use these home groups in different ways when the Tribulation comes and when the government makes war with the Church and closes our church buildings. With Church people in small groups, the people will still be under some leadership and will not be scattered. The people can support each other. Our prayers are that these groups would see to seek maturity in Christ and trust Him to work all things together for good. But will they know how to do it?

25. **BOWING OF KNEES:** We must realize that in eternity we all, believers and unbelievers, will bow our knees before Christ and declare Him Lord to the glory of God the Father (Romans 14:11; Phillipians 2:9-11). We will be judged and rewarded for our works. There will be judgment for both believers and unbelievers. We need to be right in what we are now doing before our God.

26. **REFORM:** Many churches and believers today are working to reform America. But this can happen only if our church leadership followed by our church people turn to greater obedience to God. (2 Chronicles 7:14) It can, however, perhaps delay the coming of God's judgment.

2 Chronicles 7:14 - and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

dominate, the harmony next, and the rhythm last and under control.●27 *We can have trumpet toots, cymbal crashes, and drum beats and roles, but they cannot dominate, be repetitive, and have a loud and syncopated beat.*●28 We need the rhythm to bring life, dynamics, and fun to the music. This is the form of classical music that has lasted through the years.●29 The melody reaches our spirit and heart, the harmony our souls and mind, and the rhythm our bodies and sensuality. Sacred music is for the Lord, not for our entertainment as is rock music. It is for our spirit and soul.

Thus, the characteristics of good music that one would expect God to use is in the chart.

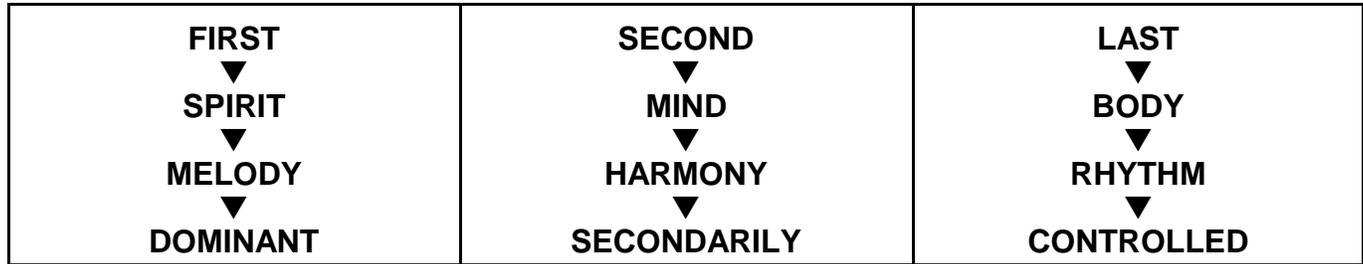


Chart was taken from *Music in the Balance* page 63 by Garlock and Woetrzel.

MUSIC IN THE BIBLE: There are no drums or guitars in the Bible. Instruments used include the lyre, tambourine, lute, stringed instruments such as the harp, cymbals, and trumpets. The cymbals and trumpet are often played loud, but there is no evidence of a repeated or syncopated beat.

ROCK MUSIC: So what kind is rock music? The beat is loud and dominate. It is satanically inspired music designed to lower and impede the intellectual understanding of the Scripture and have less sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Regularly listening to Rock music energizes the body and sensuality. (Just watch the motions of people in their cars when they are listening to forms of rock music.)

In our worship services, rock music brings out the physical (body motion) and deals with the temporal - our bodies want to move. Dominate melody brings out the spiritual and deals with the eternal. Rock music emphasizes man and melody music emphasizes God - brings the worship of God to our spirits and souls. The Father is looking for those who will worship Him with spirit and truth, not with body motions (although King David danced before the Lord with proper music). In singing the hymns, we are concentrating on God. When we hear rock music with an emphasized loud beat, we have the tendency to concentrate on our body motions, having an experience.●30

27. **REFERENCES:** *Music in the Balance* by Dr. Garlock and Dr. Woetze; *The Language of Music* (book and video tapes by Dr. Frank Garlock

28. **PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS:** It is not wrong to use percussion instruments. The Bible uses them such as trumpets and cymbals. It is not having them is the problem, but how they are played. There is nothing wrong with a full orchestra. It can bring great Church music.

29. **BUILDING INTELLIGENCE:** Playing and listening regularly to classical music that has the melody dominant has been known to boost intelligence. This happened to Einstein. (Ballum, Michael: Audio Tapes: *Music and the Mind* and page 92 of *Music in Crisis* by Dr. Wheaton.) Thus, then should not churches use melody dominate music such as the hymns? This will help Church people learn more from the sermons. Would not God use this kind of music? This is what I think. (When I study and type reports, I listen to classical type music.)

30. **INFLUENCE:** *“A national chain of convenience stores recently adopted the policy of playing light classical music broadcast softly just outside their stores to drive away the gang activity. It seems that Mozart softened*
 (continued...)

“Today there is a crisis in Christian music. Secular, pagan, and even occult musical styles have crept into the church, all dressed up with new Christian lyrics. Old, traditional hymns, tried and true, have been thrown on the scrap heap of church history. Naively, pastors, music directors, and younger members of the congregations have often unknowingly embraced musical styles that can have negative effects on their listeners. Music is so powerful it can easily overpower the higher reasoning portions of the brain and bring about uncontrollable physiological, psychological, and spiritual changes that are in direct conflict with biblical teachings.” ●31

*We believe that using loud beat dominant rock-type music especially with syncopated repetitive beats is always wrong. ●32 **It is not of God. Its source is voodooism, paganism, and immorality. As introduced, the rock patterns in the syncopated drum-beat music in other countries with the cults was meant for and was used to call and bring up demons and evil spirits. It has led many into immorality, other addictions, and crime. ●33***

“ Rock music has one appeal only, a barbaric appeal, to sexual desire - not love, not eros, but sexual desire undeveloped and untutored.” ●34

Rock music was meant to be loud, repetitious, carnal, and extremely suggestive sexually. It is a dangerous mistake to think that you can take the rock format and add Christian lyrics and the result will be okay. It is not. The body will be getting the sensual message of the music. The mind will trigger the fight or flight syndrom, stimulating aggressiveness with increased energy, but the human spirit will be receiving a watered-down, simplistic message. The Christian will most likely go with the body and the mind, than with the lyrics. Is this not a most dangerous way to package the

30(...continued)

the gang’s edge and took away their aggression.” Quote from page 92 of *The Crisis in Christian Music* by Dr. Wheaton.

