

Our culture's "fertile soil" for religious movements

10 reasons for the long list of
options on today's religious menu


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1. Secularism

- Secular people
 - May look religious, but no daily awareness of or reference to God and His church
 - God and His people seem irrelevant
 - Christianity seems boring and perhaps even untrue

2. Anxiety over threats to human survival





3. Uncertainties produced by complexity of modern existence

4. Betrayals by political and religious leaders



- Televangelists like Baker, Swaggart
- Current Roman Catholic turmoil over sexual abuse
- Political leaders like Nixon, Clinton

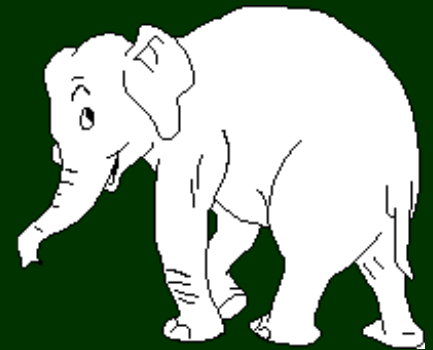
5. Intense longing for transcendence

- The “god-shaped vacuum” in the human heart – Blaise Pascal, French mathematician and philosopher of the 1600’s

6. Breakdown of family and neighborhood groups

7. Feeling of lostness fostered by moral / religious relativism

- ▣ “Religion comparison chart” of skit in *Worldview Boutique* video
- ▣ Elephant metaphor



8. Naïve openness to religious imports



9. Affluence and consumerism



10. Failures in the church



- ❑ Inadequate Biblical teaching
- ❑ sub-Christian “gospel of success”
- ❑ Extreme individualism
- ❑ Sterile services
- ❑ Overemphasis on propositional truths
- ❑ Lack of authentic Christian community

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End

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