Empowering God’s People For Ministry

Mission Hills, CA
October 25, 2014
OPENING DOORS

- Jesus is the only Door to salvation (John 10:9)
- There are many doors to the community
- The Church must get out of the building!
8 HINGE FACTORS

**4 Pastor**
- Personal leadership
- Building bridges
- Visionary leadership
- Empowerment

**4 Church**
- Functional Board (Structure)
- Focused Prayer
- Community Outreach
- Inspiring worship
Research Reveals: Hinge Factors

Empowerment of God’s People

Community Outreach

Missional Impact

“He gave some to be... pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” (Eph. 4:11-12)
WHAT IS GOD’S MISSION?

What Did Jesus say His Mission was?

- Luke 19:10
- Matthew 9:13
- Matthew 4:19
- Matthew 16:18
WHAT IS GOD’S MISSION?

What Did Walther say our Mission was?

“No one should say, ‘I am not a minister, a teacher, a preacher... No, my Christian, you are baptized and through holy baptism every Christian is dedicated, ordained and installed into office to teach, admonish, comfort and disciple his neighbor. Through holy baptism a Christian has... the high and holy obligation to... assist to the end that others are enlightened and brought to Christ.”

Walther
Do you agree that the Mission of God is to reconcile all people to Himself through His Son, Jesus? Why or why not?

What is your role in this Mission of God? Your congregation’s role?

What are you doing to exercise your missional role?
“God calls us to evangelism!  
The bank that holds our mortgage has mentioned it, too.”
DON’T BE THIS GUY!

- No Lone Rangers in the Church!!
- No silver bullets for outreach!!
- No return to those thrilling days of yesteryear!!
I Am the Way, the Truth, & the Life!

No one comes to the Father but by me.
John 14:6

Matthew 16:18
WHAT IS THE CURRENT REALITY?

- 80% of churches are plateaued or declining
- 20% of church members are what might be called “active”
- Have we in the church accepted the “Pareto Principle” (also known as the “80/20 rule”) as the norm?
- What other current realities do you see in the church?
So where do we start?

- With **yourself**!
- Am I growing personally in my faith?
- How am I influencing others?
- Who am I discipling?
- Who am I mentoring?
- Who is my “understudy”?  

“The Christian faith can disappear within a single generation”
So where do we start?

How clear are we about specific roles and expectations and how they impact our life together?

- What is the role and expectations of the pastor?
- What is the role and expectations of a member?
- What is a disciple?
What is the role of the pastor?

• “Do it all-chaplain” or “equipper of the saints…” (Eph. 4:11-12)?

• Or?

• How Biblical are our expectations?

• To what extent is there mutual understanding?
WHAT’S BELOW THE SURFACE?

What’s your iceberg?
WHAT’S BELOW THE SURFACE?

1. For the church to fulfill its mission in the world, the values and practices of Christ must become ours

2. Our systems produce exactly what they are designed to do

3. The primary emphasis of the pastor must be shifted from chaplain to equipper/missionary
What is a member?

• Just affiliation, worshipper, saved? or? What do the Bylaws say? (recognition of your common confession and alignment with our mission & vision)

• A worshipper? A servant of Christ? What does that look like?

• Membership should begin with an orientation which places the bar & assumptions high about membership
What is a disciple?

- A **follower of Jesus**; one who trusts in Jesus as Savior, takes up His teachings and lifestyle and teaches others how to do the same.

- So...what is the connection between **pastors, members, and disciples**?

- Everything we are and do has **discipleship** in mind. *Matthew 28:19*
Disciple-Making

• Immediate Mentoring
• I do it and you watch
• We do it together
• You do it and I watch
• You do it…and…
Hinge Factor: Empowerment of God’s People

The Pastor & Staff spend their time (~8 hours per week) developing God’s people through coaching, equipping, mentoring, and training.
Empowerment of God’s People

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Ephesians 4:11-12
WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS OF EMPOWERMENT?

1. Biblical Teaching
2. Real Life Experience
3. Applied Passion
4. Equipping & Releasing
BIBLICAL TEACHING

What do these passages have to say about how Jesus went about the task of making disciples? What do they say about the role of the pastor and empowering God’s people for ministry?

- Matthew 16:24-25
- Matthew 11:28-30
- Mark 1:35-38
REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE

What does it take to empower a person to get involved in ministry?

- Same Kind of Different as Me
- My Story
- Your Story

“When you start a Bible doin’ group, let me know!”

- Denver Moore
Describe a time in your life when you experienced an important change?

Describe a time that touched you emotionally that resulted in an empowering change?

What were the circumstances surrounding that event or process?
The engine that drives the car!
Equipping for the People of Passion

- **Who are People of Passion?**
  - Passion for Christ
  - Passion for Congregation
  - Passion for Community

- **They engage in 7 Missional Activities**
  - Prayer Walking
  - Community Surveying
  - Visioning Day
  - Service Projects
  - Outreach Events
  - Personal Testimony
  - Sharing the Gospel
7 MISSIONAL ACTIVITIES

A way to get started:

1. Prayer Walking
2. Community Surveying
3. Visioning Process
4. Service Projects
5. Personal Testimonies
6. Outreach Events
7. Sharing the Gospel
SERVING THE COMMUNITY

- Meeting a community need
  - Community Surveys
  - Interviewing community officials
- Asking individuals in the community “how can we serve you?”
- See Chapter 2 in People of Passion
Finding Common Ground

• Being where the fish are
• Knowing what they want and need
• Discovering the crosspoint of what they need and what you have to offer
• Creating a Vision Strategy
• See Chapter 3 in People of Vision
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

- Service Project Sundays
- Adopt a School
- Neighborhood Cleanups
- Free Giveaways
- Mission Trips
- See Chapter 4 in People of Passion
- First Lutheran, Hot Springs, AR
COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

