

HOW NOT TO WRECK A CHURCH

Spring Harvest Word Alive 07

Seminar 1: Cast a vision – develop a vision which everyone is willing to get behind

THE POWER OF VISION

“A vision we give to others of who and what they could become has power when it echoes what The Spirit has already spoken in their souls.” Larry Crabb

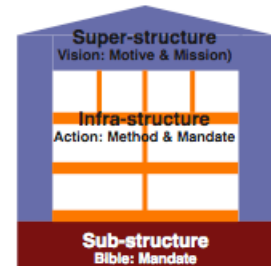
The Nehemiah Model

In biblical strategy, the Bible informs vision and vision informs action:

Bible: Substructure – divine mandate and motive

Vision: Superstructure – specific mission

Action: Infrastructure – agreed method and map



THE FORMATION OF VISION

The Divine disturbance: Matt 9:36

- what's bothering you?
- what longings for the future seem out of sight?
- what longings are beginning to feel like moral imperatives?
- what is your God given and equipped role in this?

The Because Approach: Exodus 3

- find the gap: what's the gap between the biblical and actual situation?
- mind the gap: so what?
- plug the gap: what's it got to do with me?

The Because Approach



The market analysis: Jonah 4

- Customer gap = opportunities
- Supply gap = strengths
- Capacity projection (Product, people, delivery, reach) = weaknesses
- Competitive environment (Attractiveness vs alternatives) = threats

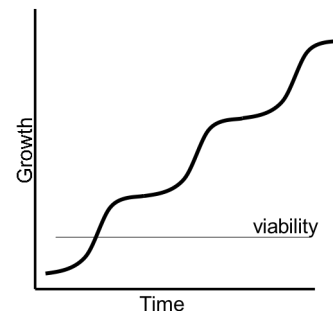
The S curve positioning: Revelation 2

THE DEFINING OF VISION

Vision for the lost: Matt 9:37-38

Vision for community: 1 John 3:11-24

Vision for whole life discipleship: Eph 4:11-16



THE CASTING OF VISION

Push the envelope

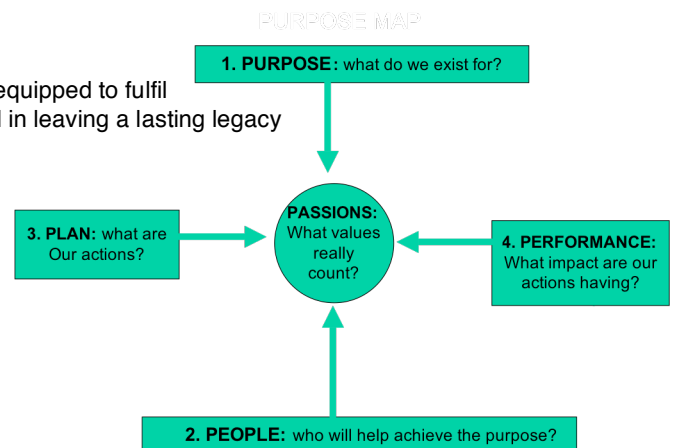
- Duty – we are commanded to do this noble task
- Calling – we have a God given purpose we are equipped to fulfil
- Cause – we have the opportunity to get involved in leaving a lasting legacy

'I have a dream'

Prepare and launch

- Formulation – ask people what
- Presentation – tell people how
- Assimilation – teach people why

Vision case study: Philippians 1



See: Andy Stanley, Visioneering (Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah, 1999)

Andrew Baughen, The Because Approach. Innovating Church For All (Milton Keynes: Authentic Media, 2005)

Handouts and more info available at: www.becauseapproach.com

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Seminar 2: Make a plan – know what to do and what not to do in order to realise your vision

WHY BIBLICAL STRATEGY?

Jesus was intentional: Mk 1:35-39 – cf Rom 15:15-32

Jesus taught us to be intentional: Matt 10 – cf Acts 16

Jesus calls us to be intentional: Matt 28:16-20 – cf 1Cor 9:16-27

ELEMENTS OF A PURPOSE STRATEGY

Mandate – what role have we received from God on this earth? (Mission and values statement)

Now and not yet axis

- tension between the perfect ideal we are building towards and the reality of the fallen messy world we operate in

Key qn: how does God's redemption story guide our purpose and values now?

Motive – what need are we fulfilling? Why are we planning to act? (Vision statement)

Scripture and setting axis

- tension between what we're called to do and what we experience in our setting = our 'divine disturbance'

Key qn: what gap between the principles of scripture and the reality of my setting is God calling me to fill?

Method – what are we going to do? (Strategic plan)

Evangelism and discipleship axis

- tension between serving needs of 'existing customers' and seeking new 'customers' unfamiliar with 'gospel offering'

Key qn: what programmes fit our context and effectively achieve our purpose?

Map – how are we going to do it and when? (Resource evaluation, tactics and goals)

Giving and receiving axis

- tension between the priority of individuals and the strategic benefit of programmes for multiple people

Key qn: Who (people) and what (resources) will help us achieve our purpose?

