



SENT

John's Gospel as a biblical foundation for Gospel sharing
Mystery & Revelation - John 1.1-28



Dean Eaton



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Mystery & Revelation - John 1.1-28

**Every day more and more people are seeing this: they
enter the mystery, abandoning themselves to GOD
(PSALM 40)**



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Sir Isaac Newton

‘I do not know what I may appear to the world, but as to myself, I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.’





John's Gospel as a biblical foundation for Gospel sharing

Mystery & Revelation - John 1.1-28

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,

and the Word was God.

² He existed in the beginning with God.

**³ God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.**

John 1.1-3

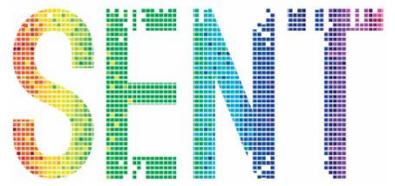


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¹⁹ For it pleased the Father for all the fullness [of deity—the sum total of His essence, all His perfection, powers, and attributes] to dwell [permanently] in Him (the Son), ²⁰ and through [the intervention of] the Son to reconcile all things to Himself, making peace [with believers] through the blood of His cross; through Him, [I say,] whether things on earth or things in heaven.

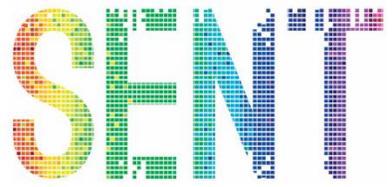
Colossians. 1.19-20 AMP



John's Gospel as a biblical foundation for Gospel sharing
Mystery & Revelation - John 1.1-28

The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it.

John 1. 4,5

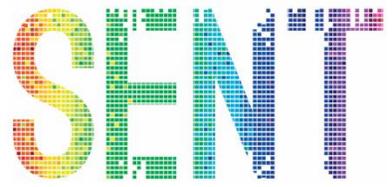


John's Gospel as a biblical foundation for Gospel sharing

Mystery & Revelation - John 1.1-28

¹⁰ He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

John 1.10-13

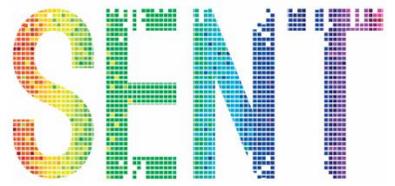


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Mystery & Revelation - John 1.1-28

C.S.Lewis, in a sermon called *The Weight of Glory* said,

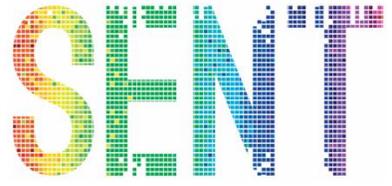
'It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendours.'



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Table Talk

Discuss the quote from Lewis. How does it apply to the issue of witnessing?



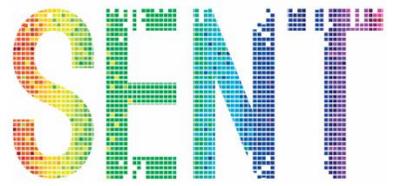
John's Gospel as a biblical foundation for Gospel sharing

Mystery & Revelation - John 1.1-28

Lighthouses - Part Two

John [the Baptist] came to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

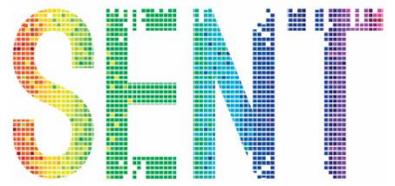
John. 1.7-9



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Mystery & Revelation - John 1.1-28

You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world.

Matthew 5.14 Message



John's Gospel as a biblical foundation for Gospel sharing
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'We, today, have a language to celebrate waywardness, but we do not have a cultural language to bring people back home.'

Makoto Fujimura



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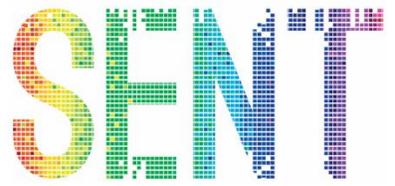
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A lighthouse:

- The lighthouse always operates in service of the boat and their journey of discovery.



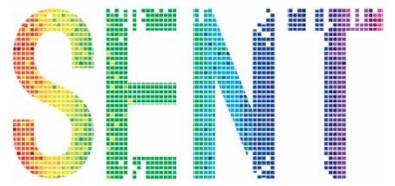


John's Gospel as a biblical foundation for Gospel sharing

Mystery & Revelation - John 1.1-28

A lighthouse:

- The lighthouse always operates in service of the boat and their journey of discovery.
- The lighthouse aims to shed light on the boat's current position and circumstances.



John's Gospel as a biblical foundation for Gospel sharing

Mystery & Revelation - John 1.1-28

A lighthouse:

- The lighthouse always operates in service of the boat and their journey of discovery.
- The lighthouse aims to shed light on the boat's current position and circumstances.
- The lighthouse is a temporary aid on the journey of discovery, not a permanent one.



