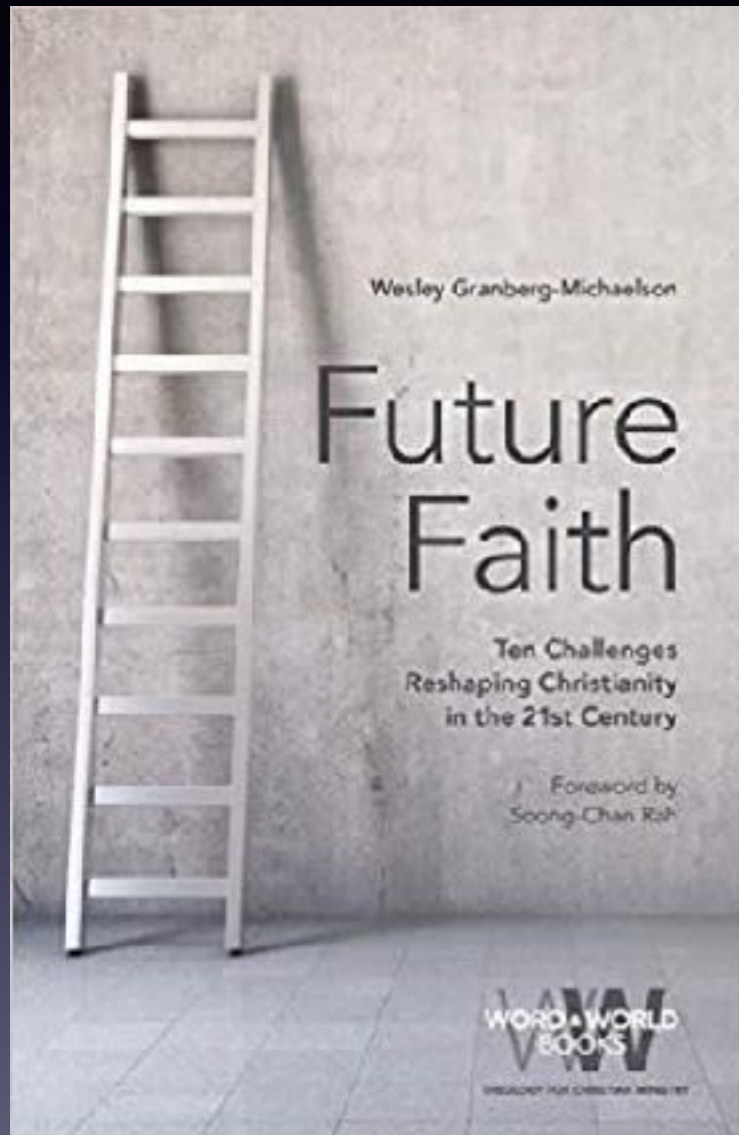


Future Faith



Holy Manners Bookstudy 44

ACTS
Winter 2020

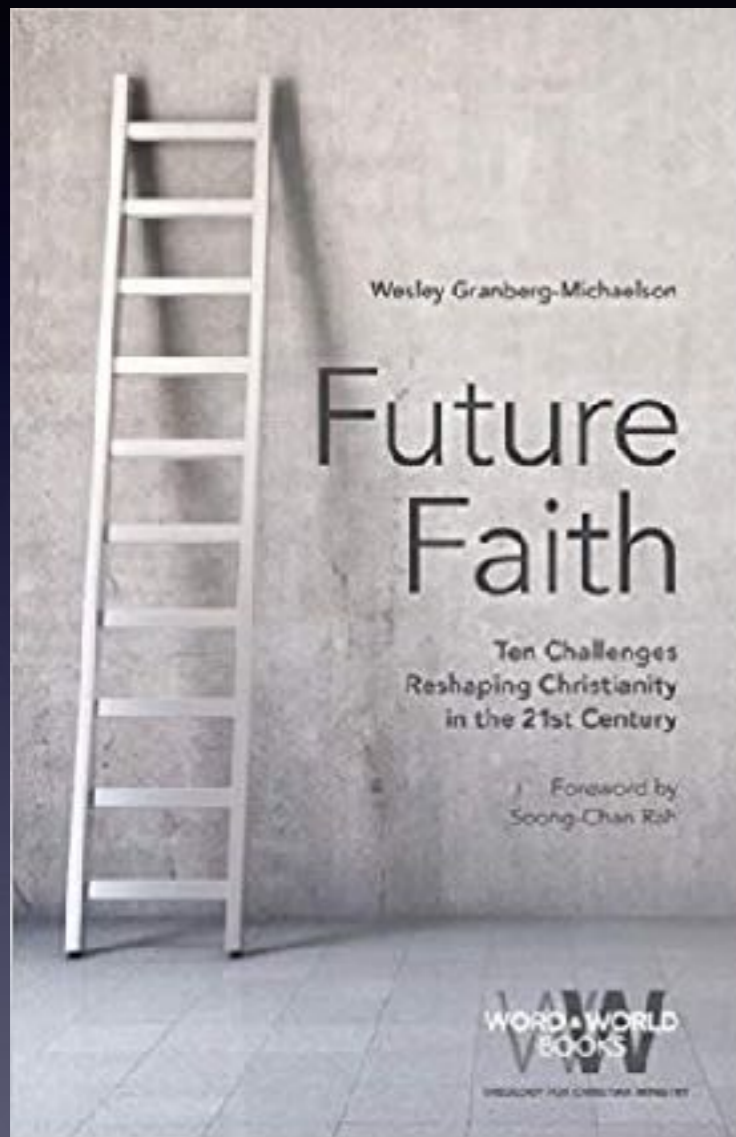
St David's United Church
Calgary

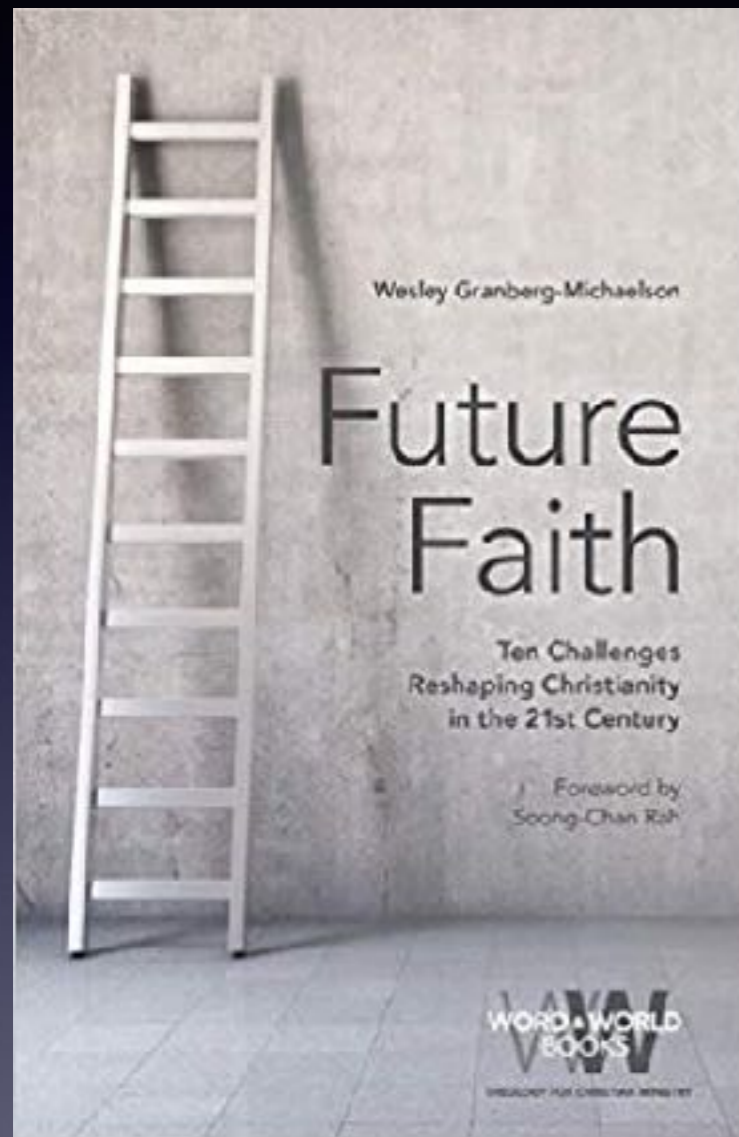
Session # 1

- Housekeeping - Wayne
- Opening Prayer - Wayne
- Opening - Jock
- Welcomes & Introductions - Wayne
