



*Russ & Lisa Weaver,  
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**To reach Inverness, Scotland and beyond for Jesus Christ**



*"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12 NIV*





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Scotland, located in the northern part of the United Kingdom, is one of the most lush and beautiful places we have ever seen. Scotland has a long and diverse history, including the birth of one of the oldest churches in the world. In 563 A.D., a Celtic priest from Ireland, by the name of Columba, was exiled from Ireland and went to Scotland. When Columba arrived in Scotland, he landed on the island of Iona (an island in the Inner Hebrides). There he and twelve other monks established an abbey. At the abbey in Iona, Columba trained some of the first missionaries and sent them into Scotland. Columba and his monks are credited as starting the first and longest lasting Christian movement in history.

As the Christian movement continued to grow, it wasn't until the 18th century that Scotland and the UK were noted as, "The most Christian countries on earth." Of the hundreds of theologians to emerge from the 16th century to the 20th century, many of them were Scots.

Something happened around the turn of the 21st century. In 1925, a census commissioned by King George V, showed that nearly 78% of Scotland claimed Christianity. The census also noted that there were over 44,000 full-time paid clergy. In fact, Scots boast that there is a church for every pub in every town (and there's a lot of them!).



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*This is what Scotland looks like today...*



We recently spoke with the Highland Council in Inverness, Scotland, about these numbers. We were told that these numbers are fairly accurate; however, at the time of drafting this presentation, we decided to call The National Records of Scotland (NRS) who are responsible for overseeing the census. Here's what we can add to the information above:

- 5,530,262 people that participated in the census are Scottish Nationals or Ex-Pats now living in Scotland; however, 1,643,551 people were omitted from the census because they were not nationalized citizens or had temporary residence in Scotland (on a visa of some kind). That brings the total number of people residing in Scotland up to 7,173,813 people.
- 67% of those 7,173,813 people claim to follow no religion at all. If we add the "Undeclared" to that number, it would be a staggering 79%! If you do the math, you will find that almost the entire number of those who are on this census are lost.



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*This is what Scotland looks like today..., cont.*

Let's stick to what you see in the illustration on the previous page to make this easy: of the 5,530,262 people on the census, 3,089,032 of them are lost. Over 55% of the population of Scotland simply don't know Jesus.

- In 1925, there were 44,000 full-time paid clergy. Today, there are less than 4,000, and approximately 1,700 clergy who work part-time to subsidize their income.
- In 1860, there were over 34,000 active churches in Scotland. Today there are less than 11,000 active places of worship.
- There was a steady decline in church attendance post WWI, which was due to several factors: the growing power in the national state; socialism; scientific rationalism; and movements like the Humanist Movement.
- Then, with the onset of WWII in the 1940's, the church also saw a decrease in their attendance of over 40%.
- In 1955, a Billy Graham tour brought church numbers up to nearly a pre-war level; however, that is not the case today.



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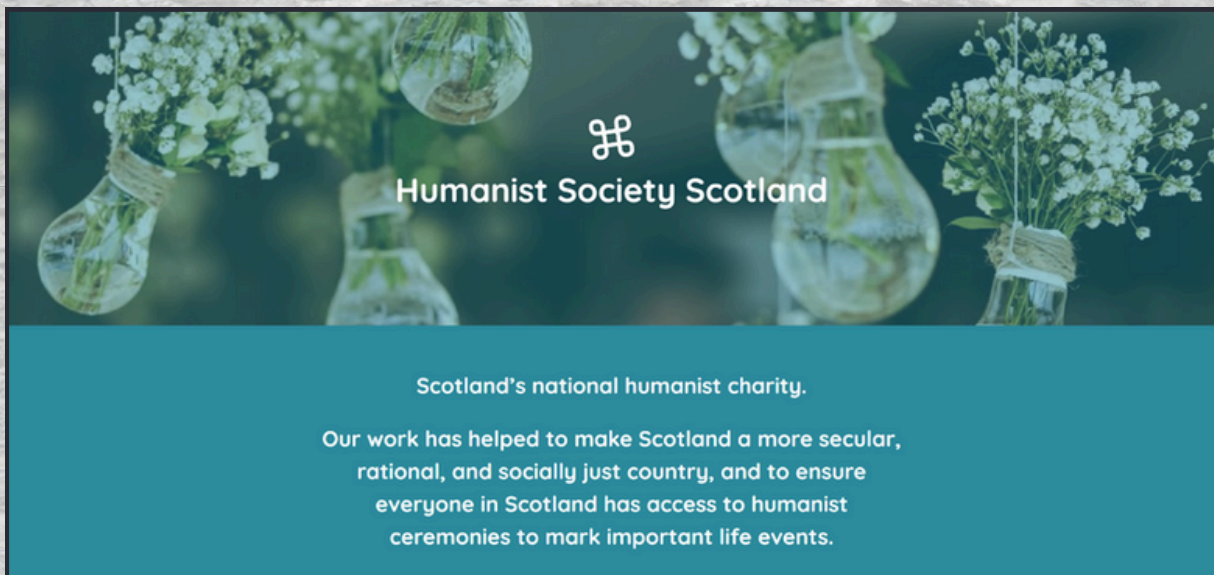


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Today, we face all the issues of the 1940's, plus some new issues caused by a post-pandemic world. One of our largest challenges is the “Humanist Society” movement, which is taking place all over the UK. The “Humanist Society” continues to grow, and they have taken over several sacred events that used to be conducted almost exclusively in churches, such as: Weddings, Christenings, Funerals, etc.