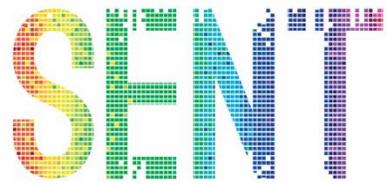
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BARNHOUSE



John's Gospel as a biblical foundation for Gospel sharing

Mystery & Revelation - John 1.1-28

You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Matthew 5.14-16 MSG



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Beacon, Summer Hill, St Luke's Palmerston North New Zealand





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Pakenham Lakeside Lutheran Church, Victoria





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FRONTIER
Enable - Empower - Release



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Justin S Video





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Re-imagining Gospel sharing through the arts #1



Steve Scott

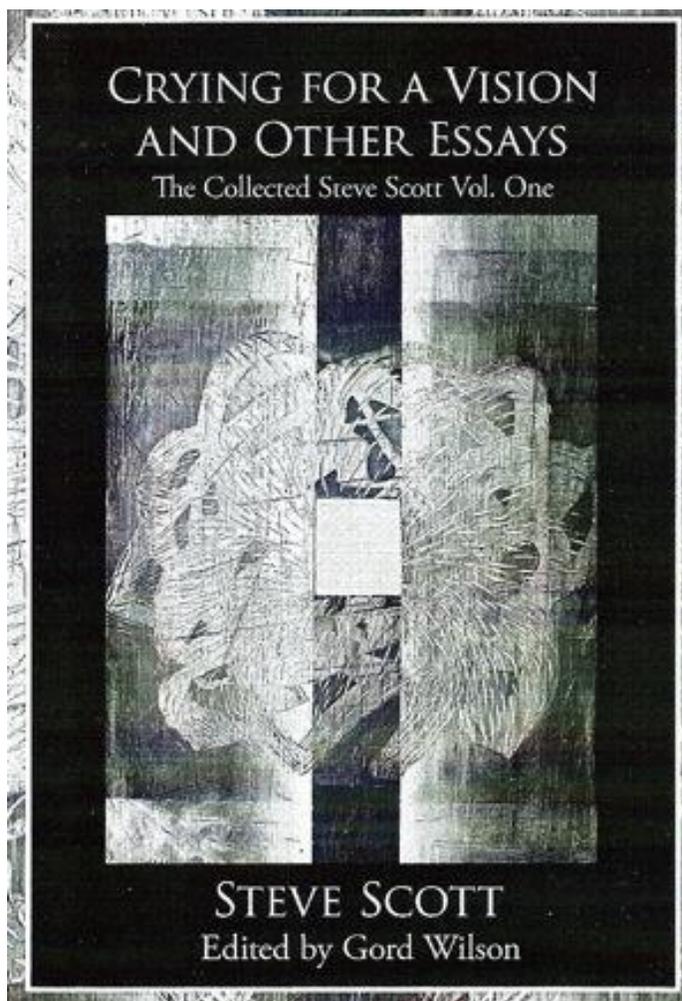


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Steve Scott's New CD



Books by Steve Scott





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Emotional Tourist: A Retrospective

A 'best of' CD





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How the Gospel transforms lives through missional communities and church planting.

Reflections on our journey so far



Nathan and Yvette Hedt



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From heartfelt passion to concrete plans: a formation journey

“I want to be a pastor” (5yo)



At heart, I am an
EVANGELIST



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From heartfelt passion to concrete plans: a formation journey

“I want to be part of seeing one million people come to faith in Jesus, in Australia, in my lifetime”

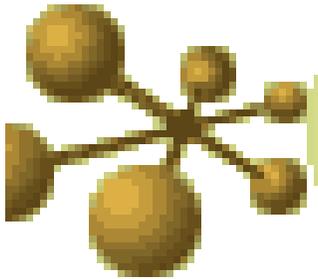
Tell ‘im he’s dreamin’ (Darryl Kerrigan)

*Go and make disciples of all the nations
This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit
(Jesus Christ)*