31. **QUOTE:** Quote from page 9 of *The Crisis in Christian Music* by Dr. Wheaton.

32. **REPETITION AND LOUD VOLUME:** Quote from page 35 of *Music in the Balance* by Dr. Garlock and Dr. Woetzel: *“Rock music would not be rock without endless repetition of rhythmic, harmonic, and melodic patterns. Certainty the characteristics of repetition and loud volume are not new to those who have tried to carry out a meaningful conversation while rock music dominated the area. While such music may have been an annoyance to the hearer, these qualities of rock music have a deeper significance. Halpern suggests: “The loud volume, drums, and repetition of much of the rock genre bears a non-coincidental resemblance of trance music found in other parts of the world.”“*

33. **IMMORALITY AND OTHER ADDICTIONS FROM ROCK MUSIC:** See: (1) *How to Conquer the Addiction to Rock Music* by Youth Who Have Found Freedom; (2) *What the Bible Has to Say About “Contemporary Christian” Music; Ten Scriptural Reasons Why the Rock Beat is Evil in Any Form* by Institute of Basic Life Principles; and (3) *Notice of Complaint Against The Unrecognized Enemy of the Church* by Institute of Basic Life Principles. **Testimonies of many young people are given in these publications for how rock music beat has caused them many addictive type problems and what they did to get rid of them and rock music.**

If one reads the above and the following: Lucarini, Dan: *Why I Left the Contemporary Christian Music Movement*; Wheaton, Dr. Jack: *Crisis in Christian Music*; Garlock and Woetzel (Drs’): *Music in the Balance*, one would never use contemporary loud repetitive syncopated beat music ever again in the church. They would go to good hymns.

Quote from *Crisis in Christian Music* page 166 by Dr. Wheaton: *“Music is a bridge between heaven and earth. It is also a bridge between earth and hell. Just be careful which bridge you take, or lead others on.”*

34. **QUOTE:** Quote of Adam Bloom on page 37 in *Music in the Balance* by Dr’s Garlock and Woetzel.

message of grace to an unsaved and sick world? Why would mature Christians want to hear it?●35

God draws people through His Word and music with lyrics of His Word. This is the hymns and Gospel music. Liking the music is not the issue. It is what God likes and what draws people under conviction to a new way of life under God with salvation. It is not to bring the world's music into the Church to have the same conditions of the world.

On a visit to Warren's Saddleback Church, David Cloud reports:●36 *The music was pure rock and roll. There were five singers, two electric guitars, a drum kit, an electric keyboard, 2 saxophones, a piano, trumpet, trombone, and flute. Three special numbers were performed with a pure nightclub effect, complete with swirling lights in the background and attractive female singers swaying and dancing to the music. It appeared to me that not many of the people were actually participating in the worship service. Most were merely watching the show up front.*

A COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL AND THE CONTEMPORARY●37

ISSUES	THE TRADITIONAL	THE CONTEMPORARY
What is the primary purpose of the worship service?	To prepare hearts for the preaching	To usher people into the presence of God
What needs to be emphasized?	The preaching	The music
What is the primary motive in selecting the music?	Does God like it?	Do the people like it?
What is the secondary motive in selecting the music?	Do the people like it?	Does God like it?
What is the primary indicator of a successful service?	I was really convinced by the Word of God today! (Truth based.)	I really worshiped god today! (Experience based.)

CHART COMMENT: We also worship God when from our hearts we praise and exalt God as we sing special hymns that have special meaning to our hearts, even without hearing the sermon. **One example would be *The Lord's Prayer* sung with the conventional music that we all love.**

What is happening in our churches? It is bringing the world into the Church. The Bible says we are not to love the world nor the things in the world. We are not to be a friend of the world. So does rock music bring worship to God? It does not look like it. Its use has the tendency to reduce one's sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading. This opposite is true with the great hymns of the faith with dominate melody, sang from the heart and great love of God to worship Him. The use of lighter contemporary music with the melody dominate with good harmony(not rock music) may be okay.●38

35. **ROCK MUSIC:** Concept taken from page 64 of *Crisis in Christian Music* by Dr. Wheaton.

36. **WARREN MUSIC:** *A Visit to Saddleback Church* by David Cloud

37. **CHART DATA:** The chart data was taken from: *Why I Left the Contemporary Christian Church Movement* by Dan Lucarine, page 120.

38. **MINIMUM OBEDIENCE FACTOR:** God may use these methods to bring some people salvation and along
(continued...)

HOW CAN WE RECOGNIZE DANGEROUS RHYTHMS? *“A simple test allows us to recognize dangerous rhythms. First if it is too loud, too repetitive, and highly syncopated, it is potentially dangerous. If one feels more like moving, swaying, and clapping than listening to the lyrics, it is dangerous. If one finds the music turns one on, hypes one up, and causes one to be very emotional, but not spiritual, it is dangerous. If one feels more like dancing than singing, it can be wrong. If it makes you more conscious of the opposite sex look out.” ●39*

In our opinion, if our churches understood the information about DIAPHRAX and the DIALECTIC PROCESS in the many references, particularly in the videos and dvd’s by Robert Klenck and Dean Gotcher, of the characteristics and causes of this Church Growth Movement falling away, those with discernment would never be involved in it. They would change what they are now doing to become the Church of Scripture. They would leave the Church Growth Movement and /or never become involved in it. They would never adopt any of its characteristics such as its rock music, baseball diamond, first-level only training, and world marketing techniques.

