MISSIONAL SPACE 1

ARCHITECT / CO-CREATOR



ARCHITECT / CO-CREATOR



AUTHOR / ADVOCATE



IMPACT BUSINESS



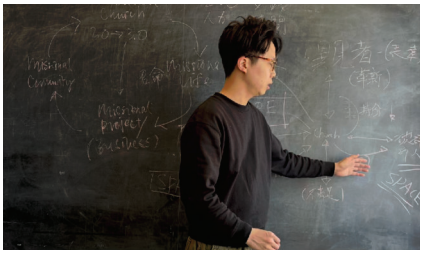

CHARLES: YOUTH PASTOR / COUNSELLOR / MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE




SOPHIE: SOCIAL WORKER / SPACE MANAGER / MODERN CALLIGRAPHER




SONIC: ORPHANAGE HOME / SOCIAL MEDIA STARTUP / CO-AUTHOR

DAVID: KOL / EX-PRISONER / “HIDDEN YOUTH” MINISTRY




HAROLD: MUSIC PLATFORM / IN DEBT / KOL / CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PLATFORM




HEMAN: DJ / MUSIC PLATFORM




DEREK: PASTOR / CHURCH CAFE / BUSINESS AS MISSION





DOING THEOLOGY SPIRAL



5. EXPERIENCE AGAIN
– revisiting our context and circumstances again

1. EXPERIENCE
– looking at our history, culture, immediate context and current circumstances of our "church spaces"

2. EXPLORE
– looking at what others are doing with their "church spaces," across different disciplines

3. REFLECT
– looking at what the Bible and other theologians say about what we can do with our "church spaces"

4. RESPOND
– forming actions and strategies on what can be done regarding our "church spaces"



Green, Laurie. *Let's Do Theology: Resources for Contextural Theology.* London: Bloombury Publishing, 2009.

DOING THEOLOGY SPIRAL



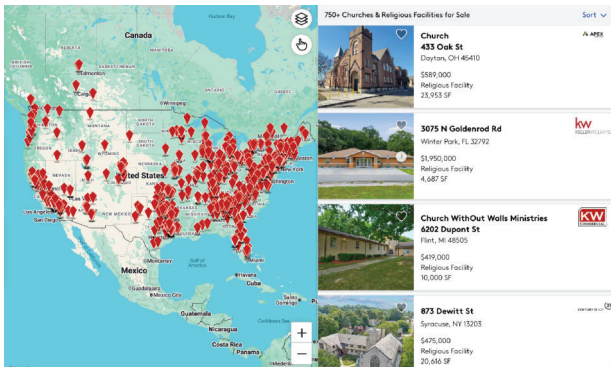
1. EXPERIENCE
– looking at our history, culture, immediate context and current circumstances of our "church spaces"



Green, Laurie. *Let's Do Theology: Resources for Contextural Theology.* London: Bloombury Publishing, 2009.

"Churches were built to last forever. Yet, in today's world, "forever" seems out of reach."

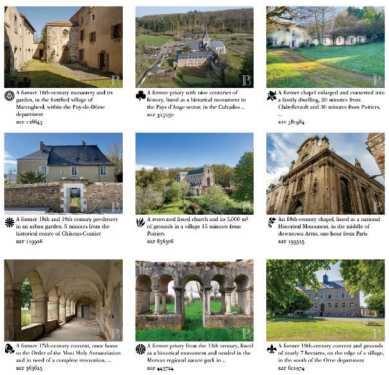
https://www.the-low-countries.com/article/religious-buildings/



https://www.loopnet.com/search/churches/usa/for-sale/



https://ukauctionlist.com/



https://www.patrice-besse.co.uk/for-sale/monastery-for-sale-France/



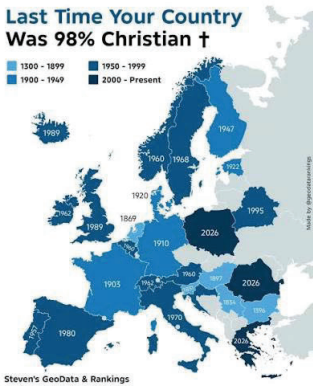
https://www.patrice-besse.co.uk/ads/monastery-for-sale-france-for-sale-in-france-in-the-middle-of-downtown-Arras-one-hour-from-Paris--pb199325

/ statistics in Europe

"Europe was the first continent to be Christianized,
it was also the first to be de-Christianized."

