

CHURCH AND ATHEISTS¹

Bad news? What bad news? The "substantial declines in Sunday attendance" among Canadian churches is *good* news. I claim this not as an enemy of the church but as a clergy and missionary. Ever since the beginning of Christianity in the West, it has been foisted upon a people largely spiritually indifferent with the use of sword and pressure. Most members attached themselves to the church for all kinds of cultural, economic and social reasons without a heart commitment to its core, namely Christ. The church ended up an oppressor and that's why she is now despised. So now these spiritual fossils have left the church and the church is free to live and work out the Gospel without that heavy foreign baggage. I hope you enjoy the cold, rational, secular atmosphere of social disintegration and entitlement you have created for yourself. We will embrace you anytime you want to make a comeback and will enjoy honest dialogue with you for the benefit of all.

As to Atheists now competing in doing good, welcome! There are few things more useful to the poor than to have communities compete in doing good—especially if it's the kind we call *justice* rather than the *charity* that currently seems to be the rage. On second thought, a little cooperation rather than competition would be even better for the poor—cooperation not just on your secular terms, but on terms acceptable to all, meaning reason *and* faith. Let's try it out and see where it gets us. What do you think would happen?

¹Letter to Editor, *MacLean's*, May 3, 2010. *Every Square Inch*, vol. 4, pp. 138-139.