



THE EVANGEL

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America's Rising Church

By Rev. Joel Garcia

While many denominations in America are showing signs of slight decline or a plateau in Sunday morning attendance or at best marginal growth patterns in their annual reporting, there is still hope for Christianity in America; it is the rising Hispanic community.

The latest numbers from the 2010 Census should not surprise us. Hispanics are now the largest minority group in the nation boasting a Hispanic population of 50 million strong (that's 1/6 of the population), and rapidly expanding via immigration and biological growth.

The biggest surprise is that, within the next ten years, this group's younger population is estimated to explode.

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According to The Latino Education Imperative, a Huffington's Post article written by Giselle Fernandez reports that by 2020, Latinos are expected to represent close to 25 percent of the nation's 18 to 29 year-old population. In ten years, nearly ten million Latinos will be 15 to 24 years of age, accounting for nearly a quarter (25%) of the entire US college-age population. In key states like California, Texas and Florida, the Hispanic population is even bigger, as much as 40 [plus] percent of the population and growing.

These numbers are culturally significant and should not be ignored. These numbers do more than forecast the future for the American church; they are numbers prophesying to the next phase of Christian mission. One leading force in America is the Hispanic community is the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC), which is now considered the largest Hispanic evangelical group representing over 35,000 churches, and 16 million plus Hispanics. This mass movement is led by Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, who has created many strategic partnerships, crossing ethnic lines, to help provide essential services, which will advance this community in the next decade. The Christian education community, including Liberty University, Re-

gent University and many others are offering substantial tuition discounts to reach out to this booming young Hispanic population. These universities are being proactive by perceiving a phenomenon that the American church has yet to grasp. As denominational leaders and pastors our questions should be, "What is the strategy of my local church to reach out to this community? Does my church possess the foresight and capacity to develop outreach and discipleship strategies to reach this community? If not, why? Are we prepared to meet the needs of this vital and emerging culture?"

The American public in many ways has perceived Hispanics in a positive light, while others have negative opinions about them. One thing is for certain, Hispanics are generally community-oriented people. Typically, they advocate for justice since many of them came from oppressive communities. They back their own since they too have experienced the strain of economic and political distress. With the proper training in righteousness and justice, it is the Hispanic community which will rise to strengthen and preserve America's ideals of freedom, justice and righteousness in the coming generation.

The American church must take note of them now, to create strategies within their own houses of worship by adopting a growing Hispanic ministry since many of them struggle with accessing a place to worship adequate to meet their needs. Second, the American church must mentor their leaders and support them financially for a season. We must become the "spiritual fathers" of this community by nurturing them until they can adequately stand on their own two feet and run with their God-given mission. We should not seek to make them more like us, rather, we should see what God is doing among them, and encourage them to follow and fulfill their prophetic calling, vision and mission.

Rev. Joel Garcia is President and Founder of Latino Townhall, a private post-secondary faith-based leadership school for Hispanics in Las Vegas. Joel, an experienced life and leadership coach, enjoys developing leaders, working with teams, and is a church growth strategist. A seasoned pastor and teacher, Joel worked for a vibrant mega church in Las Vegas for 16 years, which expanded to over 5,000 congregants on three campuses. Joel holds a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in coaching and mentoring from Regent University, and is an Ordained minister with the Evangelical Church Alliance.



The Evangelical Church Alliance

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THE MISSION of the Evangelical Church Alliance is to spread the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to build up the church by carrying out the Great Commission as stated in Matthew 28:19-20 by credentialing, training, encouraging, and supporting ministers of the Gospel who are committed to the infallibility and inerrancy of the Bible as the only rule for faith and practice.

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Evangelical Church Alliance Committee on

Church and Society

Evangelicals' New Ally

By Dr. Rob Schenck, Chairman



It may come as a surprise to many evangelicals, but we actually have a formidable ally in the administration of President Barack Obama. I say a surprise because I'm fully aware that many evangelicals see this President and those who work for him as at least indifferent to our core values and priorities, if not hostile to them. No matter how you see it, though, one of the President's most recent appointments should be welcomed and applauded by all Bible-believers.

The Reverend Dr. Suzan D. Johnson Cook, who was just sworn in as the third US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom is not only friendly to evangelicals—she is one. Ambassador Cook is an ordained Baptist minister and former pastor to both Baptist and independent evangelical churches. I have not only come to know her personally, but was involved with her nomination from the very first day—literally. In fact, I was the unlikeliest person to first announce to her that she was the President's pick for this post. The story behind that is worth telling, but first I will say more about this little known but critically important diplomatic office.

The Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom is charged with monitoring religious persecution and discrimination worldwide, recom-

mending and implementing policies in respective regions or countries, and developing programs to promote religious freedom. Given the only increasing role of religion in world conflicts, not to mention the universal urge to acknowledge the Creator according to the dictates of one's own conscience, and the supreme American value of religious liberty, this is arguably the most important post in America's foreign policy portfolio.

In any case, it goes without saying this extraordinary ambassadorship cannot be overrated. There is a reason our American Founders listed as the very first right the freedom to believe and practice a faith without interference, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This core freedom is, as many have argued, the first among all human rights. It was just this line of thought that propelled the Congress in 1998 to create both the office of International Religious Freedom within the State Department and its legislative complement, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Back to the story, though, and how it involves all of us as evangelicals.

This post actually has a good history with evangelicals. The original ambassador, Bob Seiple, had been president of World Vision and Eastern College and Seminary. His successor, John Hanford, received his M. Div. from Gordon-Conwell.

It was precisely because of this history that many evangelicals were concerned the current president, who favors keeping company with liberal churches,

would pick someone with contrary perspectives - that turned out not to be the case.

Interestingly, in January 2009, I was leading a week of prayer at Van Nest Assembly of God in Bronx, New York, when a friend and colleague called me from Washington to ask if I knew of Dr. Cook, then the pastor of the nearby Bronx Christian Center. He had just heard she was President Obama's nominee for the office that had been vacant since the end of the Bush presidency. I did not know of her but my host pastor did, and he introduced us over breakfast the next morning. I told Dr. Cook I would like to be one of the first to congratulate her. She looked at me in surprise and asked, "For what?" It was then I realized I knew something she didn't. After some furtive phone calls to Washington, it was confirmed. She was indeed the President's nominee.

What followed was nothing short of a prayer-filled odyssey. I took Dr. Cook around Washington to meet key players in the grueling process she was to undergo, and worked behind the scenes with US senators to assure them she was not only qualified for the position, but was an ally with us and many others. It wasn't easy, but from the start she proved she was very smart, very committed, and deeply spiritual. I came to know her as a sister in Christ and fellow laborer in the Lord's Vineyard. Not everyone saw those traits as assets though, and she faced opposition from all sides. Ironically, Dr. Cook would go on to prove she could unite liberals and conservatives, left and right, friend and foe. After an intense ordeal that lasted nearly two years, Ambassador Johnson Cook achieved unanimous confirmation by the US senate and was sworn in on May 16.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this unusual trajectory is that the Board of Directors for the Evangelical Church Alliance International was one of the first religious bodies of any kind to weigh in on Dr. Cook's nomination. In an unprecedented action, the ECA board passed a resolution in November 2010 supporting her. The document was filed with the White House and the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which was charged with vetting the nominee.

This relationship, forged under what can only be deemed divine circumstances, portends an auspicious future not only for the advance of religious freedom around the world, but for the continuing role of the ECA in pursuit of that worthy mission.



Dr. Rob Schenck is a missionary to Washington, D.C., where he directs Operation Save Our Nation, an effort to bring the word of God to bear on the hearts and minds of those who make public policy in America. Rev. Schenck is president of the National Clergy Council, a network of pastors and denominational leaders who work together to bring Christian moral principles into the conversation and debate surrounding national policy, and currently serves on the boards of the Evangelical Church Alliance, the Exchange Club of Capitol Hill, the Institute on Religion and Public Policy, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the National Clergy Council. Dr. Schenck is also the Chairman of the ECA's Committee on Church and Society.



Members in Ministry

One Call, Ten Fingers and Eighty-Eight Keys

Compiled by Hank Roso



“Huntley, only what is done for Christ will last.”

When those words from his mother rang in his ears, Huntley Brown instinctively recognized God’s call on his life.

Huntley grew up in a Christian home on the island of Jamaica. His parents, Myrtle and Alpheus, taught him what it meant to be a Christian, and at an early age, he accepted Christ. Without knowing how to read music, he learned to play the piano by imitating his brothers, receiving instruction from his father and a family friend, and listening to recordings.

After high school Huntley played keyboard in hotel bands and piano bars throughout Jamaica. He made serious money for a teenager, but the clubs’ atmosphere and his Christian ideals did not match up. He kept remembering his mother’s words: “Only what is done for Christ will last.” Huntley prayed and rededicated his life to Christ. He began to spend time daily in the Word and prayer. He soon felt prompted to come to America, and enrolled at Judson College in Elgin, Illinois.