- Trunk or Treat
- Community Christmas
- Backyard VBS
- Nursing Home Ministry
- Educational Events
- Support Groups
- Community Meetings/Groups
- Chapter 6 in People of Passion
EMPOWERMENT RESOURCE FOR CHURCHES

SKILL BUILDERS
Leadership Tools for Opening Doors to Your Community

Terry Tieman
Dwight Marable
STEPS FOR EQUIPPING

1. Praying
2. Spotting
3. Exposing
4. Sponsoring
5. Releasing*
6. Debriefing
7. Supporting
8. Modeling
9. Awareness Raising
10. Coaching
**Reflection Questions:**

- What are some ways that I could be more intentional about releasing others to try something new?
- Who needs my permission to take a risk?
- What existing meetings, groups, or ministries which I am currently doing myself could I delegate to someone else, in whole or in part?
- What new ministry would I like to be empowered to do?
- Names of potential servants or existing ministers:  
  ___________________
  ___________________
  ___________________
Everything rises and falls on empowering God’s people for service.

Empowering people is the HINGE that opens the door for maximum Missional Impact.

What do you plan to do in the next few weeks to empower others for ministry, as a result of your experience today?

- Individually
- Congregationally
EMPOWERMENT PLAN

**Instructions:** Use the worksheet below to list specific actions you intend to take related to this Hinge Factor.

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Opening Doors to Your Community Through …

SEASONS OF DISCOVERY
WHAT?

What is Seasons of Discovery?
Seasons of Discovery Is …

- A Step-wise Church Transformation Process
- Delivered in Four Seasons over two or more years
- That helps your church begin to engage your community with the Gospel of Jesus
What Will You Discover?

- People in your community who are looking for hope (1 Tim. 6:17)
- Good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do in the community (Eph. 2:10)
- People within the congregation who have a passion for reaching the lost (Rom. 1:16)
More Discoveries

- God’s unique vision for your church (1 Tim. 2:4)
- Joy and excitement from living out that vision in your community (Phil. 4:4)
- The 8 Hinge Factors that open doors to your community (John 10:9)
8 HINGE FACTORS

**4 Pastor**
- Personal leadership
- Building bridges
- Visionary leadership
- Empowerment

**4 Church**
- Community Outreach
- Focused Prayer
- Effective Board (Structure)
- Inspiring worship
Each Season Equips 3 Groups

- Pastor & Staff
- A Mission-Minded Group Called People of Passion
- The Entire Church
HOW?

How Does Seasons of Discovery Work?
Timeline of the Seasons

- Churches have 2 blocks of time (seasons) in a year in which to work consistently on projects;
  - Fall (Labor Day to Thanksgiving)
  - Winter/Spring (Jan-Mar or April-June)
  - Optional Summer Season

- These natural windows of time on the calendar are utilized to focus on the areas of discovery spread out over four or more seasons.
Equipping for the Pastor

- Learning Guides with lessons in Leadership Development, Change Dynamics, Church Transformation, and Outreach will be provided.
- Skill Builders for each of the 8 Hinge Factors
- Sermon Series for each of the seasons.
- Training for Staff and Lay Leaders.
- A Personal Coach will guide the Pastor through the process in each of the four seasons.
Equipping for the People of Passion

Who are People of Passion?
- Passion for Christ
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- Passion for Community

They engage in 7 Missional Activities
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Equipping for the Congregation

- Bible Studies
  - Motivation for Mission
  - Catching Vision
  - Natural Evangelism
  - Prayer: Stepping Out Into Your Community
- Sunday School Lessons that match the themes for each season
- Leadership Training resources
- Promotional materials
What Happens?

What happens in each season?
Seasons of Discovery Map

Preparation
- A New Season for Your Church
  Sermon Series / Bible Classes
- People of Passion
  7 Missional Activities
- Motivation for Mission
  Sermon Series / Small Groups
- Leadership for a New Season
- A New Season for Your Pastor
  Skill Builders, Learning Guides and Planning the Season
- Hinge Assessment
  Survey

Season 1

Visioning
- Building Bridges to Your Community
  Sermon Series / Bible Classes
- People of Passion
  Forms Vision (or Discovery) Teams
- Discovering God's Vision for Your Community
  Sermon Series / Small Groups
- Leadership for a New Season
  Continuation
- A New Season for Your Pastor
  Continuation
- Visioning Day

Season 2

Empowerment
- Empowering God's People
  Sermon Series / Bible Classes
- People of Passion
  Forms Teams
- Prayer: Stepping Out into Your Community
  Sermon Series / Small Groups
- Leadership for a New Season
  Continuation
- A New Season for Your Pastor
  Continuation
- Net Fishing Events

Season 3

Outreach
- Living A New Vision
  Sermon Series / Bible Classes
- People of Passion
  Forms Interest Groups
- Natural Evangelism
  Sermon Series / Small Groups
- Leadership for a New Season
  Continuation
- A New Season for Your Pastor
  Continuation
- Net Fishing Events

Season 4
How Much?

- Standard Price = $1,800 (per season)
- Workshop Price = $1,200
  - Sign up for someone to contact you
  - Start in January
IN CONCLUSION

- What do you plan to do in the next few weeks as a result of your experience today?
  - Individually
  - Congregationally

- Close by taking 5 minutes to pray for those you know personally who need to know Christ.

- Do this in pairs. Share briefly about your friend or relative, then pray.
Celebrating What God Has Done

- 900+ Congregations in Network
- 250+ Consultations
- 50 Hinge Events
- Thousands of People Unhinged
- Revitalized Pastors: “In my 30+ years of pastoral ministry, this is the first process that actually gives me hope for the future.”