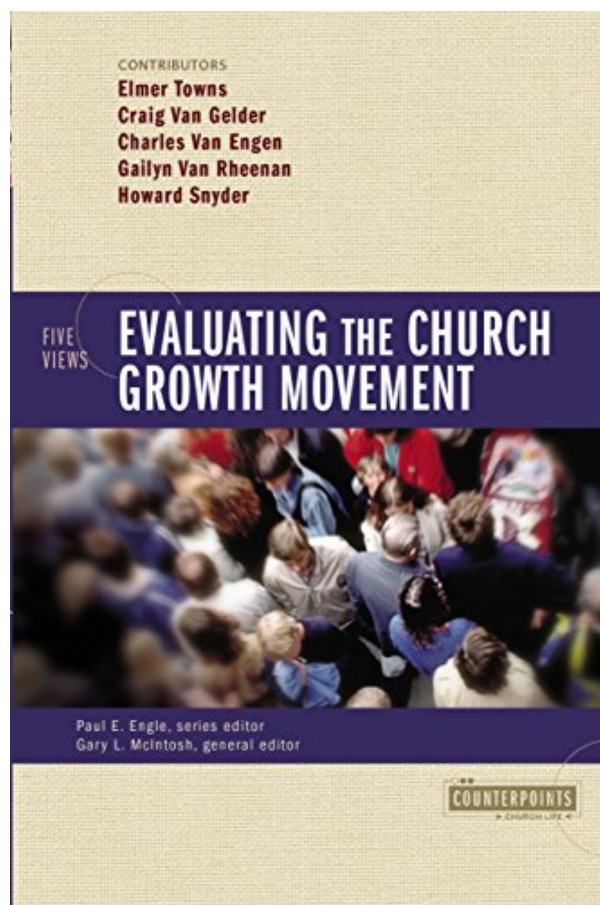
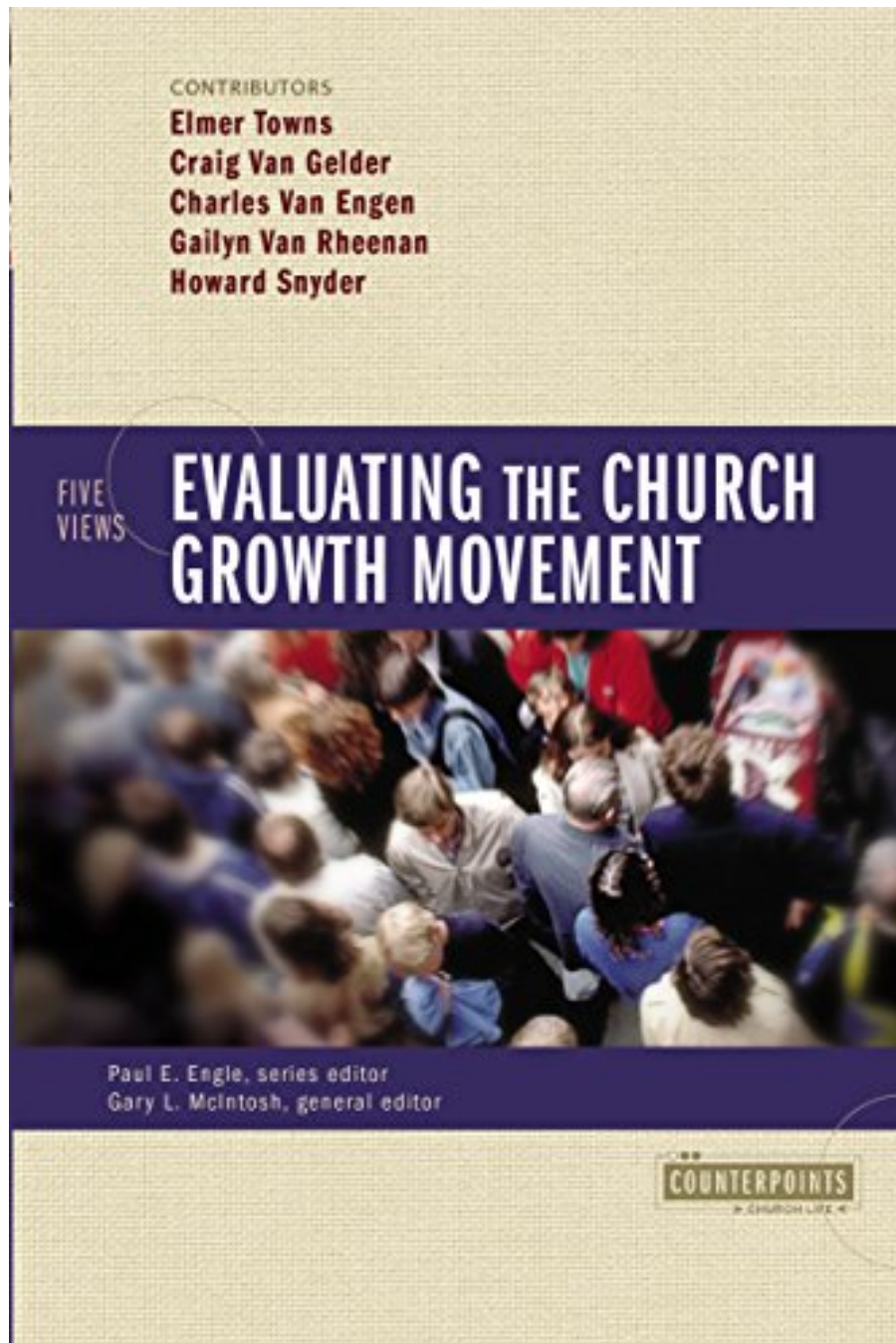


