

St David's Book Study Notes, courtesy of Joan Gray.

Future Faith Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21 st Century  
by Wesley Granberg-Michaelson

Jan 13, 2020 Session 1

Introductions.

New member of the study introduced: Scott.

32 registered for study. 37 books sold. Wayne mentioned 30 people is a good number for study. More becomes a little hard to manage. That being said it is nice to see so many people out for the study and no one would be discouraged from joining.

Round table comments on why people are here. Some mentioned it is what we do on Monday night, others to learn, other comments, including they did not like the book so far and is hoping to be proven wrong in the through the course of the study.

Wayne opened with prayer to begin our study. He said growing up his family had devotionals at meals. Free will prayers he called them. There were request for prayers among the group: Bertha H who just lost her sister Linda, Pat O who is having a procedure on his throat, prayers for the Iranian Canadians recently killed in the plane explosion, prayers for Australia.

Wayne welcomes volunteers for prayers at the beginning of our study as well as a sign up sheet that will still be passed around to do openings.

A video was then shown. Approximately 9,000 estimated churches in Canada to close in the next number of decades. Member mentioned Tithing in German churches is emphasized. Also, Sunday is no longer just for God. We are at the cusp of a huge shift.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVtM4sd55Fk>)

Map shown indicating people in Europe and East Asia say religion is not very important: Religion being connected to culture. The media does not support Christmas. (See map at the end of this document.)

Wayne explained there are 2 major shifts taking place:

1. Christianity has declined in the Northern Hemisphere
  2. There has been an explosion of Christianity in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Christianity in the Southern Hemisphere has branched out into their own version of the faith. It may not look like what we are used to.

Implications for the church in Canada:

Even Evangelical churches are, if not declining in attendance, just holding their own. The guide we had at the Ahmadiyya Muslim mosque we visited in fall of 2019 said they too have difficulty keeping their youth coming. We see more that different churches no longer see them versus us, rather as a family with focus on the message of Jesus.

Brenda mentioned she was introduced to this book last year. She was wowed by what it said and often said to herself she didn't know that. The expectation for the class is that we learn! It was mentioned if we buy book on Kindle or like, the footnotes are great and lead to so much more on the web.

Like the Brian McLaren book, we need a more multi - cultural aspect to our churches.

We share our space multicultural (other Christian groups rent the church or part of the church) but we don't include them.

Young people are not even thinking of church these days, let alone if it is the type of church for them.

Break

Video shown introducing the author.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMkvOL4exSI>

Pentecostals understand faith as a pilgrimage. Spiritual Attentiveness.

Even people who are alienated from the church are now seen by the thousands on the pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago.

New Study Format for this book was explained:

Suggestions from members about the groups:

- When we go in groups do a number system to mix up the groups. This way the same people don't always end up together.
- Don't always keep the same number of people in the groups; mix up the number.
- Small groups may not be able to carry the conversation on the questions for a full 30 minutes. Less time allotment for smaller groups?
- Perhaps we can be given the questions the week before to think about: this may help the group discussions along when the time comes.

Brenda mentioned she listened to Karen Armstrong on CBC the other day.

(We have taken up a few of her books in past book studies.)

Very interesting. Karen Armstrong has written a new book called The Lost Art of Scripture.

Wayne closed with a prayer.

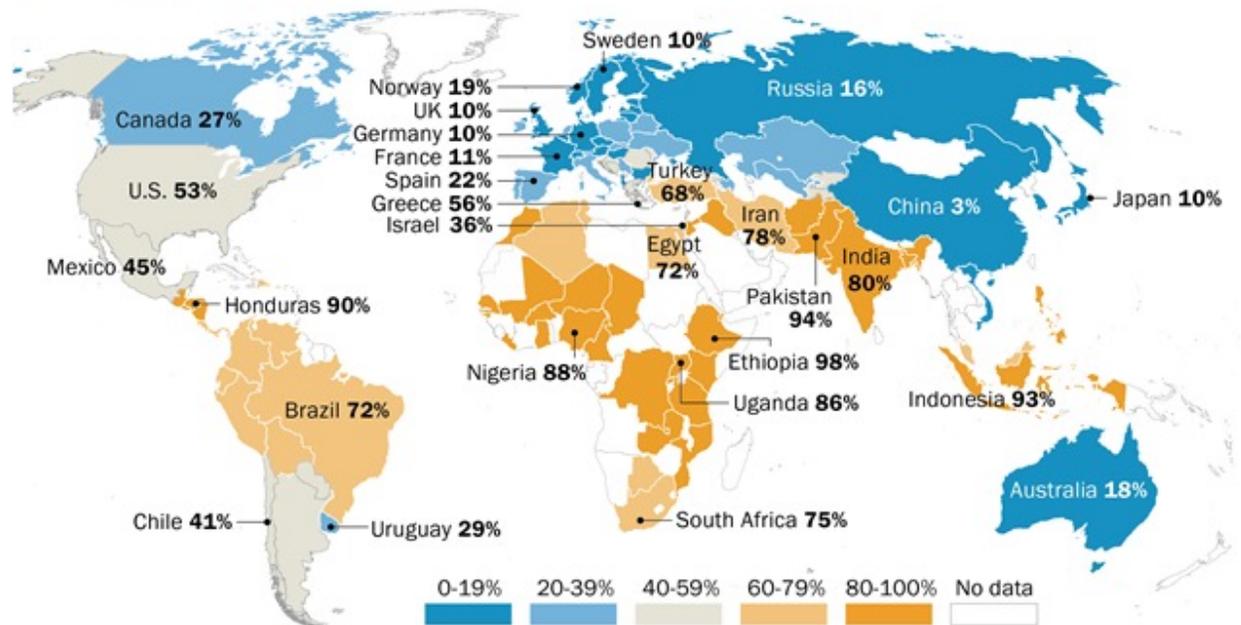
Next week - Chapter 1.

References:

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## People in Europe and East Asia say religion is not very important to them

*% who say religion is very important in their lives*



Source: Pew Research Center surveys, 2008 to 2017.  
"The Age Gap in Religion Around the World"

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