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MULTIPLICATION DYNAMICS



STUDENT-LED CELL GROUPS

Multiplication Dynamics

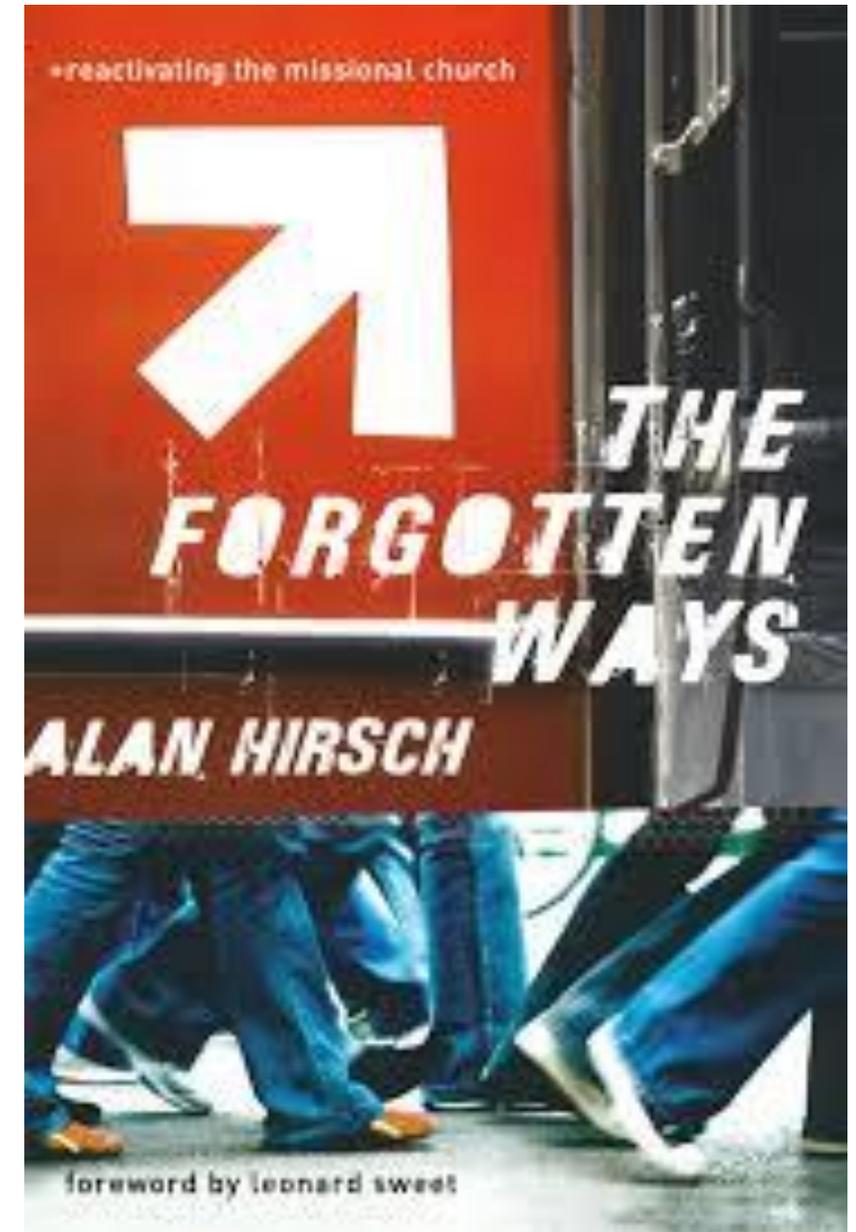
SENT MOVEMENT DYNAMICS

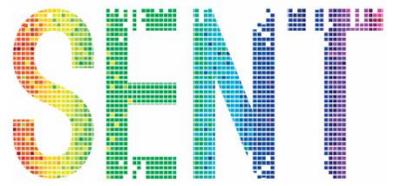
New ways of thinking

I am a MISSIONARY
TO THE WEST

Ephesians 5

I am a “prophetic
evangelist” (with a touch of
apostolic eg ‘sent one’)





MISSIONAL DYNAMICS

SOMA'S VISION IS GOSPEL SATURATION SO THAT EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD HAS A DAILY ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS IN WORD AND DEED.

Soma churches believe that Gospel communities on mission (or Missional Communities) are the primary organizing structure of the church and the most effective means for making gospel-centered disciples.



SENT JESUS ON MULTIPLICATION

“Some seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – one hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear” Jesus, Matthew 13:8

Many of the metaphors and pictures Jesus uses for the Kingdom of God have MULTIPLICATION at their heart. Within the DNA of Christians and the church is the capacity and desire for multiplication.



SENT JESUS ON MULTIPLICATION

“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” Jesus, John 12:24

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” Jesus, John 15:8

In the LCA, the “Theology of the Cross” has sometimes been confused with a “theology of faithful fruitlessness.” This is NOT the theology of the cross. Biblically, the theology of the cross is a “theology of fruitful suffering.



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From heartfelt passion to concrete plans: a formation journey

Table Talk Time

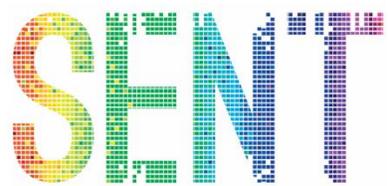


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How promise and pain combine:
Team formation and shared suffering

Family Crisis





How promise and pain combine:
Team formation and shared suffering

Family Crisis

*'Our crisis meant that we had to
accept ministry,
not just give ministry to others.'*



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How promise and pain combine:
Team formation and shared suffering

Pakenham: Battler Culture (it's hard to accept help)

People's lives are defined by what they
struggle against

*'Our suffering was shaping us to understand,
immerse, and become part of this culture.'*



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How promise and pain combine:
Team formation and shared suffering



Fluidity and flexibility:

People will not fit our neat plans!
Mission is *messy*!
And we need to be *adaptable*.

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How promise and pain combine:
Team formation and shared suffering



Walking with the
risen Jesus



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How promise and pain combine:
Team formation and shared suffering

Shared vulnerability brings
community

‘People approach vulnerability in different ways and at different speeds but until you get to shared vulnerability you are really just doing surface level ministry.’



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How promise and pain combine:
Team formation and shared suffering

Naked and unashamed



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How promise and pain combine:
Team formation and shared suffering

Table Talk Time

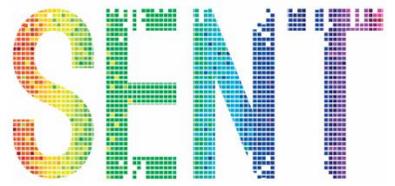


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Mission to the west?

A call to be a missionary to the West, in the LCA?





How missional communities become the basis of a church plant

Missional Communities:
It's church, Jim, but not as we know it

Two stories:

1. Adrian resigns from the governance committee



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How missional communities become the basis of a church plant