- Why have we come? - Brenda
- Why this book? - Wayne
- Hospitality Break
- Introducing Future Faith.
- Video - The Author -Jock
- Proposals for Study - Jock
- Discussion -Brenda
- Closing Prayer - Wayne

Housekeeping & Opening Prayer

Wayne





Opening

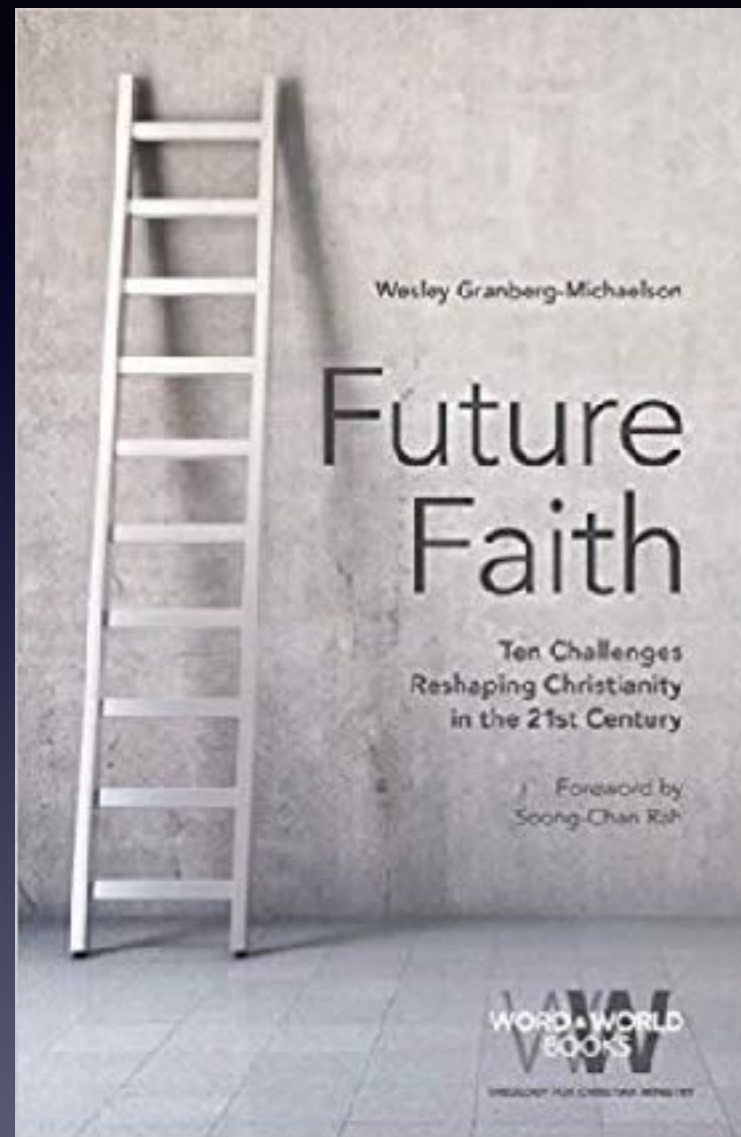
Jock



Canada set to lose 9,000 churches in the next decades.