Also if one reads the following: (1) Lucarini, Dan: Why I Left the Contemporary Christian Music Movement; (2) Wheaton, Dr. Jack: Crisis in Christian Music; (3) Youth Who Have Found Freedom: How to Conquer the Addiction of Rock Music; (4) Institute of Basic Life Principles: What the Bible Has to Say About “Contemporary Christian” Music; Ten Scriptural Reasons Why the Rock Beat is Evil in Any Form; (5) Notice of Complaint Against The Unrecognized Enemy of the Church (Rock Music); and (6) Garlock and Woetzel (Drs’): Music in the Balance, one would never use contemporary loud repetitive syncopated beat music ever again. They would go to good hymns and other melody dominated music.

We believe that rock-type music should never be used in our churches because it is not of God. It is not because we grew up with the hymns and do not like the rock music, even though this is also true.

So are the leaders of churches mature in Christ that have involvement? Do they know doctrine, and have the Lord’s heart? It does not look like it.

There has been a trend of Church music changing through the years from the good toward the worst. We have the hymns which bring truth and substance. We have Gospel music. Next following, we have the choruses that are sung repetitively and have little biblical substance. Then later, we have the rock music that disturbs and is highly anti-intellectual and is anti-God. What next?

A summary of the effects of loud beat rock music is it: hinders concentration to listening to and comprehending God’s Word when preached; brings a bondage to those regularly listening to the music, creates sensuality and encourages immorality, brings rebellion to parents, gives ground to the devil, and hinders the true worship of God.●40

38(...continued)

to have some low-level maturity in Christ-likeness. This is because that this is most likely to which many or most people can or will respond under contemporary music. It may be better to have at least this level than a lessor or no maturity at all. God may allow or even direct the present circumstances from the viewpoint that the churches’ disobedience may not allow them to spiritually see God’s more direct will until after they return to the obedience they know. Thus, He may be causing a famine of His Word. Do we not all have this problem to some extent? Only God knows the true picture.

39. **DANGEROUS MUSIC:** Quote taken from page 66 of *Crisis in Christian Music* by Dr. Wheaton.

40. **ADDICTION TO ROCK MUSIC:** *What the Bible has to say about “Contemporary Christian Music - Ten*
(continued...)

Please investigate the above references on your own and determine what you think. If you will, you will depart from and/or never embrace the Church Growth Movement and its rock-type music.

They, not being involved, would stay with in depth-breadth training and the hymns which brings God greater worship. ***Each of us longs for a deeper and stronger relationship with our Lord and a heart and true worship of Him.*** This is one reason we are writing this report. We love the Church. We believe those churches now going off course, want to do right. But they do not appear to have the doctrinal understanding and the Scriptural discernment to do it.

We need to show our love and come along side and help. This is what this report is all about. (But being heavily involved in this falling away, do our churches have the discernment to understand?)

OUR CHURCHES ARE IMPLEMENTING SATANIC STRATEGY

SATANIC STRATEGY: In our view, the Church Growth Movement is using satanic strategy to train people to solve problems by man ways and not by God and His Word. It is readying people for the New Age and world government under Satan and his people. It can be a UN global agenda. (See "Agenda 21." on the internet.) In Satan's mind, it is helping him toward winning the spiritual warfare over Christ.

One major result of the Church Growth Movement is that, as discussed, church people will not be able to do critical analysis to determine what is happening when world government and the Tribulation come. Not having taught much about Bible Prophecy, they will most likely go with the flow and many, if not most, will fall away from active faith under the coming persecution. Those believing in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture may believe they have missed the Rapture. They can believe they are not saved, and thus, can fall away.

Thus, the movement is designed to keep people from having the ability to do critical analysis to determine and know what is happening as the endtimes unfold. It is designed to help prevent the elect from believing and helping to accomplish God's chosen work. It is designed to bring the sin that will cause God to bring the Tribulation with world government over which Satan and his man will rule. This is most helpful to Satan's agenda to help bring the coming Tribulation. In the Tribulation under world government, Satan with His people will rule the world. He is doing much already secretly behind the scenes as God allows.

People not versed in God's Word, and especially worshipping under rock music, are observed to do little in ministry to bring in new converts and be in biblical ministry. My observation shows that many new people under the dumbed down training and under the rock music do not become much involved in the Sunday School, the ministry, and in evening church meetings. They come to church for the experience. Of course there are exceptions among churches and differences between churches. Many listening to the church service rock music are in ministry. But this movement is now going country and world wide.

THE DIALECTIC PROCESS:●41 In the Church Growth Movement, Satan uses a Dialectic Process called Diaprax, introduced earlier, that uses a three step process or sequence.●42 This process

40(...continued)

Scriptural Reasons Why Rock Music is Evil in Any Form by Institute of Basic Life Principles.

41. **REFERENCES:** See reports, videos, and dvd's by Klenck and Gotcher in the references at the end of this report for details.

42. **DIAPRAX:** The definition is from: *The Dialectic and Praxis: Diaprax and the End of the Ages* by Dean
(continued...)

is to bring a paradigm shift or change from the government of God to that of man. It takes us from God's absolutes and maturing His people in Christ to man's relatives and consensus working man's way in a missions' goal of drawing the youth. Its goal is to meld the world's religions into one in the coming Tribulation period. It is going from nationalism to globalism. It will take away individual freedoms to live and worship according to ones belief structure to one to do things as the whole world does them - globalism. It is a unity in the dark.●43

In simplicity the Dialectic Process is one that uses:

- (1) **a method** (*antithesis* or technique, how I feel and think, compromise - lukewarmness);
- (2) **to take things from where there are - from absolutes** (*thesis* - I know - Biblical fact and Truth- source or God's objective - God's authority and absolutes);
- (3) **to where one wants them to be - compromise or falling away** (*synthesis* or result, consensus, no absolutes of the Bible, no authority apart from the group, man is now the authority, reassigned biblical values). Those in our liberal unbelieving churches are already at the diaphrax synthesis. Thus, the Church Growth Movement implements key satanic strategy.
- (4) **After reaching synthesis**, them make this new synthesis a new thesis for top direction.