EVALUATING THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT: 5 VIEWS (COUNTERPOINTS: CHURCH LIFE) BY GARY MCINTOSH, PAUL ENGLE



DOWNLOAD EBOOK : EVALUATING THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT: 5 VIEWS (COUNTERPOINTS: CHURCH LIFE) BY GARY MCINTOSH, PAUL ENGLE PDF





Click link bellow and free register to download ebook:
**EVALUATING THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT: 5 VIEWS (COUNTERPOINTS:
CHURCH LIFE) BY GARY MCINTOSH, PAUL ENGLE**

[DOWNLOAD FROM OUR ONLINE LIBRARY](#)

EVALUATING THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT: 5 VIEWS (COUNTERPOINTS: CHURCH LIFE) BY GARY MCINTOSH, PAUL ENGLE PDF

Again, checking out habit will always give useful advantages for you. You may not should spend many times to read guide *Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life)* By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle Merely adjusted aside a number of times in our spare or complimentary times while having dish or in your workplace to review. This *Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life)* By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle will show you new thing that you could do now. It will certainly help you to improve the top quality of your life. Event it is simply an enjoyable publication ***Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life)*** By **Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle**, you could be healthier as well as a lot more enjoyable to take pleasure in reading.

From the Back Cover

Gaining form and momentum over the second half of the 20th century, the Church Growth movement has become an enormous shaping force on the Western church today. You may love it, you may hate it, but you can't deny its impact. But what exactly is Church Growth? In what ways has the movement actually brought growth to the church, and how effective has it been in doing so? What are its strengths and weaknesses? This timely book addresses such questions. After providing a richly informative history and overview, it explores--in a first-ever roundtable of their leading voices---five main perspectives, both pro and con, on the classic Church Growth movement: * Effective Evangelism View (Elmer Towns) * Gospel in Our Culture View (Craig Van Gelder) * Centrist View (Charles Van Engen) * Reformist View (Gailyn Van Rheenan) * Renewal View (Howard Snyder) As in other Counterpoints books, each view is first presented by its proponent, then critiqued by his co-contributors. The book concludes with reflections by three seasoned pastors who have grappled with the practical implications of Church Growth. The interactive and fair-minded nature of the Counterpoints format allows the reader to consider the strengths and weaknesses of each view and draw informed, personal conclusions. The Counterpoints series provides a forum for comparison and critique of different views on issues important to Christians. Counterpoints books address two categories: Church Life and Exploring Theology. Complete your library with other books in the Counterpoints series.

About the Author

Paul E. Engle, series editor for Counterpoints Church Life, is an ordained minister who served for twenty-two years in pastoral ministry in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Illinois, and Michigan. He is an adjunct teacher in several seminaries in this country and internationally. He serves as associate publisher and executive editor in the Church, Academic, and Ministry Resources team at Zondervan. He and his wife Margie, live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. Gary L. McIntosh teaches at Talbot School of Theology, is a professor of Christian ministry and

leadership, leads 20-25 national seminars a year, serves as a church consultant, was president of the American Society of Church Growth in 1995-1996, and has written over 95 articles and 10 books, including *Finding Them*, *The Issachar Factor*, *Three Generations*, *One Size Doesn't Fit All*, *Overcoming the Dark Side*, and *Staffing Your Church for Growth*. He has over 15 years of experience as a pastor and Christian education director. He is a graduate of Colorado Christian University, Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, and Fuller Theological Seminary. He is editor of the Church Growth Network newsletter and the *Journal of the American Society for Church Growth*.

Elmer Towns (DMin, Fuller Theological Seminary) is cofounder with Jerry Falwell of Liberty University, where he currently serves as vice president and dean of the school of religion. He is an author and editor of popular and scholarly works, a seminar lecturer, and the creator of over twenty resource packets for leadership education. Dr. Towns has published over fifty books, including four CBA bestsellers and the 1995 Gold Medallion Book of the Year, *The Names of the Holy Spirit*. A visiting professor at five seminaries, he has received four honorary doctoral degrees. He and his wife, Ruth, have three children.

