



Contemporary Worship

What is Contemporary Worship?

□ Worship that is appropriate and meaningful for people who are living now, rather than people who lived 100 years ago or who will live 100 years in the future. That means that every generation in every culture faces the question of “contemporary worship.”

□ Rev. Edwin Womack

□ The People of The United Methodist Church

□ September 30, 2013

Jesus People Movement

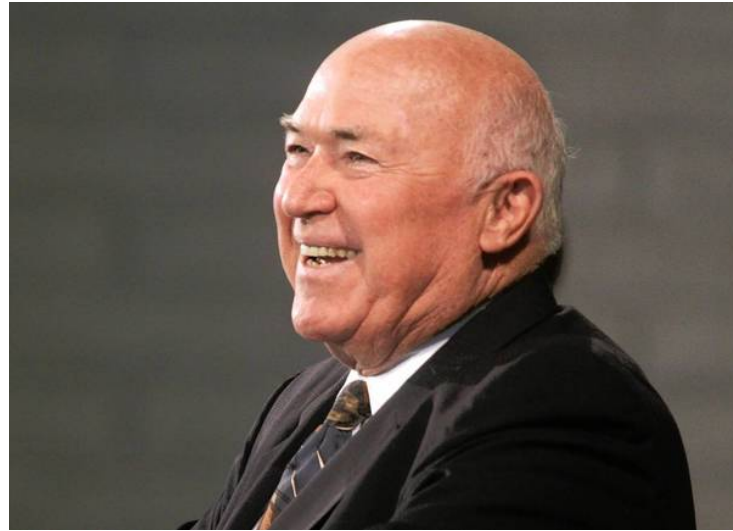


Calvary Chapel
Costa Mesa,
California

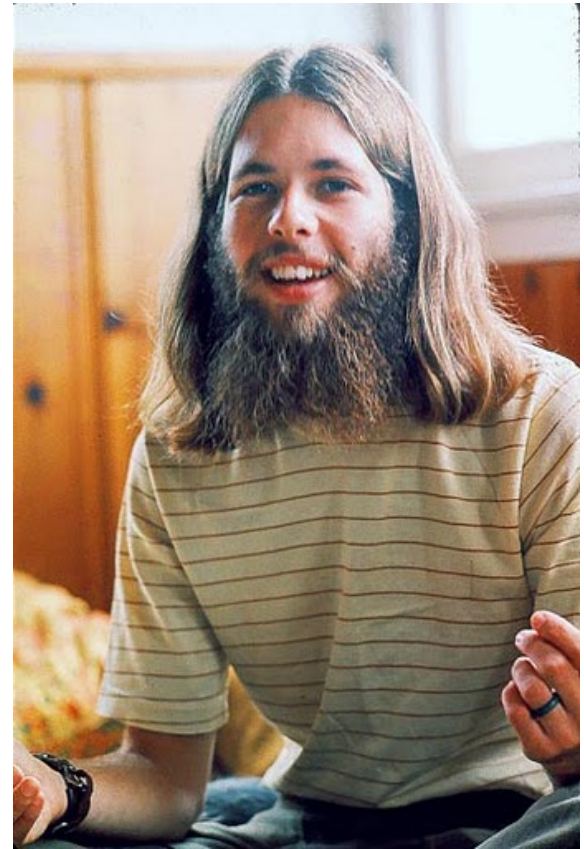


Chuck Smith
took on a
young hippie
as missionary
to the youth of
Orange
County

Chuck Smith



Lonnie Frisbee



Chuck Smith
used his own
money to
produce a
Calvary
Chapel
record album
in 1971.



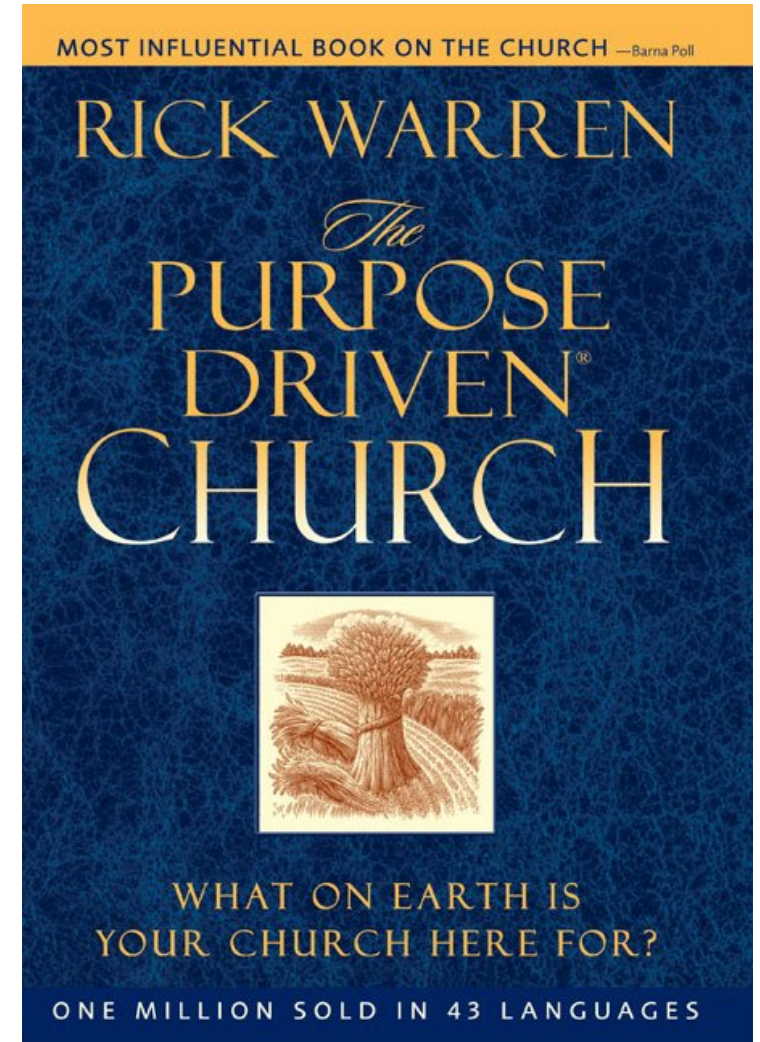
In 1974 Kenn Gulliksen started the Vineyard Movement in West Los Angeles



Saddleback Church was founded by Rick Warren in 1980



Rick Warren's church growth methods are described in his book.