For example,●44 the Seeker-Friendly Church in the Church Growth Movement is unknowingly:

- (1) using mostly dumbed down teaching in a easy-to-receive format and loud contemporary syncopated loud repetitive dominant beat rock-type music (**method or antithesis**);
- (2) to take people from factual in depth-breadth understanding of the Bible, and living under its truths of thus saith the Lord, and living under Lordship, and using good music such as good hymns

42(...continued)

Gotcher. This is recommended reading.

43. **ENEMIES:** The enemies of world government and that of the world religion's goal are Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. They will be warred against and greatly destroyed unless they join the Church Growth Movement and/or the religion of world government.

44. **THE PROCESS:** For example, Satan used the 911 situation of the destruction of the New York World Trade Center as a method (antithesis) to take things from where they are requiring a court order to investigate people (Thesis) to where a court order is no longer necessary (synthesis).

In a future example, Satan will use a calamity (method) to take us from ordered independent governments (the way things are) to world government (the way he wants things to be.) Precursors of world government are here now and have been here for some time.

Satan used this process in the Garden of Eden. He, as a method, deceived Adam and Eve not to believe God and to sin eating of the forbidden tree. This was to take the situation where Christ had control of the Kingdom of God and the Title Deed of the Earth and eternal control over Adam and Eve to where Satan gained control from Christ over the Kingdom of God and the Title Deed of the Earth with Adam and Eve under his eternal control. He caused them to receive depraved natures that do not seek after God.

In my view, Satan is using the wrong Pre-Tribulation Rapture View as a method where people have no concern of the coming disciplinary judgment in the Tribulation. This allows them to take them from an obedience of maturing their people to the result where they do not have to train to obey to escape the judgment. Thus, they can dumb down their training without consequences. Of course God commands that we mature our people. So the former should not happen. (He commands it also for the churches in the Church Growth Movement.

(source or thesis);

(3) to one of consensus where man decides what to believe and do (**result or synthesis**). The result is some apostasy in the Church. This result in synthesis is called transformation with an eventual absence of Bible absolutes, spiritual maturity, and the true Gospel for salvation.

(4) once synthesis is reached, they make this the new thesis or the norm.

Much of the Church is now in various degrees of joining in method or antithesis. This apostate movement going world wide is a sign the Tribulation can be coming. It is leading to the abandonment of the true Gospel. This will greatly increase when under the coming tolerance laws.

This is where Satan wants to take the Church. In my view, this is major sin. In thesis, God works all things together for good when the Church operates under His authority and absolutes. In synthesis, man, himself, attempts to work all things together for good, working under man's authority and Satan's influence. And of course in antithesis, there is some of both - compromise - lukewarmness. Our churches, most likely, in their hearts certainly do not mean to do this process, particularly if then knew the satanic origin and the eternal impacts on their people. But by their actions, they are carrying it out, perhaps in ignorance. We discuss the reasons why or the causes in some depth later. The problem in anti-thesis with compromise, it looks right when it, in God's best, is not.

There is no salvation, maturity, or absolutes in Christ in the third stage of synthesis. There is little understanding for the need for the satisfaction of divine justice for sin and thus, for the Cross of Christ. In synthesis, we are our own authority, no longer are God and His Word. Of course the situation in all churches can have different perceptions and results.

Can our leaders who are involved in and are indorsing choosing to go this way, have a lack of spiritual maturity and/or short on knowing Bible doctrine, perhaps both? Do they not have a lack of spiritual discernment? Otherwise, why would they go this route? ●45

DOING FIRST-LEVEL TRAINING, ●46 WE SHOULD ALSO TRAIN THOSE IN DEPTH-BREADTH WHO ARE OR WANT TO BECOME THE GUNG HO AND THE VERY FAITHFUL

Thus, we must clearly understand that churches that teach but little of God's Word and without much application can be bringing a most devastating damage to their people in light of eternity. This is true unless there is no alternative and people in today's environment can only gain limited maturity. ●47 Today, we are more concerned about success then about faithfulness, and about size (numbers) more than holiness. The church has been overcome by bringing in the culture. Our Sunday services are being designed more for the unbeliever and the new in Christ, than for

45. **CHURCH LEADERS:** Some good Church and Evangelistic leaders may use this rock-type or at least contemporary music without their desire. They do so because they have not discovered any other way to capture and reach today's youth. They should however, draw people using God's Word. They would greatly prefer not to use the rock and highly contemporary music. It is a means to an end.

46. **RESULTS OF FIRST-LEVEL TRAINING:** Recognize fully, as stated earlier, that teaching mainly only first-level training is in practice subtracting from Scripture which our Lord warns us strongly not to do (**Revelation 22:19**). We are to use all of Scripture (**2 Timothy 3:16**) - God's Whole Counsel (**Acts 20:27**). Being in the endtimes, God may be bringing a famine of His word because His people are falling away (**Amos 8:11**).

47. **NO SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY:** There is of course no Scripture that teaches we should teach only first-level training of the Scriptures. Leaders are doing this on their own authority. It is most sinful, and it brings great damage to God's people. The Scriptures teach we should teach all of Scripture such as God's Whole Counsel.

maturing our own people in Christ and allowing them to give greater worship to God. But even so, all churches should seek the few and find those people who want to go all the way with God - become the gung ho and the very faithful. They should disciple them in depth-breadth and involve them greatly in ministry. They should lead them to have a maximum maturity in Christ. This is what our Lord did. He worked with the few that would follow Him and accomplish His ministry.