2m40s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVtM4sd55Fk>

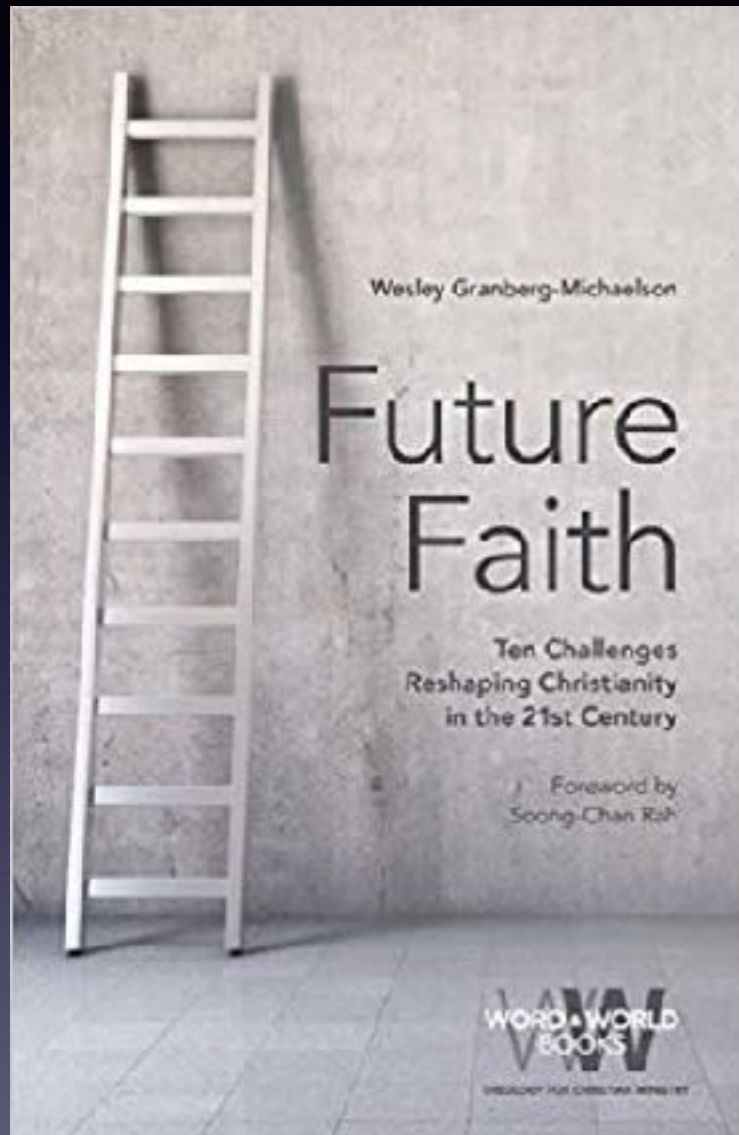


Future Faith

Welcomes, Introductions

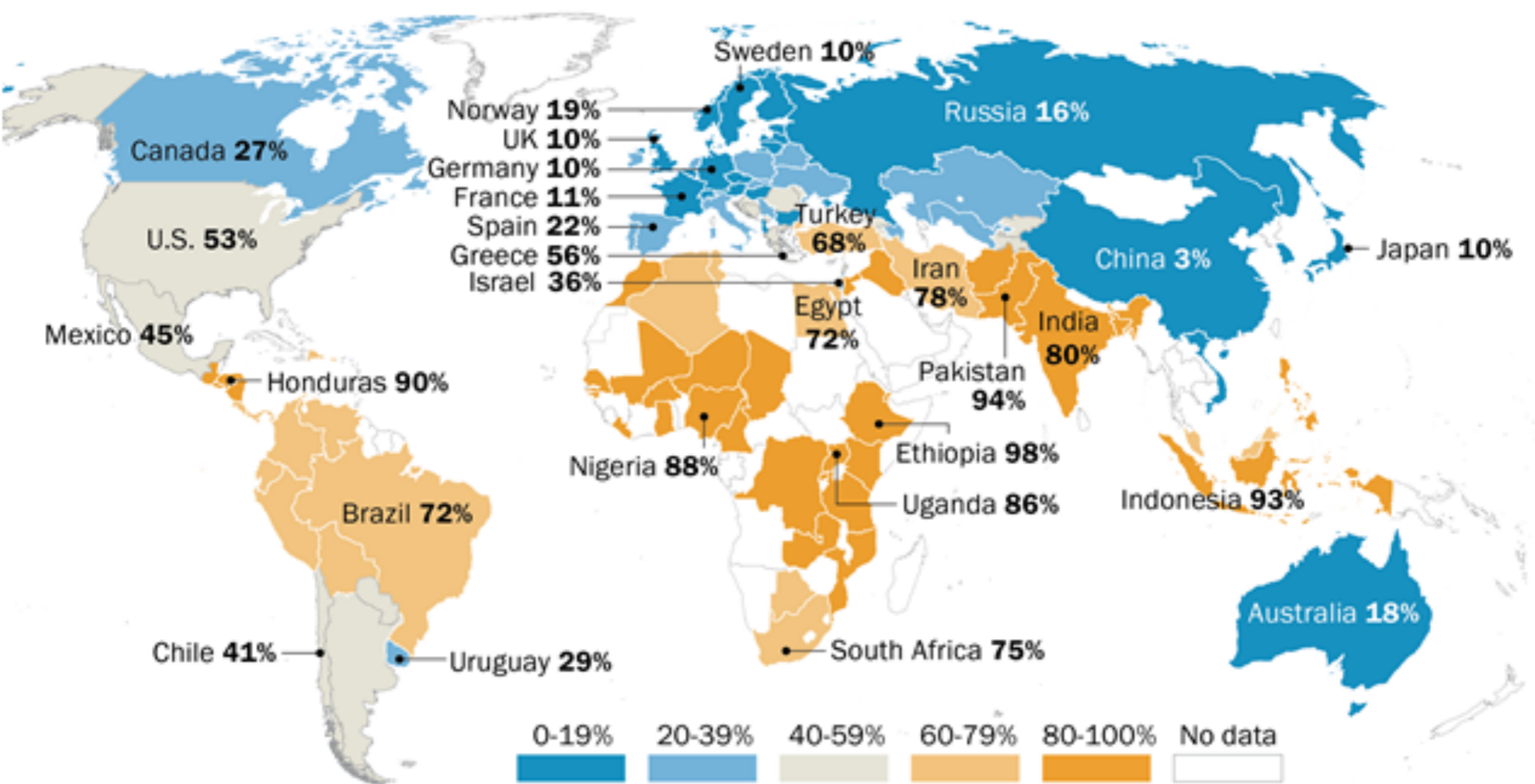
Why have we come?

Brenda

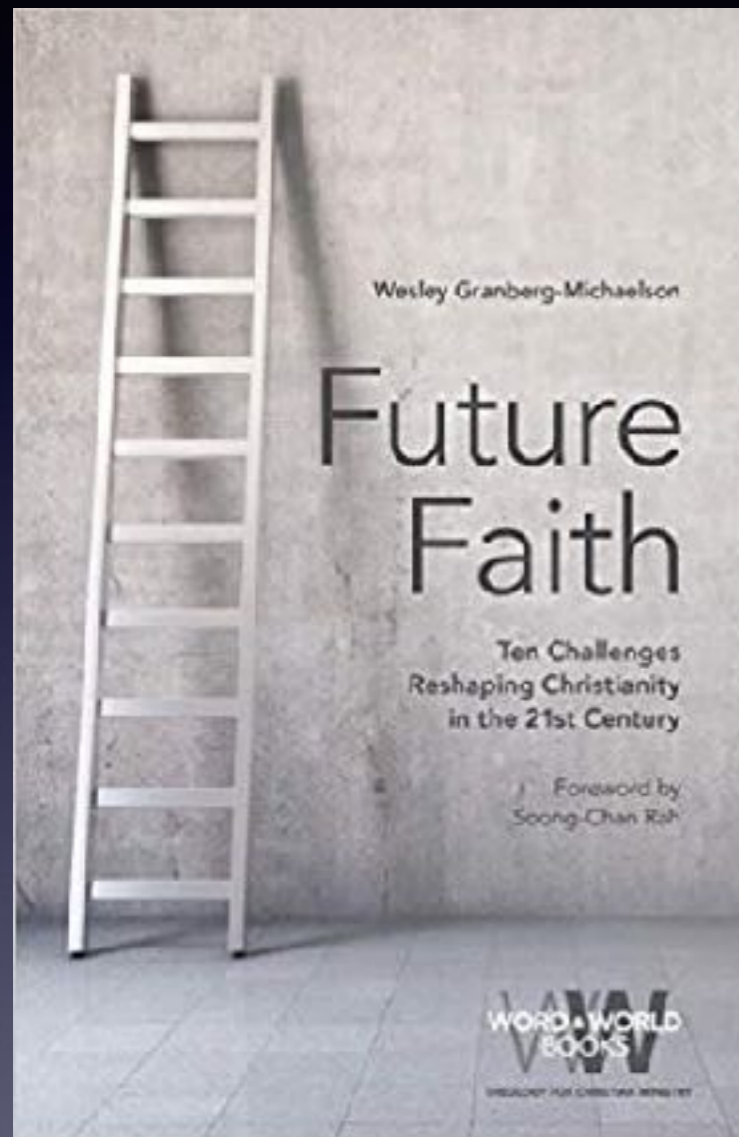


People in Europe and East Asia say religion is not very important to them

% who say religion is very important in their lives



Source: Pew Research Center surveys, 2008 to 2017.
"The Age Gap in Religion Around the World"



Why this book?

Wayne

Why This Book?

