

Why Cars Don't Move On Sunday Morning?

Why Has Attendance In The African American Church Declined In The

Metropolitan Atlanta area?

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## Background

Like death change is inevitable. The African American church for the baby boomers was a place of support for the African American people in the Atlanta area. It was the one place where African American could come and plan services that would help the African community. In order to find religious and spiritual meaning for there lives they had to come to the brick and mortal church building. Families got into there automobiles and drove to the church together on Sunday morning. Some time they made a day of it. The church was reverence for the African American community.

The highest technology for baby boomers was the automobile, the telephone, and the television set. Mail went by the post office and it would take much longer then it do now. We had knee mail but we did not email. This was the world of the baby boomers. The baby booms had an encounter with God and wanted to and did preserved that encounter with God in a brick and mortal building. The baby boomers still go to these building religiously and some times each and every Sunday.

The world today has changed. It is called the technological world. The young people living in this technological world call millennials.They are the generation after the baby boomers. They have options concerning worship that the baby boomers could only dream of. It is this group of young people that is causing the decline in the African American church. They can go to church on a hand held device because they have the internet , youtube social media, and texting. The world has changed. The way to god has not changed. It is up to the baby boomers to teach the millennials how to do knee mail. In the gospel Jesus would leaves the ninety-nine and seek out the lost seep. If

we do not reach them the brick and mortar building will be a thing of the pass. Which these thing in mind this paper is about the group of people called the millennials?

There age group is between 22 years old and 45 years old. They wear their technological literacy Like a badge. They are in line to inherit the wealth that there parents have accumulated over their life time. This will make them the wealthiest generation of African American ever. They are also the most educated African American in this country's history. [Pew Research Center, Social Demographic Trends,2010] This is great stuff but they are also the least religious in our history.

They make a distinction between religion and spirituality. While the baby boomers starts there worship in the brick and mortal building, the millennials start their spirituality anywhere, that is where the baby boomers talks about it happening after they leave church. It is not that they are not religious. Many of them are both religious and spiritual but they feel like the way the baby boomers worship is out dated.

In a study done by the president of Pinnacle Leadership Associates Mark Tidsworth says that the “spiritual but not religious segment of the population in the United States may be growing, yet they are still largely participating in churches”<sup>1</sup> he told this to the Baptist News Global in an email. Even this was done in an email. The world has changed. Nothing stays the same. Nevertheless it is good news to know the all of our millennials are not coming in the front door and leaving out the back door. This study also says the churches need to invest more money into ministries out side the brick and mortar building into spiritual engagements with God in ways that connect with God, such as reaching out into the community to help those in need.

Problem to be solved.

The problem this dissertation intends to focus on is the reversal of the decline in attendance of the African American church to the end that the brick and mortar building will be preserved. I want not add to the conversations about how we can keep the institutions of the church alive in an atmosphere of decline.

Every generation bears the burden of passing on to the next generation the things in life that has to do with the Ultimate meaning of life. Every generations has done this successfully since Mose met God at the burning. Moses placed the mighty acts of God in the book of Deuteronomy so that the Israelites would not forget the God that liberated them from the slavery of Egypt. These were people that did not have a future in slavery. God has delivered them through the leadership of Moses. Moses last will and testament is find the book of Deuteronomy. We find it in chapter 33:1-29 The states that God would bless and preserves if they did not get amnesia and forget the one that blessed them with freedom.

We find the same thing in the new testament concerning Jesus last will and testament. It is called the Lord's Supper, " This do in remembrance of me1 corinthian 11: 24. We found the next generation in danger of forgetting about the ONE that brought us over. As we look back over history there has been many waves of the future. This time it is the technological wave. This wave has brought about many short cuts and in the process it has destroyed many jobs and will destroy many more. Autonomous trucks planes and trains are on the Horizon. I want the next generation to know only God can save, heal and rescue. I will be focusing on this good news in this study. We can preserve the symbols, rituals and the sacraments of the Christian

Church in the brick and mortar building of the church so that the next generation will not forget about God.

## The Purpose Of This Study

An old “Chinese proverb says that he who aims at nothing hit’s it” My aim is to find out what has caused this revolving door mentality that exist among the millennials, generation X and Y. What caused this behavior that lead to the decline in church attendance. After sorting out these things I would like to put in place a plan to make the church more revenant to the millennials generation and beyond.

I hope and pray to add to the conversation about the church seeking to saved that which was lost. This is the mission of the church of Jesus.

## Research questions

1. What caused the millennial generations to be less religious?
2. What is the different between religion and spirituality and which one caused the decline in church attendance?
3. Do the millennials feel any connections to the African American Church?

## Key Terms Requiring Definitions

Millennials: Person born in a set time frame with the same things in common.

African American Church: A Church that is mostly black.

Religious: human being connected to God or The Divine Dimension.