https://cne.news/article/3033-five-signs-of-christian-revival-in-europe

STATISTICS



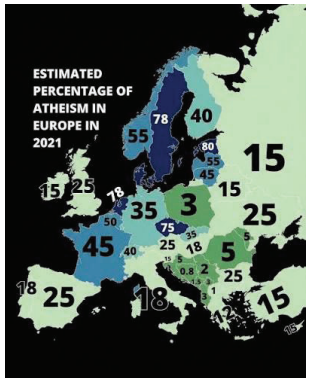
STATISTICS

Pew Research

- 2010-2020 - Christian population in Europe fell from 74% to 67%
- Atheists - represent the fastest-growing population group

https://spzh.eu/en/news/90307-report-number-of-christians-in-europe-declines-by-17-mln-over-past-five-years?utm_source=perplexity

STATISTICS



STATISTICS

Christianity is experiencing large losses from religious switching in many countries (2025)

*Ratio of adults who have **left Christianity** to those who have **joined Christianity**, by country*

	Ratio of change	
	Left	Joined
Italy	28.4	1.0
Germany	19.7	1.0
France	15.8	1.0
Poland	12.4	1.0
Spain	12.2	1.0
Chile	11.6	1.0
Netherlands	11.2	1.0
Greece	9.1	1.0
UK	9.1	1.0
Australia	8.2	1.0

https://www.diakonos.be/the-italian-church-holds-the-world-record-for-dropouts-with-the-added-unknown-of-the-gray-area/

CHURCH CLOSURE

Germany (2000-2024)

- 611 Catholic churches closed
- 300-350 Protestant churches closed

https://www.dw.com/en/germanys-empty-churches-repurposed-as-congregations-shrink/a-75227388?utm_source=perplexity

/ social shift

"The moment a French peasant sets foot in Paris' Gare de Montparnasse, he stops going to church."

French sociologist le Bras



PAST

- Church bells organized everyday's rhythm of life.
- People woke up together, work together, pray together, celebrate together.

https://www.architectureandtradition.com/p/why-did-churches-once-tower-over

PAST

- Local church was not just a Sunday event
- But as community hub - meals, youth activities, choir rehearsals, meetings, community events, etc.

https://www.revitalizebhm.com/blog/when-the-church-stopped-being-the-communitys-third-place?rq=Third places

NOW

- People are more mobile
- Entertainment options multiplies - sports, restaurants, gyms, etc.
- Digital spaces - no need for physical gatherings

https://www.revitalizebhm.com/blog/when-the-church-stopped-being-the-communitys-third-place?rq=Third places

DOING THEOLOGY SPIRAL



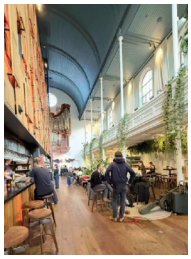
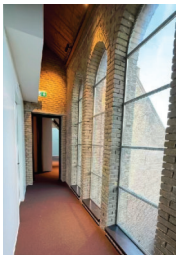


Green, Laurie. *Let's Do Theology: Resources for Contextural Theology.* London: Bloombury Publishing, 2009.

/ repurposing of church spaces

COMMERCIAL USE



Bunk Hotel in Amsterdam + Utrecht, The Netherlands

COMMERCIAL USE





Martin's Patershof Hotel in Mechelen, Belgium

COMMERCIAL USE



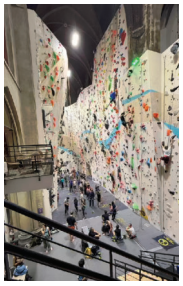
Dominican Church in Maastricht, Belgium - bookstore

