**Foundational Books on Church Growth**

*McGavran, Donald A., Revised and edited by C. Peter Wagner*


This one book is the best outline of Donald McGavran’s thought and the various editions laid the foundation for the church growth movement.

*Wagner, C. Peter*


This is one of the first and most influential books by Peter Wagner. Often quoted and lectured from, many phrases from this book entered the permanent language of the movement.

*Wagner, C. Peter with Win Arn and Elmer Towns*


A more comprehensive and detailed book than *Your Church Can Grow,* this book attempted to bring forth both the newest and the most mature thought of the movement.

*Rainer, Thom S.*


A book that gives an overview and background of the movement. According to Wagner in the preface, it is a “textbook” of the church growth movement. Extensive bibliography.

**Current Thinking at Fuller Seminary**

*Shenk, Wilbert R.*


Current professor at Fuller. Mennonite. Deals with postmodernism.

Gibbs, Eddie

2000  *Church Next.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Current professor at Fuller. Anglican. Deals with postmodernism.

Van Engen, Charles


Current professor at Fuller. Reformed. Deals with theology of mission and the missionary nature of the local church.
“How to” Books on Church Growth

*Wagner, C. Peter
Probably the most read and followed “how to” books in Church growth ever printed. The foundation for all spiritual gifts inventories to follow.

*Schaller, Lyle E.
The best “how to” writer in the church growth movement. Highly practical books written from an evangelical perspective.

*Robert E. Coleman
One of the very earliest books on discipleship. Reprinted many times.

Stedman, Ray C.
One of the earliest and very best books on the importance of community in church growth. Written by a pastor.

*Arn, Win
A small book with a great idea about what ratios should be in your church in order to grow. Very practical book.

*Dudley, Roger L. and Des Cummings Jr.
An SDA book published by two professors from Andrews University during the height of the Church Growth movement. Came with workbook for churches.

*Barna, George
Evangelical researcher based in Glendale California who does annual research and then writes a book to inform church leaders about how the church can better serve and win the society around them.
**Theology of Church Growth**

*Bosch, David J.*

The very best theology of mission every printed. Period.

*Newbigin, Lesslie*

Anglican missionary to India who was able to critique the effects of Western society on the church.

*Costas, Orlando*

1982 *Christ Outside the Gate*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books
Theologian from Latin America who critique the church growth movement in relation to liberation theology and the two-thirds world.

**Current Church Growth Practice**

*Warren, Rick*

California mega-church pastor. Excellent discipleship. See pastors.com

*Hybels, Bill*

Chicago mega-church pastor. Excellent mission.

Schwarz, Christian

1996 *Natural Church Development*. Carol Stream, IL: ChurchSmart Resources
Current professor at Fuller. Reformed. Deals with theology of mission and the missionary nature of the local church.

*In Leslie Hardinge Library at AIIAS*
The Church Growth Movement is a movement within evangelical Christianity which aims to grow churches based on research, sociology, analysis, etc. The Church Growth Movement started with a passion for the Great Commission, and seeing people come to Christ. Donald McGavran, a seminal figure in this movement asserted that "It is God's will that women and men become disciples of Jesus Christ and responsible members of Christ's church". Growth of any kind follows a typical pattern. As with a growing organism, the local church has those who plant the seed (evangelists), those who water the seed (pastor/teachers), and others who use their spiritual gifts for the growth of those in the local church. But note that it is God who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:7). Those who plant and those who water will each receive their own reward according to their labor (1 Corinthians 3:8). The New Testament and church historians speak of the rapid early growth of the church. What can we glean from the history of the early church that might be relevant to church growth today? First, it is clear Jesus is the basis for the church's growth. He said, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). No person can take credit for the church's growth. It is the result of God's work. Similarly, "growth" is not about number of attendees.