

The Secular as a Global Challenge in Mission

During the last century many countries in the West underwent a drastic change. Secularism, with "indifference to, or rejection or exclusion of, religion and religious considerations" (Merriam-Webster) replaced the Christian faith. In today's global world this secular perspective is not only a challenge for the West, but for the global church. How can we understand the impact of secularism and how should we respond to its challenge?

Stefan Gustavsson is a member of the European Leadership Forum Steering Committee. He is the director for Apologia – Centre for Christian Apologetics and makes his home in Stockholm. He was the founding General Secretary for the Swedish Evangelical Alliance. Stefan travels widely with apologetic teaching and training and is often involved in university evangelism and public debates. He is the author of several books on Christian apologetics and the Christian mind. Stefan is married to Ingrid and they have three grown children.

Introduction

“Christianity was victorious because the early Christians out-lived, out-thought, and out-died the world around them.” T. R. Glover *The Jesus of History*

A. What Ever Happened to Europe?

1. The Secularization of Europe: A Bird’s Eye View
2. The Main Process Behind the Secularization
3. The (faulty) Response from the Church
4. The Remedy

B. Why Should the Growing Church in Africa, Asia, and Latin America Care?

1. A Global World – There is No Place to Hide
2. A World of Media and Entertainment
3. Education as the Key to the Future

C. Learning from the Mistakes of Europe

1. Taking Action Before it Becomes a Cultural Monster
2. Developing World View Thinking and a Christian Mind
3. Creating a Culture of Christian Apologetics
4. Wisdom in Identifying the Crucial Issues