



The American Church in Crisis: Groundbreaking Research Based on a National Database of over 200,000 Churches

By David T. Olson

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Groundbreaking research based on a national database of over 200,000 churches shows that the overall United States population is growing faster than the church. The director of the American Church Research Project, Dave Olson, has worked to analyze church attendance, showing that it is virtually unchanged from fifteen years ago while our population has grown by fifty-two million people. What does this mean for you, your church, and the future of Christianity in North America? The American Church in Crisis offers unprecedented access to data that helps you understand the state of the church today. “We live in a world that is post-Christian, postmodern, and multiethnic, whether we realize it or not,” says the author. This book not only gives a realistic picture that confirms hunches and explodes myths, but it provides insight into how the church must change to reach a new and changed world with the hope of the gospel. Readers will find a richly textured mosaic with optimistic and challenging stories. Charts, diagrams, and worksheets provide church leaders and motivated church members with a stimulating read that will provoke much discussion. Questions for discussion accompany the chapters.

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Editorial Review

Review

Dave Olson sheds invaluable insight on the condition, direction, and immediate needs of the American Church. Dave writes with a rare combination of pastoral experience and denominational leadership backed up by rich church research. Thankfully, his message is not the typical, fatalistic, doom-filled prophecy about the imminent demise of the American Church. Instead, this book is packed with valuable insight, priceless research, and years of wisdom, all pointing toward practical answers about how to renew Christ's church. -- **Craig Groeschel** - Pastor, LifeChurch.tv, Edmund, OK

David Olson has given the American Church the gift of truth and hope in one powerful package. This book is a wonderfully balanced presentation of "just the facts" woven skillfully together with colorful metaphors that lead the reader to a clear understanding of the dangers and the opportunities facing the Body of Christ in the United States. It is a "must read" for Christian leaders determined to develop strategic plans to reach the multitudes of fellow citizens who are currently disconnected from the Church that Jesus is building. -- **Steve Pike** - Director, Church Planting and Development, Assemblies of God

The American Church in Crisis is a reality check that provides an honest look at the state of the church in America. Employing thorough research that yield eye-opening statistics, Dave Olson gives us a realistic snapshot of the state of the American church. This book is a prophetic call to prepare ourselves for the next phase of the church in America - a dynamic phase that requires a ministry of church planting and church revitalization in an increasingly diverse, multi-ethnic landscape. Every pastor, church leader, denominational leader, or Christian concerned about the future of the church in the United States needs to read this book. -- **Soong-Chan Rah** - Milton B. Engebretson Assistant Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism, North Park Theological Seminary

Review

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"Armed with helpful statistical data, this volume offers a clear picture of the changing landscape of the North American ministry context and its implications, making it an invaluable tool for church planters and pastors." -- Peter T. Cha

"The way forward is etched by truth and deepened by hope. You'll find both here. Olson's book is a courageous gift to us all." -- Sally Jean Morgenthaler

"At long last we have data on church membership and attendance that is not based on telephone interviews! This book is packed with data on trends in churchgoing that spans the main traditions. It will be a constant reference as I meet with church leaders across North America." -- Eddie Gibbs

“Olson's research, conclusions, and action points will enhance strategic thinking for expanding the Kingdom of God via church planting.” -- Bill Malick

“David Olson has done a remarkable job of researching the church in America. In my opinion his research is the most helpful that I have received. He has many suggestions for dealing with some of the crises we face, but in my opinion, the strength of his work is sound research. I recommend his book highly.” -- Alan Andrews

“Dave Olson is this generation's Lyle Schaller. Exhaustive, impeccable research combined with brilliant insights make this a must-read for every pastor and board.” -- Ray Johnston

“The statistics of The American Church in Crisis will rock you and it should. For me, I'll not soon forget Dave's observation of the affluence of American churches especially. He noted how the evangelical church in the early 20th century “gave up much of its wealth and social status so that it could be faithful to the gospel” (p.82). Dave then posits how the American church is growing the fastest in zip codes that are more affluent. . . Ouch! Get ready for some painful numbers . . . the American Church needs this type of wake up call.” -- Dave Gibbons

“There are many who believe that the church in America has been lulled asleep by its own press and endless activities to build itself up. Dave Olson, with his relentless pursuit of truth, offers a wake-up call to a church that has fallen asleep. The American Church in Crisis offers a clarion call to all followers of Jesus to reexamine our motives, methods, and mission. In my humble opinion, this will be the most quoted book in the next 5 years.” -- Gary Rohrmayer

“The facts don't lie! With profound research and unusually wise analysis, Dave Olson has compiled a compelling portrait of the American church, and her future. As a new church planter, I am all ears and commend this voice that all might listen.” -- John Teter, Author

“David Olson has given the American Church the gift of truth and hope in one powerful package. This book is a wonderfully balanced presentation of “just the facts,” woven skillfully together with colorful metaphors that lead the reader to a clear understanding of the dangers and the opportunities facing the Body of Christ in the United States. It is a must read for Christian leaders determined to develop strategic plans to reach the multitudes of fellow citizens who are currently disconnected from the Church that Jesus is building.” -- Steve Pike, Director

"The American Church in Crisis is a monumental work, both in its accurate, near alarming analysis, and its brilliant clarion call to engage our society with the 'full-orbed' gospel of Jesus." -- Lon Allison, Director

“David Olson's The American Church in Crisis is a wake-up call to the American institutional church. Olson's research shows that, in spite of some appearances, all is not well with established churches. If the church is going to make a difference in contemporary culture, something must change. This book begins to stir the missional imagination of what the church must become. I am enthusiastic about this book.” -- Kurt Fredrickson, Director

“Dave Olson's book documenting the state of the church in America provides the most strategic and helpful information available today for church leaders. It is absolutely an essential read.” -- Dr. Jerry Sheveland, President

“David Olson's expert study of the state of the American church is eye-opening. Other more expressive

words also come to mind---jolting, staggering, astounding! However, this wake-up-call book also provides answers on how to be proactive in turning the Church around. Read this book for the facts; then do something to change the state of the American Church.” -- Gary L. McIntosh, Professor

“David has put together the data and the challenge that every leader of the Christian World must respond to. Now is the time!” -- Steve Andrews, Lead Pastor

From the Publisher

Groundbreaking analytical research from a database of over 200,000 North American churches reveals our population is growing faster than church attendance. This guide shows the problems as well as the potential of the American church, confirming hunches, exploding myths, and offering a clear path to a brighter future.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lewis Dall:

The publication with title The American Church in Crisis: Groundbreaking Research Based on a National Database of over 200,000 Churches has a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world today. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you within new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

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