Gailyn Van Rheenen (PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is the facilitator of Church Planting and Renewal at Mission Alive (www.missionalive.org), adjunct professor of missions at Abilene Christian University, and former missionary to East Africa. His website is www.missiology.org.

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

WHY CHURCH GROWTH CAN'T BE IGNORED Gary L. McIntosh When you hear the term church growth, what words or phrases come to mind? You may think of megachurches, small groups, numbers, contemporary worship, marketing, or a host of other concepts that have occasionally been promoted as popular church-growth theory. In contrast, you may identify the term church growth with effective evangelism, church planting, church extension, making disciples, church multiplication, or other aspects of outreach that seek to win people to Christ and enlist them as responsible members of his church. These differing perceptions of the term church growth, and the emotions that arise from them, clearly point to misunderstanding and disagreement regarding the term, as well as the movement. Church growth is one of those ideas that cause us to draw lines in the sand. We are either for an emphasis on church growth or against it. There seems to be little neutral ground. Donald McGavran, the father of the modern Church Growth movement, recognized early on the divisive nature of Church Growth thought in a letter to his wife, written from Costa Rica on September 8, 1961: 'It is clear that emphasizing the growth of the churches divides the camp. It is really a divisive topic. How strange when all are presumably disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.' Dr. McGavran's words still ring true today. Church Growth continues to divide the camp, as the five viewpoints expressed in this book will demonstrate. **SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS** There is agreement, however, among Church Growth critics and adherents alike that the Church Growth movement has made significant contributions to the mission of the church, contributions that cannot be ignored. For instance, one early critic of the movement believes its major contribution is in 'clarifying of the mission of the church and focusing mission activity on the responsive.' Other critics add that the movement has provided a 'strategy and a set of priorities for mission'; 'a militant, optimistic, and forward-looking approach to the missionary enterprise'; and a way to 'make us all aware of peoplehood and its human diversity as a tool in world evangelization.' Another critic suggests two major theological contributions of the Church Growth movement: 'The first contribution is the theological clarification that the growth of the Church is not something that should be simply an overflow of the life of the Church. Rather, growth must be something that is intentional and embraced at the purpose level of the Church. [The] second contribution is the clarification and development of the Church's understanding of the leadership qualities and characteristics necessary to catalyze and mobilize a group of Christians.' Advocates of Church Growth thought suggest that the movement has contributed even more to the advancement of Christ's mission in the world. One Church

Growth advocate writes, 'The Church Growth Movement emerged in the service of a powerful theological vision: to fulfill the ancient promise to Abraham, and to fulfill Christ's Great Commission, by reaching the lost people, and peoples, of the earth.' He then lists twenty specific contributions from the Church Growth school that have impacted church ministry, particularly evangelism. For example, the first five major contributions can be described as networks, receptivity, indigenous forms, new units, and people groups. Church Growth has taught us: 1. The gospel spreads most contagiously, not between strangers, nor by mass evangelism, nor through mass media, but along the lines of the kinship and friendship networks of credible Christians, especially new Christians. 2. The gospel spreads more easily to persons and peoples who are in a receptive season of their lives, and Church Growth research has discovered many indicators of likely receptive people. 3. The gospel spreads more naturally among a people through their language, and the indigenous forms of their culture, than through alien languages or cultural forms. 4. 'First generation' groups, classes, choirs, congregations, churches, and ministries, and other new units, are more reproductive than old established units. 5. Apostolic ministry is more effective when we target people groups than when we target political units or geographical areas. While critics and adherents will no doubt continue to debate the specific contributions of the Church Growth movement, most would agree that the 'church-growth movement is extraordinarily influential and significant within American churches today. At its best, it should be applauded. Where it is not at its best, it requires criticism so that it might be.' A simple way to summarize the current views on Church Growth is as follows: Some people love it. Others dislike it. Many simply misunderstand it. Understanding Church Growth, of course, is more complex than such a simplistic summary, which is why this book has been written. To make certain we all begin on the same page, it will be helpful to look at a brief historical sketch of the Church Growth movement, particularly as it has developed in North America.

BRIEF HISTORY Church growth has occurred throughout the Christian era, of course, and is not really new or modern. Even contemporary Church Growth thought had a precursor, in the thought of the Dutch missiologist Gisbertus Voetius (1589--1676). Voetius believed that the 'first goal of mission is the conversion of the heathen; the second, the planting of churches; and the highest, the glory of God.' These three goals comprise a condensed version of today's Church Growth movement. The particular expression of Church Growth theory and theology under discussion in this book, however, first crystallized in the mind of Donald A. McGavran, during the years 1930 to 1955.

