

# Congregational Partnership in Integral Mission and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



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## Background

Protestant congregations are increasingly engaging in global relief and development as **integral mission (IM)**, or "God's good news for body, mind, and spirit," but little is known about how congregations invest human and financial resources in global aid.<sup>2</sup> A review of large Protestant church webpages in Canada, the UK, and the US (n=437) sheds light on church partnership in aid and development and offers a glimpse of congregational engagement in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

## Goals

1. Obtain descriptive data on Protestant aid and WASH activities.
2. Identify whether congregational families and groups differ according to their IM engagement.
3. Identify how Protestants allocate aid.

## Methods

All Canadian and British megachurches (1,750+ members) were selected for the study along with a random sample of US megachurches.<sup>3</sup> Denominations having fewer than five congregations selected were supplemented by stratified random sampling. The final sample was 22 Canadian, 14 UK, and 401 US congregations (n = 437).

The primary data for the study were gathered from congregational websites. Data were recorded on a structured coding form by a single coder.

## Conclusion

This study provides an initial conservative benchmark of Protestant megachurch integral mission in the UK and North America. Opportunities for future research abound regarding: How congregational IM compares with mainstream development; IM impact and effectiveness; estimates of congregational human and financial resources dedicated to IM; attitudes among missionaries, congregants, and church staff regarding IM; congregational approaches to water management, WASH, and water advocacy; the effectiveness and challenges of channels and partnerships in coordinated development; Community-Led Total Sanitation and other models; spiritual integration and impact; and steps toward long-term impact in WASH.

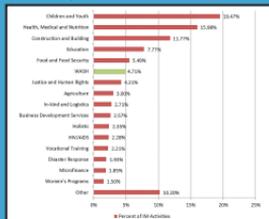
## Findings

53% Congregational integral mission activities devoted to WASH (65 WASH out of 1,446 IM)  
66% NGO-facilitated WASH activities

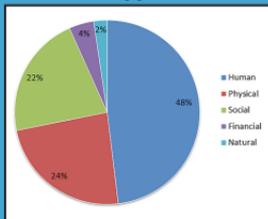
40% NGOs facilitating WASH activities  
16% Agencies singly-focused on WASH

- NGOs facilitating more than one activity: Living Water International (6) and Charity:Water (2)
- WASH activities were mostly well drilling combined with various water management approaches
- Other WASH activities included water analysis, water harvesting, pump repair, purification, Latrine construction, health and hygiene training
- WASH activities occurred in Africa (47%), Central America (37%), and Asia (16%) with Haiti, India, and Honduras receiving the largest single country investments among 28 countries identified.

### Activities by Detailed Sector



### Livelihood Sectors Engaged



## GENERAL

- 54% Protestant congregations with at least one IM activity per year
- 63% Activities led by religious NGOs or missionaries
- 46% Activities per year for congregations with at least one activity
- 50% Congregations engaging in short-term IM
- 44% Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 31% Activities in Africa

- Anabaptist, Reformed/Presbyterian, and Holiness denominational families have the highest percentage of IM in their global outreach. Adventists, Baptists, Pentecostals, and nondenominational congregations engage the least, but still average between 20-30% of their global outreach activities in IM
- Evangelical congregations partner with religious NGOs at a higher rate than do mainline congregations
- Factors influencing aid allocation vary for short- and long-term activities with the former emphasizing
- A large variety of organizations partner with congregations to channel IM. The most common are large religious NGOs such as Compassion International, World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, and the International Justice Mission

## The Full Report



## About the Authors

Monty Lynn teaches and researches business administration and global poverty and development.

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