

feature article

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When most Americans think of megachurches and missions, they think of us reaching overseas populations. But when large churches in other countries look at the United States, some are seeing *us* as a mission field with significant spiritual needs.

Churches from Asia, South America, Europe and Africa all have planted mission churches in the United States and other countries around the world:

- The Nigeria-based Redeemed Christian Church of God has congregations in 90 countries around the world and some 300 parishes in the U.S. The first of those churches began in 1992, when founding pastor Enoch Adeboye prayed in a Detroit living room with a Nigerian engineer who was working for Ford. Also based in Nigeria is Living Faith Church Worldwide a.k.a. [Winners' Chapel](#), with churches in 400 cities in Nigeria as well

as 36 nations around the world. Their headquarters, called Canaanland, is home of the 50,000-seat Faith Tabernacle, which is reputed to be the largest church auditorium in the world. They have one U.S. diocese so far, in New York.

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 Mother Church Pastor: Rev. YongJo Ha
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 Mother Church Location: San Pedro Sula, Honduras
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God's Embassy
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Canadian Church Deploying Seasoned Leaders

Centre Street Church in Calgary, Alberta recently launched a ministry to discover and deploy seasoned leaders into kingdom service. The church did so in conjunction with Halftime's Strategic Church Initiative (Halftime is a division of Leadership Network).

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Why You Should and How You Can Build a Healthy Multi-ethnic Church presented by Dr. Mark DeYmaz

Wednesday, July 9th, 3pm Central

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One in Four Adults Listened to a Church Podcast Last Week

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Congregations are giving record amounts in relief and development assistance to poor countries, according to the first national random sample survey of U.S. religious giving from congregations of all denominations.

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A banner for Harvard Business School's 'Working Knowledge' series. It features the Harvard logo and the text '100 YEARS 1908-2008' and 'RESEARCH & IDEAS'. The main title is 'Spending on Happiness'.

It Really Is More Blessed to Give

According to new research, giving other people even as little as \$5 can lead to increased well-being for the giver. In a recent study published in the journal *Science*, researcher Elizabeth W. Dunn explores the ways that giving more money might lead to more happiness.

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Preparing to Plant: Calling, Equipping and Enabling Church Planters in Europe

By Joanne Appleton

Men and women across Europe are being called and equipped for the vital task of church planting. This paper explores how they are being trained--with methods ranging from accredited training to informal huddles, the essential qualities they need and the challenges church leaders face in empowering them to plant.

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When most Americans think of megachurches and missions, they think of us reaching overseas populations. But when large churches in other countries look at the United States, some are seeing us as a mission field with significant spiritual needs.

Churches from Asia, South America, Europe and Africa all have planted mission churches in the United States and other countries around the world:

- The Nigeria-based Redeemed Christian Church of God has congregations in 90 countries around the world and some 300 parishes in the U.S. The first of those churches began in 1992, when founding pastor Enoch Adeboye prayed in a Detroit living room with a Nigerian engineer who was working for Ford. Also based in Nigeria is Living Faith Church Worldwide a.k.a.

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churches in 400 cities in Nigeria as well as 36 nations around the world. Their headquarters, called Canaanland, is home of the 50,000-seat Faith Tabernacle, which is reputed to be the largest church auditorium in the world. They have one U.S. diocese so far, in New York.

- Korean-based [SaRang Community Church](#) is connected to SaRang Community Church in Anaheim, CA. While the church operates primarily in Korean, they do have an active [English Ministry](#). The Anaheim SaRang Community Church has planted several additional locations in the U.S., and has developed a \$50,000 church-planting fund to support second-generation Koreans and other minority church planters.
- A crisis in the U.S. Episcopal Church has generated a trend of Anglican churches from Africa sponsoring new Anglican churches here in the States.