EARLY INFLUENCES IN INDIA Donald Anderson McGavran was born in Damoh, India, on December 15, 1897. MacGavran was a third-generation missionary; by 1954, his family had served a total of 279 years in India. He attended Butler University (B.A., 1920), Yale Divinity School (B.D., 1922), the former College of Mission in Indianapolis (M.A., 1923), and following two terms in India, Columbia University (Ph.D., 1936). When Donald McGavran went to India as a missionary in 1923, he worked primarily as an educator under appointment of the United Christian Missionary Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In 1929, he became director of religious education for his mission before returning to the United States to work on his Ph.D. at Columbia University. After his return to India, he was elected field secretary in 1932 and was placed in charge of administering the denomination's entire India mission. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, the stirrings of what would eventually become Church Growth thought began to develop in McGavran's mind. Several forerunners contributed to McGavran's developing insights, such as William Carey, Roland Allen, and Kenneth Scott Latourette. The most direct influence, however, was J.Waskom Pickett, of whom McGavran was fond of saying, 'I lit my candle at Pickett's fire.' Pickett and McGavran were both influenced by the ministry of John R. Mott and the student volunteer movement. In 1886, Dwight L. Moody led a missionary awakening at Mount Hermon, Massachusetts, which resulted in one hundred students dedicating themselves to missionary service and the founding of the student volunteer movement. The slogan 'The evangelization of the world in this generation' became a watchword for missions during the first two decades of the twentieth century. As a senior at Butler University, McGavran attended the student volunteer convention at Des Moines, Iowa, during the Christmas season of 1919.

EVALUATING THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT: 5 VIEWS (COUNTERPOINTS: CHURCH LIFE) BY GARY MCINTOSH, PAUL ENGLE PDF

[Download: EVALUATING THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT: 5 VIEWS \(COUNTERPOINTS: CHURCH LIFE\) BY GARY MCINTOSH, PAUL ENGLE PDF](#)

Envision that you get such particular outstanding experience and understanding by just reading a publication **Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle**. Exactly how can? It appears to be greater when an e-book can be the very best point to find. Publications now will show up in published as well as soft file collection. One of them is this book **Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle** It is so usual with the printed e-books. However, lots of individuals in some cases have no room to bring the book for them; this is why they cannot review guide anywhere they desire.

Why should be book *Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle* Publication is one of the very easy resources to search for. By obtaining the writer and motif to get, you can discover so many titles that available their information to obtain. As this **Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle**, the impressive publication **Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle** will certainly offer you just what you need to cover the work due date. And also why should remain in this web site? We will ask first, have you more times to choose going shopping guides and search for the referred book **Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle** in publication store? Many people could not have sufficient time to find it.

Thus, this site offers for you to cover your issue. We reveal you some referred books **Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle** in all kinds and themes. From usual writer to the famous one, they are all covered to offer in this website. This **Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle** is you're hunted for book; you just need to visit the web link web page to display in this website and after that opt for downloading. It will certainly not take often times to obtain one book [Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views \(Counterpoints: Church Life\) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle](#) It will certainly depend on your internet link. Just purchase and download the soft data of this book **Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle**

EVALUATING THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT: 5 VIEWS (COUNTERPOINTS: CHURCH LIFE) BY GARY MCINTOSH, PAUL ENGLE PDF

Gaining form and momentum over the second half of the 20th century, the Church Growth movement has become an enormous shaping force on the Western church today. You may love it, you may hate it, but you can't deny its impact. But what exactly is Church Growth? In what ways has the movement actually brought growth to the church, and how effective has it been in doing so? What are its strengths and weaknesses? This timely book addresses such questions. After providing a richly informative history and overview, it explores—in a first-ever roundtable of their leading voices—five main perspectives, both pro and con, on the classic Church Growth movement: • Effective Evangelism View (Elmer Towns) • Gospel in Our Culture View (Craig Van Gelder) • Centrist View (Charles Van Engen) • Reformist View (Gailyn Van Rheenan) • Renewal View (Howard Snyder) As in other Counterpoints books, each view is first presented by its proponent, then critiqued by his co-contributors. The book concludes with reflections by three seasoned pastors who have grappled with the practical implications of Church Growth. The interactive and fair-minded nature of the Counterpoints format allows the reader to consider the strengths and weaknesses of each view and draw informed, personal conclusions. The Counterpoints series provides a forum for comparison and critique of different views on issues important to Christians. Counterpoints books address two categories: Church Life and Exploring Theology. Complete your library with other books in the Counterpoints series.