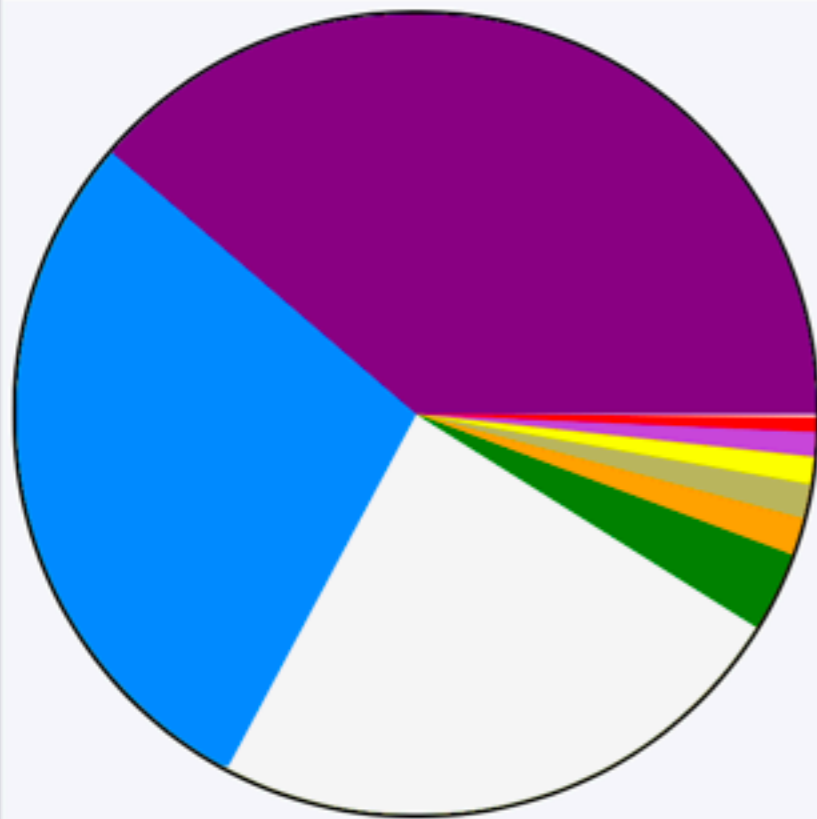
Christian Decline in the Northern Hemisphere



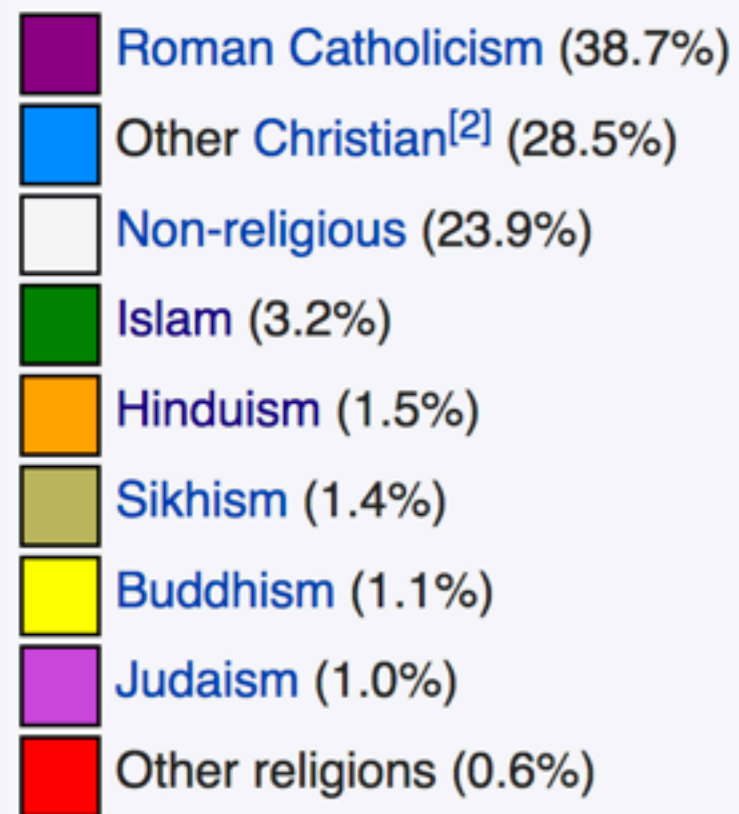


Why This Book?

Christian Growth Explosion in the
Southern Hemisphere



Religion in Canada (2011 National Household Survey)^[1]



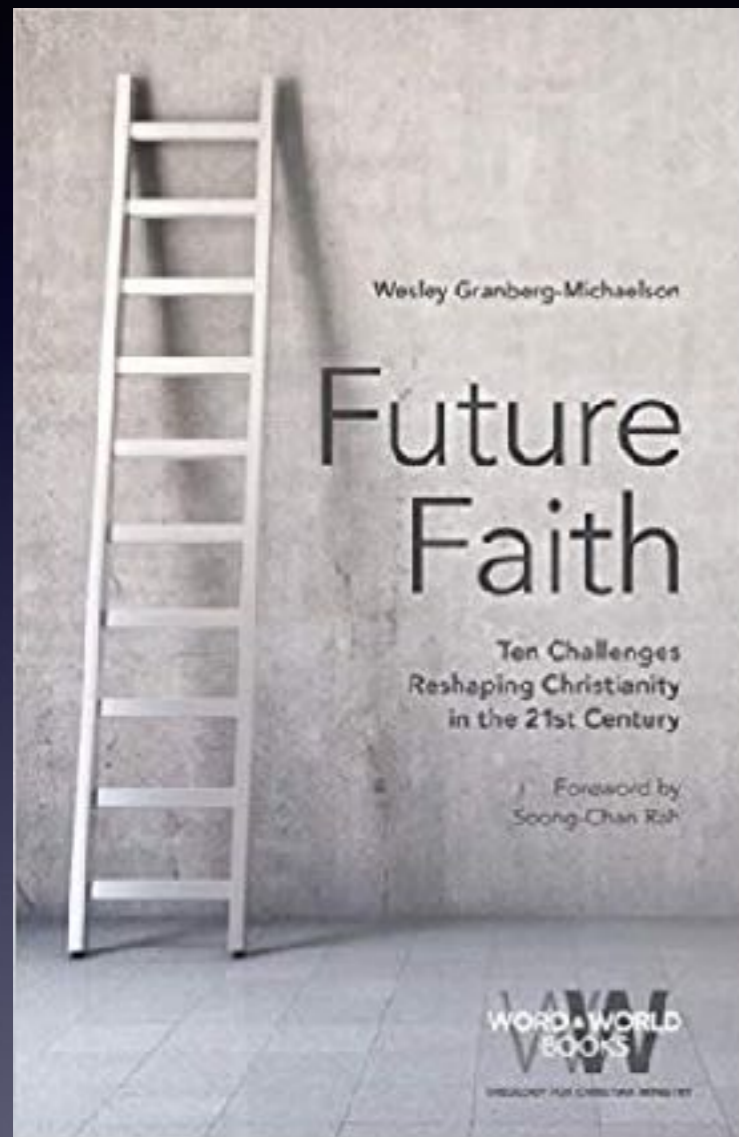
Why This Book?

Implications for the Church in Canada



Why This Book?

What Can We Do About It at St.
David's?