2. Meet the person of peace (Luke 10, Matthew 9:9-13)



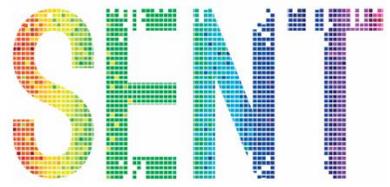
© Fiona Boyle



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A surprising discovery

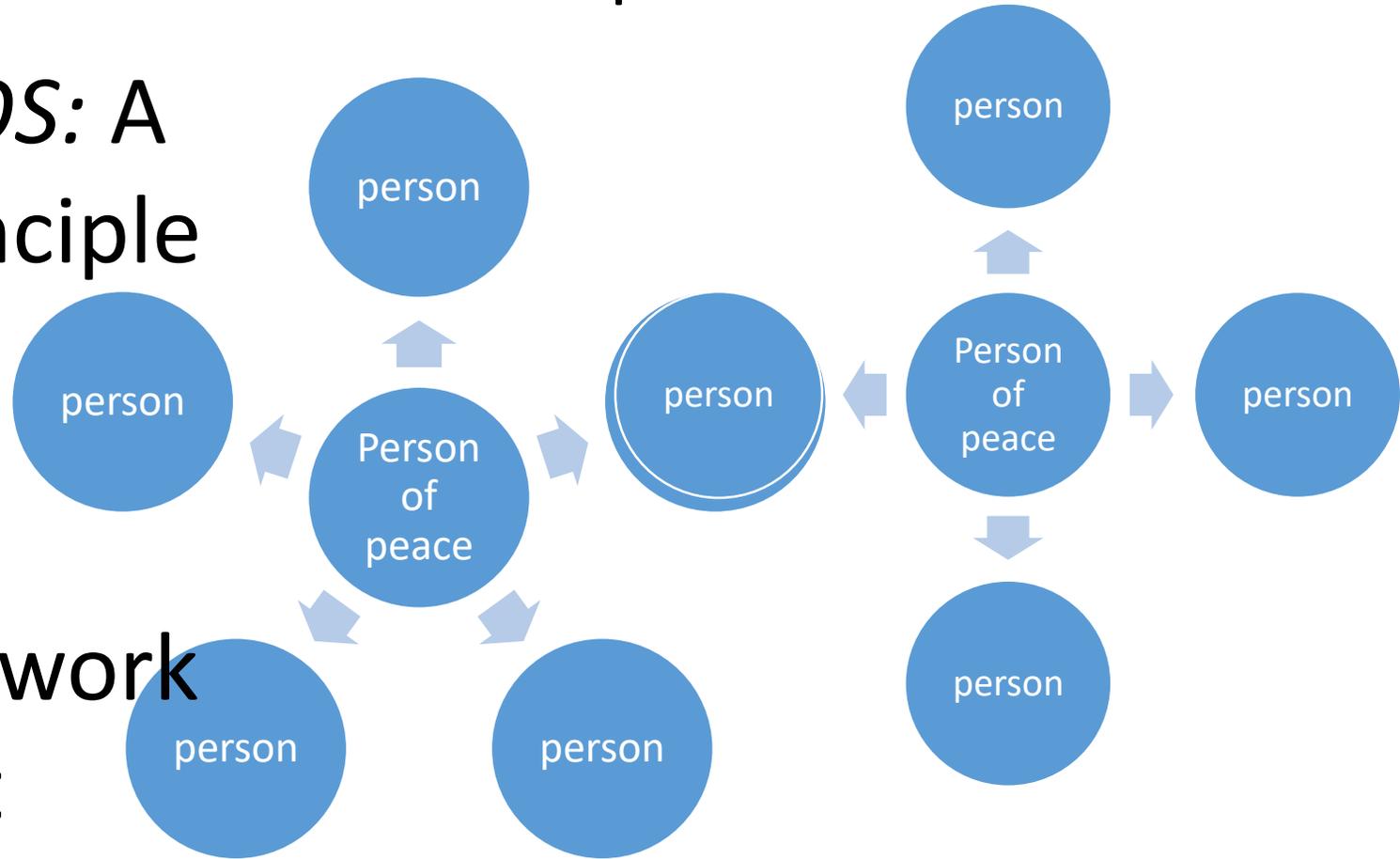
'Our original community – the core mission team in our church plant – was NOT the missional community. That arose in situations and people we did not expect, new Christians and those we hadn't met yet.'



How missional communities become the basis of a church plant

Introducing *OIKOS*: A key missional principle

Household or network of significant relationships





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How missional communities become the basis of a church plant

The oikos, (household or network of significant relationships) is a basic unit of mission, church planting, and the growth of the church in both the gospels (eg Luke 19:5,9) and Acts (Acts 2:46, 16:15, 20:20). People of peace are those who are hospitable to the gospel (or the messenger) and who can bring the gospel to their oikos.



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How missional communities become the basis of a church plant

Table Talk Time

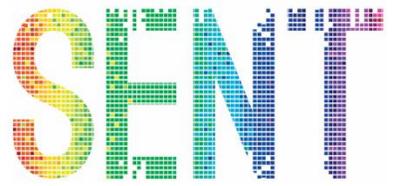


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Re-imagining Gospel sharing through music and the arts #2

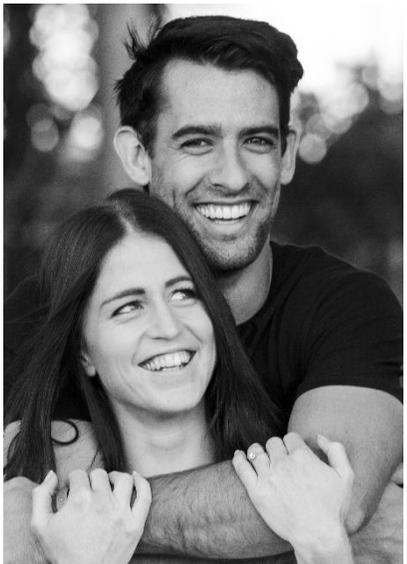


Steve Scott



Personal and Community Transformation Through Local Mission

Reflections on the journey so far



Chris & Emma Podlich



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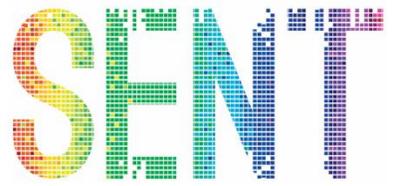
How the Gospel transforms a community





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Our “**why**” shapes our “**what**”



Beyond Church

Mission: To go beyond church and lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus

Vision: To create a church that un-churched people love to attend



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‘Date the model, marry the mission.’

Andy Stanley



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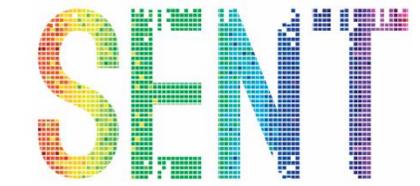
What evaluate **what** we do in light of **why** we do it.