COMMERCIAL USE



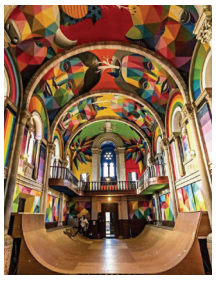

Catholic Church of St. Rochus in Jülich, Germany - bike shop

COMMERCIAL USE



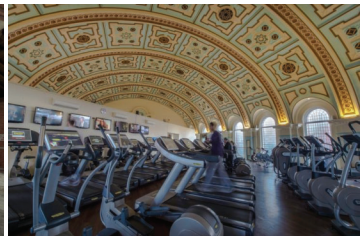

Saint-Antoine Church in Brussels, Belgium - rock-climbing gym

COMMERCIAL USE




Church of Santa Barbara in Llanera, Spain - public skate park

COMMERCIAL USE

Virgin Active Repton Park, London, UK - swimming pool

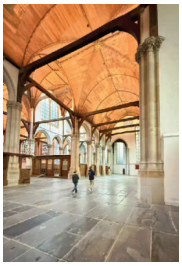
COMMERCIAL USE





digitalCHURCH, Aachen, Germany - digitalHUB + IT startup space

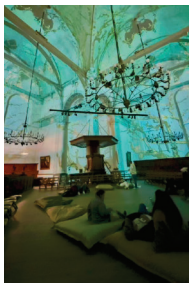
CULTURAL USE





Oude Kerk + Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam, The Netherlands - art exhibition space

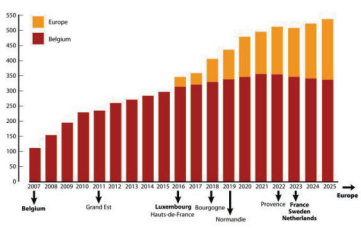
CULTURAL USE

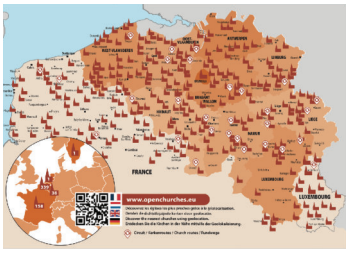




Noorderkerk in Amsterdam, The Netherlands - performance space

CULTURAL USE





Open Churches - heritage and tourism

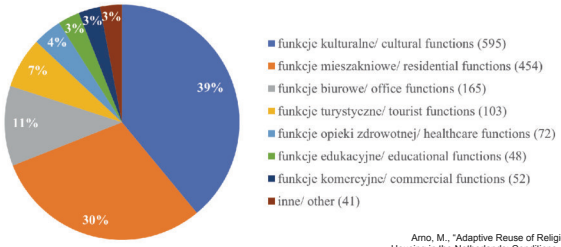
CULTURAL USE



Open Churches - heritage and tourism

CULTURAL USE

22% (1,530) churches have been repurposed in The Netherlands in 2023:



Arno, M., "Adaptive Reuse of Religious Buildings for Housing in the Netherlands: Conditions, Challenges, and Future Prospects," Housing Environment, 54, p4–24, https://doi.org/10.2478/he-2025-0026

COMMUNITY USE



St Peter's Church in Vught, the Netherlands - library, museum + community center

COMMUNITY USE



St. Theresa's Church in the village of Borne, The Netherlands - healthcare center

COMMUNITY USE



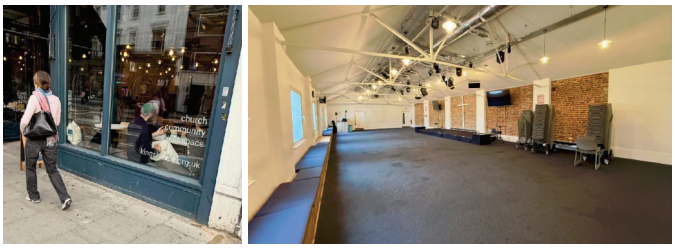
Chapel of the Avenue de la Liberte in Charenton, France - thrift store + social housing

CHURCH CAFES



Various churches in UK

CHURCH EVENT SPACES



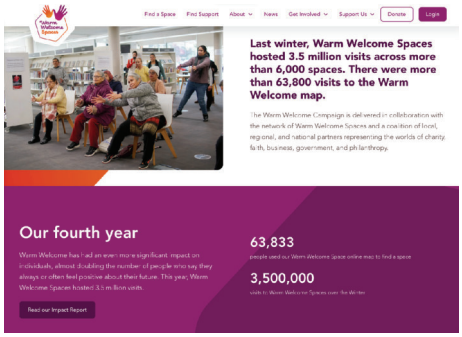
Various churches in UK

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Vonk Cafe, Utrecht, The Netherlands - cafe, kitchen, community

WARM WELCOME SPACES (UK)



THE OFFLINE CLUB



THE OFFLINE CLUB

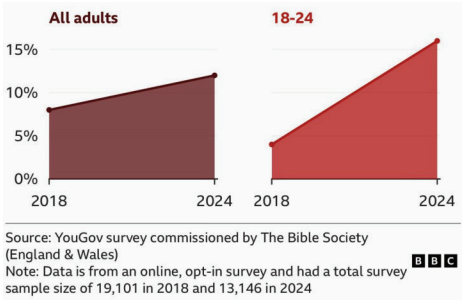


/ quiet revival?

