

THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION



BRIAN D. MCLAREN



CONVERGENT



THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION

HOW THE WORLD'S LARGEST
RELIGION IS SEEKING A **BETTER**
WAY TO BE **CHRISTIAN**

BRIAN D. MCLAREN

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Let's stay in touch!

1. brianmclaren.net

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THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION

A spiritual migration

from system of belief to way of life/
way of love



A theological migration

from violent Supreme Being
to nonviolent Holy Spirit/Spirit of
Christ



A missional migration

from organized religion (for self-protection)

to religion organizing for the common good

(institutions and movements in romance,
forming & deploying spiritual activists)



1. Congregations need to identify themselves.
 - Acknowledge who they are - to themselves

Working in our tribes



PCUSA



UCC



UMC



Episcopal



Christian
Church
DoC



ELCA

Historic Black,
Ethnic/
Immigrant,
Progressive
Roman
Catholic,
Progressive
Evangelical,
etc.

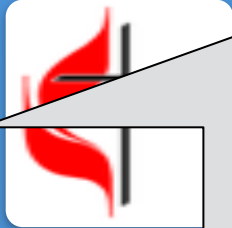
nostalgic



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eggshell
holding tension

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creative

1. Congregations need to identify themselves.

- Nostalgic Churches
- Eggshell Churches [anxious]
- Holding the Tension Churches
- Creative/Progressive/Missional/Movement Churches [bold]

Why?

Belonging, Amplification, Public Figures, Shared Encouragement & Resources

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A BOLD, VITAL SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT

2. Begin afresh with younger generations

- The reason an awakening takes a generation or more to work itself out is that it must grow with the young; it must escape the enculturation of old ways. It is not worthwhile to ask who the prophet of this awakening is or to search for new ideological blueprints in the works of the learned. Revitalization is growing up around us in our children, who are both more innocent and more knowing than their parents and grandparents. It is their world that has yet to be reborn. - Wm. G. McLoughlin

Begin afresh with younger generations

- An important scientific innovation rarely makes its way by gradually winning over and converting its opponents; it rarely happens that Saul becomes Paul. What does happen is that its opponents gradually die out, and that the growing generation is familiarized with the ideas from the beginning, another instance of the fact that the future lies with the youth. - Max Planck

3. Recruit leaders differently, train them differently, and organize them differently.

- MDiv - \$40 - 80K

The Cuban Methodist model ...

The deployment problem

The population of the United States is not distributed evenly. Instead, we tend to bunch up in communities, leaving the spaces in between more sparsely inhabited. Most Americans live in or near cities; today 53 percent live in the 20 largest cities. 75 percent of all Americans live in metropolitan areas.

This map shows population density. The relative height of each major city reflects its population in 1996.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Go West. Nevada is the fastest growing state, followed by Arizona, Idaho, Colorado, and Utah.

Wyoming has the lowest population density of all states in the lower 48 with an average of five people per square mile.