Thus, we should recognize fully that our first priority is to our own people, especially to our gung ho and the very faithful.●48 Then our next lower priority is to the watchers in our churches and then after this, to the lost, new people, and to the unchurched. *What should be last priority, our churches are making first priority.* This is wrong because it removes maximum growth in Christ from our churches and results in our bringing less glory to God. If we do not have a demonstratable testimony before God, how will people know that God exists and wants to work in them? How can they know that there is success in God?

**SUMMARY:
WHERE WE ARE HEADED - WHAT ARE THE TRENDS**

Our churches world-wide in the Church Growth Movement are most seriously falling away to the using of man's methods, having abandoned God's. We now have a world-wide church that is abandoning God's absolutes needed for salvation and a holy mature life unto God. Although doing some good things, we have a world-wide church in a growing apostasy. This movement is now capturing in some manner thousands of the world's churches. We are in terrible shape for the movement is leading to and helping to cause the soon-coming endtimes Tribulation.●49 The Tribulation leads to Christ's Coming and to the end of history.

It is now hard to find churches that are not using rock music and/or have in depth-breadth training that is both academic and application oriented. We now have to search for the best available. Some, by necessity, now are starting their own home fellowships.

This dumbing down is leading to an increasing falling away of our churches from commitment and action to do God's major work. Our young people are growing up with but little doctrinal knowledge and how to walk by faith and live the Christian life. This is true even though many young people are committed to Christ and to His work. But do they know doctrine?●50 **Many of our young people**

48. **OUR OWN:** If we do not take care of our own, we are worse than unbelievers.

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.

49. **TRIBULATION, RAPTURE, AND ENDTIMES REFERENCES:** This Tribulation situation is described and developed in detail in my prophecy reports, newsletters, and books. Many-many doctrines teach the Church's Rapture occurs at our Lord's Second Coming after the endtimes Tribulation. ***There are no Scriptures that teach a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.*** See the References at the end of this report. We give some Scriptures later in this report.

50. **YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT BEING TAUGHT ADEQUATE DOCTRINE:** I have been involved training young people of several churches to share the Gospel and lead children to Christ. These young people are most committed to Christ and to His work. They are on fire for Christ. But when I ask them basic questions on doctrine, they cannot answer any of them. For example, I know almost no one personally who knows Bible prophecy in much depth and can discuss the doctrines below the notion level or beyond what they have been told to believe. I ask people and young people to explain how we walk by faith, how we become mature in Christ, why do we have eternal security in Christ, and explain redemption and the atonement for iniquity. They cannot answer any of these and several other questions. (Can you answer any of these questions?) We are
(continued...)

who are Christians have lives that do not reflect the Christian life, attitudes, and actions.●51 They do not act Christ-like. They look at the Church and young people's groups as boring or too narrow.●52 If they go to Church, it is for fun and fellowship, not for Bible training. I know young people in this situation.

I talked to a young lady who had attended a church in a major denomination of churches in our south east. She said that the church had but little effect on her life and how to and that she should become a Christian. We shared the Gospel with her. Another example of dumbing down.

If this movement captures most of the world's churches and moves most churches away from the basics of the Bible, the Tribulation will be here. Churches world wide are joining the movement. Churches join, but use different amounts of movement's ideas. Some churches adopt the nomenclature, the music, and the dumbing down to reach the youth, but still teach the Bible and the Gospel. Some good churches, observing their attendance decreasing, are adding the rock music.

We, as stated, are heading in our churches to a low-level plateau of Biblical understanding and doctrine. We are heading toward (we are there now?) an immature church with a loss of biblical intellect which means a loss of mind.●53 Our Bible knowledge is plateauing. We are heading toward a loss of good Church and classical music. The situation must be observed that our churches are going away from God's best and even His good. They are in a compromise situation at best.

Working at the lowest common denominator, we are implementing satanic strategy. If we are to be successful in growth toward maturity, we must train somewhere at the middle of the upper half of the smartness and commitment of people.●54 We must do this if maximum spiritual growth is to occur That is, we should be training our gung ho and faithful at a higher priority in depth-breadth. This brings watchers and new people maximum growth and incentive to study and to become the gung ho and the very faithful. We can also have a lower level teaching for new people and the watchers to get them started. But as stated, if we only teach at a lower-level, after a few months go by, few learn much unless they study on their own. And it causes those who want more to look for another Church. ***It can cause many to fall away, not knowing there is more.***

It is very important to note, as previously introduced, that the situation of dumbing down is also happening in America's public schools, particularly in our high schools. We are graduating young people who can hardly read or write, have a poor education, and cannot do critical analysis of today's situation and the coming of world government. Many high

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not teaching doctrine today, especially regarding the Christian life. We are not adequately discipling our people, especially our children and youth. What is your Church doing? What is my Church doing?

51. DO NOT REFLECT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: Page 18 of *The last Christian Generation* by Josh McDowell.

52, CHURCH IS BORING: Page 58 of *The last Christian Generation* by Josh McDowell.

53. LOST OF INTELLECT: *"An example of contemporary anti-intellectualism is that ministers are often encouraged to dumb down their sermons, rather than present more intellectually changing materials. Such sermons often aim at everyone in general and hence appeal to no one in particular,"* Quote from page 15 of *Truth Under Fire* by John Whitehead.

54. MUST TEACH AT THE HIGHER LEVEL OF THE CLASS: I took a Greek class some time ago. The professor kept working mostly at the lowest common denominator of the class. As a result, half of the class, the brighter students, left half way through the course. There was little purpose in staying. ***Could not this type situation be true of our churches today? It looks like it.***

school students in the United States are dropping out without graduating. Our church young people, without knowing much Bible doctrine, will also not be able to do critical analysis of the times.

As a result we will have a major falling away from the Christian faith to world government and to its religion as the endtimes come with its persecution and difficult conditions. Our young people will not be able to determine what is happening and why, when world government comes. This situation is Satan's strategy for world government and for fewer people coming to Christ and accomplishing God's work.

