About the Great Commission Research Network Spring 2024

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The Great Commission Research Network is calling for papers to be considered for the 2024 Knox Fellowship Awards for Research in the Practice of Evangelism (one award of $1200 and two awards of $800). The goal of the competition is to conduct and disseminate research that serves to help churches fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). Winning papers will be considered for publication in the Great Commission Research Journal.

**Types of Research:** Since the focus is on the practice of evangelism, preference will be given to research that is not primarily focused on theology, exegesis, or philosophy. Priority will be given to research based on experiences and focused on behavior. This includes:

1. **Empirical Research**--Reporting quantitative research (e.g., hypothesis testing using survey data) or qualitative research (e.g., interviews to answer a research question) on a topic relevant to the practice of evangelism. Such studies could address topics such as pre-evangelism relationship building, communication skills, assessing a person’s openness to discussing gospel-related topics, approaches to sharing one’s personal testimony, evangelism through dialog, humor and evangelism, or equipping others for evangelism.

2. **Case Studies**--A description, analysis, and assessment of an approach to evangelism in a specific context such as a ministry setting, a virtual space, or chance encounters.

**Submissions:** Papers should be in APA format, consist of 3000-7000 words, and present original, unpublished research. Email submissions by May 30, 2024, to David Dunaetz, editor of the *Great Commission Research Journal*: ddunaetz@apu.edu For more information, click [here](https://place.asburyseminary.edu/gcrj/vol16/iss1/15).
GREAT COMMISSION RESEARCH NETWORK
(formerly: The American Society for Church Growth)

OFFICERS

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What is the Great Commission Research Network?
The Great Commission Research Network (GCRN) is a worldwide and professional association of Christian leaders whose ministry activities have been influenced by the basic and key principles of church growth as originally developed by the late Donald McGavran. Founded by renowned missiologists George G. Hunter III and C. Peter Wagner, the GCRN has expanded into an affiliation of church leaders who share research, examine case studies, dialogue with cutting-edge leaders, and network with fellow church professionals who are committed to helping local churches expand the kingdom through disciple-making.

Who Can Join the GCRN?
GCRN membership is open to all who wish a professional affiliation with colleagues in the field. The membership includes theoreticians, such as professors of evangelism and missions, and practitioners, such as pastors, denominational executives, parachurch leaders, church planters, researchers, mission leaders, and consultants. Some members specialize in domestic or mono-cultural church growth, while others are cross-culturally oriented.

Why Join the GCRN?
The GCRN provides a forum for maximum interaction among leaders, ministries, and resources on the cutting edge of Great Commission research. The annual conference of the GCRN (typically held in March each year) offers the opportunity for research updates and information on new resources and developments, as well as fellowship and encouragement from colleagues in the field of church growth. Membership in the GCRN includes a subscription to the *Great Commission Research Journal* and a discount for the annual conference.

How Do I Join the GCRN?
For further information on membership and the annual conference, please visit [greatcommissionresearch.com](http://greatcommissionresearch.com).
Membership Fees

- One-year regular membership (inside or outside USA) - $59
- One-year student/senior adult membership (inside or outside USA) - $39
- Three-year regular membership (inside or outside USA) - $177
- Three-year senior membership (inside or outside USA) - $117
- Membership includes a subscription to the *Great Commission Research Journal* which is in the process of transitioning to an electronic format.
GREAT COMMISSION RESEARCH NETWORK
AWARDS

Donald A. McGavran Award for Outstanding Leadership in Great Commission Research

Normally once each year, the GCRN gives this award to an individual for exemplary scholarship, intellect, and leadership in the research and dissemination of the principles of effective disciple-making as described by Donald A. McGavran. The award recipients to date:

Win Arn  1989  John Vaughan  2006
C. Peter Wagner  1990  Waldo Werning  2006
Carl F. George  1991  Bob Whitesel  2007
Wilbert S. McKinley  1992  Bill Easum  2009
Robert Logan  1993  Thom S. Rainer  2010
Bill Sullivan  1994  Ed Stetzer  2012
Elmer Towns  1994  Nelson Searcy  2013
George G. Hunter III  1996  Alan McMahan  2015
Eddie Gibbs  1997  Steve Wilkes  2016
Gary L. McIntosh  1998  Art McPhee  2016
Kent R. Hunter  1999  Mike Morris  2017
R. Daniel Reeves  2000  Bill Day  2019
Ray Ellis  2002  Warren Bird  2022
John Ellas  2003  Gordon Penfold  2023
Rick Warren  2004  James Cho  2024
Charles Arn  2005