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The gravitational pull of the local church is always
towards insiders.

When the gravitational pull leans towards
insiders, outsiders are the ones who miss out.



Discussion Questions

How do you feel about the principle of evaluation “what” your ministry does in light of “why” your ministry exists?

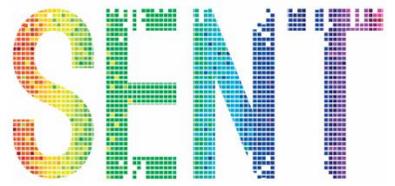
What are some tension points for you in adopting this approach?

Do these tension points outweigh the potential to reach un-churched/de-churched people in your community?



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How the Gospel Transforms a Life



Discussion Questions

Do you consider the experience un-churched and de-churched people will have during your service?

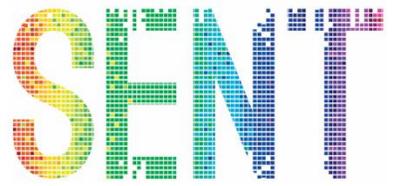
How can un-churched or de-churched people belong before they believe at your church?

What about your church makes the un-churched or de-churched want to come back?



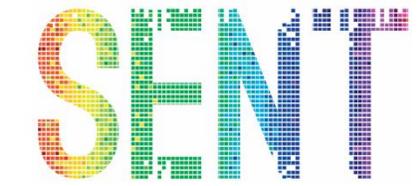
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Leading Others into Missional Engagement



Private Leadership

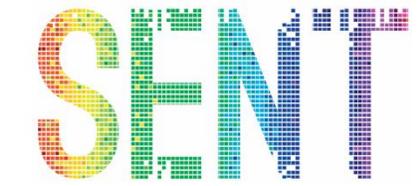
Your ability to lead is determined by your ability to follow



Private Leadership

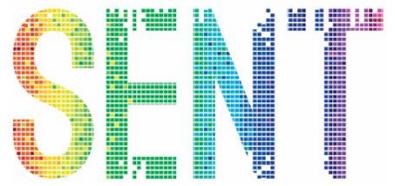
Your ability to lead is determined by your ability to follow

Live the vision



Public Leadership

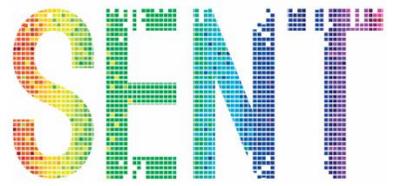
Vision doesn't stick, it leaks



Public Leadership

Vision doesn't stick, it leaks

Delegate responsibility not tasks

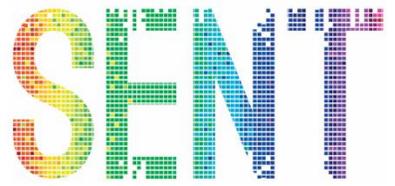


Public Leadership

Vision doesn't stick, it leaks

Delegate responsibility not tasks

If you want your community to prioritise missional engagement you need to prioritise missional engagement



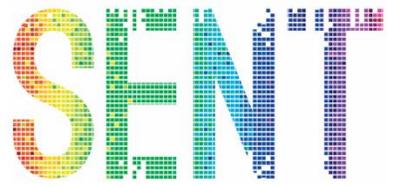
Public Leadership

Vision doesn't stick, it leaks

Delegate responsibility not tasks

If you want your community to prioritise missional engagement you need to prioritise missional engagement

Jesus loves his church more than you do



Discussion Questions

Is private or public leadership most difficult for you? Why do you think that is?

What's one of the leadership principles discussed that you could be more intentional about cultivating in your local community? How would you do that?



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Jesus flavoured mission

Observations in John 1



Tom Schmidt



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Jesus flavoured mission

Observations in John 1

“We have found the one”

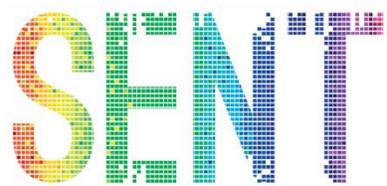


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John testifies about Jesus (John 1:29-34)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”



John's disciples follow Jesus – John 1:35-42

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

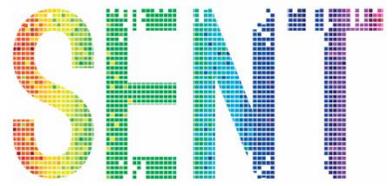
They said, “Rabbi” (*which means Teacher*), “where are you staying?”

“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (*that is, the Christ*). And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (*which, when translated, is Peter*).



Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael (John 1:43-51)

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”



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Jesus doesn't need you to defend him

Matthew 26:52 - *“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.”*

John 18:36 - *Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”*



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Jesus doesn't need you to
make him attractive