The trends are such that, after a few years, churches will no longer use the hymns and like music that has a heart worship. They will use primarily contemporary music that most likely brings an emotional and self-feelings worship. It brings body motion. In addition, our classical music is going away. These will very likely happen when the older people die and/or the younger people growing up who like the contemporary music become the vast majority. ●55

Because our churches are becoming immature with a loss and plateau of biblical knowledge, the numbers of our gung ho and very faithful in time will greatly decrease. This leads to less of God's work being accomplished, and thus, bringing less glory to God. We are going down hill fast. It is a church and family leadership problem.

We are headed in a direction that in time, if we are not there now, very few if any, will know God's Word and be able to teach it in any depth-breadth. Very few will know how to witness the Gospel or think to do it. This is a current Church leadership problem. Is judgment coming? It looks like if.

But we personally do not have to stay there. Our Lord willing, I am not going to.

SUMMARY OF THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT TRENDS, ACTIONS, AND OUR MAJOR CONCERNS (Many of these taken from the many references)

The trends, actions, and major concerns of the Church Growth Movement in summary include:

● In a compromised spiritual life, our churches are going to mainly first-level Bible training without also training in depth-breadth with a version of God's Whole Counsel. Thus, believers are not being adequately matured in Christ-likeness that is needed for eternity so they can know and relate to God toward His fullest. Believers are not being informed, prepared, and readied for the soon-coming endtimes Tribulation. **Youth are being drawn more by the experience of rock music and listening to teaching that gets their felt needs met. They are not being drawn by the depth of God's Word to be people of God, living holy and righteously, carrying out ministry and His entire will, and wanting to know and relate to Him toward His fullness.**

● The movement's main problem is that our churches are going their own way, instead of only God's. They lack discernment that they have departed from God's Greatness and His best. Churches are working all things together for good, instead of trusting only God to do it. These are true even though our churches want to do right and are doing some good things with some good

55. **MUSIC:** Observation shows that primarily mainly the older people attend classical musicals, hymn sings, and traditional church services with the hymns. After a few years go by, these will be things of the past, except as individuals keep recordings.

results. They now do not appear to know and/or are not committed to all that God wants done. Our churches most likely want to do right in their hearts (we all do), but they are going largely their own way, not being committed adequately to Bible doctrine and not having adequate fear of God. They are acting partly under their own authority and headship instead of only under God's - doing what is right according to their own eyes. Churches are using the world's rock music that impedes intellectual understanding, dulls the spiritual senses, and brings addiction of immorality and other aspects to young people. It is doubtful that such music brings adequate (if any) worship to God. Does it instead bring some worship to Satan? It is helping the Church people to fall away by impeding spiritual growth. **Why is this Church Growth Movement happening?**

● **These church characteristics are SYMPTOMS of at least four recognized CAUSES. These recognized causes of the symptomatic actions, in addition to lacking spiritual discernment, are that churches (as previously introduced and presented in detail later):** (1) have lost sense of God's Greatness to search out all of what He wants done and accomplish it with excellence and commitment; (2) do not recognize that the skill level of our spiritual maturity in Christ-likeness can be fixed forever at death and that it is needed to know and relate to God toward His fulness in eternity; (3) do not understand and recognize the spiritual warfare objectives and strategies such that they do not realize that by dumbing down and using rock type music, they are implementing satanic strategy; and (4) are not doing the critical analysis required to determine how effective are their ministries, to know and recognize the signs of the soon-coming Tribulation, and look ahead to see what is coming and make needed changes.

(Have these churches, In a sense, lost their first love, not doing all that God wants done? Are they becoming lukewarm?)

Our church do not realize or understand that apart from knowing and relating to God according to His perfect ways such as recorded in the Bible, there is nothing. Thus, they do not search the Bible for all He wants done so they can know Him in His depth-breadth. They instead work on the level with man.

● **Our churches have their priorities inverted. They are working with a much higher priority with new people than they are working with their own. They are working for numbers, instead of maturity in Christ-likeness. It is like a father evangelizing the community without working to mature His own family. Who and what are driving this movement? To some degree, all churches in history may have these problems. *But now the situation is being overtly planned, without realizing the harmful consequences.* It is a movement going world wide.**

● **The result of the dumbing down of our Church and public high-school youth is that they are growing up without the knowledge and ability to do critical analysis to know what is happening when the endtimes come. This is satanic strategy to bring a massive falling away from the Christian faith in the Tribulation.**

● **The overall situation and falling away is a definite precursor sign of the soon-coming endtimes Tribulation. *Many-many doctrines teach clearly the Church will go through the Tribulation.*●⁵⁶ **This current falling away is one cause of its coming.****

56. **ENDTIMES TRIBULATION AND RAPTURE:** Our churches have many views about as to whether or not the Church will go through the endtimes Tribulation. I have studied the situation in depth-breadth using a new approach of beginning with God's Plan for history and showing how prophecy fits into its end phase. I have written reports presenting many-many doctrines that show conclusively the Church's Rapture and Resurrection occur at our Lord's Second Coming after the Tribulation. All believers are changed in resurrection at one time in the twinkling of an eye. Christ comes **WITH** and **FOR** His saints at the same time after the Tribulation. The
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● **WATCHMAN WARNING: The Tribulation is coming.** As a result of the falling away, God is bringing discipline on the church. He will permit the world government to make war with the Church. Leadership should now do a critical analysis of their own situation and urgently make needed and important changes while one still can before the Tribulation comes. **Whatever the past and the present, work now to have the best future under God that one can have. What matters most is where we are headed and are becoming. But, how much time do we have left to make changes before the calamity of the endtimes Tribulation comes?** But having fallen away, do churches have the discernment to know the situation and how to make changes? Without discernment, many most likely will not change. Their people will be caught blind-sided and unprepared when the Tribulation's calamity comes. In the Tribulation, believers will not know or be able to determine what is happening. A massive falling away will most likely occur under the coming persecution with much of the Church dumbed down. Church people may not have God's desired maturity. **Will not leadership be judged?**

● In the Tribulation, the government will make war with the Church, our children and youth will be satanically indoctrinated, and many believers will be martyred. Those in the movement, not knowing doctrine, can go with the new world government religion due to their lack of discernment.