- Sales Rank: #1506725 in Books
- Brand: HarperCollins Christian Pub.
- Published on: 2004-10-13
- Released on: 2004-10-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.99" h x .75" w x 5.20" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

From the Back Cover

Gaining form and momentum over the second half of the 20th century, the Church Growth movement has become an enormous shaping force on the Western church today. You may love it, you may hate it, but you can't deny its impact. But what exactly is Church Growth? In what ways has the movement actually brought growth to the church, and how effective has it been in doing so? What are its strengths and weaknesses? This timely book addresses such questions. After providing a richly informative history and overview, it explores—in a first-ever roundtable of their leading voices—five main perspectives, both pro and con, on the classic Church Growth movement: * Effective Evangelism View (Elmer Towns) * Gospel in Our Culture View (Craig Van Gelder) * Centrist View (Charles Van Engen) * Reformist View (Gailyn Van Rheenan) * Renewal View (Howard Snyder) As in other Counterpoints books, each view is first presented by its proponent, then critiqued by his co-contributors. The book concludes with reflections by three seasoned pastors who have grappled with the practical implications of Church Growth. The interactive and fair-

minded nature of the Counterpoints format allows the reader to consider the strengths and weaknesses of each view and draw informed, personal conclusions. The Counterpoints series provides a forum for comparison and critique of different views on issues important to Christians. Counterpoints books address two categories: Church Life and Exploring Theology. Complete your library with other books in the Counterpoints series.

About the Author

Paul E. Engle, series editor for Counterpoints Church Life, is an ordained minister who served for twenty-two years in pastoral ministry in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Illinois, and Michigan. He is an adjunct teacher in several seminaries in this country and internationally. He serves as associate publisher and executive editor in the Church, Academic, and Ministry Resources team at Zondervan. He and his wife Margie, live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. Gary L. McIntosh teaches at Talbot School of Theology, is a professor of Christian ministry and leadership, leads 20-25 national seminars a year, serves as a church consultant, was president of the American Society of Church Growth in 1995-1996, and has written over 95 articles and 10 books, including *Finding Them*, *The Issachar Factor*, *Three Generations*, *One Size Doesn't Fit All*, *Overcoming the Dark Side*, and *Staffing Your Church for Growth*. He has over 15 years of experience as a pastor and Christian education director. He is a graduate of Colorado Christian University, Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, and Fuller Theological Seminary. He is editor of the Church Growth Network newsletter and the *Journal of the American Society for Church Growth*.

Elmer Towns (DMin, Fuller Theological Seminary) is cofounder with Jerry Falwell of Liberty University, where he currently serves as vice president and dean of the school of religion. He is an author and editor of popular and scholarly works, a seminar lecturer, and the creator of over twenty resource packets for leadership education. Dr. Towns has published over fifty books, including four CBA bestsellers and the 1995 Gold Medallion Book of the Year, *The Names of the Holy Spirit*. A visiting professor at five seminaries, he has received four honorary doctoral degrees. He and his wife, Ruth, have three children.

Gailyn Van Rheenen (PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is the facilitator of Church Planting and Renewal at Mission Alive (www.missionalive.org), adjunct professor of missions at Abilene Christian University, and former missionary to East Africa. His website is www.missiology.org.

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

WHY CHURCH GROWTH CAN'T BE IGNORED Gary L. McIntosh When you hear the term church growth, what words or phrases come to mind? You may think of megachurches, small groups, numbers, contemporary worship, marketing, or a host of other concepts that have occasionally been promoted as popular church-growth theory. In contrast, you may identify the term church growth with effective evangelism, church planting, church extension, making disciples, church multiplication, or other aspects of outreach that seek to win people to Christ and enlist them as responsible members of his church. These differing perceptions of the term church growth, and the emotions that arise from them, clearly point to misunderstanding and disagreement regarding the term, as well as the movement. Church growth is one of those ideas that cause us to draw lines in the sand. We are either for an emphasis on church growth or against it. There seems to be little neutral ground. Donald McGavran, the father of the modern Church Growth movement, recognized early on the divisive nature of Church Growth thought in a letter to his wife, written from Costa Rica on September 8, 1961: 'It is clear that emphasizing the growth of the churches divides the camp. It is really a divisive topic. How strange when all are presumably disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.' Dr. McGavran's words still ring true today. Church Growth continues to divide the camp, as the five