Willow
Creek
Church was
founded in
1975
by Bill
Hybels



Bill Hybels
carefully
shaped a
church
service that
would be
attractive.



The Seeker Sensitive Movement



Pew Research Center Study in 2014

Follow up to
2007 Study.

- ▮ 77% of U.S. adults claim a religion.
- ▮ 89% of adults say they believe in God, down from 92%.
- ▮ 23% of adults describe their religion as “nothing in particular,” up from 16%.

Pew Research Center Study in 2014

The religiously
unaffiliated are
called “nones”

- ▮ Not all “nones” are non-believers. The vast majority say they believe in God.
- ▮ However they are far less religiously observant than Americans who identify with a specific faith.

Pew Research Center Study in 2014

Attend Worship at Least Weekly:

- ▢ Silent Generation (born 1928-1945) **51%**
- ▢ Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) **38%**
- ▢ Generation X (born 1965-1980) **34%**
- ▢ Older Millennials (born 1981-1989) **27%**
- ▢ Younger Millennials (born 1990-1996) **28%**

Pew
Research
Center
Study in
2014

Believe in God:

- ▣ Silent Generation (born 1928-1945) **92%**
- ▣ Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) **92%**
- ▣ Generation X (born 1965-1980) **89%**
- ▣ Older Millennials (born 1981-1989) **84%**
- ▣ Younger Millennials (born 1990-1996) **80%**

Pew
Research
Center
Study in
2014

Religion is very important in their lives:

- ▢ Silent Generation (born 1928-1945) **67%**
- ▢ Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) **59%**
- ▢ Generation X (born 1965-1980) **53%**
- ▢ Older Millennials (born 1981-1989) **44%**
- ▢ Younger Millennials (born 1990-1996) **38%**

Pew
Research
Center
Study in
2014

Denominational
Differences

Religion is “very” important in their
lives:

- ▢ Evangelical Protestants **80%**
- ▢ Historically Black Protestants **80%**
- ▢ Mormons **80%**
- ▢ Jehovah’s Witnesses **80%**
- ▢ Mainline Protestants **60%**
- ▢ Catholics **60%**

Pew
Research
Center
Study in
2014
Conclusion

As older cohorts of adults (comprised mainly of self-identified Christians) pass away, they are being replaced by a new cohort of young adults who display far lower levels of attachment to organized religion than their parents' and grandparents' generations did when they were the same age.

The Rise of the Nons

- ▮ The proportion of Protestants in the United States who don't identify with a specific denomination doubled between 2000 and 2016, according to a Gallup poll released in 2018.



Reasons why people prefer nondenomi national churches

- ▢ Denominational churches have a negative reputation.
- ▢ They throw out the sinner with the sin.
- ▢ They are known more for what they are against.
- ▢ There is too much infighting and politics.

Reasons why people prefer nondenomi national churches

- ▮ They are too liberal.
- ▮ There is a general waning of institutional loyalty.
- ▮ They are too bureaucratic.
- ▮ There is no perceived benefit to belonging to a denomination.
- ▮ They are not good stewards of their financial resources.

Very Few Churches are Truly Non-denominational

- Some belong to non-denominational networks, such as Acts 29
- Some do not refer to their denominational ties in their church names.



The Worship Wars

Traditional Worship



Contemporary Worship



Changes in the American Church

Declining

- ▢ Emphasis on belief and doctrine
- ▢ Organs and choirs
- ▢ Bulletins

Increasing

- ▢ Emphasis on experience and emotion
- ▢ Applause and raising hands
- ▢ Drums
- ▢ Projection equipment

The United Methodist Church



62% of United Methodists are over the age of 50, and 94% are white.

Christ United Methodist Church



Table of
Grace is an
Ancient
Modern
Worship
Service



Music
should be
Personal
Attractive
Straight-
forward
Substantive



Include
Familiar
Worship
Elements



Understand
the
Unbeliever's
Lifestyle





Goals for Table of Grace

- Compelling Experience
- Engaging Participation
- Visual Storytelling
- Creating Community



Thank You
Chris Alexander

▢ Resources:

- ▢ Christianity Today *Willow Creek's Place in History* November 2000, *The "Praise and Worship" Revolution* October 2008, *The Waning of the Worship Wars* January 2016, *The Rise of the Nons: Protestants Keep Ditching Denominations* July 2017
- ▢ Johnson, Jill M. *Polling*, Faith Link March 4, 2018
- ▢ Morgenthaller, Sally. Worship Evangelism: Inviting Unbelievers into the Presence of God. Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 1999.
- ▢ Olson, Roger E. *Are So-Called "Non-Denominational Churches" Really "Non-Denoms?"* Blog post June 28, 2017
- ▢ Pew Research Center *U.S. Public Becoming Less Religious* <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/11/03/u-s-public-becoming-less-religious/> November 3, 2015