My Expectations For This Class

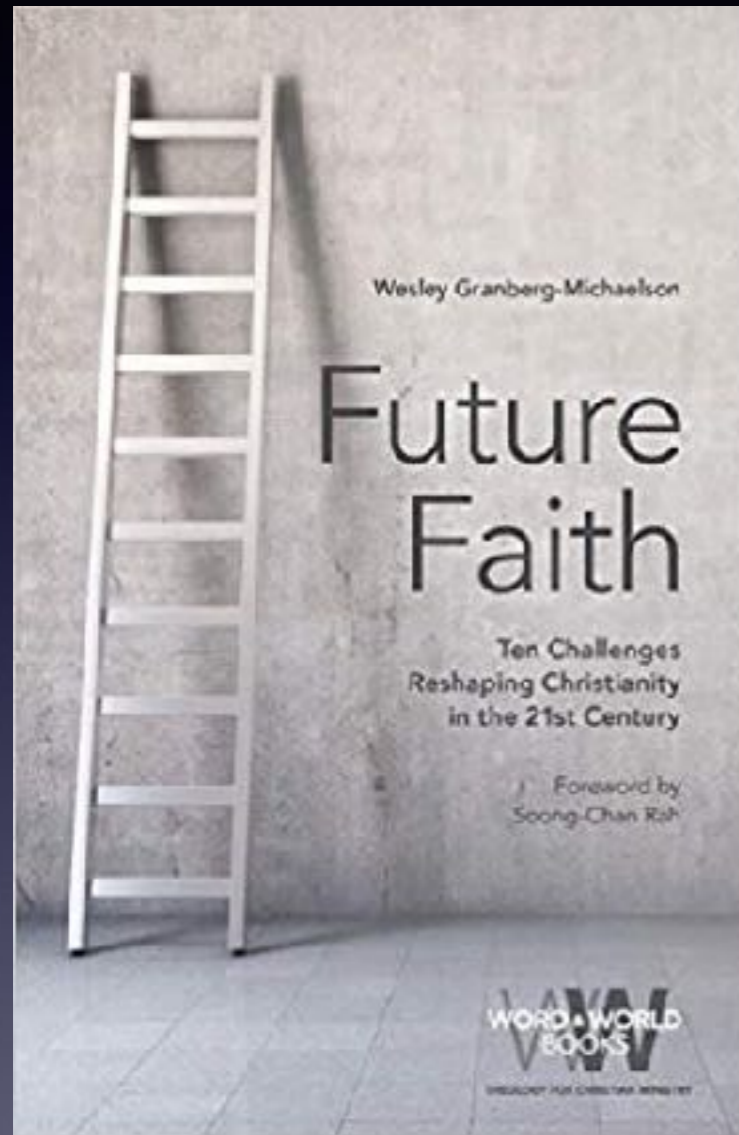
Discussion

BREAK



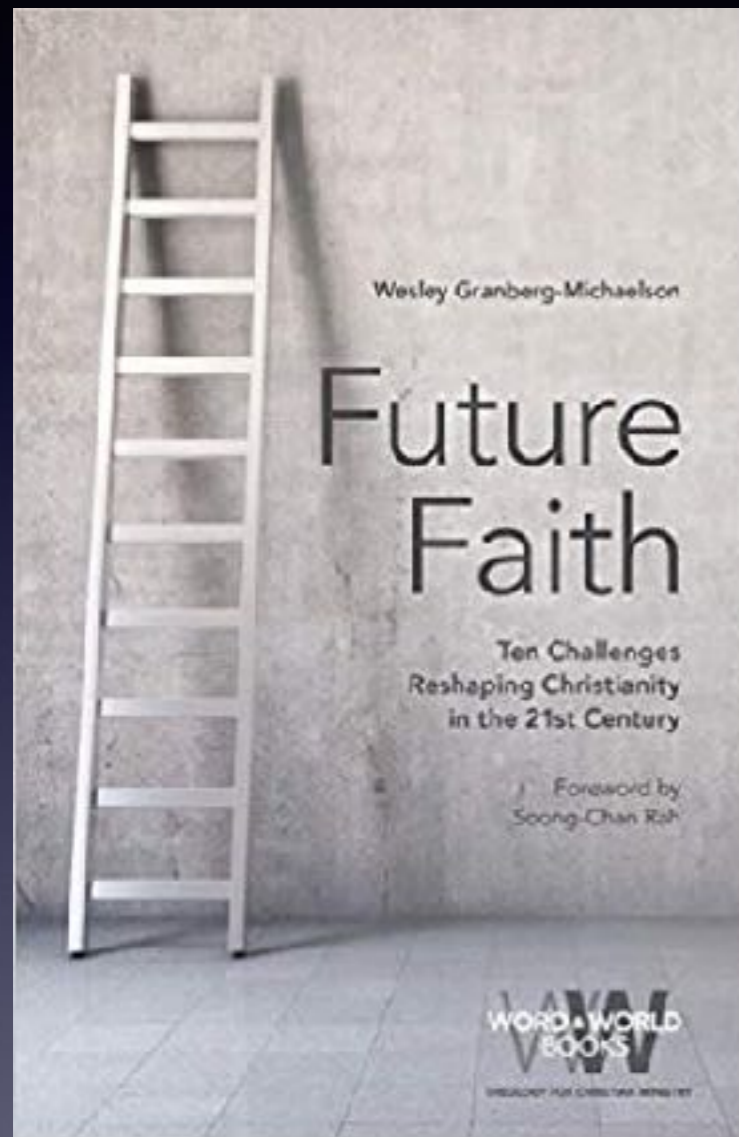


Time now. Please return.



Introducing Future Faith

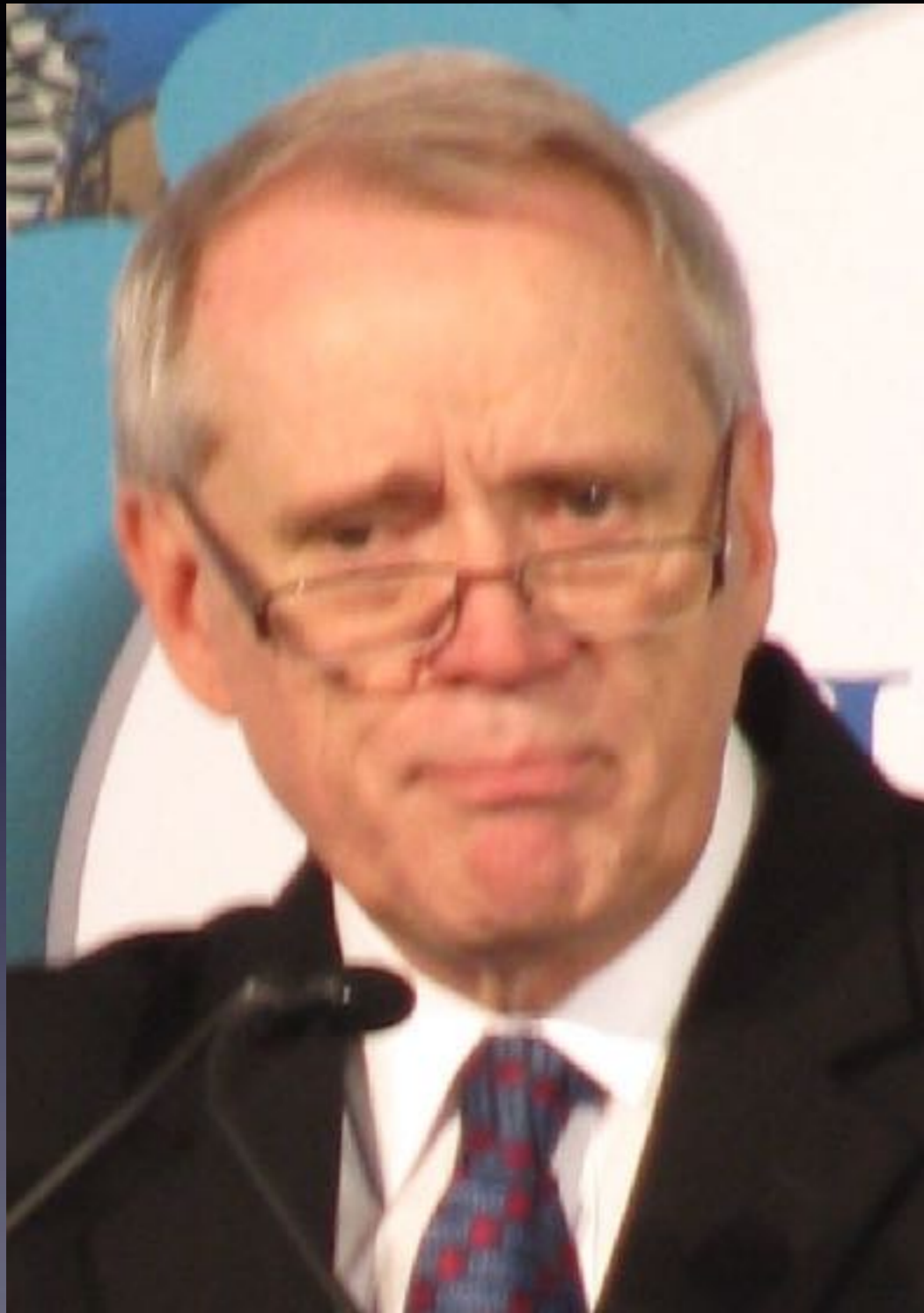
Book Review - Wayne
Video on the Author - Jock
Questions for Study - Jock
Discussion - Brenda