Four years later Huntley graduated with a bachelor’s de-

gree in piano performance. He then attended Northern Illinois University, where he earned a master’s degree in piano performance and pedagogy. While at NIU, Huntley met a lovely student from Barbados, Annette Chestnut, and they married soon after graduation.

Huntley’s music ministry has taken him all over the world, with TV, radio, and concert appearances in Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, China, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Holland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Latvia, South Korea, Romania, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, St. Maarten, St. Vincent, Slovakia, Switzerland, Taiwan, Ukraine and Wales. In America, he’s had opportunities to minister from coast to coast, playing at churches of every size and denomination, from the Crystal Cathedral to Willow Creek.

Huntley’s electrifying playing earned him the Top Caribbean Gospel Instrumentalist Award for 2005 and 2006. He was appointed musical ambassador for the CTS TV station in Seoul, Korea in 2009. The following year he was in-

ducted into the Fox Valley Arts Hall Of Fame. Having been the regular crusade pianist for recently retired Billy Graham Associate Evangelist Ralph Bell, Huntley is now the pianist for Ruth Graham and Friends Ministries.

Huntley’s music has been described as inspired, anointed, powerful, and explosive. His numerous recordings include a wide range of musical styles. People are not only impressed with his incredible technique, they are touched by his deep love for Jesus. As one friend has said, “Huntley plays as if God is whispering in his ears.”

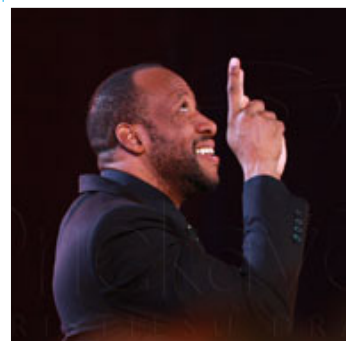
Huntley’s ministry touches all ages and demographics. In one case, he was allowed to perform at a gang-infested high school, where the student body gathered under police guard for the first time in four years to hear him play. The students were enthralled, and responded with a wildly enthusiastic standing ovation.

In the past few years, God has opened the door for Huntley to add a new dimension to his ministry, teaching and offering seminars on music and worship. He often travels with the International School of Evangelism team of the Graham Association, for whom he lectured and performed at the Amsterdam 2000 World Conference on Evangelism. Huntley was also a lecturer and performer at the First International Gospel Music Festival in Italy. In addition, he regularly returns to Judson University, serving as a guest lecturer in the worship arts program, sharing his insights and experiences with students who will one day themselves be leading the Body of Christ in worship. Judson University is so proud of Huntley that he

was named Alumnus of the Year in 2003.

Huntley and Annette make their home in a suburb of Chicago with their four daughters, Natalie, Natasha, Nicole, and Nadia. Although his life revolves around his family and music, Huntley also enjoys ping pong, the martial arts (he holds a black belt), and basketball (as he likes to say, “I can’t shoot, but I can dunk!”) Many times he uses his martial arts skills to demonstrate spiritual truths to high school students.

Even with all his worldly success, Huntley realizes that to be an effective musical ambassador for Christ, his spiritual life must be more significant than his keyboard skills. Just as he needs to practice piano every day, Huntley prioritizes his daily time spent in the Word and prayer. He believes that music is an offering of praise; a gift that he can give back to God. Huntley’s constant prayer is that the glory of God will shine through his notes, and the Holy Spirit will aim the music straight at people’s hearts, drawing them to the true abundance of life found in Christ.



“Huntley, only what is done for Christ will last.” Those words from his mother is all it took for Huntley Brown to recognize God’s call on his life.



Missions Perspective

Japan's Greatest Need

written by Hank Roso



A nuclear expert has warned it could be 100 years before fuel rods at Japan's stricken Fukushima nuclear plant are safe.

A recent news release by *The Daily Mail Reporter* revealed that it could be one hundred years before fuel rods at Japan's stricken Fukushima nuclear plant are safe. The report also disclosed that Dr. John Price, a former member of the Safety Policy Unit at the UK's National Nuclear Corporation, said radiation leaks will continue, and it could take fifty to one hundred years before the nuclear fuel rods have cooled enough to be removed. This means that the workers and the site will have to be intensely controlled for a very long time. One group of workers (the so-called "Fukushima 50"), on-site since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, are all repeatedly being exposed to dangerously high radioactive levels. Speaking tearfully through an interpreter by phone, the mother of a 32-year-old worker told Fox News, "My son and his colleagues have discussed it at

length and they have committed themselves to die if necessary to save the nation."