"Europe is not post-Christian. It is pre-revival."

https://www.ecmbritain.org/k/news/view/53506/46866/europe-is-not-post-christian.-it-is-pre-revival.html

QUIET REVIVAL?



https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0k1jddl51no

QUIET REVIVAL?

1/ Diaspora Churches

- Over the last 2 generations, a significant number of new diaspora churches being planted across Europe, including Spanish, Brazilian, Chinese, and African congregations
- Intercultural churches emerging

https://lausanne.org/about/blog/the-extraordinary-re-evangelization-of-europe

QUIET REVIVAL?

2/ Church Planting Movement

- CNEF (National Council of French Evangelicals) - goal to plant 1 evangelical church for every 10,000 people.
- On average over the last few years, one church is planted every 7 days in France.
- Church planting platforms - M4, Multiplication Network, City-to-City, Acts 29, European Christian Mission (ECM), Greater Europe Mission (GEM), Operation Mobilisation (OM), Communitas, ICP and Mosaik networks.

https://lausanne.org/about/blog/the-extraordinary-re-evangelization-of-europe

QUIET REVIVAL?

3/ The Prayer Movement

- For the last 2 decades, the 24/7 prayer movement has seen the birth of 22,000 prayer rooms in 78 nations, the majority of them in Europe.
- One house of prayer in Augsburg, Germany, has had continuous prayer, day and night, for 11 years.

https://cne.news/article/3033-five-signs-of-christian-revival-in-europe

QUIET REVIVAL?

4/ Increased Christian Unity

- The war in Ukraine fostered unprecedented collaboration between mission agencies - European Leadership Forum, the European Evangelical Alliance, and the Lausanne Movement.
- The Send Norway - 29 denominations and mission agencies in Norway brought together 9,000 young people, the largest Christian cross-denominational gathering in over 20 years.

https://cne.news/article/3033-five-signs-of-christian-revival-in-europe

QUIET REVIVAL?

5/ Next Generation

- Germany - 13,000 teens and young adults came together for Christival in May 2023.
- Revive Europe - 3,000 university students from 68 nations to pray for a revival.
- New generations of Europeans - increasingly open to spiritual conversations, prayer, and looking for a community to belong.

https://cne.news/article/3033-five-signs-of-christian-revival-in-europe

QUIET REVIVAL?

National Catholic Reporter

- Gen Z (aged 18-29) - 53% call themselves believers
- Over 50 years old - 33% call themselves believers

https://www.ncronline.org/news/europe-witnessing-young-christian-quiet-revival-data-contested

QUIET REVIVAL?

France (2026)

- Around 13,200 adults and 8,200 adolescents, were baptized at Easter in the Catholic Church
- A 20% increase from 2025

https://incontextinternational.org/2026/06/03/a-quiet-hunger-why-some-europeans-return-to-faith/

QUIET REVIVAL?

Alpha Course

- 2025 - 2.8 million participants across 158 countries
- A 31% increase from 2024
- Alpha Youth Series - 47,000 courses (45% of all Alpha courses globally)

https://incontextinternational.org/2026/06/03/a-quiet-hunger-why-some-europeans-return-to-faith/

QUIET REVIVAL?

- Church of England (2025) - seen significant growth in worshipping communities in homes, schools, cafés, and digital spaces.
- Since 2020, dioceses have launched or are developing 3,500 new worshipping communities, contributing to the Church's goal of 10,000 by 2030.

https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/question/69761/churches-closures?utm_source=perplexity

DOING THEOLOGY SPIRAL



1. EXPERIENCE

– looking at our history, culture, immediate context and current circumstances of our "church spaces"

2. EXPLORE

– looking at what others are doing with their "church spaces," across different disciplines

3. REFLECT

– looking at what the Bible and other theologians say about what we can do with our "church spaces"



Green, Laurie. *Let's Do Theology: Resources for Contextural Theology.* London: Bloombury Publishing, 2009.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of congregation

https://www.revitalizebhm.com/blog/when-the-church-stopped-being-the-communitys-third-place?rq=Third places

CHALLENGES

- Lack of congregation
- Lack of pastors

https://www.revitalizebhm.com/blog/when-the-church-stopped-being-the-communitys-third-place?rq=Third places