viewpoints expressed in this book will demonstrate. **SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS** There is agreement, however, among Church Growth critics and adherents alike that the Church Growth movement has made significant contributions to the mission of the church, contributions that cannot be ignored. For instance, one early critic of the movement believes its major contribution is in 'clarifying of the mission of the church and focusing mission activity on the responsive.' Other critics add that the movement has provided a 'strategy and a set of priorities for mission'; 'a militant, optimistic, and forward-looking approach to the missionary enterprise'; and a way to 'make us all aware of peoplehood and its human diversity as a tool in world evangelization.' Another critic suggests two major theological contributions of the Church Growth movement: 'The first contribution is the theological clarification that the growth of the Church is not something that should be simply an overflow of the life of the Church. Rather, growth must be something that is intentional and embraced at the purpose level of the Church. [The] second contribution is the clarification and development of the Church's understanding of the leadership qualities and characteristics necessary to catalyze and mobilize a group of Christians.' Advocates of Church Growth thought suggest that the movement has contributed even more to the advancement of Christ's mission in the world. One Church Growth advocate writes, 'The Church Growth Movement emerged in the service of a powerful theological vision: to fulfill the ancient promise to Abraham, and to fulfill Christ's Great Commission, by reaching the lost people, and peoples, of the earth.' He then lists twenty specific contributions from the Church Growth school that have impacted church ministry, particularly evangelism. For example, the first five major contributions can be described as networks, receptivity, indigenous forms, new units, and people groups. Church Growth has taught us: 1. The gospel spreads most contagiously, not between strangers, nor by mass evangelism, nor through mass media, but along the lines of the kinship and friendship networks of credible Christians, especially new Christians. 2. The gospel spreads more easily to persons and peoples who are in a receptive season of their lives, and Church Growth research has discovered many indicators of likely receptive people. 3. The gospel spreads more naturally among a people through their language, and the indigenous forms of their culture, than through alien languages or cultural forms. 4. 'First generation' groups, classes, choirs, congregations, churches, and ministries, and other new units, are more reproductive than old established units. 5. Apostolic ministry is more effective when we target people groups than when we target political units or geographical areas. While critics and adherents will no doubt continue to debate the specific contributions of the Church Growth movement, most would agree that the 'church-growth movement is extraordinarily influential and significant within American churches today. At its best, it should be applauded. Where it is not at its best, it requires criticism so that it might be.' A simple way to summarize the current views on Church Growth is as follows: Some people love it. Others dislike it. Many simply misunderstand it. Understanding Church Growth, of course, is more complex than such a simplistic summary, which is why this book has been written. To make certain we all begin on the same page, it will be helpful to look at a brief historical sketch of the Church Growth movement, particularly as it has developed in North America. **BRIEF HISTORY** Church growth has occurred throughout the Christian era, of course, and is not really new or modern. Even contemporary Church Growth thought had a precursor, in the thought of the Dutch missiologist Gisbertus Voetius (1589--1676). Voetius believed that the 'first goal of mission is the conversion of the heathen; the second, the planting of churches; and the highest, the glory of God.' These three goals comprise a condensed version of today's Church Growth movement. The particular expression of Church Growth theory and theology under discussion in this book, however, first crystallized in the mind of Donald A. McGavran, during the years 1930 to 1955. **EARLY INFLUENCES IN INDIA** Donald Anderson McGavran was born in Damoh, India, on December 15, 1897. MacGavran was a third-generation missionary; by 1954, his family had served a total of 279 years in India. He attended Butler University (B.A., 1920), Yale Divinity School (B.D., 1922), the former College of Mission in Indianapolis (M.A., 1923), and following two terms in India, Columbia University (Ph.D., 1936). When Donald McGavran went to India as a missionary in 1923, he worked primarily as an educator under appointment of the United Christian Missionary Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In 1929, he became director of religious education for his mission before returning to the United States to work on his Ph.D. at Columbia University.

After his return to India, he was elected field secretary in 1932 and was placed in charge of administering the denomination's entire India mission. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, the stirrings of what would eventually become Church Growth thought began to develop in McGavran's mind. Several forerunners contributed to McGavran's developing insights, such as William Carey, Roland Allen, and Kenneth Scott Latourette. The most direct influence, however, was J.Waskom Pickett, of whom McGavran was fond of saying, 'I lit my candle at Pickett's fire.' Pickett and McGavran were both influenced by the ministry of John R. Mott and the student volunteer movement. In 1886, Dwight L. Moody led a missionary awakening at Mount Hermon, Massachusetts, which resulted in one hundred students dedicating themselves to missionary service and the founding of the student volunteer movement. The slogan 'The evangelization of the world in this generation' became a watchword for missions during the first two decades of the twentieth century. As a senior at Butler University, McGavran attended the student volunteer convention at Des Moines, Iowa, during the Christmas season of 1919.

