



SeedStories

from the **Christian Evangelistic Assn**
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156,000,000

That's the number of souls who are lost in America. They are our unchurched, unbelieving family, friends and neighbors. If they gathered as an entirely separate nation, they would be the 8th largest country in the world.

And the tide is rising! In the past decade, the percentage of unchurched Americans has increased by 38 million people *-more than 30%*! That's more than the entire population of Canada.

In their recently published book, *Churchless*, George Barna and David Kinnaman identify several significant trends among the growing number of unchurched Americans:

Though most of the unchurched are men (54%), the gap between men and women has steadily plummeted from 20 points in 2003 to just 8 points currently.

The younger the person, the less likely they are to attend a church. Of those attending a church, Millennials (born 1981-2002) make up 11%; Gen X-ers (1965-1980) are 33%, Boomers (1946-1964) are 35%, and Elders (born before 1946) make up 22%.

Among the unchurched, less than half (44%) are married compared to 60% of those who attend church. 29% of the unchurched have never married (vs 22%). 11% live with a partner (vs 3%).

Unchurched adults are more likely to be white. Among the church population 65% are white, 16% are black, 14% are hispanic and 4% are asian.

The Pacific Coast is home to the largest percentage of churchless per capita. In the Northwest approximately 75% of the population is unchurched.

"The fact remains, that more Americans than ever are not attending church," ~ David Kinnaman

Every one of those 156 million souls is a worthy reason to plant new churches. In our corner of the Vineyard here in the Northwest over 13 million have no relationship with Christ or the Church.

God cares deeply about each one. And so do we. Let's plant more churches together!

New Churches Are A Place For New Beginnings

An angry young man who struggled with grief over his girlfriend's choice to abort their unborn son, found his life transformed through the love and support of the new church he attends. You'll find him there most Sundays, serving joyfully in their Children's ministry program.

A woman immersed in the occult and satanic spiritualism stepped out of her darkness into the light of Christ's love. She is being nurtured and disciplined in her new faith by other believers in the new church she's part of.

A businesswoman accepted a church planter's invitation to visit his new church after attending a Chamber of Commerce meeting hosted in the church's newly-completed facility. A single-parent whose relationship with her teenage daughter was strained, she couldn't have imagined the change this simple decision would lead to for both of them. After attending together for several weeks, her daughter expressed a desire to follow Christ and be baptized.

A heroin addict who grew up in a lifestyle steeped in prostitution and drug abuse, met Jesus in one of our new churches. You'll find him faithfully leading an entire outreach ministry to others suffering from addictions.

A university basketball coach took her game as a nominal believer to a whole new level when she and her husband joined a new church in their town and she decided to be baptized.

A teenager who committed his life to following Christ and joined the launch team of one of our new churches has decided to attend a Bible college this fall and prepare for vocational ministry.

Where Are They Now—Westcoast Christian Church

In 2006, Kurt and Tammy Kuykendall (*pictured below with their children, Isaiah & Victoria*) moved from Mississauga, Ontario, where Kurt served on the staff of Churchill Meadows Christian Church, to start Westcoast Christian Church in Surrey, British Columbia.



Adjacent to Vancouver, Surrey is a growing community of more than 500,000 that is home to European, Asian, Chinese, Indian, Korean, Filipino, Hispanic, Arab and Japanese families. Over the past 9 years, Westcoast has earned a reputation as a church that cares about this diverse community.

Participation in the Night Market, an active prison ministry and outreach to those struggling with alcohol and drug addictions are evidence of Westcoast's external focus. Additionally, Kurt is active in the Chamber of Commerce. He and Tammy personally disciple dozens of growing new believers. Tammy trains students to serve in WC's children's ministries, leads a women's ministry and is actively engaged with kids and families from their local public school.

In addition to these local ministries, Westcoast supports domestic church planting in Canada and international church planting in northern Thailand.

Having grown to nearly 200 in weekly worship attendance while meeting in an elementary school, the church has begun to save and search for a permanent facility. Westcoast is making a difference in Surrey—one soul at a time!

By George . . .



Planting *healthy* churches is critical to the mission of reaching those who are far from God. An important key to starting and growing *healthy* churches is the diligent work of *healthy* teams and, not surprisingly, *healthy* teams require *healthy* leaders.

Knowing the critical role we assign to the planters we recruit, CEA is committed to investing in their personal health and growth. Certainly we care about the success and growth of their ministries, but we also care about the strength of their marriages and families. Because ministry is always done in the context of relationships with people it never offers a natural stopping point and its easy to become overwhelmed. Schedules get demanding. Crises are unpredictable. Sundays come every seven days. After 40 years of professional ministry I've seen too many leaders fizzle and fade and some even burn out

and quit. From the perspective of a recovering *work-a-holic* I've even come dangerously close to being that leader myself in the past.

So I'm especially proud of CEA's reputation for lavishly loving our planting couples and their families. This is a core value we persistently pursue on behalf of every leader in our network. It makes a difference to them, to their churches and to our mission.

Our annual planters' retreat in SunRiver, OR, pictured below, is one practical way we show love for the great leaders in our network. Below is an excerpt of a note from one of our planters following this year's retreat:

I can't begin to tell you how unique an experience this retreat is. Every church planting organization funds trips and experiences for their planters. But it is always on the training side and seldom the rest/refreshment/replenishment side of things. Thank you for providing a place for us to rest. Rest is harder to locate than resources. So thank you for helping us with the harder stuff, for planning it and taking it out of our hands and off our plates. We really appreciate it and we appreciate the tone you are setting for us and for other planters. Aaron Monts

Friends like you, who share our value for taking exceptional care of these gifted leaders make this annual retreat possible.. If you personally, your small group, women's ministry or church are interested in helping to underwrite the cost of this labor of love, please contact Dottie Johnson (dottie@theCEA.org) to find out how you can help.





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JOIN CEA'S FANBASE!

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In Seattle, any mention of *the twelve* is assumed to be a reference to the Seahawks' loud and proud football fans. But *the twelve* actually has a much older and more significant Christian origin dating back almost 2000 years. It was *the twelve* (disciples) to whom Jesus entrusted the future expansion of His Kingdom. Their faithful witness and work continues to bear fruit still today.

The CEA also depends on a group of committed, passionate supporters known as *twelves*. These financial partners give every month to advance the Kingdom here in the Northwest through their support. I'd like to invite you to become a *twelve* today. Consider giving \$12/month to plant a new church. Become a supporting partner on our church planting team and be a *twelve*!

Here are several great ways to join our CEA fan-base and become a *twelve*:

- Give \$12/month to multiply new churches for the next 12 months (\$144)
- Give \$1,200 to help us start a new church next year.
- Give \$12,000 to proclaim Jesus' name loud and proud in a new church plant!
- Give \$120,000 as a legacy gift to fund an entire new church project.

Mail: Send a check to CEA (P.O. Box 92, Edmonds, WA)

Online: Go to www.theCEA.org and click on the "Give" link

The CEA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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