
Why The GYM Conference?



**Lady Angela &
I, with the
family, became
the pastor of
New Bethel
Church in
Kansas City, KS
in June of 2008**

When I became pastor we had between 50 to 75 active members. Today with God's grace & favor, the membership has grown to 750+ members that is now multi-generational & multi-cultural with the development of 35+ active ministries.





So I wanted to share the **'principles & ideals'** that empowered me to utilize innovative, out-of-the-box methods that go beyond tradition without compromising our message!



**We're not a Mega-Church
but a Growing Church
making a Mega-Impact!**



Most Americans Attend Small to Medium Churches

According to the Barna Group, regular church attendance is central to understanding faith practice among American adults. Whether their church is large or small, charismatic or traditional, significant numbers of Americans sit in the pews each Sunday to worship together. Despite the enormous cultural impact of megachurches like Lakewood Church in Houston, TX with 40,000+ members....



The largest group of American churchgoers attends services in a more intimate context. **Almost half (46%) attend a church of 100 or fewer members.** More than one-third (37%) attend a midsize church of over 100, but not larger than 499. **One in 11 (9%) attends a church with between 500 and 999 attenders,** and slightly fewer (8%) attend a very large church of 1,000 or more attendees.

New Bethel Church

AMERICAN CHURCH ATTENDANCE



● attend a church of 100 or fewer attendees

● attend a church of 101-499 attendees

● go to a church of 500-999 attendees

● attend a church of 1,000 or more attendees

Barna

n=5,137 | January—April 2016

State of the Church 2016 - The Barna Group

THE GYM CONFERENCE

Grow Your Ministry Webinar

**Ministry Beyond
Culture & Tradition**

What is “Church Culture & Tradition?”

- ✓ **It is how a church has traditionally Behaved, with it’s Values & Beliefs**
- ✓ **The atmosphere in which a church functions; the prevalent attitude**
- ✓ ***“It is how we do things here”***

Research Highlights

→ The rise of churchless has risen from 30% in 1990's to 43% in 2014

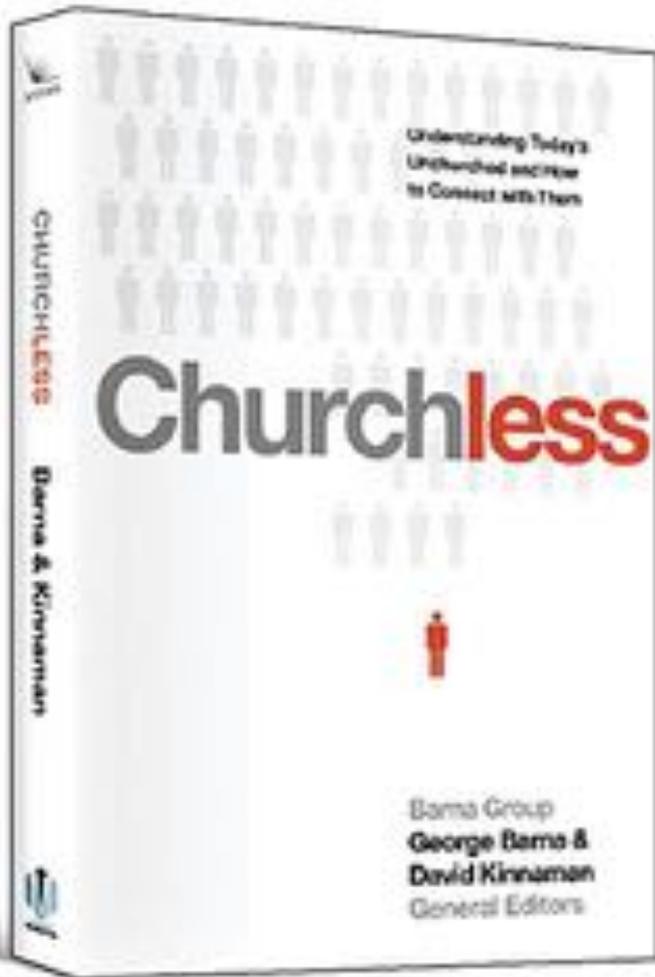
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49% - Actively Churchd (*those who attend once a month or more*)

10% - Minimally Churchd (*those who attend several times a year*)

33% - De-Churched (*those who use to go to church but now do not*)

8% - Those that are Unchurched (*never attended a church service*)



“Yet the startling truth is that many unchurched people claim they are looking for a genuine, powerful encounter with God --- but they just don’t find it in church.”

“The two major hurdles between the unchurched and deep engagement: (1) the sense that God is missing from church, and (2) the suspicion that Christians are missing the point.”

Note: 51% believe ‘self-described’ Christians are more like the Pharisee in attitude & action than Jesus!

Look what Jesus said....

“You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.” (Mark 7:8)

And the Apostle Paul stated...

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

THE GYM CONFERENCE

Grow Your Ministry Webinar

Session 1

GAME CHANGERS:

Innovative Ministry

in·no·va·tive

- ✓ Featuring new methods; advanced and original.
- ✓ Introducing new ideas; original and creative in thinking.
- ✓ Ahead of the times or producing something like nothing that has been done before.

“Recent Shifts in America’s Largest Protestant Churches: Megachurches 2015 Report”

The Leadership Network & the Hartford Institute for Religion Research

‘Noteworthy’ Highlights from the Report:

- They have a clear mission & purpose
- They are spiritually vital and alive
- **They are quite different from other congregations in their community**
- Active engagement in lay volunteers & leadership

Additional 'Noteworthy' Highlights from the Report:

- Organs & choirs are falling in popularity with rise in video & image magnification
- Their congregations are youthful, family-oriented, so engaging young adults is seen as top priority
- Regular participants are attending worship less frequently & seldom have massive sanctuaries.
- The average seating capacity is 823 with a median seating of 750. Growth in multi-sites & services.
- **They are vital, growing and willing to change!**