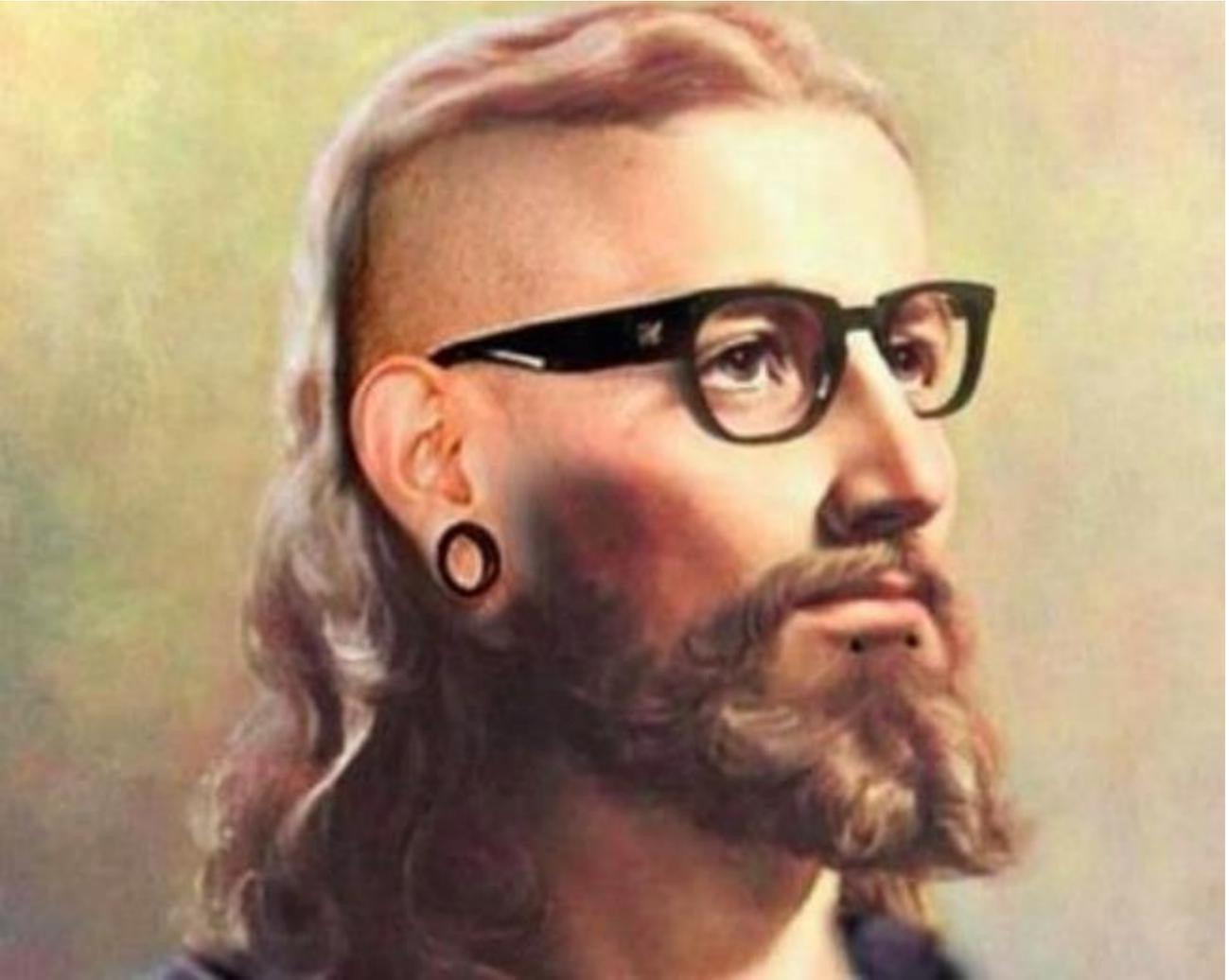
John 6:60&66 - On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

...From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.



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Jesus doesn't need you to
make him cool





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Jesus wants you to follow him and know him

-When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.
-“We have found the Messiah”. And he brought him to Jesus.
- Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”
- Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one”



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Questions

1. How have you found yourself defending Jesus, making him attractive, cool or famous?
2. What is it that draws you to Jesus? Is this similar or different to how you often talk about your faith with non-Christians?



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Jesus flavoured mission

Observations in John 1

“You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas”



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He seeks us out

John 1:43

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee.
Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."



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He knows us

John 1:48

“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.



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He confronts our desires

John 1:38

Jesus saw them following and asked,
“What do you want?”



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He draws out true identity

John 1:42

Jesus looked at him and said,
“You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas”



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He elicits a response

John 1:29

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”



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He seeks us out

He knows us

He confronts our desires

He draws out our true identity

He elicits a response



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“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

Be close to Jesus

He seeks us out

He knows us

He confronts our desires

He draws out our true identity

He elicits a response



SENT

Finding Philip, he said to him,
“Follow me.”

He seeks us out

He knows us

He confronts our desires

He draws out our true identity

He elicits a response

Be close to Jesus

Seek out



SENT

“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

He seeks us out

He knows us

He confronts our desires

He draws out our true identity

He elicits a response

Be close to Jesus

Seek out

Seek to know people



SENT

Jesus saw them following and asked,
“What do you want?”

He seeks us out

He knows us

He confronts our desires

He draws out our true identity

He elicits a response

Be close to Jesus

Seek out

Seek to know people

Ask questions of the heart



SENT

Jesus looked at him and said,
“You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas”

He seeks us out
He knows us
He confronts our desires
He draws out our true identity
He elicits a response

Be close to Jesus
Seek out
Seek to know people
Ask questions of the heart
Speak truth and identity



SENT

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

He seeks us out

He knows us

He confronts our desires

He draws out our true identity

He elicits a response

Be close to Jesus

Seek out

Seek to know people

Ask questions of the heart

Speak truth and identity

Wait for the Spirit to elicit a response



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He seeks us out

He knows us

He confronts our desires

He draws out our true identity

He elicits a response

Questions

1. Share how you have experienced Jesus operating in one of these ways in your life.
2. Which of these do you most enjoy doing for others, which is hardest?
3. How is each of these a chance to embody the Gospel?



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Final Session

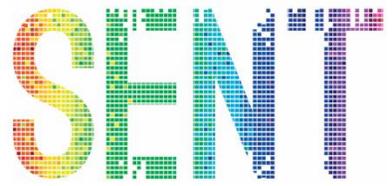
**Sending Churches as a Platform
for Renewing Church Mission
and Church Planting
Part 1**



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***I planted the seed,
Apollos watered it,
but God has been making it grow.***

St Paul in 1 Cor 3:6



In 477 English fxC involving c21,000 people...

