

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCHERS OF HISPANIC EVANGELICAL MEGA-CHURCHES IN THE USA

Created by Clifton L. Holland, Director of PROLADES
15 May 2011

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Researchers who collaborate with PROLADES must select one or more Hispanic Evangelical mega-churches for their fieldwork in major urban areas, and this selection must be coordinated with PROLADES and with their professor or academic advisor to avoid duplicating the efforts of other researchers.

If the selected mega-church has more than one Sunday worship service, the researcher must attend each of these worship services on one or more Sundays as a participant-observer and fill out the respective questionnaires and evaluation forms on each worship service. If the mega-church has five Sunday worship services, then the researcher should program his or her visits over a period of several weeks.

In addition to using the **Basic Evaluation Form for Mega-Churches (QMC-1)**, researchers should also use the **Questionnaire for Senior Pastors of Mega-Churches (QMC-2)**, the **Questionnaire for Individual Attendees of Mega-Churches (QMC-3)**, and mark the appropriate boxes on the **Table of Observed Characteristics of Mega-Churches (QMC-4)** for each one of the worship services visited.

The researcher should obtain the use of a digital camera to take a series of photos both inside and outside of the auditorium during each of his/her visits to each mega-church. Afterward the researcher should produce a photo journalism article about his/her visit to each mega-church with brief descriptions for each photo used in the article. This is part of the documentation process for the mega-church case studies in each country.

We are starting off with the premise that the perceived characteristics of Hispanic Evangelical mega-churches in the USA, as defined by some observers, are those described in the **Evaluation Form for Mega-Churches (QMC-1)**. The purpose of this form is to investigate the mega-church phenomenon first-hand using the participant-observer methodology of fieldwork in an attempt to prove, disprove or modify these perceived characteristics by describing the observed reality of each mega-church visited.

**BASIC EVALUATION FORM
FOR HISPANIC EVANGELICAL MEGA-CHURCHES
IN THE USA (QMC-1)**

Note: Each researcher should complete one form for each mega-church visited.

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

NAME _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS _____

BARRIO-COLONIA _____

ZONE-DISTRICT _____

CITY-ZIP _____

COUNTY-CANTON _____

STATE-PROVINCE-DEPT _____

TELEPHONES _____

E-MAIL _____

INTERNET _____

FOUNDING DATE OF CHURCH _____

DATE IT BECAME A MEGA-CHURCH _____

FOUNDING PASTOR _____

CURRENT SENIOR PASTOR _____

NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE PASTORS _____

DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION _____

NAME OF INTERVIEWER (PARTICIPANT-OBSERVER)

DATE OF ON-SITE VISIT _____

TIME FRAME OF ON-SITE VISIT _____

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER _____

Mark the Appropriate Boxes Below

According to my observations at this mega-church, the following is the most accurate description of this congregation:

1. Evangelical mega-churches are conservative theologically, socially and politically.

Not true____; partially true____; mainly true____; very true____; absolutely true____.

2. Evangelical mega-churches are predominantly Pentecostal-Charismatic (or neo-Pentecostal).

Not true____; partially true____; mainly true____; very true____; absolutely true____.

3. Evangelical mega-churches are predominantly fundamentalist with a strong tendency toward sectarian exclusiveness that promotes dogmatism and fanaticism.

Not true____; partially true____; mainly true____; very true____; absolutely true____.

4. Evangelical mega-churches have leadership structures that are very hierarchical and authoritarian.

Not true____; partially true____; mainly true____; very true____; absolutely true____.

5. Evangelical mega-churches are predominantly composed of members with little education who are drawn from the lower socio-economic levels of society.

Not true____; partially true____; mainly true____; very true____; absolutely true____.

6. Evangelical mega-churches preach and teach the “prosperity gospel” of health, wealth and happiness that promotes capitalism and the free enterprise system.

Not true____; partially true____; mainly true____; very true____; absolutely true____.

7. Evangelical mega-churches support rightwing political parties and governments.

Not true____; partially true____; mainly true____; very true____; absolutely true_____.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS

[CONTROL CODE_____]

CONTACT INFORMATION

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