

Journal of the American Society for Church Growth

Volume 10 | Issue 1

Article 1

1-1-1999

Introduction Winter 1999

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Recommended Citation

McIntosh, G. L. (1999). Introduction Winter 1999. *Journal of the American Society for Church Growth*, 10(1), 1-2. Retrieved from <https://place.asburyseminary.edu/jascg/vol10/iss1/1>

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Introduction

Gary L. McIntosh, Editor

The annual meeting of the American Society for Church Growth was held in San Francisco this past November 1998. If you were not able to come, why not make plans right now to be with all your church growth colleagues at our next annual meeting on November 11–13, 1999 in Indianapolis, Indiana. You will be hearing more about the schedule and list of speakers as the date draws closer, but put the dates on your calendar now so you will not forget.

As is our normal policy, this issue of the *Journal of the American Society for Church Growth* includes a number of articles from our last annual meeting. Those articles not included in this issue will be published in the spring 1999 issue to come.

Dr. Ray Ellis was installed at our San Francisco meeting as the 1999–00 President of the American Society for Church Growth. His presidential address, “Spiritual Factors Impacting Church Health & Growth in the 21st Century” is the opening article. Dr. Charles Van Engen presents an interesting overview of church growth and ecclesiological development in his article “Perspectives on the Church and Church Growth Theory.” His colleague at the Fuller School of World Mission, Dr. Eddie Gibbs, then addresses the concern for “Developing a 21st Century Church with Integration & Integrity.”

One of the most influential books in the last few years has been Dr. David Cannistraci’s *The Gift of Apostle*. Dr. Cannistraci’s article “New Apostolic Churches and Evangelical Theology” will answer some of the questions that you may have desired to ask him regarding his book. Dr. Elmer Towns helps us put some

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brackets around our ecclesiology when he answers the questions “What are the Main Boundaries for the Evangelical Church and How Can We Best address Our Major Issues?” Lastly, Maria Ovando-Gibson writes about “Spiritual Formation in the 21st Century.”

As always, I continue to look for new articles for future publication in our journal. Please encourage your students and colleagues to submit articles at any time. Of course, an article from any of our members would be appreciated also.

—Editor