● ***It is most critical that churches and fathers now urgently train their children and youth to become mature in Christ-likeness, readying them for eternity and the coming Tribulation.***

● ***We all should personally pursue maturity, do God's work and best, regardless of what our churches are or are not doing. This is what I am doing. At the same time, I am watching the***

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Rapture can come only after all the people who are to live, have lived, and have made formal binding decisions in life or by death to accept or deny the Gospel. **These reports are on my web site and many are referenced at this report's end. I can e-mail reports to you.** Consider these Scriptures as sample teachings:

Mark 13:24-27 - "But in those days, after that tribulation, then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. "And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth (for the saints), to the farthest end of heaven (with the saints).

*1 Corinthians 15:22-23 - For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, **after that those who are Christ's at His coming,***

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 - Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised (in resurrection) imperishable, and we shall be changed.

Matthew 13:29-30 - "But he said, 'No; lest while you are gathering up the tares, you may root up the wheat with them.' Allow both to grow together until the (single) harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn." " "

(The wheat (the Church) cannot be separated from the tares (unbelievers) until after the tares are completely bundled for the Lake of Fire which happens in the endtimes Tribulation under the Mark of the Beast. The wheat is harvested first followed by the soon destruction of the tares at Christ's Second Coming. There is only one harvest. This comes at Christ's Second Coming.)

.SAINTS IN REVELATION: The book of Revelation teaches that there are many "saints" in the Tribulation. The epistles use the word "saints" for the Church. Thus, the Church, as Christ's single body, will be in Revelation's Tribulation. The wheat (believers) cannot be separated from the tares (unbelievers) **until after** the tares are bundled for the fire (judgment). This bundling is completed by the end of the Tribulation.

trends and taking in information from others.

Our main concern is that Christians, particularly our children and youth, are not being matured in Christ. They are not knowing doctrine that is needed for life, and knowing and relating to God toward His fullest, both now but especially for eternity. We are concerned they are not being taught sufficiently about endtimes prophecy so they will know what is happening and why when the Tribulation comes so they, at that time, will stand strong without falling away. They need to know that Christ will one day come to take them to be with Him. Should we not be thankful to God that we exist, and thus, seek to know and relate to God as much as we can, but only according to His ways? Apart from knowing and relating to God in His depth-breadth, there is nothing.

In principle, this movement, perhaps without intention, in different ways, serves God and man (and Satan). This is being double minded. It is wanting to serve God using the world's, not the Bible's, methods. We must now move away from serving man to a full service to God, doing what He commands.

James 4:8 - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

REPEATING FOR EMPHASIS: We, particularly in our younger people, are heading devastatingly to become an immature Church with a loss of our biblical intellect. Our Bible knowledge and knowing God's greater will is plateauing. Fewer and fewer of our younger people know or can teach the Bible in any depth-breadth, particularly the doctrines.●57 Fewer people now know Bible prophecy. After a few years pass and the older people die who know doctrine and sing the hymns? Our young people are being taken over by homework, living, ipods, and computer games.

The Church Growth Movement appears to be that which, from our perspective, most likely can only be displeasing to God. *One would think that all Christians would want to know all about God in His depth-breadth and have great fellowship with Him and each other. But what are we doing and seeking?*

Why do churches dumb down? One should want Christ to direct everything. What else is there?●58 Is Christ directing this movement? It does not look like it. Whether or not it is of God, it appears that He is using its falling away to bring the endtimes and history's termination.

But to us, it is at least a movement headed away and departing from God's best. It impedes maximum spiritual growth and training people to do area-wide evangelism. It is difficult to find a Church today that teaches in depth-breadth verse by verse expository preaching and

57. **RESPONSIBLE CHRISTIANS:** Many who recognize the situation and wanting God's best are studying on their own. They are getting augmentation teaching such as in Bible Study Fellowship and Precepts Ministries. They are learning much by teaching in Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). Some are doing studies on line and are ordering studies on line. Many are reading books. This is what I am doing. I do not depend upon the Church to teach and train me adequately. If I get something, it is a plus.

58. **ALTERNATIVELY:** But on the other hand, God may be using, not leading, these churches to lead some youth to Himself because otherwise, they may never come to Christ. The youth may be gaining some maturity, that which only is available to them at their obedience and discernment level. At least some of them are being saved. We have to be careful here, because the end does not justify the means. We should not expect God to use unholy and carnal means to bring holy results. Thus, He may use the dumbed down teaching, but most likely not the rock music.

teaching with applications and uses the hymns.●59 Expository, verse by verse, preaching has become a lost art.

**DETAILED SUMMARY
OF MANY ACTIONS OUR CHURCHES ARE USING
IN THE MODERN CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT**
(Taken from the many references and showing what is happening)

Our churches have common and individual characteristics. Many have good teaching and fellowship and are training their youth. But the trends are going away from these to pabulum teaching with little Bible content and are searching for the unchurched. From the internet literature and the listed references, Seeker-Friendly and Emerging churches (not all churches) are doing the following to some degree (churches are doing some different things, but most, appear to have lost an appreciation for God's Greatness): ●60

●. Many of our churches are abandoning good Bible doctrine and its absolutes in order to gain human relationships.

● Churches are working to draw young people by teaching what is friendly to man and in a friendly way, meeting their felt needs, from the pulpit and in home community groups. They are using the world's loud syncopated rock-type repetitive beat contemporary music.●61 Thus, they are going with many of man's ways and methods. They have gone to the way of the world, some now only having a form of godliness, even though God's Word is being taught from the pulpit. But His Word being taught in a user-friendly basis without its depth-breadth, even though much of it is good teaching. **The least common denominator of people is being targeted.** Church spiritual growth is greatly limited regardless of the numbers attending. Churches are more concerned about the nourishment of the feelings of individuals using loud contemporary music than more about adoring and worshiping God based on what the Bible says about them. (Thus, then are they not attempting to please people more than they are bringing proper worship to please God?)