Following is perspective from three overseas churches that are launching branches in this country, each with implications for what U.S. churches can learn:

Reaching Back

Honduras-based [La Cosecha](#) got its start in 1977, when its pastor began preaching in front of a bar in the red-light district of San Pedro Sula. Now they are bringing a similar vision to the U.S., where they've been planting churches since 2000. Their aim is to reach those whom society may have deemed untouchable.

"Americans once came to Latin America to reach people and tell them about Christ," says Henry Zamora, pastor of La Cosecha 3 in Atlanta, GA. "Now we are coming back to reach the people here who don't know about God."

Honduras has an extremely high crime rate, and many of those crimes are violent--such as murders, carjackings, and kidnappings for ransom. "We came here because some of the needs are similar," says Henry. "We are reaching the hard-core of the community."

What makes this church unique in the U.S., according to Henry, is its proactive efforts to reach society's outcasts. "We see God through the people, no matter who they are," Henry says. "The prostitute, the homosexual, the drug addict, the person who wants to kill him or herself--we see God through them."

With that in mind, La Cosecha goes into a community and actively seeks the destitute. "We take church to the homes, the street," Henry says. His 400-person church does this on a weekly basis, bringing food, clothing, and the gospel to some of the roughest parts of Atlanta. "We need to take church out of the church," he says.

Home Away from Home

One of Korea's largest churches, [Onnuri](#), also reaches out to a specific audience. They began planting vision churches worldwide, primarily to serve Korean families that have immigrated to other countries. John Im is one of the pastors at Onnuri's U.S. headquarters in Irvine, CA.

"Information about the Onnuri Church, designed for the immigrants of Korea, is passed through social circles by word of mouth," John says. "When the Korean immigrants hear of the Onnuri churches in the States, they become excited



Foreign Soil Church Planters Coming to the U.S. by Kristin Walters

For Further Study

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 Mother Church Pastor: Rev. YongJo Ha
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because it reminds them of home."

Igniting a Revolution

Another church that brings insight from its home country's history is the [Embassy of the Blessed Kingdom of God of All Nations](#). Headquartered in Kiev, Ukraine, the church claims to have played a major role in the Orange Revolution, in which thousands of Ukrainians protested and overturned the results of the country's corrupt 2004 presidential election.

The Brooklyn, N.Y., branch of God's Embassy was started in December 2005 by a Ukrainian couple, Yuri and Tatyana Binder. They were ordained and sent out by pastor Sunday Adelaja, founder of the mother church in Ukraine.

Although this 70-person branch reaches mostly Russians, its desire is to reach people of all nationalities. Like La Cosecha, they reach those with addictions and other problems, and have empowered people to create social organizations to help drug addicts, alcoholics, teens and invalids, Yuri says.

"My goal is not to build a church," Yuri says. "My goal is to help the city of New York." To that end, he strives to encourage and equip congregants to be "world changers"--something he says is missing from the American churches he's encountered.

"I go to different churches all of the time, and the people aren't lifted up--they don't know that they can minister," Yuri says. "I try to be that jumping point, so that they can do something for society."

Kristin Walters is the former managing editor of a magazine published by [Eagle Brook Church](#), one of Minnesota's largest and fastest-growing churches. She now writes part-time, while raising her two young daughters. Her family resides in Centerville, MN.

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leadership network news

Canadian Church Deploying Seasoned Leaders

Centre Street Church in Calgary, Alberta recently launched a ministry to discover and deploy seasoned leaders into kingdom service. The church did so in conjunction with Halftime's Strategic Church Initiative (Halftime is a division of Leadership Network).

The re-branded "Next Ministry--Your Journey, His Path" program will help church members discover what the Lord has for them in the second half of life. "We have successfully planted the seeds of the halftime message into fertile soil," says Kervin Raugust, Centre Street's executive pastor.

