

SATIRE ON TRYING TO FIND A NEW CHURCH

When people relocate, after finding good schools and housing, or retirement centers, many of them seek out a suitable Church. But they find most churches have changed! Even when they return to their childhood Church, they can't recognize it anymore!

Many Churches became concerned about their ageing population and dwindling young membership. So they brought in "experts" to devise programs that would attract young people. They were told that evangelical services were "passé". Young brains were too immature to make such vital spiritual decisions. They needed to explore and find out by experience what worked best for them! Social Gospel was the latest thing to bring in the younger people. So instead of Wednesday night prayer meeting, they were shown secular movies or went in a group to Rap concerts, or to the local cinema, to see the latest movie not yet on DVD. They also received instructions on how to deny responsibility, and avoid consequences, for any of their misbehavior. They must blame it all on their parents, teachers, and circumstances! Summer Camps were entertaining and recreational with no Evangelistic Messages. Instead they learned to drink and use illegal drugs! Whoever questioned the Church about the wisdom of these changes got browbeat with the Scripture; "BY ALL MEANS WIN SOME"!

At Church, Gospel Rock and Rap and 7-11songs (7 words repeated 11 times) were introduced. Huge speakers, amplifiers, brass percussion instruments, and electric guitars, were purchased so they could compete with secular Bands! Soon the decibel level in the services exceeded OSHA maximum standards for factories. Even more powerful amplifiers had to be purchased to compensate for the people's progressive hearing losses. The newly attracted crowd contributed much to the noise level but very little to the offering plate. Meanwhile, the older members, who had supported their Church, so faithfully, for so many years, decided to preserve the last vestige of their hearing and sanity and join the "Bedside Baptists" and stay home and watch TBN Channels if they could not find another suitable Church. At least they had control of the volume! They had also found, that, the MegaChurches with their distant acres of parking lots, buses, shuttles, bewildering social programs, confusing directions, and instructions, imposed too much of a sensory overload for their remaining functioning brain cells. Trying to locate their cars after Church drove them to the very edge of insanity!

Loss of income caused another Church panic! So compromises had to be introduced. Two services were introduced, one was traditional; the other was contemporary. Instead of a Choir, there was a "Praise Team". If the fellowship hall was large enough, both services could be had at the same time. But, if the fellowship hall was too near the Church, that music would drown out the other service. However the percussion noises were eventually dampened. Newly formed "Rock Groups" found it easy to obtain musical instruments for their start up bands. They started breaking into Churches and stealing high quality musical instruments for their bands. In turn, the stolen instruments were stolen again by other "bands" and finally ended up in Pawn shops to feed the drug habits of the former band members.

Meanwhile, many of those attending the contemporary services got tired of all the noise and repetition, especially when they found that their hearing was becoming permanently impaired. They, then, started attending Megachurches where they could be anonymous and have no responsibilities. Some, then, stopped attending the MegaChurches but plastered the Churches' bumper stickers all over their cars to make people think they were dedicated "regulars". The original Churches were no better off for all their efforts to bring in younger members. They are now closing or hiring back the "experts" to tell them what to do next!

Some Churches in Colorado expect to have a huge boost in attendance now that marijuana has been legalized. They are planning Wednesday night "Smoke Outs with Reflections" for the young adults. Plans are being made for the members to grow and sell their own "weed" on lands owned by the Churches. Prizes will be given out by the Church for the best product. Also, selling the material would bring the Church a lot of money. Tithing would be a thing of the past! If their project is successful, some Churches in other states will lobby to get the drug legalized in their State so they can also increase their incomes and memberships.

P.S. Even though much of this is satire, there is some truth in it.

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