In the Church Growth Movement people go to Church for the experience and to get their felt needs met more than for true worship. They, as it appears to us, come more for the music than to gain changed lives by hearing and applying God's Word. (Of course there are exceptions.)

In our churches, substance has been replaced by shadow. Content is out, style is in. Meaning is out. Method is in. Churches in a sense look right, but they bear but little spiritual weight. There is a decreasing emphasis on preaching in depth-breadth with an increasing emphasis on entertainment and making people feel good. It is to have the love of God and fellowship with other believers without the negatives. The love people want is the love they receive from people, not the Bible's love that lives in sacrificial service. To be loved, one needs first to love demonstrated by sacrificial service. The principle is:

59. **HYMNS:** Most likely most reformed and brethren churches will stick with the hymns.

60. **ALTERNATIVES:** Some churches have both: (1) a traditional service with the organ and the piano with the hymns and a choir and also (2) a contemporary service using contemporary and rock music with a worship team using drums and guitars. These churches generally use the same first-level preaching in both services. Under today's culture, this may be one best way to go. But it would be better to have a different more in-depth-breadth sermon in the traditional service.

61. **CONSERVATIVE TRADITIONAL PREACHING AND MUSIC:** It is now becoming harder and harder to find churches that now sing the hymns. It is hard to find churches that teach God's Word in depth-breadth in a version of God's Whole Counsel. Expository preaching verse by verse has gone from most everywhere. Some churches have two services: one with the hymns and one with contemporary music. This can be needed, though it certainly is not God's best. It is compromise. We should have unity with God in everything.

1 John 4:19 - *We love, because He first loved us.*

John 15:13 - *"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*

This leaves the Christian untrained, unable to discern (do critical analysis), and left most ignorant and non-discerning of the dangers around him. It leaves him as a sitting duck so to speak at the actions of the coming world government. A sense of holiness and righteousness is leaving the churches. Dumbing down leads to carnal life styles without knowing much about the depths of God and His directed ways. This, however, is not in all churches. Of course, there generally some good being accomplished in most churches that believe Christ's true Gospel.

- They are using non-threatening methods and content to make young people feel comfortable. They, using rock music, are using music to which the people listen outside the Church in order to draw them into the church meetings.

- They, in signs and advertising, use the world's marketing techniques. They work to meet temporal needs instead of eternal needs.

- They are using mainly first-level training leaving out negative confrontation such as divine discipline for sin, Hell, and the Lake of Fire. Churches act so as to offend no one - even with God's Word. They are not teaching God's Whole Counsel - the way things are.

- ***They do not understand that our spiritual maturity in Christ-likeness can be fixed at death. In any case, they do not obey (and/or ignore) God's command to pursue maturity.*** (How many of us are seeking maturity, not just spiritual growth?)

- They do not understand that music is not neutral or amoral. Rock music has led many into immorality and many other addictions. It has been used in some countries by which to call up demons. As stated, its source is voodooism, immorality, and paganism. It has a basis of desensitizing people to the Holy Spirit. It reduces intellectual thinking. Thus, its use can destroy the holiness and obedience in the Church. The result is less obedience to God and to the carrying out of His work. This can only greatly please Satan. So why use it?

- They have a form of worldliness, caring more about success in numbers and finances than maturity, faithfulness, and holiness.

- They use several paraphrased versions of the Bible (instead of good translations) to have easier-to-read and understand; even though they have much translation error. People can draw wrong conclusions.

- They are helping people to gain love and connection with other Christians in priority over an in-depth-breadth training for walking with God and becoming more mature in Christ needed for eternity. The latter results in not maturing in Christ (unless people study on their own as I am doing.)

- They have gone to community groups that have horizontal sharing but without a needed vertical teaching and discipling which is much more effective. The in-depth teaching by a teacher is generally not used. They use facilitation for making change. Horizontal training generally cannot bring maximum maturity because the immaturity and error as shared by the participants. It is generally minus the needed and mature in-depth-breadth training and mature understanding of Scripture. It is minus a deep and intimate relationship with Christ and God.

- ***"America is now operating as if the Christian Church did not exist. The Church has but little impact on the direction of the nation."*** Quotes from John Whitehead in *Truth Under Fire*.

● They, rather than have a good in depth Bible study, are asking young people how do you feel about this? What do you think? They are looking for self- rather than God-realization. They want things in the terms of man, not in the terms of God. They want their felt needs met. They are not so much asking what the Bible teaches and what God thinks, even though they do this also.

● They are more concerned about reaching many new young people as a higher priority over caring for their own people. If we do not care for our own people we can be, as the Bible teaches, like or worse than unbelievers (infidels). **It, as stated, is like a father working in the community to witness the Gospel to others without also and at a higher priority training his own family.** Is this not in principle what our churches are doing?

REALIZATION AND INTENT: Our churches, without doubt, want to do right before God. We all do. In our perception, churches are doing a dumbing down without the realization, discernment, or the intent they are not fulfilling God's greater will. It may not be wrong to dumb down as long as churches are also teaching in depth-breadth to mature their people in Christ-likeness and working to do area-wide evangelism. What is wrong is their using rock type music. They are doing some evangelism, but they also must work to evangelize their entire local areas, particularly to evangelize the children and the youth. ●62

62. **COMMENT:** What draws me to a church is the in depth-breadth training that has both the academic and practical. They share testimony that and how the Word with its procedures work. It allows me to know and relate to God in all aspects of life. This training I need for maximum, not for some, spiritual growth. The Church needs to have good worship in the Church services using the hymns. Why go to a Church that has training for only limited growth and poor or inadequate true worship. Today, these good churches are most difficult to find, if one can find one. **Today, one has to go to the best one can find. This is not desirable. Another alternative is to start our own home Church.** Some people are doing this.