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Why millions are leaving the church, and finding God elsewhere *Former Baptist minister says, "The church is ill"*

WHO: Dr. Steve McSwain, former Baptist minister-turned-interfaith spiritual teacher.

WHAT: It's no secret that millions of Americans have left the church.

According to the American Religious Identification Survey, an estimated 34 million Americans have given up on religion. Frustrated by their religious tradition or church, many have tried switching churches, denominations, or faith traditions while others have left religion entirely.

And yet, even as many churches and denominations are declining, some of our country's most prominent spiritual authors – the Dalai Lama, Deepak Chopra, Max Lucado, Eckhart Tolle – are selling more books than ever before. Why then are more Americans seeking God, but fleeing the temple in which he supposedly resides?

Inside *The Enoch Factor: The Sacred Art of Knowing God* (June 2010, Smyth & Helwys), Dr. McSwain says this is no accident. According to him, religion too often subverts an authentic spiritual life.

"The church is gravely ill," says Dr. McSwain. "It's in need of the very thing it proclaims to the world. If it is to survive, it must end the insanity of thinking, 'We're right; You're wrong!' 'We're in; You're out!' 'We're the chosen ones, you're not!'"

Speaking to an ever-growing body of church discontents and "church drop-outs," *The Enoch Factor* reaches out to those who have left their religion, but hunger deeply for a real, spiritual union.

"I'm free of believing Christianity is the only way to know God," says Dr. McSwain. "Furthermore, being the slave many are to churchgoing and church dogma isn't a prerequisite to knowing God. The only place you need to go to know is within. The sages of old rightly reminded us, 'God has but one synagogue – the human heart.' This book will help you to know and to walk with God herself."

WHEN: Dr. McSwain is available for interviews upon request. His book is available for review prior to interview.

SHOW SEGMENT IDEAS:

- Why the church is in a state of crisis
- The shared goal, and shared failure, of all religions, including Christianity
- How one Baptist minister received his spiritual awakening *after* he stopped going to church
- How to re-discover your sacred self

DR. STEVE MCSWAIN is the author of *The Giving Myths: Giving then Getting the Life You've Always Wanted* (2007, Smyth & Helwys). He holds a doctorate in Christian ministry, and is a public speaker at churches, conventions, and corporate events nationwide. For more information, please visit www.stevemcswain.com.

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