Centre Street has spent the past year partnering with Halftime in the Strategic Church Initiative, a guided, transformational experience for hand-selected churches with an interest in launching ministries to those looking to make a significant impact in the "second half" of life. For more information on the Strategic Church Initiative contact



Why You Should and How You Can Build a Healthy Multi-ethnic Church

presented by Dr. Mark DeYmaz

Wednesday, July 9th, 3pm Central

Based on his experience in planting, growing, and encouraging ethnically diverse, Christ-centered communities of faith, Dr. Mark DeYmaz will host a webinar on the topic of his latest book entitled, ***Building a Healthy Multi-***



Ethnic Church: Mandate, Commitments and Practices of a Diverse Congregation. Through this webinar, learn how to articulate the New Testament vision, discuss current needs, and define the mission of a multi-ethnic church in a clear and concise way for others. In addition, Mark will unpack the seven core commitments of a multi-ethnic church, generate practical ideas toward their implementation, and discuss common obstacles and ways to overcome them if the dream is to become reality.

This webinar is designed for church planters as well as pastors seeking to revitalize churches in decline or to transform healthy but otherwise homogeneous churches around the multi-ethnic vision. Like the men of Issachar (I Chronicles 12:32), participants will leave with a better understanding of the times and more fully comprehend why DeYmaz believes the most effective way to advance the Gospel in the 21st century will be through healthy multi-ethnic churches. Involvement will inspire those who believe the kingdom of heaven is not segregated to create local churches on earth that will not be either.

This online experience is offered at no cost to attendees – register now

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in brief

One in Four Adults Listened to a Church Podcast Last Week

Access to spiritual content via podcasting among Christians is about double the listenership of non-Christians. According to a recent Barna study, 38% of evangelicals and 31% of other born-again Christians had listened to a sermon or church teaching via digital recordings available on the Internet (often called a "podcast"), compared with 17% of other adults.



In macro terms, an enormous audience of roughly 45 million Americans reports going digital to acquire church sermon and teaching content. In all, one out of every four adults—23%--said they downloaded a church podcast in the past week.

The profile of people who had listened to sermon podcasts cuts across generational lines, with older adults just as likely as young residents to listen in. Residents in the south (31%) were twice as likely as those in the northeast (14%) to access church podcasts.

Similarly, Protestants (32%) were more intrigued by such content than were Catholics (18%); the same held true for non-mainline attenders (38%), compared to mainline Protestants (16%). African-Americans (50%) were very loyal listeners, especially when contrasted with Asians (14%). Furthermore, those who are economically downscale (35%) were more likely to listen to church podcasts than were upscale adults (10%).

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U.S. Religious Groups' Gifts to Developing Countries: \$8.8 Billion

Congregations are giving record amounts in relief and development assistance to poor countries, according to the first national random sample survey of U.S. religious giving from congregations of all denominations.

This far-reaching study found that over half of U.S. congregations gave an average of \$10,500 to U.S. organizations for relief and development in poor countries. Over 30% made donations directly to programs in developing countries as well as volunteering for short-term missions or service trips.

The survey specifically excluded support for evangelism, recording expenditures only for such items as food, clothing, and medicines, as well as cash for schools, clinics and small business development.

In 2006, these private financial flows were more than four and one-half times U.S. government foreign aid to developing countries. The \$8.8 billion from religious congregations alone was over one-third of the official U.S. government aid of \$23.5 billion.

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It Really Is More Blessed to Give

According to new research, giving other people even as little as \$5 can lead to increased well-being for the giver. In a recent study published in the journal *Science*, researcher Elizabeth W. Dunn explores the ways that giving more money might lead to more happiness.

The team found that happiness didn't correlate with personal spending but, rather, with how much they gave away.

On the Vancouver campus, they handed out sealed envelopes containing \$5 or \$20 to 46 people. They instructed half the people to spend the money on themselves--either on necessities or indulgences--and then told the other half to give the money away, all by 5 p.m.

Those who gave the money away were happier by the end of the day--and just as happy whether they gave away \$5 or \$20.

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