Since the beginning of time, humans have attempted to escape God. This “Humanist Society” is a movement literally trying to remove God from the scene altogether.

We are striving to make a difference, but we can't do it alone.



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## ***Our Vision:***

To reach the lost through serving the children of God. To lead a radical transformation for Jesus Christ in Scotland and around the globe. *“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28.*

## ***Our Mission:***

We are sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to bring people into a personal relationship with the Living God and training up disciples as Jesus commanded us. *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20.*



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## ***Our Values:***

**We speak life and pursue excellence to honor God.**

We lift up others by speaking life. We consistently give our best to honor God.

**We will do anything short of sin to reach people who don't know Jesus.**

To reach people no one is reaching, we'll have to do things no one is doing.

**We give up things we love for things we love even more.**

It's an honor to sacrifice for Christ and His church.

**We are faith-filled, big thinking, bet-the-farm risk takers.**

We'll never insult God with small thinking and safe living.

**We are stewards and servants first.**

We only use titles for organizational clarity.

We are all stewards of God's blessing to serve His people.

**We are thermostats, not thermometers.**

We set the environment; we don't measure it.

**What we're a part of is bigger than the role we play.**

Working as a team we accomplish so much more for the Kingdom.

**We are spiritual contributors, not spiritual consumers.**

The church does not exist for us. We are the church, and we exist for the world.

**We are all about the "capitol C" Church.**

The local church is the hope of the world,  
and we know we can accomplish infinitely more together than apart.

**We will laugh loud, hard, and often.**

Nothing is more fun than serving God with people you love.



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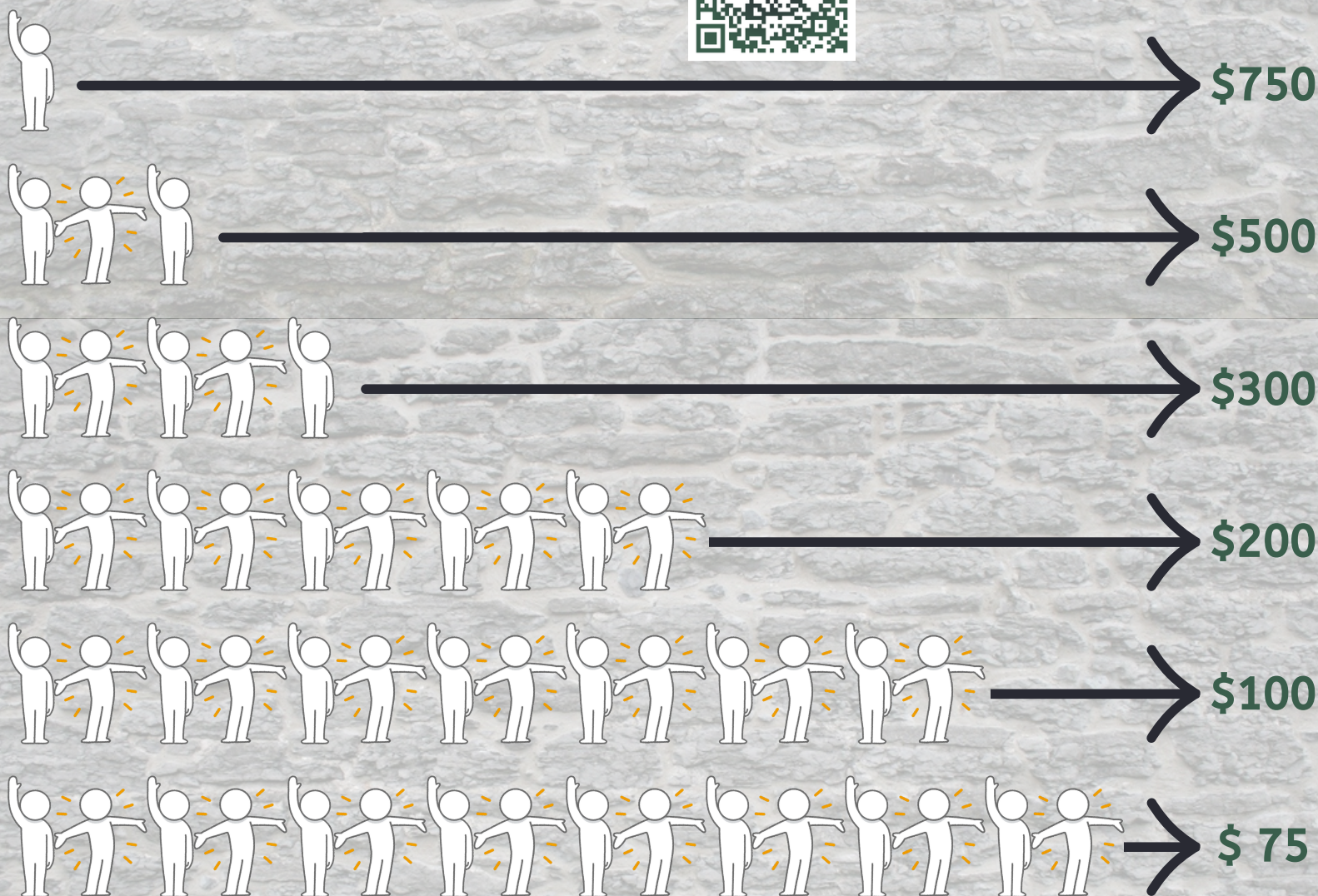


