# A NATION IN CRISIS A CHURCH IN ACTION



### **LOST IN AMERICA**

Take a guess. How many Americans today have a biblical worldview? That is, how many Americans believe the Bible is true, authoritative, and applicable to every area of life?

You might guess 50%. Or at least 40%. Certainly at least a quarter of all Americans share a biblical worldview, right?

Wrong.

The latest Barna research indicates that out of every 100 Americans, only 6 embrace a biblical worldview. Yes: 6%.

Incredibly, 51% *claim* they have a biblical worldview — but when you question their beliefs in detail, you discover the tragic truth: *They don't know what a biblical worldview is.* Reincarnation is possible? Jesus isn't the only way to salvation? Americans don't know what "biblical" means anymore. They're deluded.

An astonishing 41% believe that the Bible, the Koran, and the Book of Mormon express *the same divine truths*.

On surveys inquiring about Americans' religious affiliation, there's a fast-growing trend: Today, 22.8% of all Americans answer "None."



### A DISAPPEARING GENERATION

Our youth now appear to be more lost than any others. Millennials, 24- to 40-year-olds, identify as "Christian" in great numbers: 61%. But only 2% of them actually hold a biblical worldview.

Among young people now in their teenage years, 40% claim no religious affiliation whatsoever.

Some 60% of all American teens admit they've never read Scripture on their own.

45% — those who claim to be Christian as well as those who don't — believe all religions teach equally valid truths.

American teens are increasingly tolerant of sexual immorality. Nearly half of 13- to 15-year-olds admit to viewing pornography within the past 3 months.

The world is not helping young people cope. The COVID-19 pandemic took a terrible toll. Emergency room visits for mental health crises among 12- to 17-year-olds increased an alarming 31%. In the same demographic, ER visits for suspected suicide attempts rose 22% last summer compared to the previous summer — and 39% in the winter compared to the previous winter.

#### A GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE STUDY BY THE ONEHOPE MINISTRY REVEALS:

- U.S. teens are the most dissatisfied with their family experience of any country surveyed.
- 35% of U.S. teens have had suicidal thoughts within the past 3 months — the highest rate of any country in the worldwide survey.
- 56% of Christian teens say premarital sex is acceptable.
- 25% of all teens report feeling sexually attracted to someone of the same gender within the past 3 months.

SPIRITUALLY, THE YOUNGEST AMONG US MAY BE IN THE DEEPEST TROUBLE



# MINDS NEEDING RENEWAL

The state of mental health in our nation is not in a good place. The pandemic hit hard, mentally as well as physically.

Over the course of 2020, emergency room visits rose dramatically for overdoses (by 36%) and suicide attempts (by 26%).

Last year, according to a recent study, the number of participants reporting symptoms of anxiety or depression rose from 19% to 38%.



## AN OVERLOOKED MISSION FIELD

The Church must respond to the crisis of our times. But we must also understand the times in which we live.

More than ever before, we are a nation of nationalities, a diverse mix of ethnicities. Our nation is home to *46 million foreign-born people*. Nearly 40% of our population belongs to a racial or ethnic minority. At least 350 languages are spoken in the United States today. An estimated 3.35 million Muslims live in the U.S.

You can walk down the street in some neighborhoods and see or hear not a word of English.

It's not "foreign" missions or "home" missions anymore.

It's missions.

It's the redemption of humanity.

This is the heart of God.

If you're going to love "the world," as Jesus called us to, you can get a great head start by loving this country.

The entire world is in our backyard.

#### AMERICA IS ONE OF THE MOST OVERLOOKED MISSION FIELDS ON EARTH



# UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY



# WHO WILL GO?



**1** ur 3,127 missionaries, associates, spouses, and chaplains are at work across the nation, in settings as varied as the U.S. population itself, translating the gospel of Jesus Christ into ministry on multiple levels.

Another 118 missionaries are in training or will be this year.

Your generosity could empower them. Because the need is so great — because the need is so clearly growing, and growing so quickly — we humbly ask that you prayerfully consider participating in this critically important work ... to reach America ... by giving financial support to U.S. Missions. Simply visit http://s1.ag.org/reachamerica.

America needs the Church to be the Church.

We are called by Christ to sow. To sow our prayers. Our sweat. Our obedience. Our humility. And yes, the treasure He's entrusted to us.

America's believers are called to sow into Christ's Great Commission, and our U.S. Missions teams are committed to faithfully serve alongside you to take God's love, grace, and forgiveness to our beloved country.

We welcome your support today, and every day.

God bless you. God bless America.

Malcolm Burleigh
Executive Director
U.S. Missions



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