CHALLENGES

- Lack of congregation
- Lack of pastors
- Building aging

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CHALLENGES

- Lack of congregation
- Lack of pastors
- Building aging
- High maintenance cost

https://www.revitalizebhm.com/blog/when-the-church-stopped-being-the-communitys-third-place?rq=Third places

CHALLENGES

- Lack of congregation
- Lack of pastors
- Building aging
- High maintenance cost
- Under-utilization / building abandoned

https://www.revitalizebhm.com/blog/when-the-church-stopped-being-the-communitys-third-place?rq=Third places

CHALLENGES

- Emmanuel Mounier: Properties must not be understood as a static possession.
- But as a dynamic responsibility, requiring continual re-evaluation of how goods are used in light of changing social conditions.



Emmanuel Mounier, "De la propriété capitaliste à la propriété humaine," *Esprit* 2, no. 19 (1934): 4-6.

/ theology of the land

THEOLOGY OF THE LAND

1	2	3	4
STEWARDSHIP	HOSPITALITY	SHARING	TRANSFORMATION

THEOLOGY OF THE LAND

1
STEWARDSHIP

1: STEWARDSHIP

Walter Bruggemann:

- The Israelites were to be good *stewards.*



Walter Bruggemann, *The Land: Place as Gift, Promise and Challenge in the Biblical Faith,* 2nd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002), 70.

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1: STEWARDSHIP

Walter Bruggemann:

- The Israelites were to be good *stewards.*
- Manage the land as a *gift* entrusted by God.
- *Not to possess* the land as if it was our own property.



Walter Bruggemann, *The Land: Place as Gift, Promise and Challenge in the Biblical Faith*, 2nd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002), 70.

1: STEWARDSHIP

- The promised land as a means of *co-working* and *co-creating* with God.



Walter Bruggemann, *The Land: Place as Gift, Promise and Challenge in the Biblical Faith*, 2nd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002), 70.

THEOLOGY OF THE LAND

1 STEWARDSHIP

2 HOSPITALITY

2: HOSPITALITY

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13

2: HOSPITALITY

The "landed" Israelites was to be hospitable to "the landless":



Walter Bruggemann, *The Land: Place as Gift, Promise and Challenge in the Biblical Faith*, 2nd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002), 61.

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- the poor (Exod 23:6, Deut 15:7-11)



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- sojourners (Deut 10:19)



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- sojourners (Deut 10:19)
- orphans and widows (Deut 24:19-22)
- Levites (Deut 14:27)



Walter Bruggemann, *The Land: Place as Gift, Promise and Challenge in the Biblical Faith*, 2nd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002), 61.

THEOLOGY OF THE LAND

1	2	3
STEWARDSHIP	HOSPITALITY	SHARING

3: SHARING

Christopher Wright:

- Israel had a missional role to be a blessing to the nations — "missionary mandate."



Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2006), 25.

3: SHARING

Munther Isaac:

- The land is to share, not to possess.



Munther Isaac, *From Land to Lands: From Eden to the Renewed Earth* (Carlisle: Langham Monographs, 2015), 370.

3: SHARING

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- It is a gift of God for the good of the society.



Munther Isaac, *From Land to Lands: From Eden to the Renewed Earth* (Carlisle: Langham Monographs, 2015), 370.

3: SHARING

Munther Isaac:

- The land is to share, not to possess.
- It is a gift of God for the good of the society.
- The early believers shared the space of their homes, some of which became the "house churches" where believers gathered.



Munther Isaac, *From Land to Lands: From Eden to the Renewed Earth* (Carlisle: Langham Monographs, 2015), 370.

THEOLOGY OF THE LAND

1	2	3	4
STEWARDSHIP	HOSPITALITY	SHARING	TRANSFORMATION

4: TRANSFORMATION

Munther Isaac:

- A church in a particular land exists for the sake of that land and takes her mission agenda from it.



Munther Isaac, *From Land to Lands: From Eden to the Renewed Earth* (Carlisle: Langham Monographs, 2015), 368.

4: TRANSFORMATION

Michael Goheen:

- The local church is to extend its vision into the lands beyond, into the lands of its neighborhood, of its city, and of its nation.



Michael W. Goheen, *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Bible Story* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academics, 2011), 199.



1/ EXPERIENCE – what is my context?

2/ EXPLORE – what others are doing with their building?

3/ REFLECT – what does God want us to do with our building?