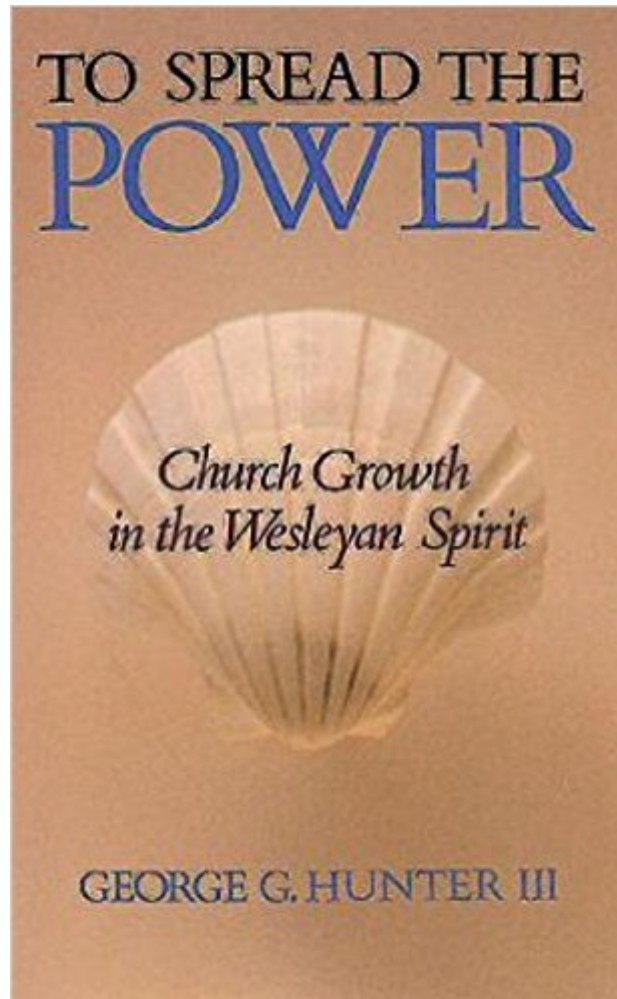


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# To Spread The Power: Church Growth In The Wesleyan Spirit



## Synopsis

Provides six proven successful "mega-strategies" for bringing more people into the church. Explains why John Wesley's writings still hold valuable insights for church growth. "In reading the manuscript, I was inspired by the constant swing between theory and practice. Here is a valid principle, writes Hunter; here is how it works in Tampa, Florida, or Wilmington, Delaware. I was also enthused, as you will be, to observe how McGavran and Wesley targeted 'responsive' people, how they both used indigenous music and language and culture, how they identified needs and met them, and how determined both were to have supportive fellowship groups, lest converts die 'aborning'."--Richard Wilke, from the foreword.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

To Spread the Power is about effective ways of evangelism and emphasizes six "mega-strategies" of evangelism which the author claims are "universal principles that can be adapted to any mission situation, any time, any place" (p13). The author uses John Wesley's "strategic wisdom" (p15) as a primary source for gaining church growth insights and recommends them to be used by all churches for growth. The theory is always linked with practice by citing real examples. This is a very useful summary of the great principles of church growth and especially the insights gained from John Wesley are helpful to learn as he was a great man of God in the 18th century. However, one needs to realize that John Wesley worked in a different era and a "Christian" context, which was primarily

mono-linguistic and mono-cultural. Today's mission context is mainly marked by not only hundreds of languages and cultures but also by religious pluralism. The author also seems to be fascinated by the effectiveness of "strategy," "method," and "organizational wisdom" of Western secular companies and organizations which, to him, have universal applicability. There is hardly any inclusion of any non-Western experience and way of doing evangelism. I think the Western church growth model seems to be too preoccupied with the wisdom of its management gurus and the scientific research methods of social sciences that, it assumes, is the panacea for all church growth ills around the world. The principles in this book, along with other such books on "mega-strategies" produced in the recent years in the United States seem to assume that the management principles of their successful corporate sector, which brought prosperity to their nation, can be replicated in the spiritual realm of the church everywhere on this earth. While it may be true for the West, I do not think it can be applicable in other countries of the South and East for various socio-cultural and econo-political reasons. V. John

In this practical book, Hunter clearly shows that the Church Growth Movement was anticipated by John Wesley. More importantly, Wesley discovered many if not most of the seminal insights of Church Growth during the time of the Methodist revival. For that reason, Hunter shows that Church Growth and Methodism can be compatible. I encourage anyone who has interest in this topic to read this book. I especially encouraged those from the Wesleyan tradition to study the book and attempt to apply its insights to ministry.

"The Wesleyan Spirit" is one of practicality (good sense and reason), deeply biblical, open to the Spirit, honors the traditions of the church. Applied to evangelism and church growth, it makes for a powerful plan for reaching people for Christ's sake. George Hunter provides 6 strategies for bringing more people into the church. These include: identifying receptive people, reaching out across social/cultural boundaries, creating more ways for people to connect, ministering to people's needs, and reforming ministries to "speak the language" of the people. Excellent resource for serious, mainline Christians who want to be involved in evangelism.

This book was great to read when I took his course about building a church for the unchurched. I enjoyed reading it a second time when I was looking for the page on which I had quoted.

Greatr

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