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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