

EVANGELISM IS NEEDED

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Recently I read the following and contended that I should pass it on. It has been slightly edited and a conclusion added.

The good news is the global Church is growing by almost 100,000 new believers daily, with over 3,500 new churches planted every week. Christianity has seen its largest growth in the past five years. The bad news is, it's not happening in America, where 72 churches permanently close their doors and sell off property each week, 10 or more every day.

During the past 10 years, the combined memberships of all Protestant churches has declined by 4.4 percent while our population has grown by over 25 million. A recent Gallop poll reveals that 195 million Americans are now unchurched -- nearly 65 percent of our population. Twenty-five percent of America's college students now check "no religion" on their entrance applications. According to a recent Barna survey, only nine percent of those born after 1980 attend church regularly. Translated, that means the U.S. is just one generation away from paganism.

We can **no longer deny the fact** that the American church is in solemn decline. It's no longer the institution of influence and authority or having the positive effect on our culture it once had. Seemingly, there is a great need for some changes in our approach to the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If every church member would become committed to sharing the gospel with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc., as Paul instructed us in I Corinthians 3:6 (sow, water and wait for God to give the increased), we would very likely see a great difference in the attendance board at the church. **Home Bible Studies** are no doubt needed once again. When people will not visit the church building, the church (saved people) must go to them and teach the Word of God.

Plainly, don't get short changed. Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (Acts 16:31) 2) Repent Of Sins (Acts 17:30) 3) Confess Christ Audibly (Acts 8:37) 4) Be Baptized In *Water (Acts 2:38) 5) Live A Christian Life (Acts 14:22) 6) Be Active In the Church (Acts 2:47)

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