METHODS

Methods for evangelism

Relationship building

Respect building

Relevance building

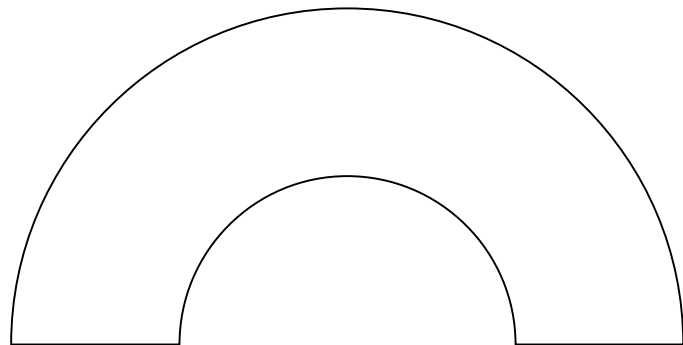
Response building

Methods for disciple making

Knowing

Understanding

Living



MAP

Entry points

Course first

Church first

Community group first

Compassion first

Relevance first

Mission first

Role of small groups

Teaching

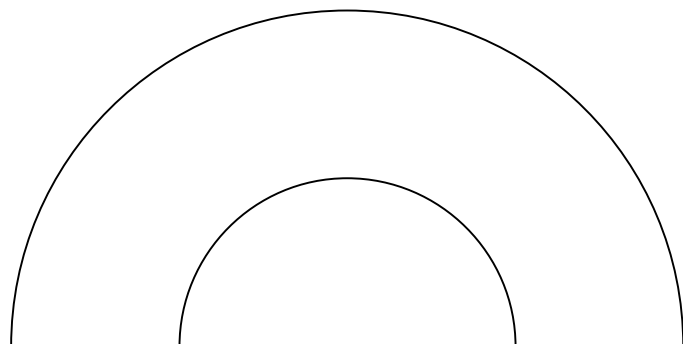
Praying

Praising

Body building

Serving

Evangelism

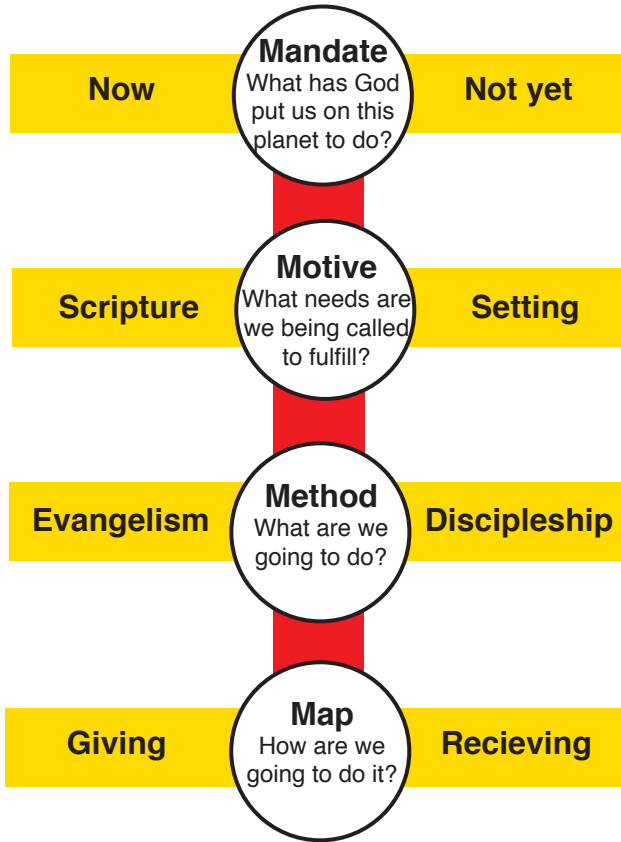


See: Aubrey Malphurs, Advanced Strategic Planning (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999)

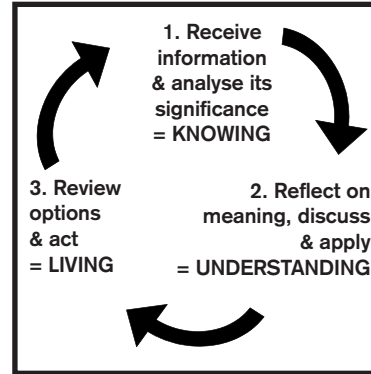
Andrew Baughen, The Because Approach. Innovating Church For All (Milton Keynes: Authentic Media, 2005)

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THE FOUR POINT PURPOSE PROCESS



THE DISCIPLEMAKING CYCLE



KNOWING		UNDERSTANDING		LIVING	
TRADITIONAL APPROACH					
Preaching				Training events	
Cell Group					
		Personal study			
INTEGRATED APPROACH					
Personal study	Preaching	Personal	response & mentor		
		Cell Group			
				Training events	

EVANGELISM ENTRY POINTS

Course first strategy



Church first strategy



Community group first strategy



Compassion first strategy



Mission first strategy



THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

