

WISDOMHOUSE



Wisdom's House Briefmail: Do Statistics Matter? 1/1

(Next series of Briefmails: Elijah & Wisdom)

Quoting statistics is a mixed bag. I've heard more of them for the past decade-or-two in differing forms but with the same clear message: "We're losing (we've lost) a generation!" I've listened to statistics in stadiums with men, stadiums with youth, mega-churches, small churches, simulcast churches, conferences, and heart to heart one on one conversation. Mostly - they don't make a difference to people in any real way. We remain stuck, even lost.

The only thing I've seen effect change is the revelation provided by the Holy Spirit - the Holy Spirit of Wisdom, being essential.

None of this excuses sloppy writing, which is the reason I am sending this Briefmail - to apologize. The statistics I quoted in my last Briefmail give the general idea, but were not word for word. Please forgive me, sincerely. Integrity is everything, and mine is worth more than generalizations - even if I feel mixed about their effectiveness. :0)

I paraphrased, without telling you I was paraphrasing, statistics from two books written by two men I have had a building esteem for over the past twenty years, Josh McDowell and Ron Luce. They are accurate and very intelligent men and they are quoting other sources which are also very accurate and reliable, George Barna and Thom S. Rainer.

It is important to me, as much as I respect these men and have similar viewpoints in the assessment of the situation, I see distinctly different solutions for the church and what it will take to reach the next generation.

Regarding the statistics:

I said, "96% who call themselves Christians do not have a Biblical world-view. 98% of America says they believe in Jesus, but have no significant actions or life-style that demonstrates such a belief."

The quote directly from the source:

The Last Christian Generation, Josh McDowell: "According to Barna's research ninety-six percent (96%) of professed born-again adults and ninety-eight percent (98%) of professed born-again young people do not reflect Christ-like attitudes and actions." George Barna, **The State of the Church**.

Battle Cry for a Generation, Ron Luce, quoting Thom S. Rainer, **The Bridger Generation**,

- Builders (born 1927-1945): 65% Bible-based believers;
- Boomers (born 1946-1964); 35% Bible-based believers;
- Busters (born 1965-1983); 16% Bible-based believers;
- Bridgers (or Millennials, born 1984 or later); 4% Bible-based believers.

