Action Guide.

1. Integrate lifelong learning.

Develop an integrated whole church learning strategy

Review your current learning strategy of teaching opportunities and styles. Then discuss how the learning process could be improved. Questions include:
– what different learning opportunities do members of your church have in terms of both what the church organises, what members receive from other Christian agencies and what they study on their own initiative? How would you assess the learning outcomes of each opportunity?
– to what extent are all three outcomes of the learning cycle represented?
– How could people's understanding of the Bible lead to more action and transformation?
– how are different learning opportunities linked together? Would a more integrated process have benefit and how might that be best achieved?
– to what extent is there a learning curriculum for the church? Is it a balanced and manageable diet that will lead to maturity? Can it be improved?

Innovate discussion opportunities

Further questions to help you review your learning process include:
– How much of the learning at the church is talk at and how much opportunity is there for people to ask questions and for them to learn through Socratic style where they answer questions you pose to help them understand, apply and process knowledge?
– which of the ideas listed on pages 170-171 are helpful in your context?

Preach for response

Survey a cross section of the congregation by one to one interview or in a focus group and identify how much of the previous week, month and year of teaching they have understood and absorbed into their personal relationship with God and daily life. Discuss the results and ask:
– to what extent is preaching leading to changed lives?
– how can Sundays more effectively develop people as wholelife disciples?
– which of the ideas listed on pages 172-173 could we effectively adopt?

Output: Agreed lifelong learning strategy with an integrated process

2. Plan an evangelism process.

Link activities together in a progression

For each of the four stages listed in the Because Approach decide:
- what existing activities will you keep and how will you develop them?
– what existing activities will you drop?
– what new activities will you begin?

Then look at the process overall and decide:
– how will you link activities together so there's a natural progression?
– how will you build in the option for people to join the process during any step or do the steps in a different order?
– how often will you do each activity (weekly, monthly, termly or annually)?
– Which activities will be in a cycle (rather than continuously) and how often will the cycle be (termly or annually)?

Communicate your cycle of events

Discuss: How will you describe your church's evangelism strategy in a form that is easy to remember and communicate? Does it clarify the purpose behind each event fits within the strategy, who each event is for and therefore who they should think and pray about inviting and bringing along?

Output: Agreed step by step evangelism process strategy and clear method of communicating the strategy so people engage with each part

3. Build evangelistic capacity.

Act wisely

Discuss: Are you investing your resources in a way that makes the most of every opportunity God has given you in your context?

Build an evangelism task force

Discuss the development of a task force and what its remit would be.

Multiply ministers

Discuss and develop a ministry development strategy in the light of lessons learnt. Questions to ask include:
– what method of multiplying ministers are you adopting and why?
– do you identify people's spiritual gifts and discern their ministry calling?
– are you identifying people with the spiritual gift of an evangelist, investing in them with training and providing opportunities to go into harvest fields?
– are you sending your ministers on training courses, recommending books and getting them together with others? Are they prayed for regularly?

Output: Agreed ministry training and multiplication strategy