

WORK WITH PURPOSE INITIATIVE | PASTORS GATHERING

Six Ways to Implement a Whole-Life Discipleship Making Church

This interactive workshop featured Neil Hudson, author of Imagine Church and Imagine project director from The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC), and Chris Lake, executive director of the Vere Institute in Boston. Through teachings and group discussion, they explored six practical ways your church can move forward with a renewed vision. The discussion covered not only the biblical foundations of whole-life discipleship, but also offered tools for churches of various sizes and denominations.

Six Ways to Implement a Whole-Life Discipleship Making Church

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Outline of the Day

- 8:30 Registration and Breakfast
- 9:00 A Vision for Whole-Life Discipleship Making
- 10:00 Group Discussion
- 10:15 *Break*
- 10:30 Developing a Whole-Life Discipleship Making Culture
- 11:45 *Lunch*
- 12:30 Levels of Engagement: Now What?
- 12:45 Panel Discussion
- 1:30 Whole-Life Ministry
- 2:00 *Break*
- 2:15 Reflecting Together: Q & A
- 2:45 Next Steps
- 3:15 Prayer and Commission
- 3:30 Conclusion

This event is produced in partnership with:



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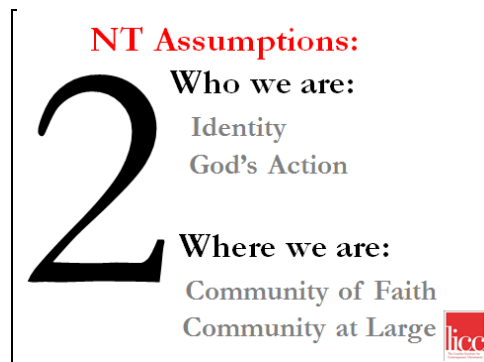
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Developing a Vision for Everyday Mission

Fully Persuaded

We need to be persuaded of the need to develop church communities of whole-life disciples. But this must be more than pragmatic, or a device to try and get our local church to grow. We will need to be fully persuaded because the existing cultural expectations of church and ministry run deep.

1. Fully Persuaded by the Biblical Vision



2. Fully Persuaded by the Core Task of Disciple-Making

'I hold a number of strong convictions:

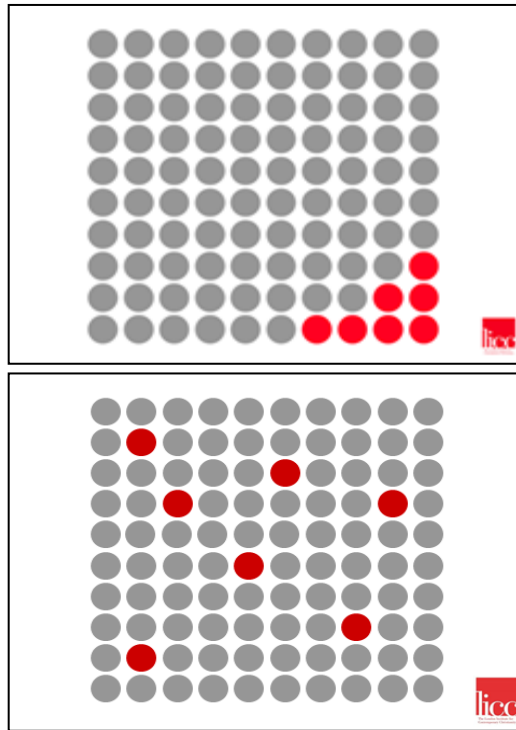
1. There is no way to re-evangelize this nation apart from the impact of the daily lives of ordinary, everyday Christians.
2. The ultimate test of the fruitfulness and authenticity of any church, irrespective of its style or tradition, is the quality of the disciples it makes.
3. Today's church has inherited a disastrous split between evangelism and disciple-making, and often reduces discipleship to narrowly conceived personal piety.
4. Discipleship cannot be taught from a pulpit or in a classroom alone, but is formed through community, and through godly habits, in the practice of mission and in the context of everyday living.'

(Graham Cray, Forward, in *Imagine Church*, Neil Hudson, Leicester: IVP 2012)

Definition:

A disciple is someone learning to live the way of Jesus in their context at this moment.

3. Fully Persuaded by the Potential



4. Fully Persuaded of the Intrinsic Relationship Between Gathered Church and Scattered Church



Pause:

What specific pressures will the people who worshipped with you last Sunday have experienced over the past 5 days?

What effect do these pressures have on them?

How does this awareness affect the way you minister to them on Sunday?

5. Fully Persuaded of the Significance of ...

Confidence
Clarity
Conviction



Current strategy for world evangelisation:

To recruit the people of God to use some of their leisure time to join the missionary initiatives of church-paid workers.



