



Think about it.

Throughout history, entire eras of the Church are often summarized in one resonant word.

For example, ask any church historian, “What was the single greatest move of the Holy Spirit in the 4th century AD that catalyzed a significant advance of the Gospel?” Most will likely respond, “Constantine,” referring to the emperor’s dramatic conversion and the subsequent legalization of Christianity across the Roman Empire.

Likewise, when considering the 16th century, many will say, “Reformation.” They’ll point to Martin Luther’s courageous posting of his 95 Theses to challenge ecclesial corruption, or to William Tyndale’s English translation of the Bible, which ignited a passion for biblical literacy across Europe.

Now imagine...

If the Lord has not yet returned, and believers 500 years from today look back and ask, “What was the single greatest move of the Holy Spirit in the 21st century AD that catalyzed a significant advance of the Gospel?” what do you suppose they’ll say?

What will be the resonant word?

While we can’t know for certain, still I’m convinced that the word—whatever it is—will testify to this: **In the 21<sup>st</sup> century...**

- **Men and women of diverse ethnic, economic, and cultural backgrounds willed themselves to walk, work, and worship God together as one**, beyond the distinctions of this world that otherwise divide.
- Across the Western world and into the East, **followers of Jesus bore credible witness to the reconciling power of the Gospel** by refusing to remain segregated by color, class, or culture in congregations designed for sameness.
- A systemic shift from prayerful longing to intentional, **tangible expressions of Christ-centered unity took place and sparked a Movement** not centered in any one person, event, or institution, but grounded in incarnational practice among everyday believers.

In the 1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observed that eleven o’clock on Sunday morning is the most segregated hour of the week. Some 40 years later, Michael Emerson and Christian Smith underscored the statement with research and reflection in their book, *Divided By Faith* (Oxford Press, 2000), effectively launching the Multiethnic Church Movement.

At this year’s triennial Mosaix Conference, attendees will gather to celebrate progress to date, evaluate areas for growth, and chart a course for the future, with a goal of seeing eleven o’clock

become the most integrated hour of the week by the year 2050, as Chuck Mingo and Troy Jackson, co-founders of *Undivided*, have begun to champion.

So, what do you think: What will be the word?

Whatever it is, I believe that word will point to those who leaned into discomfort, faced down obstacles, and dared to embody one new humanity for the sake of the Gospel. Someday it will be said, “In the 21st century, Christian unity became a lived reality in the local church.”

May that word one day mark a century in Church history when our collective effort to build healthy multiethnic churches, patterned after the New Testament model of Antioch (Acts 11:19–26; 13:1), stood as a defining moment.

May it testify that we overcame the challenges and embraced the opportunities of globalization to advance a credible witness of Christ’s love for all people (John 17:20–23), on earth as it is in heaven (Revelation 7:9), for the glory of God (Matthew 5:16).

Indeed, may it be a word for the ages.

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