

Think Like a Missionary: Putting *Missional* in your Church's Vision

Implications of "the missional church" in shaping a church's vision

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I. Concept: Contrast two types of Church:

In a "Communal" church spiritual growth occurs in a congregation as an expression of the transforming power of the Gospel.

In a "Missional" church spiritual growth occurs in a congregation stemming from intentional Gospel transformation in the world.

BREAKOUT (just think about the IDEA at this point rather than your church vision):

- Does this contrast make sense?
- Is this comparison fair?
- Are both models biblical?
- Are there settings in which one is more appropriate than the other?

Three reasons for Missional focus at this point in Canadian history:

- 1) NT emphasis
- 2) Churches are on the margins
- 3) Missional focus drives communal



Two priorities:

- 1) work the network of relationships
- 2) pray and watch for a common vision



2. Church Application: Communal vs Missional oriented models of church

Communal:

- Primarily Inward looking
- Focus on Church growth
- Invitation / host "Bring them in"
- Passive witness as Body of Christ (eg "building shows we are a permanent part of the community")
- Church programs

Missional:

- Primarily Outward looking
- Kingdom of God focus
- Guest "Can I join you" (e.g. Hudson Taylor)
- Active witness in seeking transformation in daily life
- Contextualization

BREAKOUT

Rate your church. How much energy / resources is given to communal efforts and how much to missional aspects? Use a scale from one to 10 (one communal to 10 missional):

- Finances
- Time
- Personnel
- Energy / planning
- Philosophy / perspective (what people envision when they think of "church")

III. Why Missional: Missional drives Communal

def'n of missional "...whenever it has turned out towards the world with a missionary heart, seeking to bring the gospel of Christ to those outside the church's boundaries, it has recovered its meaning for being."
(Dowsett 2004: 14-15)

BREAKOUT

- 1) Do you agree that missional drives communal and not vice versa? Can you give examples?
- 2) If your church was to become more missional, what would be different? What would be the same?

IV. Making the shift: What would a communal to missional shift look like?

If communal church is the goal

- a) "Scorecard" (using McNeal terminology, p. 67 – what we measure or celebrate determines the meaning of success):
 - Institutionally focused
 - Membership focused
- b) We maintain control

Why this doesn't work on the margins:

- 1) Most people are looking for significance, not a church experience.
- 2) extractionism: asking them to make the hard adjustment
- 3) minor missional thinking because the focus is on the church
- 4) tendency to passivity

If church is missional

Scorecard is kingdom centered:

- 1) significant conversations
- 2) believers released into local and global ministries
- 3) focus on relating significantly to specific populations
- 4) different community groups use facilities
- 5) How many languages (ethnic and generational) we worship in
- 6) church activities target people who are not yet a part of the church.
- 7) mission initiatives established "in the streets"
- 8) volunteers commissioned to be intentional Christians
- 9) cultural forms have been transformed by Christ as Lord.
- 10) people doing ministry in the context of life

BREAKOUT

Evaluate your scorecard: "What gets rewarded, gets done." (McNeal, p. 108) What is recorded is understood to be of the greatest value.

- 1) What is your church's current "scorecard"? What is measured and what is success? What does the leadership affirm? What is a good church member? Do these reflect a missional outlook? Should they be changed?
- 2) What changes to the scorecard would result in more missional thinking?