Such circumstances certainly warrant a compassionate global response. Yet Rev. Jangbaeg Lim, an ECA member and missionary to Japan, shared trepidation about another situation in that region. "Less than one percent of the Japanese are Evangelical Christians," he reported, "and in Japan, the church is but a mustard seed compared to the country's large economic powerhouse."

Japan remains one of the most secular nations in the world, according to the World Values Survey. While there may be up to three million Japanese Christians, only 300,000, or roughly 1/2 percent, of the nation's population are evangelicals. Lim states, "Today churches in Japan remain extremely small, with an average attendance of 20 to 30 people on Sunday—and most of those

who go are women. Christians are a tiny minority in a society where consensus is important; and because few families come to faith, individuals feel exposed."

Ancestor worship is the principal religion in Japan. Nationalism, Shintoism, Buddhism, Emperor worship, and materialism also serve as forms of idolatry which blind people to the Gospel. In addition, the high cost of living, overworked men and a shortage of volunteers inhibit Japan's church growth.

But in spite of such overwhelming odds, by God's grace the evangelical church is maturing and forming a united front. Asian Christians like Jangbaeg, and his wife Eunjeong, are having a significant effect on penetrating the Japanese culture. Working hand in hand with others, they're helping establish a new generation of church leaders within Japan.

As ordained ministers with the Evangelical Church Alliance, Jangbaeg and EunJeong are experienced missionaries, having served in China, the U.K., and Poland. I first met them at the 2008 ECA International Conference. A short time later they reported that they were approved to launch a new evangelism project in Japan. Recalling their

compassion for the lost, and love for God, I was not surprised that they would be called to work in such a difficult nation. Their passion for their work is evident in Jangbaeg's response to a recent inquiry: "We are committed to persevere, as we know that God still loves this nation, and what He is doing here is a part of His glorious plan. I have seen more and more Japanese Christians. Churches are growing, and new believers are coming to Jesus and confessing that He is their Savior. It is very clear to me that God is working in this nation."

In the wake of the largest earthquake in Japan's recorded history, and the resulting tsunami that caused widespread devastation—including 15,000 dead and 11,000 missing—prayers and aid are certainly needed. But Japan's even greater need is made clear in 2 Peter 3:9: "[God is] not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." While Japanese officials—aided by global support—confront the physical, social and economic needs of the country, missionaries like Jangbaeg and Eun Jeon—aided by divine support—will address the greatest need: the spiritual.



Jangbaeg, and EunJeong Lim, both Ordained with the ECA and serve as WEC International Missionaries in Japan, are pictured here with their baby girl, Eunhye.



“Front Lines”

Navy Chaplain’s Sudden Death Effects Lives in United States and Japan

Dr. George Miller, Military Chaplain Commission Director



Navy Chaplain LTJG Bruce West died in a biking accident while stationed in Japan. His death is the ECA’s first Military Chaplain casualty.

This past May, Navy chaplain Bruce B. West, Jr., was biking down a mountain in Iwakuni, Japan, and lost control of his bike on a curve. He ended up going over a cliff and falling thirty feet to his death. Having lived with his wife and three children at the marine corps air station in Iwakuni for several months, a memorial service was held in Chaplain West’s honor at the Iwakuni Marine Memorial Chapel.

Bruce became a member of the Evangelical Church Alliance in April 2002. At that time, he and his wife, Maryann, were both serving with Campus Crusade for Christ at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. He later served in the military ministries of Campus Crusade, based in Newport News, VA, before entering into the chaplaincy of the U.S. Navy.

During the memorial service, friends and loved ones shared the things they would remember most about Bruce, including his devotion to serving others and his contagious and positive attitude. Many agreed that, despite the short time Bruce had

been there, his bright smile and cheerful demeanor had left a lasting impression on the Iwakuni community.

“His actions were not staged or faked. His incredible smile—that million-dollar smile of his—was just one example of that,” said Lt. Col. Michael R. Coletta, headquarter and headquarters squadron (H&HS) commanding officer. “From the first day I met him, to the last time I saw him, that smile of his was permanently affixed to his face. It was not an act; it was genuine,” he said.

“He loved his country very much, and he loved the people that serve his country,” said Lt. Robert E. Mills, station deputy command chaplain. “He was a good example for the rest of us in so many ways.”

Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral conducted the traditional roll call at the ceremony. With the absence of West’s response, the bugle sounded. “Taps” echoed throughout the chapel as attendees stood at attention, many fighting back tears.

Perhaps no one could express West’s passion for others better than his wife. Maryann shared at the

memorial, “He had a passion for you single Marines. He deeply wanted to minister to your needs, meet you where you were, and provide an outlet for you.”