Key Points on the Book and Author

(See Waynes book review in the appendix and for reading on-line)

sduc.ca



Introducing the Author

Wesley
Granberg-
Michaelson

THE LUXCAST

A PODCAST OF
WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
WHERE FAITH AND CULTURE MEET.

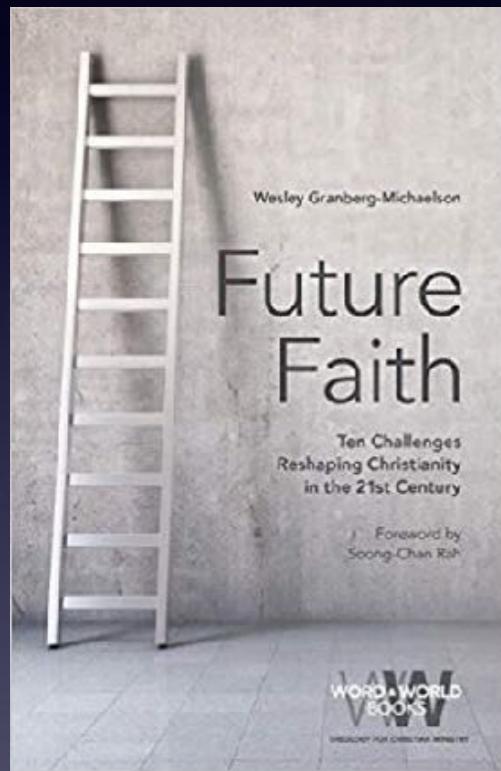


An Interview on the themes of the book Future Faith
8 min excerpts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMkvOL4exSI>

Questions for Study - Jock

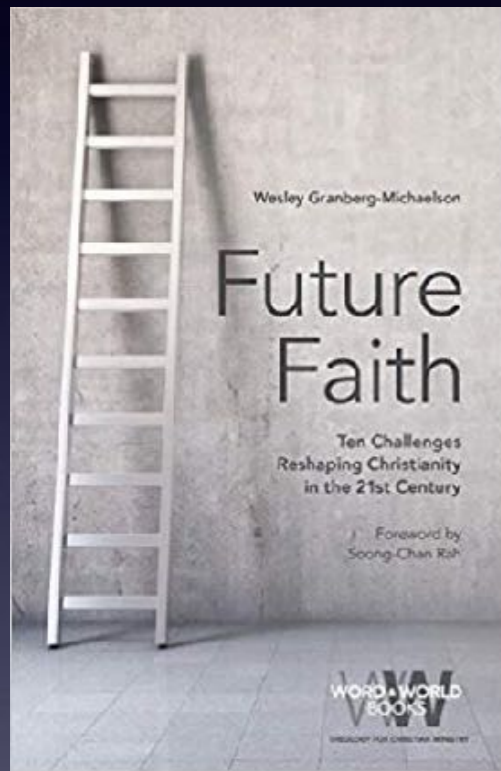
This book is different.



It is even more "American" than usual,
It has a lot of world-wide attention.
It is a "house on fire" sort of book.
It invites not a listening,
but a conversation, and a doing.
It is about missions, and purpose
and Christian basics.
It accuses us as being distracted
and "white".

Quite a difference.

Christianity is growing in the world yet failing in the “white” world. It invites us not to observe, listen and respect these newer Christians.



We of the UCC have too many small churches on the brink of dying. and without much mission staff are overloaded our children didn't hear us

The Holy Envy study showed us the value of visiting and looking outside.

What would constitute something similar?

Proposal:

