

100 FASTEST-GROWING U.S. CHURCHES

2005 CHURCH GROWTH TODAY STUDY/OUTREACH MAGAZINE REPORT:

RANK	'04 GAIN	CHURCH	CITY	STATE	PASTOR	WEB SITE
1	4,330	Without Walls International Church	Tampa	FL	Randy White	withoutwalls.org
2	4,000	Mt. Zion Baptist Church	Whites Creek	TN	Joseph Walker III	mtzionnashville.org
3	3,000	Lakewood Church	Houston	TX	Joel Osteen	lakewood.cc
4	2,990	LifeChurch.tv	Edmond	OK	Craig Groeschel	lifechurch.tv
5	2,608	Saddleback Church	Lake Forest	CA	Rick Warren	saddleback.com
6	2,500	The Fountain of Praise	Houston	TX	Remus Wright	fountainofpraise.org
7	2,480	Second Baptist Church	Houston	TX	Edwin Young	second.org
8	2,255	Franklin Avenue Baptist Church	New Orleans	LA	Fred Luter, Jr.	franklinabc.com
9	2,246	Prestonwood Baptist Church	Plano	TX	Jack Graham	prestonwood.org
10	2,040	Fellowship of The Woodlands	The Woodlands	TX	Kerry Shook	fotw.org
11	2,000	Calvary Temple Worship Center	Modesto	CA	Glen Berteau	ctwc.com
12	2,000	New Hope Christian Fellowship Oahu	Honolulu	HI	Wayne Cordeiro	enewhope.org
13	2,000	St. Matthew's Baptist Church	Williamstown	NJ	Raymond Gordon	stmatthewsbc.org
14	1,900	NorthRidge Church	Plymouth	MI	Brad Powell	northridgechurch.com
15	1,805	Brookhollow Baptist Church	Houston	TX	Ralph Douglas West	churchwithoutwalls.org
16	1,778	King's Cathedral	Kahului	HI	James Marocco	kingscathedral.com
17	1,610	First Baptist Church Atlanta	Atlanta	GA	Charles Stanley	fbn.org
18	1,550	Radiant Church	Surprise	AZ	Lee McFarland	radiantchurch.com
19	1,500	New Direction Christian Church	Memphis	TN	Stacy Spencer	n2newdirection.org
20	1,470	Fellowship Church	Grapevine	TX	Ed Young	fellowshipchurch.org
21	1,400	Faith Fellowship Ministries	Sayreville	NJ	David T. Demola	ffmwoc.org
22	1,396	Immanuel Baptist Church	Wichita	KS	Terry Fox	amenibc.org
23	1,387	Redeeming Grace Baptist Church	San Antonio	TX	Brent M. Bryant, Sr.	rgbc.org
24	1,385	Real Life Ministries	Post Falls	ID	Jim Putman	rlmin.org
25	1,382	Christ's Church of the Valley	Peoria	AZ	Don Wilson	ccvonline.com
26	1,292	Christ Fellowship	Palm Beach Gardens	FL	Tom Mullins	gochristfellowship.com
27	1,200	Reid Temple AME Church	Glenn Dale	MD	Lee P. Washington	reidtemple.org
28	1,200	Seacoast Church	Mt. Pleasant	SC	Greg Surratt	seacoast.org
29	1,200	Sharon Baptist Church	Philadelphia	PA	Keith Reed	sharonbc.org
30	1,200	Willow Creek Community Church	South Barrington	IL	Bill Hybels	willowcreek.org
31	1,200	Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral	Austell	GA	Dale Bronner	dalebronner.com
32	1,194	Lake Pointe Church	Rockwall	TX	Steve Stroope	lakepointe.org
33	1,185	Salem Baptist Church	Chicago	IL	James T. Meeks	sbcoc.org
34	1,130	New Birth Missionary Baptist Church	Lithonia	GA	Eddie L. Long	newbirth.org
35	1,125	Pinelake Church	Brandon	MS	Chip Henderson	pinelake.org
36	1,100	Church of the Redeemed of the Lord	Baltimore	MD	Jerome Stokes	crministries.com
37	1,100	Emmanuel Christian Center	Minneapolis	MN	Mark Denyes	emmanuelcc.com
38	1,089	Lancaster County Bible Church	Manheim	PA	David Ashcraft	lancastercountybiblechurch.com
39	1,000	Calvary Chapel of Ft. Lauderdale	Ft. Lauderdale	FL	Bob Coy	calvaryftl.org
40	1,000	Cathedral of Faith	San Jose	CA	Ken Foreman	cathedraloffaith.org
41	1,000	Celebration Church	Jacksonville	FL	Stovall Weems	celebration.org
42	1,000	Crossroads Community Church	Cincinnati	OH	Brian Tome	crossroadscommunity.net
43	1,000	Empowerment Temple	Baltimore	MD	Jamal-Harrison Bryant	empowermenttemple.org
44	1,000	Harvest Christian Fellowship	Riverside	CA	Greg Laurie	harvest.org