Most helpful customer reviews

[See all 4 customer reviews...](#)

EVALUATING THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT: 5 VIEWS (COUNTERPOINTS: CHURCH LIFE) BY GARY MCINTOSH, PAUL ENGLE PDF

It is so very easy, right? Why don't you try it? In this site, you could additionally find other titles of the **Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle** book collections that may have the ability to aid you locating the very best solution of your task. Reading this book *Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle* in soft file will certainly also alleviate you to get the source easily. You could not bring for those books to someplace you go. Only with the gizmo that constantly be with your almost everywhere, you could read this book *Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle* So, it will be so quickly to finish reading this *Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle*

From the Back Cover

Gaining form and momentum over the second half of the 20th century, the Church Growth movement has become an enormous shaping force on the Western church today. You may love it, you may hate it, but you can't deny its impact. But what exactly is Church Growth? In what ways has the movement actually brought growth to the church, and how effective has it been in doing so? What are its strengths and weaknesses? This timely book addresses such questions. After providing a richly informative history and overview, it explores--in a first-ever roundtable of their leading voices--five main perspectives, both pro and con, on the classic Church Growth movement: * Effective Evangelism View (Elmer Towns) * Gospel in Our Culture View (Craig Van Gelder) * Centrist View (Charles Van Engen) * Reformist View (Gailyn Van Rheenan) * Renewal View (Howard Snyder) As in other Counterpoints books, each view is first presented by its proponent, then critiqued by his co-contributors. The book concludes with reflections by three seasoned pastors who have grappled with the practical implications of Church Growth. The interactive and fair-minded nature of the Counterpoints format allows the reader to consider the strengths and weaknesses of each view and draw informed, personal conclusions. The Counterpoints series provides a forum for comparison and critique of different views on issues important to Christians. Counterpoints books address two categories: Church Life and Exploring Theology. Complete your library with other books in the Counterpoints series.

About the Author

Paul E. Engle, series editor for Counterpoints Church Life, is an ordained minister who served for twenty-two years in pastoral ministry in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Illinois, and Michigan. He is an adjunct teacher in several seminaries in this country and internationally. He serves as associate publisher and executive editor in the Church, Academic, and Ministry Resources team at Zondervan. He and his wife Margie, live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. Gary L. McIntosh teaches at Talbot School of Theology, is a professor of Christian ministry and leadership, leads 20-25 national seminars a year, serves as a church consultant, was president of the American Society of Church Growth in 1995-1996, and has written over 95 articles and 10 books, including *Finding Them*, *The Issachar Factor*, *Three Generations*, *One Size Doesn't Fit All*, *Overcoming the Dark Side*, and *Staffing Your Church for Growth*. He has over 15 years of experience as a pastor and Christian education director. He is a graduate of Colorado Christian University, Western Conservative Baptist

Seminary, and Fuller Theological Seminary. He is editor of the Church Growth Network newsletter and the Journal of the American Society for Church Growth.

Elmer Towns (DMin, Fuller Theological Seminary) is cofounder with Jerry Falwell of Liberty University, where he currently serves as vice president and dean of the school of religion. He is an author and editor of popular and scholarly works, a seminar lecturer, and the creator of over twenty resource packets for leadership education. Dr. Towns has published over fifty books, including four CBA bestsellers and the 1995 Gold Medallion Book of the Year, *The Names of the Holy Spirit*. A visiting professor at five seminaries, he has received four honorary doctoral degrees. He and his wife, Ruth, have three children.

Gailyn Van Rhee (PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is the facilitator of Church Planting and Renewal at Mission Alive (www.missionalive.org), adjunct professor of missions at Abilene Christian University, and former missionary to East Africa. His website is www.missiology.org.

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

WHY CHURCH GROWTH CAN'T BE IGNORED Gary L. McIntosh When you hear the term church growth, what words or phrases come to mind? You may think of megachurches, small groups, numbers, contemporary worship, marketing, or a host of other concepts that have occasionally been promoted as popular church-growth theory. In contrast, you may identify the term church growth with effective evangelism, church planting, church extension, making disciples, church multiplication, or other aspects of outreach that seek to win people to Christ and enlist them as responsible members of his church. These differing perceptions of the term church growth, and the emotions that arise from them, clearly point to misunderstanding and disagreement regarding the term, as well as the movement. Church growth is one of those ideas that cause us to draw lines in the sand. We are either for an emphasis on church growth or against it. There seems to be little neutral ground. Donald McGavran, the father of the modern Church Growth movement, recognized early on the divisive nature of Church Growth thought in a letter to his wife, written from Costa Rica on September 8, 1961: 'It is clear that emphasizing the growth of the churches divides the camp. It is really a divisive topic. How strange when all are presumably disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.' Dr. McGavran's words still ring true today. Church Growth continues to divide the camp, as the five viewpoints expressed in this book will demonstrate. **SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS** There is agreement, however, among Church Growth critics and adherents alike that the Church Growth movement has made significant contributions to the mission of the church, contributions that cannot be ignored. For instance, one early critic of the movement believes its major contribution is in 'clarifying of the mission of the church and focusing mission activity on the responsive.' Other critics add that the movement has provided a 'strategy and a set of priorities for mission'; 'a militant, optimistic, and forward-looking approach to the missionary enterprise'; and a way to 'make us all aware of peoplehood and its human diversity as a tool in world evangelization.' Another critic suggests two major theological contributions of the Church Growth movement: 'The first contribution is the theological clarification that the growth of the Church is not something that should be simply an overflow of the life of the Church. Rather, growth must be something that is intentional and embraced at the purpose level of the Church. [The] second contribution is the clarification and development of the Church's understanding of the leadership qualities and characteristics necessary to catalyze and mobilize a group of Christians.' Advocates of Church Growth thought suggest that the movement has contributed even more to the advancement of Christ's mission in the world. One Church Growth advocate writes, 'The Church Growth Movement emerged in the service of a powerful theological vision: to fulfill the ancient promise to Abraham, and to fulfill Christ's Great Commission, by reaching the lost people, and peoples, of the earth.' He then lists twenty specific contributions from the Church Growth school that have impacted church ministry, particularly evangelism. For example, the first five major contributions can be described as networks, receptivity, indigenous forms, new units, and people groups.