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## Journey With The Weavers - MONTHLY Support

Join the Team!



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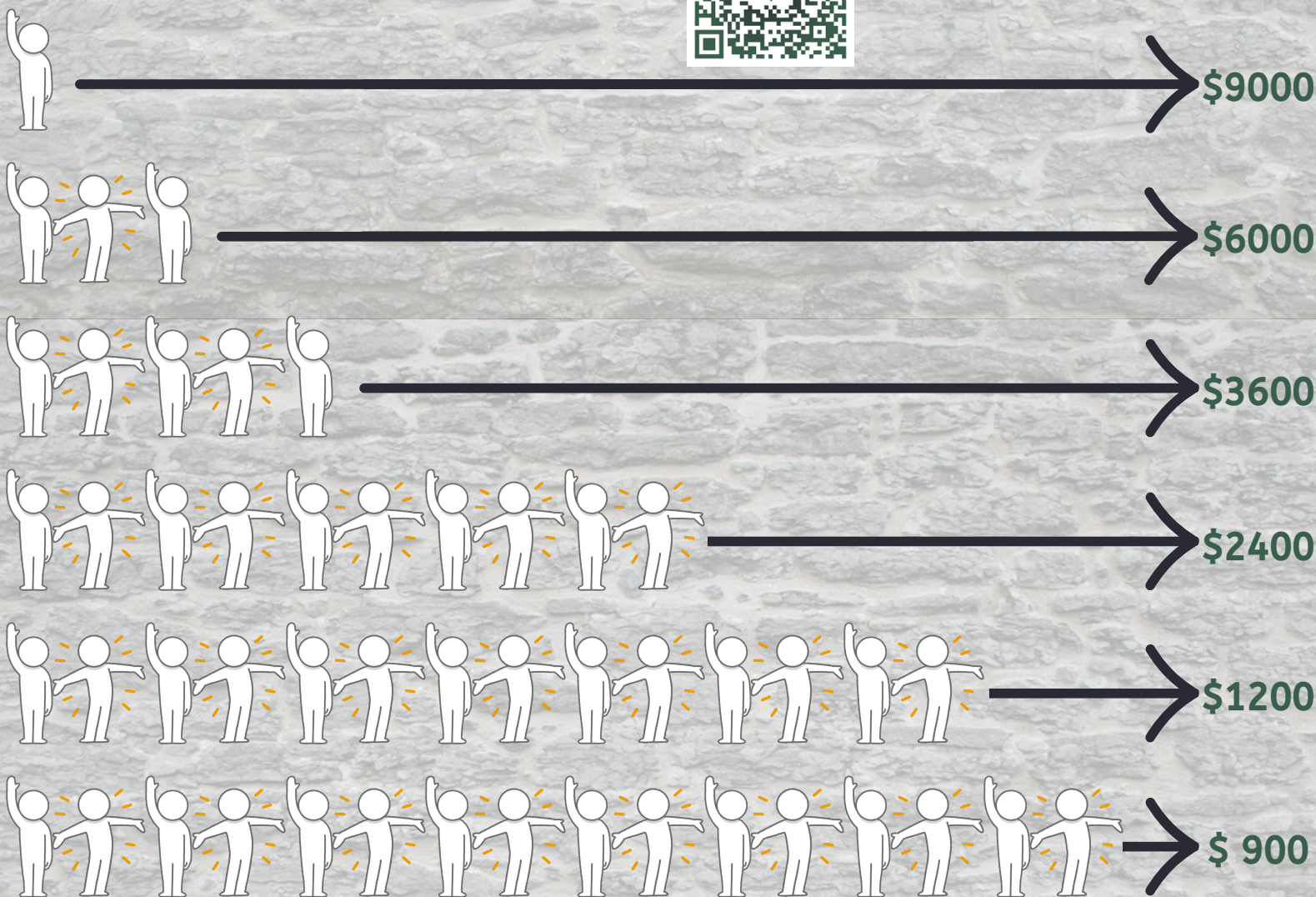


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