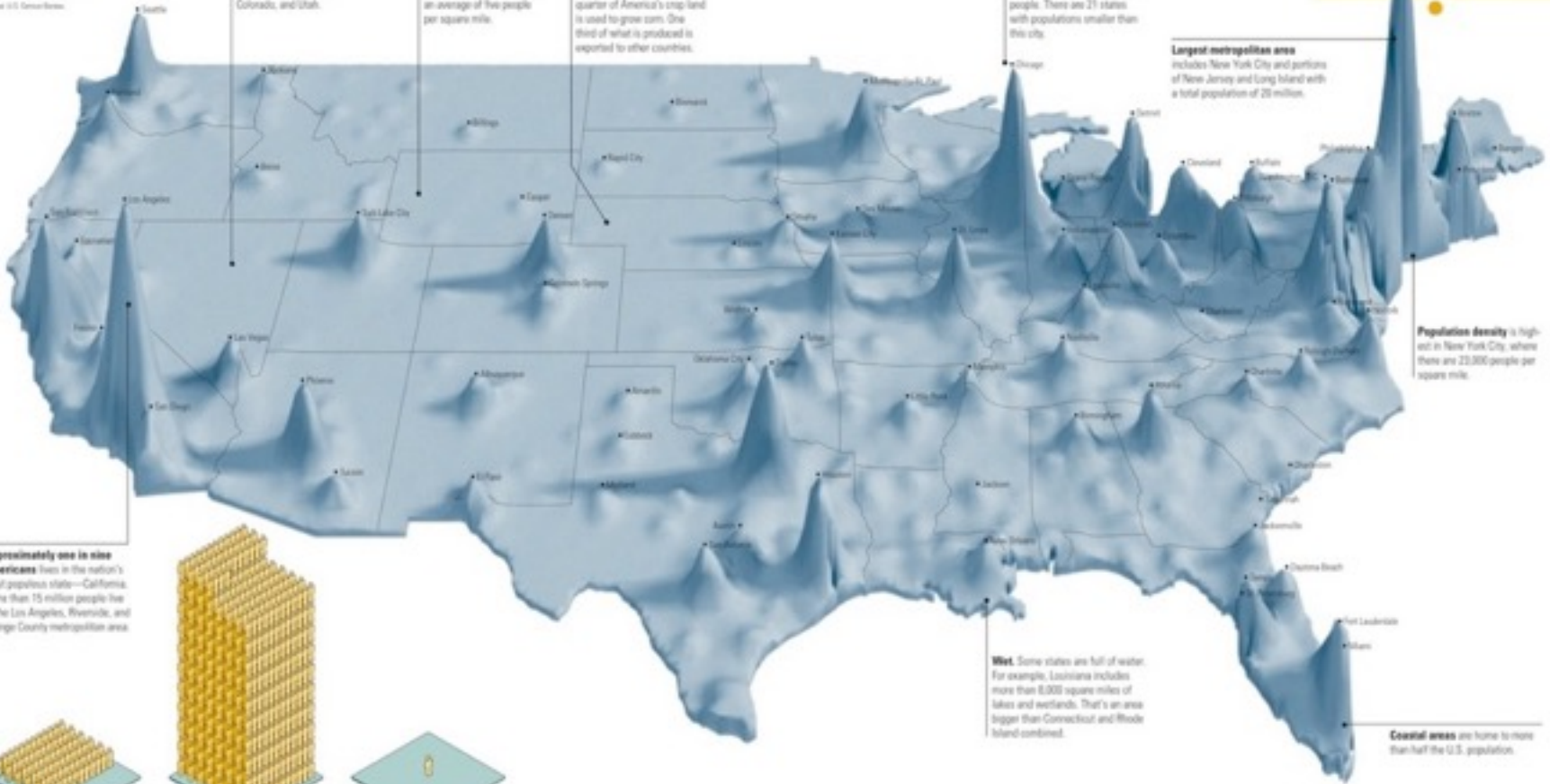
What happens in the empty spaces? Some of it is farming country. More than one-quarter of America's crop-land is used to grow corn. One-third of what is produced is exported to other countries.

Chicago, the country's third largest city, has a population of about three million people. There are 21 states with populations smaller than this city.

Largest metropolitan area includes New York City and portions of New Jersey and Long Island with a total population of 20 million.

Population Distribution

Where do we live?
Where don't we live?



Population density is highest in New York City, where there are 25,000 people per square mile.

Approximately one in nine Americans lives in the nation's most populous state—California. More than 15 million people live in the Los Angeles, Riverside, and Orange County metropolitan area.



Distributing our population evenly would put an average of 76 people per square mile.

New Jersey is the most densely populated state with an average of more than 1,000 people per square mile.



Alaska is a sparsely populated state with an average of one person per square mile.

Wet. Some states are full of water. For example, Louisiana includes more than 8,000 square miles of lakes and wetlands. That's an area bigger than Connecticut and Rhode Island combined.

Coastal areas are home to more than half the U.S. population.

Understanding America

“84% of Americans now live in or around urban areas. But I’m United Methodist, so I speak out of the context of what I know best. 74% of our capital resources (that’s our buildings) are where only 16% of the American population lives. The Methodist Church flourished in the 1800’s and early 1900’s in small towns and rural areas. But now we continue to send pastors to church buildings instead of populations. And if we’re really going to reach people, we’re going to have to radically rethink our paradigms of what it’s going to mean to be missional.” - Rev. Mike Slaughter

More here: <http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1227/interview-w-mike-slaughter>



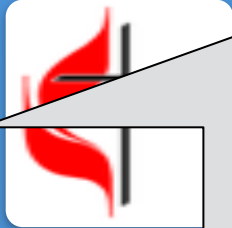
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A BOLD, VITAL SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT

4. Recast mission as spiritual activism.

- Recruiting activists
- Neighborhood/Community activism
- Political activism
- Economic activism (boycotts, buy-cotts, divest/invest)
- Professional activism
- Social entrepreneurship

Along this path, popular movements play an essential role, not only by making demands and lodging protests, but even more basically by being creative. You are social poets, creators of work, builders of housing, producers of food, above all for people left behind by the world market... The future of humanity does not rest solely in the hands of great leaders, the great powers and the elites. It is fundamentally in the hands of peoples and in their ability to organize. It is in their hands, which can guide with humility and conviction this process of change. I am with you. - Pope Francis



5. Celebrate “liberation spirituality”

- song
- liturgy
- preaching
- practices
- inner work/outer work
- multi-faith collaboration

Putting it all together ...

- Helping churches identify themselves.
- Beginning with kids and youth.
- Recruiting, training, organizing leaders in new ways.
- Recasting mission as spiritual activism.
- Celebrating liberation spirituality

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