

Understanding Present Day Culture and the Implications for Church Revitalisation

One of key reasons why there is an urgent need for church revitalisation in Europe is because it is a post-Christian secular context. In some Protestant European countries the evangelical church has been declining for over 150 years, whereas in others with a Catholic or Orthodox heritage there has never been a strong evangelical church. It is therefore vital that we understand the context in which we are seeking to ministry the gospel and renew the church as this will determine both the opportunities and challenges we face. Drawing on biblical teaching and examples from contemporary European contexts we will consider the impact of contemporary culture, both positively and negatively, on church revitalisation.

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1. The Macro-Context for Church Revitalisation in Europe

Post-Protestant secular Western Europe

Pre-Evangelical secular Catholic Europe

Pre-Evangelical religious Catholic Europe

Post-Evangelical Former Communist Europe

2. The Micro-Context for Church Revitalisation in Europe

Location

Demography

History

3. Why does the Church Need Revitalising?

The church has declined

The church never grew

Leadership weakness

Cultural barriers to evangelism and growth

Spiritual weakness

Competitor churches

4. Realistic Expectations

What would a successful revitalisation look like?

What is the norm for healthy churches in the country/location?

5. Revitalisation Strategy

What needs to change?

What can be changed?

What can't be changed?

How can change be implemented?

Vision

Persuasion

Implementation