Win Arn Lifetime Achievement Award in Great Commission Research

This award is given to a person who has excelled in the field of American church growth over a long period of time. The award recipients to date:

Eddie Gibbs  2011  Kent R. Hunter  2017
Elmer Towns  2012  Carl George  2019
George G. Hunter III  2013  Charles Arn  2022
John Vaughan  2014  Bob Whitesel  2023
Gary McIntosh  2015  David R. Dunaetz  2024

American Society for Church Growth/GCRN Past Presidents

C. Peter Wagner  1986  Ray W. Ellis  1999-00
George G. Hunter III  1987  Charles Van Engen  2001-02
Kent R. Hunter  1988  Charles Arn  2003-04
Elmer Towns  1989  Alan McMahan  2005-06
Eddie Gibbs  1990  Eric Baumgartner  2007-08
Bill Sullivan  1991  Bob Whitesel  2009-12
Carl F. George  1992  Steve Wilkes  2013-14
Flavil Yeakley Jr.  1993  Mike Morris  2015-16
John Vaughan  1994  James Cho  2017-18
Gary L. McIntosh  1995-96  Gordon Penfold  2019-20
R. Daniel Reeves  1997-98  W. Jay Moon  2021-23

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GREAT COMMISSION RESEARCH NETWORK
SUBMISSIONS

The *Great Commission Research Journal* publishes both peer-reviewed articles reporting original research and reviews of recent books relevant to evangelism and disciple making.

The scope of the journal includes research focusing on evangelism, church planting, church growth, spiritual formation, church renewal, worship, or missions. Articles come from both members and non-members of the Great Commission Research Network and are generally unsolicited submissions, which are welcomed and will be considered for peer-review. There is no charge for submission or publication.

ARTICLES

All submissions should be emailed to the editor, David R. Dunaetz at ddunaetz@apu.edu.

Peer Review Process

Only the highest quality submissions presenting original research within the scope of the journal will be chosen for publication. To ensure this, all articles will go through a peer review process. Articles deemed by the editor to have potential for publication will be sent to reviewers (members of the editorial board or other reviewers with the needed expertise) for their recommendation. Upon receiving the reviewers’ recommendations, the author will be notified that the submission was either rejected, that the submission has potential but needs to be significantly revised and resubmitted, that the submission is conditionally accepted if the noted issues are addressed, or that the submission is accepted unconditionally.

Format

Papers should be APA formatted according to the 7th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Submissions should include a cover page, be double-spaced in Times New Roman, and be between 3,000 and 7,000 words (approximately 10-22 pages) in .docx format. Contact the editor for exceptions to this word count.

In-text references should be in the form (Smith, 2020) or (Smith, 2020, p.100). At the end of the article should be a References section. No
footnotes should be used. Minimize the use of endnotes. If endnotes are necessary, more than two or three are strongly discouraged; rather than using Microsoft Word’s endnote tool, place them manually before the References section.

Include an abstract of approximately 100-150 words at the beginning of your text.

After the References section, include a short biography (approximately 30 words) for each author.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

The purpose of our book reviews is to direct the reader to books that contribute to the broader disciple making endeavors of the church. The review (500-2000 words) is to help potential readers understand how the book will contribute to their ministry, especially those in North America or which have a large cross-cultural base. The review should consist of a summary of the contents, an evaluation of the book, and a description of how the book is applicable to practitioners.

Before submitting a book review, please contact the book review editor Ken Nehrbass (knehrbass@liberty.edu) to either propose a book to be reviewed or to ask if there is a book that needs to be reviewed.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

To submit an article or for general questions, contact:
Dr. David Dunaetz, ddunaetz@apu.edu

For questions about book reviews, contact:
Ken Nehrbass, knehrbass@calbaptist.edu