First Period

Starts - 10 min

Chapter synopsis - 10 min

Video supplements - 10 min

Small Group Discussions - 30 min

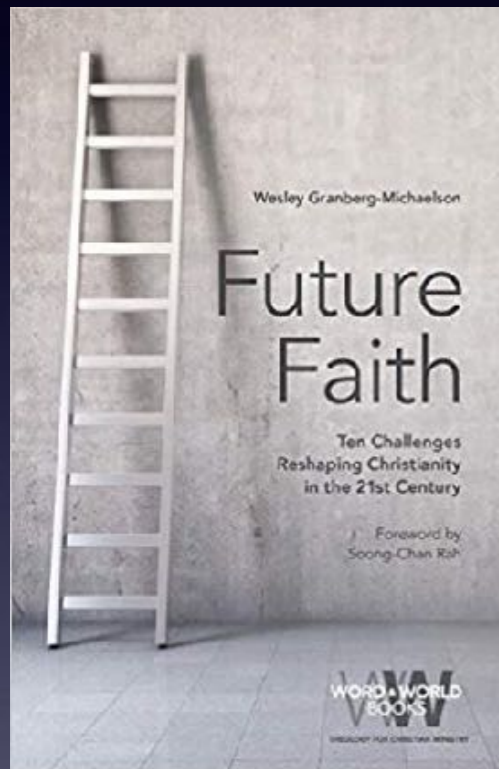
Break Chat - 20 min

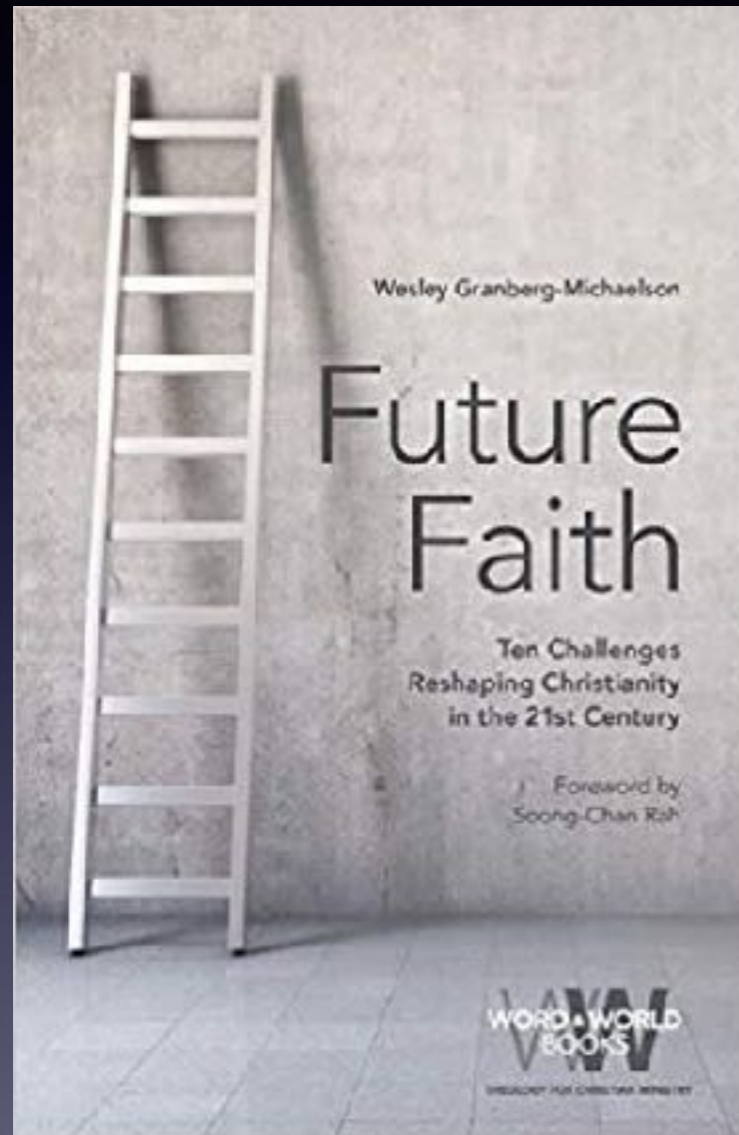
Second Period

Small Group Reports - 10

Discussion at large - 25

Ends - 5 min





Discussions

What then are ideas and directions for this study?

Brenda

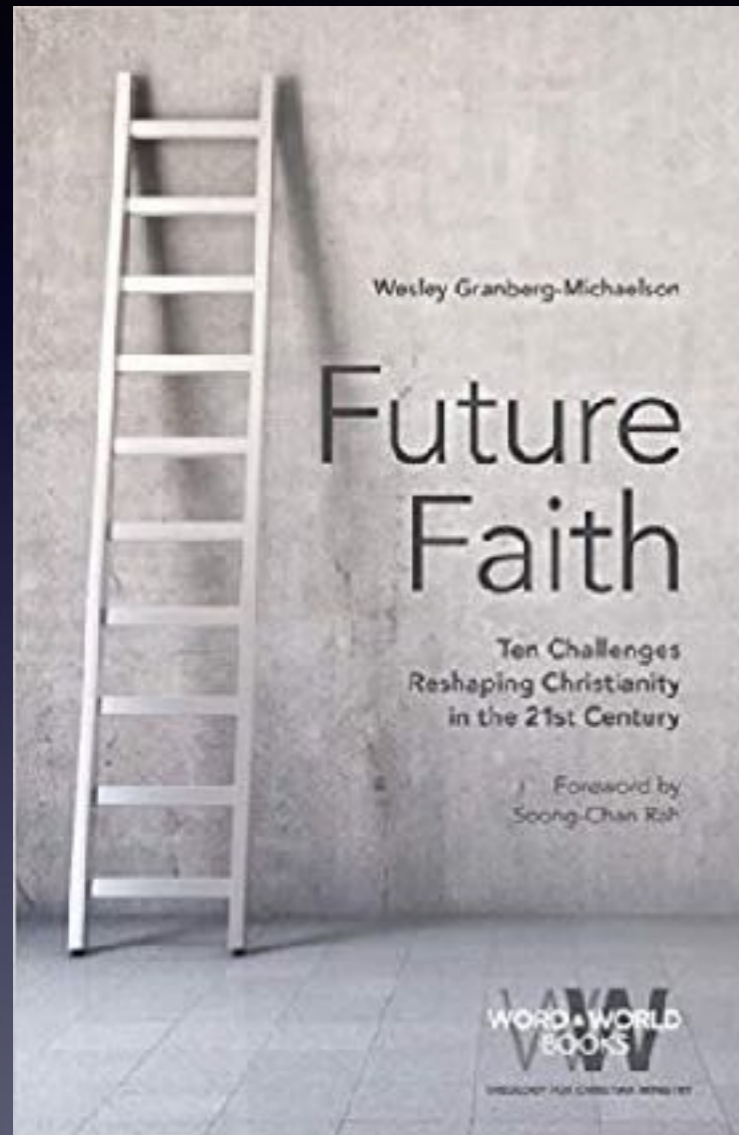
Next Readings

Session 2 - 20 Jan 2020

**Challenge One:
Revitalizing Withering Congregations**

Study Website

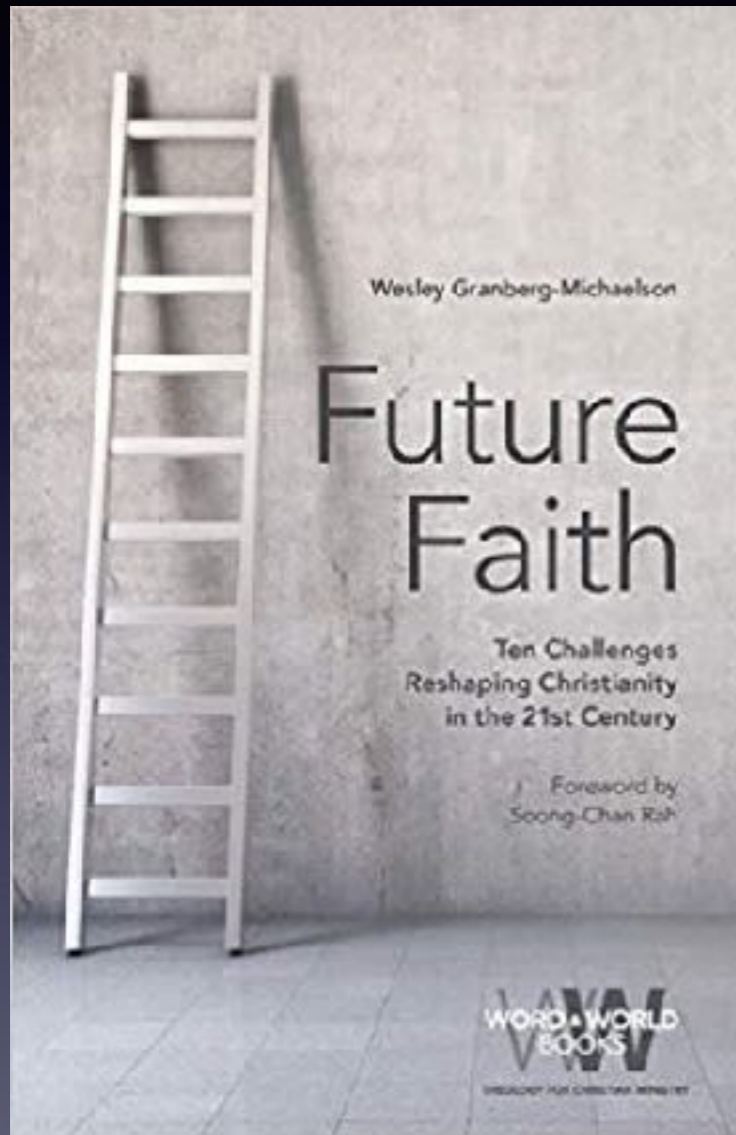
sduc.ca



Closing Prayer

Wayne

Supplementary Info



Key Points on the Book and Author

(See Waynes book review in the appendix and for reading on-line)

sduc.ca

Book Review by Wayne Holst

FUTURE FAITH - Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century
by Wesley Granberg-Michaelson Fortress Press, Philadelphia, 2018.