FAST FACTS:

New Additions:

63 churches are new to this year's Top 100 Fastest-Growing list.

Mainstays:

37 churches are returning from last year's list.

Additions concentrated:

Of those new to the list, 10 are in California (5 in Northern California, 5 in Southern California). Texas (6)

Bigger, faster:

33 of the 1,000-plus U.S. megachurches are less than 10 years old.

Most represented states:

California with 13 churches
Texas (11)
Florida (8)
(27 states represented, down from 28 in 2004)

Large and growing:

35 churches appear on both the Fastest-Growing and Largest Churches lists, down from 44 in 2004.

Oldest church:

The Church of Mt. Gilead in Mooresville, Ind., founded in 1835.

Youngest church:

The Journey Church in New York City, launched in 2002.

Most represented denominations/affiliations:

Southern Baptist with 39 churches

45	1,000	Jericho City of Praise	Landover	MD	Betty P. Peebles	jerichocop.org
46	1,000	The Word Church	Maple Heights	OH	R. A. Vernon	ravernonministries.org
47	950	Golden Hills Community Church	Brentwood	CA	Larry Adams	goldenhills.org
48	901	Bay Area Fellowship	Corpus Christi	TX	Bil Cornelius	bayareafellowship.org
49	900	McLean Bible Church	Vienna	VA	Lon Solomon	mcleanbible.org
50	867	Church of the Highlands	Birmingham	AL	Chris Hodges	churchofthehighlands.com
51	856	First Baptist Church	Merritt Island	FL	Curt Dodd	fbcmi.com
52	810	Emmanuel Faith Community Church	Escondido	CA	Dennis Keating	efcc.org
53	800	Family Community Church	San Jose	CA	Bill E. Buchholz	fccchurch.com
54	800	Mars Hill Church	Seattle	WA	Mark Driscoll	marshill.fm
55	800	New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church	Los Angeles	CA	Lonnie Dawson	not available
56	800	Voices of Faith Ministries	Stone Mountain	GA	Gary Hawkins	voicesfaith.org
57	789	The Church at Mt. Gilead	Mooresville	IN	Jeff Faull	thechurchatmtgilead.org
58	786	Southeast Christian Church	Louisville	KY	Bob Russell	southeastchristian.org
59	785	Clovis Hills Community Church	Clovis	CA	Steve Davidson	clovishills.com
60	759	The Rock Church	San Diego	CA	Miles McPherson	therocksandiego.org
61	737	CedarCreek Community Church	Perrysburg	OH	Lee Powell	aroundthecreek.com
62	729	Granger Community Church	Granger	IN	Mark Beeson	gccwired.com
63	717	Lutheran Church of Hope	West Des Moines	IA	Mike Housholder	hopewdm.org
64	716	The Church at Brook Hills	Birmingham	AL	Rick Ousley	brookhills.org
65	715	Mount Calvary Church	Fairfield	CA	Claybon Lea, Jr.	mountcalvarychurch.org
66	712	Harvest Bible Chapel	Rolling Meadows	IL	James MacDonald	harvestbible.org
67	702	Northside Christian Church	New Albany	IN	George Ross	nsider.org
68	700	West Ridge Church	Hiram	GA	Brian Bloye	westridge.com
69	684	Evangel World Prayer Center	Louisville	KY	Bob Rodgers	worldprayercenter.org
70	683	Bethel Evangelical Baptist Church	Ft. Lauderdale	FL	Henry Jules	not available
71	653	Eagle Brook Church	White Bear Lake	MN	Bob Merritt	eaglebrookchurch.com
72	650	Henderson Hills Baptist Church	Edmond	OK	Dennis Newkirk	hhbc.com
73	638	The City Church	Kirkland	WA	Wendell Smith	thecity.org
74	637	McGregor Baptist Church	Ft. Myers	FL	Richard Powell	mcgregor.net
75	628	First Baptist Church of Norfolk	Norfolk	VA	Eric Thomas	firstnorfolk.org
76	601	Briarwood Presbyterian Church	Birmingham	AL	Harry Reeder III	briarwood.org