FROM ANECDOTE TO EVIDENCE

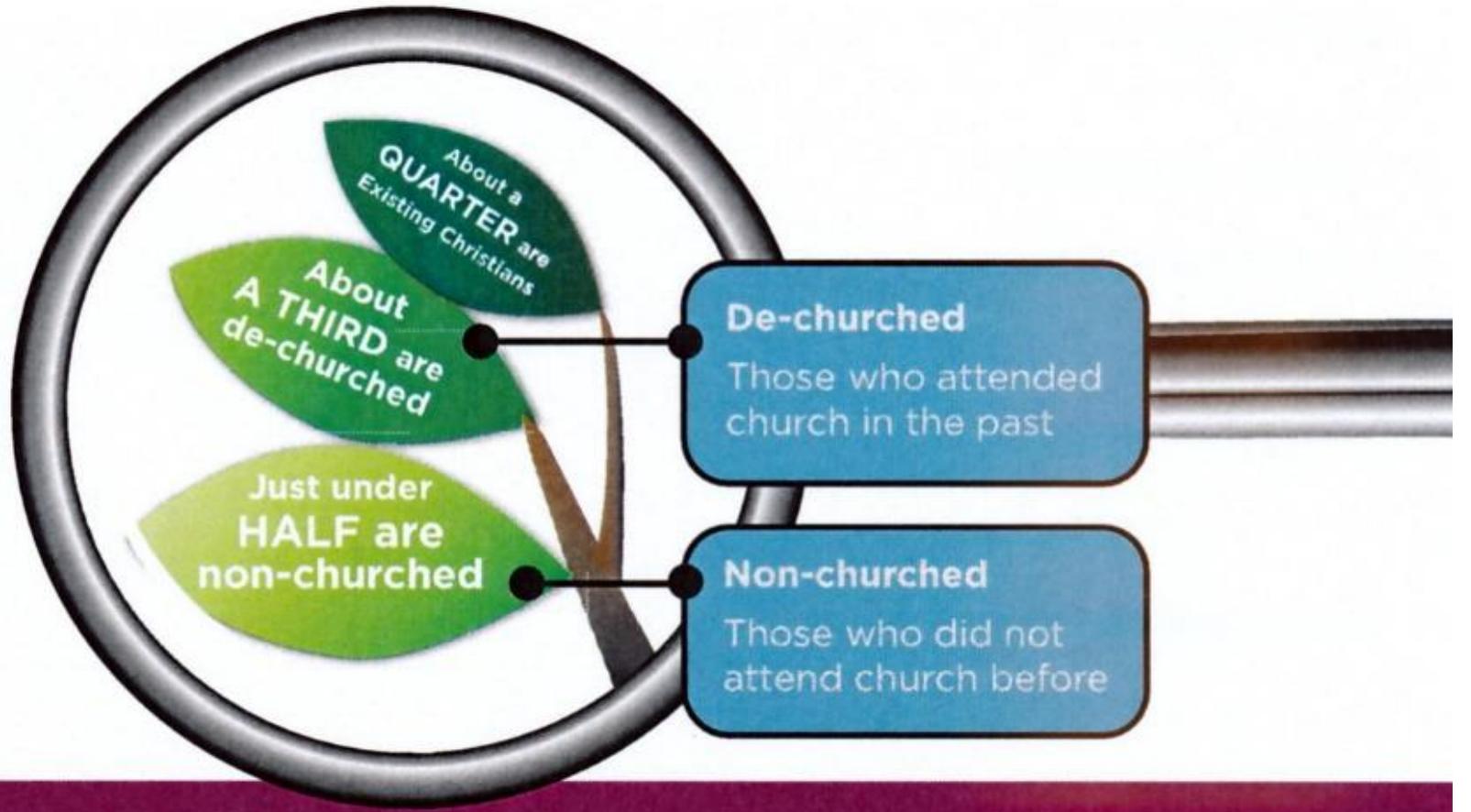
Findings from the Church Growth Research Programme 2011-2013

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.”
1 Corinthians 3:6

www.churchgrowthresearch.org.uk

Church Growth RESEARCH PROGRAMME

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Full report can be downloaded at: www.churchgrowthresearch.org.uk/report



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Our understanding of Church Planting

From

Worship First

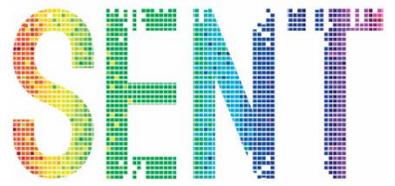
to

Service First

and now

Evangelism First





Missional Communities

or *Love.Life Communities*

Missional – Spirit at work among non-Christians

Contextual – fit the circumstances of the people being reached

Formational – disciples making disciples

Ecclesial – they become church of the people they reach

If you have 4-5 people you can start



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They are *new ecclesial communities*

not a bridge
to 'proper'
church



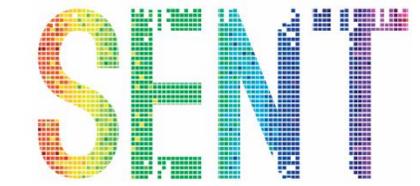


Every part of the church is to be...

- ☑ Christ-centred
- ☑ Faith-filled
- ☑ Scripture-based
- ☑ Spirit-led
- ☑ Gospel-focused
- ☑ Grace-bringing

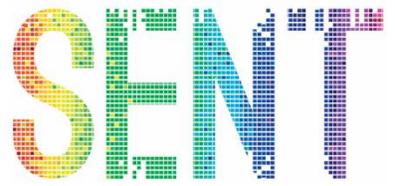


That doesn't change!



