

the church

OS
GUINNESS

Now it is true that much of the Church in the West is in captivity to modern culture and it does in many ways look shallow and vulgar and sick. But as we were talking earlier, you remember that great line by G.K. Chesterton, 'Five times the Church has gone to the dogs but each time it was the dog that died.' In other words, Christians believe in renewal and revival and reformation. So the Church looks in bad shape now but it won't stay that way for long.

You know I think the last couple of thousand of years have shown us the rise and fall of what is institutionally the Church but I think that God's building it. I'm so confident that God will have his way and if we don't listen he'll wait and find someone who does listen.

JOEL
A'BELL

JOSSY
CHACKO

I started to grapple with what is the purpose and meaning of life and success and money and all of those, and trying to balance my faith. And it was in that process I came to a deep conviction that the only reason for me to exist as a Christian is to fulfill The Great Commission.

towards **belief**

One of the ways I see churches evolving is a greater empowerment of team as opposed to one guy trying to be all things to all people. I think that's really bottle-necked the church. At least in America in the last few decades is this over-glorified role of a senior leader that has to be the rock star preacher, shepherd, visionary, counselor, embodiment of the Gospel. And I think what we see Biblically, particularly in Paul's letters is a picture of team, of people uniquely gifted that are working together.

TODD
PROCTOR

NICKY
GUMBEL

It's a mixed picture but there is certainly growth. There's a new book out showing research about the ways in which the church in this country (UK) is now growing. One of the ways is in London. The numbers on the electoral roll in the Anglican Church in the Diocese of London has gone up 70% since 1996. So this is growth. People think the church is declining but it's not. When you look at it overall there are places where there is remarkable growth taking place. And there are a lot of young people. That's what I notice here. Just this spiritual hunger amongst young people who are outside of the church.

In looking and studying, I read that North India had the largest group of people who had never heard the name of Jesus. And then further study and research I identified North India had more poor people than 26 African countries put together... Now, so far we have reached um 9,700 churches and we have 4,200 full-time workers that are working with us. And all of that is focused in the northern part of India, which is the most unreached region in the entire world.

JOSSY
CHACKO

And it was really just trying to find interesting, provocative, engaging ways of communicating truth to people. I felt the greatest tragedy would be to take the most important message in the world and make it boring and irrelevant to people.

ERWIN
MCMANUS

NICKY
GUMBEL

There are many pictures of the Church in the New Testament. Well one of them is it's a home and we want people to walk in here and feel it's coming home. God is described in the Bible as being like a father who's looking to welcome his son, his daughter back into the family. And we want people who walk in here to feel, 'I've come home.'

In fact the truth is most churches have lost their children because they love their tradition more than their children. To me that's pretty self-absorbed. So I just accept the fact that all of us have a dab of narcissism, a dab of self-centeredness, and that part of the power of the Gospel is to crush that inside of us and to unleash a person who's a servant and who is gracious and who is giving.

ERWIN
MCMANUS

NICKY
GUMBEL

I'm really hopeful for the future of the Church because Jesus is alive and Jesus is at work right across the world.

But there are three things I see that we are really learning from (the Church in the UK). One of them is a true passion for the lost. One critique I personally heard of the American church is that we are consumed with shuffling Christians around...from church to church to church and have missed the endless supply of people that don't know Jesus, that have yet to be awakened to the story. And I see that in England there is a great holy discontent with just seeing Christians shuffled but instead a great passion to see people come into the story that they were both created and redeemed for. Another thing I see is a true dependence on the Holy Spirit..we want to see more and more of what can only be explained by God...the stuff that is truly supernatural. And God wants to give those gifts to his Church but so often our hands are already full of what we can do...And the last thing probably goes hand in hand with that is there is an incredible humility in leadership and I think that's not been the story of much of the church, particularly in our nation. It's a sad thing when you see authors and musicians and preachers made much of to the degree that they become the story. People there are stepping into a pretty daunting task of reclaiming their nation for Jesus. And I think God always honors humility.

TODD
PROCTOR

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