Maryann later wrote in her blog, “[A] commanding officer came up to me yesterday and told me how [Bruce] had more impact on his life than anyone ever before. In the six short months that we lived here, he touched so many lives. One day he came home and told me that he loves it here, saying, ‘I get to share my faith every day.’ We thought we hit a gold mine and thought we would do this forever. He loved the Marines and was energized by the atmosphere.

“One thing near and dear to his heart was starting a Marine singles’ ministry. His vision was that it would be similar to a Campus Crusade meeting, once he was able to gather enough people to come. He was not going to give up until he got there!”

ECA’s Military Chaplain Commission Director, Dr. George Miller, attended the gathering in Williamsburg, where a time was set aside for family and friends to express their love and

condolences. Dr. Miller said the service captured Bruce’s legacy: his heart for God, his love for his family and his skill in ministry. Bruce’s brother-in-law read statements from each of the West siblings about how much fun Bruce was growing up. There were also slide shows, video testimonies about Bruce’s life, and stories from his college friends, ministry coworkers and other military chaplains. Maryann also spoke about Bruce’s relationship with God, and how we also can know the Lord because of Jesus.

Following the memorial service at Williamsburg, the body of Bruce West was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, June 20, (year). At the internment at Arlington on that following Monday, a close family friend recounted, “One of the chaplains read 1 Corinthians 13 and said a few words about Bruce. As the soldiers a few rows over fired a three-shot volley, it felt as if each bullet went straight to my heart. Then they played taps, which was heartbreaking, folded the flag on Bruce’s coffin and gave it to Maryann, saying, ‘On behalf of the president of the United States, a grateful nation and a proud navy.’ They also gave a flag to each child and one to his mom.”

While conferring with a cemetery representative about an inscription for Bruce’s tombstone, it was suggested that the phrase “beloved husband and father” would be fitting. Maryann asked instead that the inscription read, “But to me to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21.”



Please keep Chaplain Bruce West’s wife, Maryann and three children, Benjamin, Joanna and Jonathon, in your prayers.



Preaching and Teaching

“Good News”

Celebrating 830 Years of Ministry

The Evangelical Church Alliance is blessed to have fourteen current ministers whose combined years of service total 830 years. One has 51 years of service and another 70 years. We thank God for their example of stability and commitment in ministry and are challenged by their faithfulness through the trials and tribulations of service to our Lord. These Brothers and Sisters have touched countless lives with the Gospel message and continue even today as living examples to those who come behind them.

With hearts of gratitude we recognize:

Rev. Edward S. Nelson, 70 years, Ordained April 18, 1941
(ECA Board Member for over 50 years)

Rev. Esther Osborn, 66 years, Ordained January 27, 1945

Rev. John K. Willis, 62 years, Ordained August 20, 1949

Rev. Quentin E. Peck, 61 years, Ordained October 12, 1950

Rev. Russell J. Mills, 60 years, Ordained January 28, 1951

Rev. Jack A. Ostermann, 60 years, Ordained June 23, 1951

Dr. Donald W. Raub, 60 years, Ordained September 16, 1951

Dr. Harry E. Walmer, 59 years, Ordained May 25, 1952

Rev. Ralph Sutera, 58 years, Ordained June 1, 1953

Rev. Harley C. Roof, 57 years, Ordained September 20, 1954

Rev. Donald W. Schultz, 57 years, Ordained November 19, 1954

Rev. Robert L. Beyler, 56 years, Ordained June 5, 1955

Rev. Wilbur R. McKee, 53 years, Ordained July 22, 1958

Dr. Sterling L. Cauble, 51 years, Ordained July 6, 1960

(ECA Board Member for over 50 years, 10 as Board Chairman)





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The Evangel 8



ECA Member Services

News, Information and Opportunities

Husband/Wife Team Prayerfully Seeking Full-Time Ministry

Husband has nearly 35 years success as a pastor, Law Enforcement Chaplain, Salvation Army Director. Wife has good experience as Hospice Director, nonprofit leadership. Both Ordained with Salvation Army. He is Ordained with ECA. Resumes on request.

Contact:

David & Darlene Roehl
411 5th Street N.
Wahpeton, ND 58075
PH: (701) 640-7092
EM: davidroehl@juno.com

Seasoned Ordained Pastor, Seeking Position

Masters Degree, Good experience in church ministries. Resume upon request.

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Contact: **Rev. Hope Boring**
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EM: shboring@aol.com

Pastor/Chaplain Seeking Position

Former News Reporter now on "New Assignment". Seasoned in ministry as short-term missionary, pastoral care, chaplaincy positions.

Contact: **Rev. Gregg W. Anderson**
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