

Senior Leaders' Consultation 2005

Draft notes

Session 3: Changing churches for mission, Mark Mumford

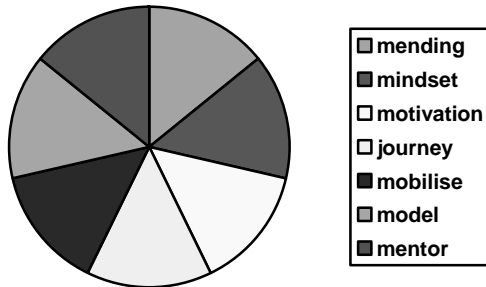


Mission – what does it mean? It's fast-becoming the most used word amongst us, which is good, but it may become neutralised.

It's not the church of God that has a mission, but of the God of mission that has a church in the world.
'Mission-shaped church' – we join in with the God of mission

How?

- As leaders, we are the cultural architects of our churches. We are responsible to shape the culture of our churches. If we don't shape it, someone else will!
- The first attribute of a disciple is ability to learn from others. We must be willing learners. Some of our solutions are here, today!
- All of these areas are essential to create missional churches. We can't just grab 'one thing' and see it magically happen.



Mending

Dealing with people's personal issues – their past! We need to find ways of dealing with problems, yet not taking our eye off the mission.

- Involving people in mission at an early stage is a major key to resolving issues
- Rooting into the word of God
- Power encounters with God – you can't pastor a demon out!
- Good leadership with clear reference points – personal pastoring essential (a clear single reference point)
- Cleanup operation for new believers – CR, Neil Anderson, Encounters (from a show of hands, less than half our churches used such resources!)

Mindset

Cultivating a positive 'we can do it' faith mindset in our people.

*"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world.
The unreasonable man adapts the world to himself.
Therefore all hope of progress rests with the unreasonable man."*

- Get into God's presence
- Create culture where experiment, adventure, God may well do something, OK to make mistakes,
- Encouragement
- Story-telling
- Keeping broad horizons of faith – seeing how God is moving in a big context
- We can learn from faith churches, although we might have some theological questions! Get an injection of faith from someone who carries it.
- Faith is aimed at the gospel working, no abstract

- Helping people see how it can be them-shaped – e.g. pastoral evangelism
- Testimonies are key – well-prepared in advance
- Help people with the how-to – take people with you
- Be ruthless with unbelief. Deal with strongholds in your own thinking.

Motivation

Cultivating a 'we *want* to do it' mindset.

- Identify demotivators – then overcome them
- It's a spiritual battle.
- Something that grows up from grass-roots is better.
- Identify people who are doing it, enthusiastic, successful – create a groundswell that people want to join in with
- People need to understand that Jesus is and was an evangelist – in order to follow him
- Create an ethos in the church
- Minister to people's baggage: deliverance, how to handle failure
- Teach the word of God properly from day one: who I am in Christ
- Change perceptions about ourselves
- Include expectation from the outset that evangelism is part of the Christian life
- Celebrate success
- Reward: ongoing involvement with the person they have brought to Christ

Moving (journey)

Giving people *understanding* of 'process', sowing/reaping/keeping, etc. There are processes as people come to the Lord – not just crisis evangelism, but also process evangelism. Think carefully about sowing, reaping, keeping events, etc. Teach people to understand.

- A deliberate moving strategy.
- Moving people through a line.
- Model and evangelistic lifestyle as leaders.
- A discipleship and equipping track that people can hook into: TMC > Alpha > etc.
- Testimony.
- Understanding the why of mission – it's not about me?
- Guest services
- Social events
- Fun days in the community
- Parenting courses
- Getting people to understand the process, so they can have faith for the individual steps

Mobilise

Equip people in *skills*. Not just stirring them up, but getting them into action. Active, not just busy. Skills. Thinking theologically.

- Priesthood of all believers
- A vision of a big God
- Teaching the Bible as a 'mission book' – catch the mission heart of God
- Releasing people individually into what God has for them. Encouraging people to find practical responses to their vision
- Informed prayer that encounters God. People are mobilised as they meet God.
- Showing needs and providing opportunities (opening doors so that people feel needed)
- Have we been mobilising our people for meetings (worship, preaching, etc.), or for mission?
- Training
- Tools – guest events

- Implementing mindset change
- Prayer
- Leaders modelling

Model

Setting an example; celebrating success stories; testimonies.

- We need to be doing it ourselves, living it, lining up, not just telling others to do it
- Social events: doing things where people are, rather than asking them to come to our stuff
- Reassessing priorities, perhaps setting aside one evening a month/week for the unchurched? – a particular challenge for those of us heavily involved in church leadership (whether FT or not)

Mentor

Coaching people, one-to-one discipleship, through success and failure.

“People will only ever realise their full potential in God in the context of mission.”

- A place for preaching: do you really want to live like this for the rest of your life
- Help people see discipleship in the context of mission, not personal wholeness/character: “follow me and I’ll make you a well-rounded person”?
- Each of us is responsible for our own discipleship journey, receiving it in a variety of ways
- Train mentors well
- Offer a variety of mentoring models, e.g. personal pastoring, discipleship groups, variety of inputs
- Providing shadowing opportunities to shadow and learn on the job