Spirituality: The acts that are carried out in response to belief in something greater than themselves, in other words a social responses such as feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and so on.

## Assumptions Of The Study Or Matters I Take For Granted

One of the matters I take for granted is these are our children, including the Orphans and the strangers. Most have a religious back ground, that is they were raised by people that are religious. Most black people are religious. They are better educated than the baby boomers. They wear better clothes than the baby boomers did. They are better cared for than the baby boomers were and there is more millennials than there were baby boomers.

They weigh more than baby boomers because they don't get as much exercise as we did. I take it for granted that the millennials get more attention from their parents than baby boomers did to their dislike. The millennials whole world is surrounded by technology. They don't talk on the phone, they text on the phone all day long and they have there on codes that their parents do not understand.

Millennials are the most pampered black generation that there ever has been up to this date and they know it. They are destined to inherit more wealth than any African American in the history of this country and they know that to.

Millennials are connected to their baby boomers parents and therefore also to the traditional church in a different way. This leaves an avenue open for us to travel in such of the lost sheep.

## Limitations

This study is limited to the Metropolitan Atlanta Area because it is beyond the scope of the structure of this study. I have decided to limited the study to the Atlanta Area because Atlanta is where the most of the research facilities are located. There are many African American schools of higher learning located in the Atlanta and this is where there are many African American churches are located. This area is full of millennials and also baby boomers from all over the country.

The time element is also a weakness of this study. With these things in mind I have decided to limit this study to the Metropolitan Atlanta area. The African American Church has been in the past and I am sure will be a church that will welcome people of all races and backgrounds.

## Delimitations

In the Atlanta Area I can find the age groups in both baby boomers and millennials here in Metropolitan Atlanta. I will be able to find to find candidates for surveys and interview for this study. I can find the right genders and ages that will be right for the study I am conducting in a single setting. I will be doing qualitative research trying to find the reasons for not participating in the African-American church on a regular basis.

I will be looking for the millennials opinions and also their motivations. The method I will be using is the focus group method. I want to know what are the trends among these groups. I will also be using individual interviews. All of this will help me to come up with ideas that I can use in quantitative research.

Quantitative will help me in this study to do online research with the millennials also paper surveys. With this method I will be collecting data to measure facts and uncover patterns. I will also use websites to help in this study.

## Importance Of The Study

It cannot be overstated how important this study and all the studies being done concerning the future of the African American Church. The African American Church future is in the hands of the millennials. In this study I am aiming at the millennials. If we do not reach them the African American Church is in danger of dying. This study is also for the baby boomers who has work so hard to keep the African American Church alive and relevant to this generation.

I also hope and pray to add to the conversations about how we can reach the lost sheep for Jesus Christ. I want to contribute this study to the effort to save the African-American church and for the church to be a vehicle for the rescue of generation after generation in the years to come. The African American Church has always made the widows, the strangers and the orphans of all races welcome.

It is my hope and prayer that this study which be important to this generation and the next generation. H.Vinson Synan In his book Spirit-Empowered Christianity In The Twenty-first Century writes

“ The overriding purpose of the congress was to challenge the next generation of young people to experience the empowering work of the Spirit just as the prior generations had done,” <sup>2</sup> Now would be a good time for a fresh out pouring of The Holy Spirit.

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<sup>2</sup>

Writing in a book by the title Studying Congregations the authors writes.” Second, if we believe God is not simply their but also active in the world, then experiencing God also reveals something about ourselves and our world.”<sup>3</sup> I want this study to add to the conversations about a fresh out pouring of The Out Pouring Of The Holy Spirit.

I also hope this study will add to the conversation about faith in God for the millennials. The millennials are going to face a world that is a great deal different from our. Yuval Harari has written a book by the title HOMO DEUS.<sup>4</sup> In an article written in The Christian Century<sup>5</sup> written by Ian Curran a religious teacher at Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrence, Georgia. He says this book look at the future of life as history. Men and women will live longer because of the discoveries of medicine and science. People will be god like. Human being has always longed to be like God. As always they fail short of being like God and live forever.

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## Research Methodology

The methodology for this study will be multi method. I will be using interviews and surveys. I will also be using book and peer reviewed journals in this study. I will be interviewing pastors and ministers in church conferences in the Atlanta area. I will also getting together small groups of millennials and baby boomers to share there opinions about the things that matter to them and also the community. These groups will be made up of both women and men. I hope to interview male and female ministers in the communities for their views and also their opinions.



## Notes

1. Mark Tidsworth, Author and President Of Pinnacle Leadership Associates  
November 8, 2017 [Baptist News Global]
2. Spirit - Empowered Christianity In The Twenty First Century, Vinson Synan, General  
Editor, [Charisma House A Strange Company]
3. Studying Congregations, [ Copyright 1998 by Abingdon Press]
  
- 5 Yuval Noah Harara, Homo Deus, [A Brief History Of Tomorrow]