Publishers Promo:

In Future Faith: Ten Challenges Reshaping the Practice of Christianity, author Wesley Granberg-Michaelson provides a lucid view of how the top ten winds of change blowing through global Christian faith are reshaping the practice of Christianity today. He is uniquely qualified to identify and interpret connection points between global Christian trends and the American church. Drawing on the stories, examples, and personalities of pastors and congregations from throughout the U.S. as well as those from Africa, Asia, Latin America, who are the faces of Christianity's future, Future Faith is designed to inform and empower followers of Jesus to seek new ways of becoming the face of Christ to a rapidly changing world.

Leaders and practitioners in church growth, renewal, and planting will be a primary audience for this book. Students of religion from Catholic, evangelical, Pentecostal, and historic Protestant streams will find this book an informative and stimulating resource for pondering together the future of their faith. Small groups engaged in congregational nurture and growth will find in the author a welcome companion for guiding them through the multi-cultural landscape of contemporary faith.

Author's Words:

Christianity is at a hinge point in its history. It's happened before.

Today, Christianity is undergoing another major historical shift. For the first time in more than one thousand years, a majority of the world's Christians are living in the Global South. This trend is accelerating, and constitutes the most dramatic geographical shift in the history of Christianity... Christianity has now become a non-Western religion.

But this shift is about far more than geography. The future of Christian faith in the world is being driven by diverse, expanding groups of believers centred in Africa, Latin America and Asia. How they see the world and how they practice their faith are different from the well-established forms of Christianity in the West. (Our interconnected world means that changes in other continents will significantly impact the faith of our own.)

This book's purpose is to focus on how US congregations are challenged to change at this watershed moment in Christian history. (Please note "My Thoughts" comments on implications for Canadian congregations, below.) I want to explore that this shift in world Christianity means, for congregations large and small, across the country.

(The author recalls the influence that the books *Future Shock* (Toffler) and *Megatrends* (Naisbitt) had on his early life.)

Recalling both those books, I became convinced that a similar approach was needed to explain and explore what this shift in global Christianity means for the future of US congregations. In this book, I have identified what I believe are the ten major trends or challenges, that require our awareness if we wish to participate in changing expressions of Christian faith that are being driven by God's spirit.

(The author provides background on his own life and career that help him to write a book like this. The book *Future Faith* is the result. He does not investigate all modern challenges such as Islam, persecution, global urbanization, economic inequalities, globalization, however.)

The primary purpose of this book is to focus on how the dramatic movement of world Christianity to non-Western cultures of the Global South present challenges and opportunities to the practice of faith in US congregations.

(Taking many factors into consideration, however the author declares)

“Looking to the future, Christianity’s global trajectory displays clear signs of vitality and promise.”

The problem for many Christians in the United States is that we instinctively believe that we are the center of the Christian world. Realizing that we are not and embracing the re-centering of global Christianity as God’s gift to the whole church open pathways for our renewal...

My hope and prayer is that individuals and faith communities will address these ten challenges as opportunities to embrace a new future reshaping Christianity in the twenty-first century.

– from the author’s Introduction

Author’s Bio:

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson has served as General Secretary of the Reformed Church, Director of Church and Society for the World Council of Churches in Geneva, and as a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the John W. Kluge Center of the Library of Congress. His most recent book is *From Times Square to Timbuktu: The Post-Christian West Meets the Non-Western Church*.

Review by Dr. Wayne Holst

My Thoughts:

Readers of Colleagues List know that I am always on the lookout for books that give perspective on the future of Christian faith. In addition, I keep a close eye on the work of Canadian colleagues like Reginald Bibby and Angus Reid to give us an authentically Canadian perspective.

We are no longer dependent on Americans to provide us with a “continental perspective.” Frequently in the past I would cringe when reading an American view assuming that “those people to the north of us where the cold winds come from” are essentially Americans. There are growing, distinctively Canadian ways of looking at things and it is important for Canadians and non-Canadians to recognize this.

That said, a book like this from an American author is different. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson starts with a global perspective and has a lot of experience to back that up. His ten key points about the future can be applied to the Canadian situation as well as his own. His philosophy is not committed to “making America great again” but rather to seeing how a healthy globalized balance is better for everyone.

(I want to make clear that this approach is not anti-American. I hope it reflects a more mature internationalism and ecumenism.)

Here then are his ten challenges to the faith (his chapter headings)

1. Revitalizing Withering Congregations 2. Embracing the Color of the Future 3. Seeing through Non-Western Eyes 4. Perceiving the World as Sacred 5. Affirming Spirit-Filled Communities 6. Rejecting the Heresy of Individualism 7. De-Americanizing the Gospel 8. Defeating Divisive Culture Wars 9. Belonging Before Believing 10. Saving This World.

This is the kind of book I want to spend time digesting and utilizing. I can see it influencing a lot of my teaching and writing in the future.

Wayne Holst

Wayne A. Holst was a Lutheran pastor (ELCIC) for 25 years. He taught religion and culture at the University of Calgary for a quarter century and co-ordinates adult spiritual development at St. David's United Church, Calgary.

ACTS

Awakening **C**ompassion
through
Theology and **S**pirituality.

A short 20 year review of ACTS at StDavids.

“Adult Education” to “Adult Spiritual Development” to “ACTS”

ACTS - Book Studies

A short explanation to what we mean by "Adult Studies"

Adult studies provide opportunities to build our faith in community and in ever more mature ways as we confront life's opportunities and challenges
We sponsor both "book studies" and "Bible studies"

What is a book study?

We attempt to offer books that encourage a stimulating exchange of ideas that can result in spiritual growth

We are inclusive, not divisive, and live "holy manners"

ACTS - Holy Manners

Marion Pardy was the 37th Moderator of the United Church of Canada from 2000 to 2003. She brought Holy Manners to the UCC with the 38th Council which adopted these principles: " We will:

- keep God at the centre of everything we do
- separate people from problems
- allow for full and equitable participation
- listen carefully without interruption
- welcome the conflict of ideas
- honour the decisions of the body"

Article on the history and use in the church of the phrase:
<http://www.1journey.net/stdavids/SD/HolyMannersPage.htm>



ACTS - Book Studies

Our studies seek to complement other ministries here at the church in creating mutual spiritual support and development.

We are concerned about both "in reach" and "outreach".

We seek to be inclusive, not divisive, and live "holy manners" in the way we relate to each other.

We try to appeal to people of "our faith" "other faiths" or "no faith" preferences.

We seek to broaden our horizons and deepen our understandings of life in community.