Church Growth has taught us: 1. The gospel spreads most contagiously, not between strangers, nor by mass evangelism, nor through mass media, but along the lines of the kinship and friendship networks of credible Christians, especially new Christians. 2. The gospel spreads more easily to persons and peoples who are in a receptive season of their lives, and Church Growth research has discovered many indicators of likely receptive people. 3. The gospel spreads more naturally among a people through their language, and the indigenous forms of their culture, than through alien languages or cultural forms. 4. 'First generation' groups, classes, choirs, congregations, churches, and ministries, and other new units, are more reproductive than old established units. 5. Apostolic ministry is more effective when we target people groups than when we target political units or geographical areas. While critics and adherents will no doubt continue to debate the specific contributions of the Church Growth movement, most would agree that the 'church-growth movement is extraordinarily influential and significant within American churches today. At its best, it should be applauded. Where it is not at its best, it requires criticism so that it might be.' A simple way to summarize the current views on Church Growth is as follows: Some people love it. Others dislike it. Many simply misunderstand it. Understanding Church Growth, of course, is more complex than such a simplistic summary, which is why this book has been written. To make certain we all begin on the same page, it will be helpful to look at a brief historical sketch of the Church Growth movement, particularly as it has developed in North America.

BRIEF HISTORY Church growth has occurred throughout the Christian era, of course, and is not really new or modern. Even contemporary Church Growth thought had a precursor, in the thought of the Dutch missiologist Gisbertus Voetius (1589--1676). Voetius believed that the 'first goal of mission is the conversion of the heathen; the second, the planting of churches; and the highest, the glory of God.' These three goals comprise a condensed version of today's Church Growth movement. The particular expression of Church Growth theory and theology under discussion in this book, however, first crystallized in the mind of Donald A. McGavran, during the years 1930 to 1955.

EARLY INFLUENCES IN INDIA Donald Anderson McGavran was born in Damoh, India, on December 15, 1897. MacGavran was a third-generation missionary; by 1954, his family had served a total of 279 years in India. He attended Butler University (B.A., 1920), Yale Divinity School (B.D., 1922), the former College of Mission in Indianapolis (M.A., 1923), and following two terms in India, Columbia University (Ph.D., 1936). When Donald McGavran went to India as a missionary in 1923, he worked primarily as an educator under appointment of the United Christian Missionary Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In 1929, he became director of religious education for his mission before returning to the United States to work on his Ph.D. at Columbia University. After his return to India, he was elected field secretary in 1932 and was placed in charge of administering the denomination's entire India mission. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, the stirrings of what would eventually become Church Growth thought began to develop in McGavran's mind. Several forerunners contributed to McGavran's developing insights, such as William Carey, Roland Allen, and Kenneth Scott Latourette. The most direct influence, however, was J.Waskom Pickett, of whom McGavran was fond of saying, 'I lit my candle at Pickett's fire.' Pickett and McGavran were both influenced by the ministry of John R. Mott and the student volunteer movement. In 1886, Dwight L. Moody led a missionary awakening at Mount Hermon, Massachusetts, which resulted in one hundred students dedicating themselves to missionary service and the founding of the student volunteer movement. The slogan 'The evangelization of the world in this generation' became a watchword for missions during the first two decades of the twentieth century. As a senior at Butler University, McGavran attended the student volunteer convention at Des Moines, Iowa, during the Christmas season of 1919.

Again, checking out habit will always give useful advantages for you. You may not should spend many times to read guide Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle Merely adjusted aside a number of times in our spare or complimentary times while having dish or in your workplace to review. This Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) By Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle will show you new thing that you could do now. It will certainly help you to improve the top quality of your life. Event it is simply an enjoyable

publication **Evaluating The Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life)** By **Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle**, you could be healthier as well as a lot more enjoyable to take pleasure in reading.