77	600	Antioch Church	Overland Park	KS	Dennis Slavens	antiochchurch.com
78	600	Calvary Community Church	Phoenix	AZ	J. Mark Martin	calvaryphx.com
79	600	Cascade Hills Church	Columbus	GA	Bill Purvis	cascadehills.com
80	600	Friendship Church	Prior Lake	MN	Doyal Van Gelder	friendship-church.org
81	600	New Spring Community Church	Anderson	SC	Perry Noble	newspring.cc
82	600	The Church at Rock Creek	Little Rock	AR	Mark Evans	churchatrockcreek.org
83	600	Westside Family Church	Shawnee	KS	Dave Cox	westsidefamilychurch.com
84	600	Windsor Village Methodist Church	Houston	TX	Kirbyjon Caldwell	kingdombuilder.com
85	600	Woodland Hills Church	Maplewood	MN	Greg Boyd	whchurch.org
86	580	The Journey Church	New York	NY	Nelson Searcy	nyjourney.com
87	575	Resurrection Baptist Church	Schertz	TX	Ray D. Brown	myrbconline.org
88	574	First Baptist Church	Lafayette	LA	Steve Horn	fbclaf.org
89	570	Champions Centre	Tacoma	WA	Kevin Gerald	championscentre.com
90	552	Eastview Christian Church	Normal	IL	Gary York	eastviewcc.org
91	550	First Baptist Brazilian Church of South Florida	Pompano Beach	FL	Silair De Almeida	pibflorida.org
92	548	Cross Timbers Community Church	Argyle	TX	Toby Slough	crosstimberschurch.org
93	546	Faith Promise Church	Knoxville	TN	Chris Stephens	faithpromise.org
94	543	Hosanna Lutheran Church	Lakeville	MN	Bill Bohline	hosannalc.org
95	535	NewSong Church	Irvine	CA	David Gibbons	newsong.net
96	534	Shadow Hills Baptist Church	Las Vegas	NV	Michael Rochelle	shadowhills.org
97	530	Parkview Christian Church	Orland Park	IL	Tim Harlow	parkviewchurch.com
98	518	First Baptist Church of Springdale	Springdale	AR	Ronnie Floyd	fbcspringdale.org
99	502	Adventure Christian Church	Roseville	CA	Rick Stedman	adventurechristian.org
100	502	Crossroads Christian Church	Arlington	TX	Barry Cameron	arlingtonchristian.net/ccweb/

Independent (14)
Christian Church/Church of Christ (7)
Independent Charismatic (9)

The Church concentrated:

The top 10 fastest-growing churches have a combined attendance of 200,000, followed by the next 15 largest churches also with 200,000 attendees.

Ethnicity:

African-American with 15 churches heavily multi-ethnic (10)
primarily Caucasian (75)

The world's fastest-growing church?

Some estimate that India, with more than 60,000 house churches, is home to the fastest-growing revival movement. Northern India alone now has 30,000 house churches and 28,000 home prayer meetings, which often turn into churches within months; much of the growth has happened within the past seven years.

Photo: Gary Payne



Dr. John N. Vaughan, president and founder of Church Growth Today, specializing in research related to megachurches both domestically and globally.

**2005 Church Growth Today study/OUTREACH magazine report: The 100 Fastest-Growing U.S. Churches. © 2005 John N. Vaughan reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Official list publication date: June 17, 2005. Attendance and growth statistics from 2003-2004 self-reported by denominational/brotherhood offices and individual Protestant Christian churches. Research compiled and, when possible, verified by Church Growth Today. Church Growth Today and OUTREACH magazine are not responsible for errors/discrepancies in self-reported data or churches not opting to report.*

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