Identifying our Frontlines



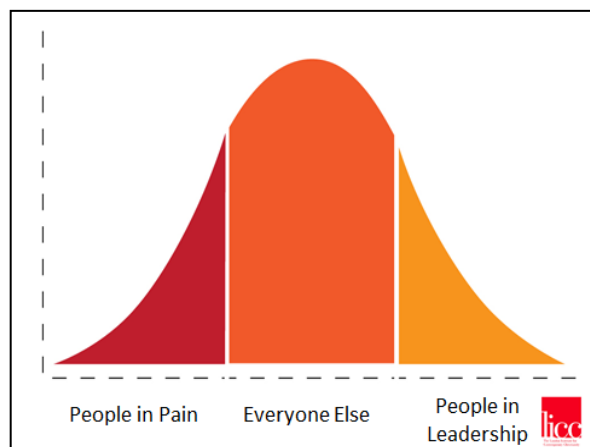
Outer Ring: 'big issues' of today's world

Inner Ring: activities close to the daily life of the church

Church: (building and gathered activities)

Middle Ring: daily contexts that are not part of the daily life of the church





Developing a Missional Imagination for Everyone

1. A Biblical Vision of Identity

1 Peter 2: 9-10

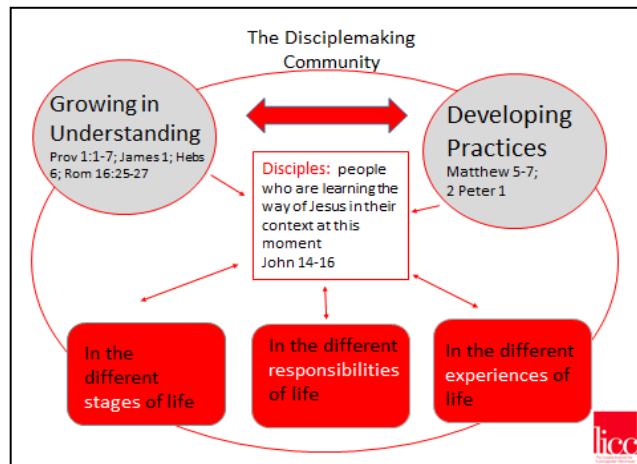
⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Pause:

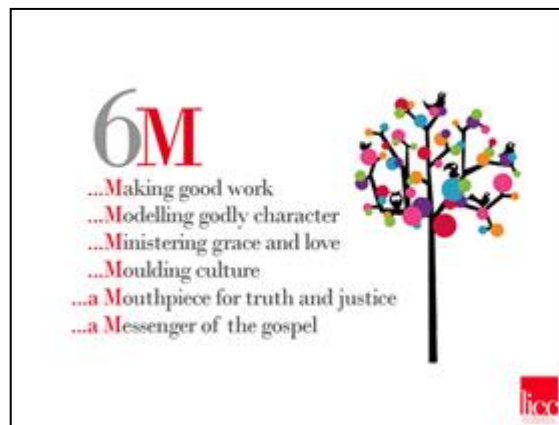
Outline some of the ways that this passage would encourage people to live out the implications of their faith in daily life.

2. A Christian Vision of Vocation

3. The Role of the Church in Identity Formation



4. Developing a Personal Framework of Fruitfulness



5. A Proposed Strategy of Mission

The Story of 4 Tables:

- Work Table
- Coffee Table
- Dining Table
- Lord's Table

Group Work

One church's plan:

What have you tried? What could you continue with?

Activities	Tried	To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Time Tomorrow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Once a month in church (alternating with prayer for mission of the gathered church i.e. mission partner, community outreach) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Live or video interview ○ Put TTT videos on website 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate new members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change new member interview and form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Question: Where is God already using you and how can we help you in that? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate about what gathered/scattered church is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clear and consistent website descriptions ○ Deliberate language from front of church ○ Children's slots 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos of members in their workplace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mission board with map ○ Website/Facebook 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion re "Worship" language – Sunday vs whole life ○ PowerPoint images of our town/area 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupation related prayer/ prayer for new jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Sunday service ○ At midweek groups 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipleship Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Life on the Frontline & Fruitfulness on the Frontline</i> DVD series for Wednesday evenings ○ Introducing ideas to elders: Read <i>Imagine Church</i> book segments ○ Adopt Language of Frontlines 		

Activities	Tried	To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipping for Frontline living <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resources for Small group ○ Applications in sermons ○ Articles on website ○ Testimony from those with encouraging stories 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Intentional Coffee Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deliberate questions – identify these ○ Ask how we can pray for people’s frontlines ○ Introducing people with similar jobs/experiences ○ Train others to be intentional 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector specific engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monthly focus on different sectors e.g. Finance, health, unemployed ○ Sunday evening, prayer meeting, Saturday breakfast – occupation specific groups to share how to serve on that particular frontline 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education about pastoral equipping/care contract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shared pastoral care responsibilities among staff team ○ Encouraging small groups to take responsibility for certain pastoral care issues in their district ○ Use of language from staff team emphasises equipping 		
<p>Other actions you’ve taken/you could take:</p>		

Developing Ministry Practices that Sustain a Missional Focus

1. Diagnosing the Culture

- Who are the heroes? What gets rewarded? What is the reward?
- How do people know things are going well?
- What do people complain about? How do they complain?

2. The Principle of One Degree Shifts

Language Matters

How we refer to ourselves
How we refer to others
Dignifying Locations
Developing Faith-full Vocabulary

Prayer Matters

Praying through the church address book by location
Church Prayer Meeting Content
Intercessions

Diary Matters

Who gets your attention?
What do you talk about?
What story are you looking for?
What will you do with it?

Décor Matters

Maps, signs and symbols

Liturgy Matters

Gather – Encounter - Commission

3. Commission

4. Develop Your Primary Drivers

Preaching – developing posture towards text and the congregation

Worship – becoming increasingly alert to who God is and shaped by familiar habits

Small Groups – beyond information; beyond disclosure; true *koinonia*

5. And then there's Coffee

Notes

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