

CHURCHES COMMITTING SUICIDE

By Rev. Dr. H. Edgar Twine | October 12, 2011

Many years ago I was appalled to see in Europe that many beautiful sanctuary buildings were closed or turned into theatres, bowling alleys, community centers, warehouses or whatever. Why? Well, the war was over when the churches had been crowded and now I guess the people didn't feel they needed the Lord any more. Plus, the churches were afflicted with dull, boring, colorless pastors who had absolutely nothing to say and said nothing so that they bored people to tears.

I never expected to see anything like that here but in my small sphere I have seen more than a few churches commit slow suicide and finally close their doors. Thankfully, some have been bought by other churches who have tried to carry on a Christian ministry where the previous owners had failed. How did this happen? I have watched the process in more than one denomination and it went something like this:

First, they moved from primarily male leadership to female leadership as men were pushed out.

Second, they divided up the morning worship putting senior citizens in one service and young people and boomers in another.

Third, they left serious worship and went to tacky, contemporary casual services which were sort of pseudo-religious with street bum dress in the pulpit and in the pew. There was nothing to indicate to the casual visitor that anything important was going on in their services. God was not taken seriously and neither was anything else. Many long-time worshippers left or went to other denominations saying "Why bother? It's a waste of time."

Fourth, they lost their financial base. They drove away their strongest supporters in order to get a few hangers-on who would spend \$50 to attend a rock concert but wouldn't give 50 cents to the church. (Can you imagine any business doing anything that stupid???)

Fifth, they called a totally inept pastor who showed no sign of faith much less a call to the ministry and who was so addicted to political correctness they he didn't dare take a stand for or against anything or anybody. Tolerance and diversity were his SUMMUM BONUM. Forget about what is true or false, right or wrong, biblical or unbiblical as long as you are tolerant and diversified.

Sixth, they called a woman pastor. (A few women have succeeded in pastorates it appears for now but most churches with female pastOrs are either dead or dying.)

Seven, they voted to close the doors. They could no longer pay the electric bill, so to speak.

Is your **church committing** slow suicide?