Why the SENT emphasis is vital...

- because it focusses on relational evangelism not on running programs**
- because it equips Christians to appropriately share their faith in Jesus**
- because the new communities stay linked into the wider church**
- because it makes existing outreaches and programs more missionally fruitful**



Partner with a Sending Church

or form a cluster of congregations as you seek to renew your congregation

- you will both provide support and receive encouragement
- you will learn from each other as you establish missional communities
- Sometimes missional communities can be formed across parish lines



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**Questions
and
Discussion**





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Rochedale Lessons

**Sending Churches as a Platform
for Renewing Church Mission
and Church Planting
Part 2**



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Growing the Heart to GO.

**GO out and make disciples....And I will
be with you, day after day.**

Matthew 28:19,20

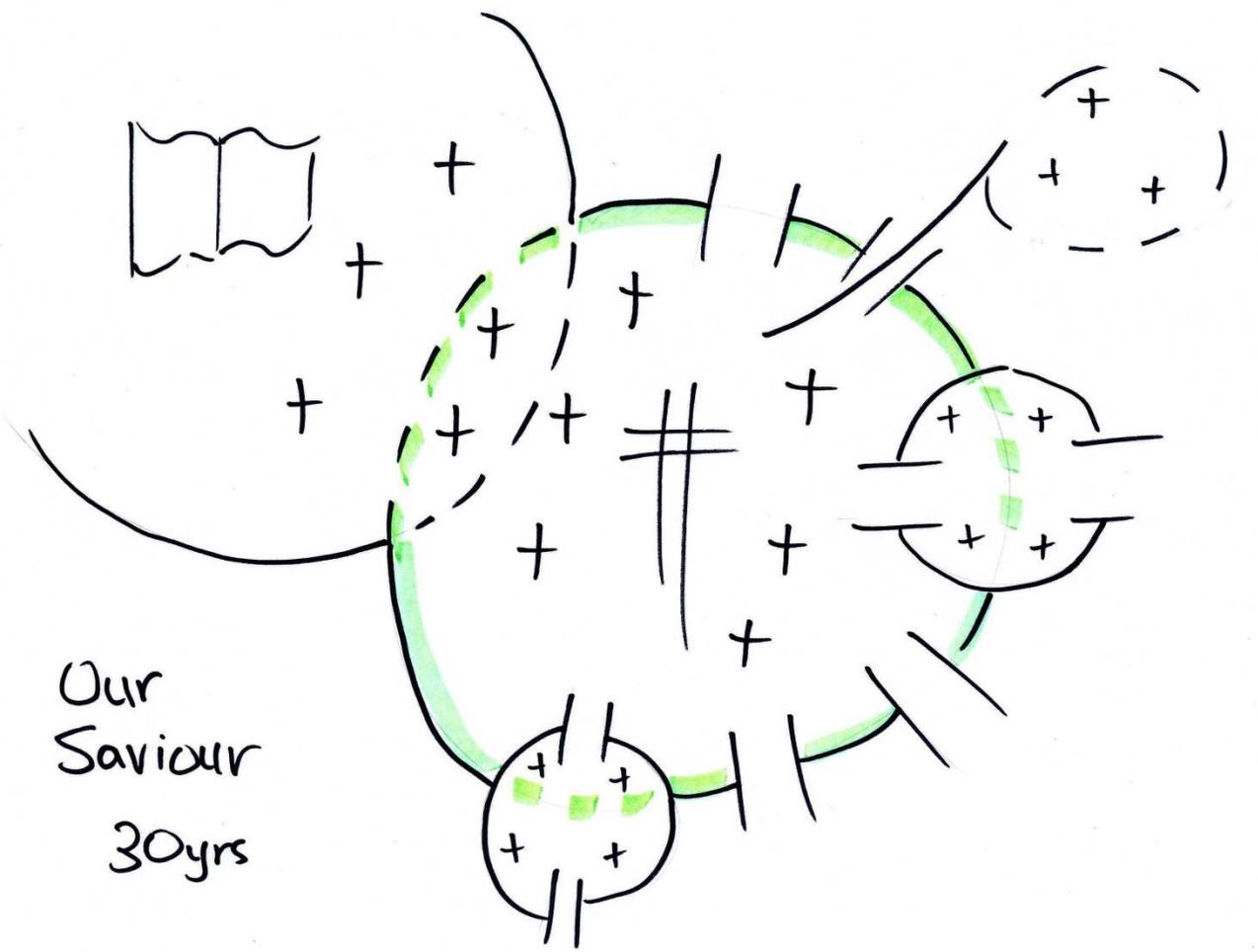


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*Take your Partner –
great or small.*

**SENT ..
Getting the
picture.**





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SENT .. Prayer and Peril.

We are human, but we don't wage war with human plans and methods. We use God's mighty weapons..

2 Corinthians 10:3,4.



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Questions and Discussion





God's 'Heart to Go'

PERSONAL MISSION: *your family, people in your street, your friends?*

Discuss: With whom could you pray and partner for this personal mission priority to advance?

CONGREGATION MISSION: *Is there a zone 'on the edge' of your congregation? A neighbourhood need, a school connection, a care zone, a community place, a playgroup, migrant connection, which could be calling your church to build connections?*

Discuss: With whom could you pray and explore to extend this prompt as a mission opening for your church?



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God's 'Heart to Go'

Think about God's invitation to be a Sending Church, or a Partner Church with a Sending Church.

Discuss together.

With whom could you pray and discuss this further?