

Abstract

What lessons on growth can the Church of Ireland learn from the approach of a growing Anglican church, the Anglican Church of Kenya? David McComb

This work examines the subject of mission and growth as an integrative approach and considers biblical, theological and ministerial strands as part of this examination. Although mission is evident in the Old Testament, the primary focus here will be on the missiology of the New Testament through five key sources; Jesus, the disciples, Matthew, Luke-Acts and Paul. In taking an in depth look at the outcomes of the growth of the Anglican Church of Kenya and then considering their causes, the focus is always on the relevance of these biblical, theological and ministerial approaches in an Irish setting. In looking at the outcomes of the growth of the Anglican Church of Kenya, a range of contexts are compared and contrasted: urban and rural, clergy and lay, contemporary and traditional, children and adults, theory and practice, as well as Kenyan and Irish. This work also reviews the numerical changes in Church of Ireland membership across both jurisdictions and captures the church's own responses to these changes, drawing on interviewees and survey respondents as well as personal observations.

The work concludes by reviewing the causes of growth in Kenya and considering a model for their application in the unique cultural setting of the Church of Ireland. The importance of models and the value of a model application are examined as is the overall context of mission. This is considered in terms of why mission matters and how it can be done, in light of the challenges faced by the Church of Ireland.

This work concludes by looking at the core principles of mission, asks whether the causes of growth in the Anglican Church of Kenya can be applied to the Church of Ireland.