



The Acts 16:5 Initiative[©]

Gathering 6

Ministry Mobilization and
Staying the Course

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withStanOtt

The purpose of the Vital Churches Institute is to:

- Build the vitality and effectiveness of the local church.
- Promote the Christian Faith and Practice through the development and distribution of training materials, seminars, and services.

The Acts 16:5 Initiative[®]

Gathering 6:

(7th Meeting of the Acts 16:5 Initiative)

Ministry Mobilization and Staying the Course

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Note to Participants: At each *Acts 16:5 Initiative* meeting every 6 months or so you will receive additional Ministry Design, Leadership, Take the Adventure (Application of material), and Going Deeper modules on pertinent transformational topics.

Ministry Design Modules are the foundation of the *Acts 16:5 Initiative*. Leadership Modules provide timely and effective management information for pastors. Application Modules explain the “how to” of applying the information learned within your own congregation. The Going Deeper Modules suggest ways to expand or take additional steps with the *Acts 16:5 Initiative* material.

All Scripture is from the NRSV unless otherwise cited.

September 2016



PP

WORD-SHARE-PRAYER

For personal and small group study

READ The Six Panels of the Book of Acts

First, after the apostle's turn their attention to prayer and preaching: ¹

Acts 6:7 "So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith." Hear the progress?

Second, after the dramatic conversion of Saul of Tarsus:

Acts 9:31 "Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord." More growth.

Third, after the equally wonderful conversion of the first Gentile, Cornelius, followed by the overthrow of Herod Agrippa I:

Acts 12:24 "But the word of God continued to increase and spread." Hear it? In report after report, the church grew.

Fourth, after Paul's first missionary journey and the Jerusalem council:

Acts 16: 5 "So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers." What a great report.

Fifth, after the second and third missionary journey:

Acts 19:20 "In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power." And finally:

Sixth, after Paul's arrival in Rome. The last verse of the Book of Acts:

Acts 28:31 "Boldly and without hindrance he [the Apostle Paul] preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ."

EYES TO SEE GOD AT WORK - SHARE IN THE 7TH PANEL

REFLECT: What does the movement of the church in its first years say to you about what is possible, even to be expected, in our own future.

PP

1 WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MOVEMENT AND A PROGRAM? ALSO CHALLENGE

2 BOOK THE TRELLIS AND THE VINE

RESPOND: How will you apply one insight from this wonderful text to your own life?

3 I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH

4 IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK

5 LAUGHTER VIBES IN DARK ROOM

REQUEST: Jot down prayer requests that you and others may have (use the back).

6 THE STUDENT THE FISH & THE BREAD

¹ Stott, John *The Spirit, the Church, and the World*, pp 123-124.

A Transformational Ministry of Ministry Mobilization (Abbreviated)

Become an Equipping-Sending Church

Why Equipping-Sending Matters

For the individual, the lifestyle of ministry or “missional lifestyle” is shaped by a three dimensional Defining Vision such as “Glorify God, Grow Disciples and Meet Needs.” Our missional lifestyle includes our use of the practices of witness, prayer, care, Word, with-me, send, and give.

How many pastors STUDIED SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN SEMINARY. ITS RARE



In this module, we consider the congregation’s role in making the lifestyle of “send” a reality in the daily lives of the people of God.

These seven Defining Practices are mirrored in the organized life of the congregation.



Personal Lifestyle	Congregational Lifestyle
Witness	Missional Endeavor
Prayer	Worship
Care	Fellowship
Word	Discipleship
With-me	Leadership
Send	Ministry Mobilization
Give	Generosity



Ministry mobilization is the organized work of the congregation for the Discovery and Deployment (D&D) of spiritual gifts. It aims to connect all persons with a greater understanding of their spiritual gifts and with specific opportunities for service.

Ministry Mobilization

Traditional ministry often sees the ministry of congregational members as that of serving on boards (Session, Deacons, Vestry, Council) and committees. Perhaps they are Sunday school teachers or ushers or musicians or they handle some other task. Most members of the typical traditional congregation when asked, "What is your ministry?" have no specific understanding outside of generalities such as "I give" or "I pray" unless they happen to be on a committee or some work group.

20/80

Transformational ministry sees ministry as first of all a lifestyle to be lived (such as witness, prayer, care, Word, with-me, send, and give) and second as one's participation in some specific act of service according to one's servant heart, spiritual gifts, and interests. *ie its ALL OF WHO YOU ARE IN SERVICE*

80/20

1 ITS BECOMING WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST

The lifestyle practice of "send" involves first the sending of oneself to engage in service and ministry and second the sending of others to serve.

2 DAN ALLEN DAR-VIDEO TELL YOUR STORY

Consider the implications of the famous text, Ephesians 4:11-13.

3 POIEMA
POEM = WORKMANSHIP
EPH 2:10

READ: Ephesians 4:11-13 NRSV

¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

KATAR TISMOS Prepare
mend
2 COMPARE
WIKJV
COMMIA

A YINK
BEANIE DOWNING
POEMS TO LINDSAY

REFLECT: What is the role of the pastor and teacher?

3 VS DUMPT
RUN

Write A short poem -
NOW -
WHAT DID IT TAKE
TO DO IT?

What are the consequences when pastors and teachers fulfill their roles?

4 ELSBETH
WINTERLIM

What is the role of a "saint" (a believer in Jesus)?

5 PASTER IF ALL YOU
IS MINISTR.
YOU ARE /
NOT NOW.
YOUR JOB

4. ROCKESTER B-BALL VIDEO

RESPOND: How can you better fulfill that role if you are a pastor/ teacher or if you are a participant in the life of the church (a "saint")?

We see immediately that this text offers very clear imperatives for us.

- Pastors and teachers are equippers.
- The equipping is specifically that which prepares all Christians for ministry.
- This equipping is shaped by a Defining Vision: "to equip the saints...until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."

6 MEMBERS -
ALL DO IS
GIVE \$

7. THE
Raymond
A/B Test

2 PP

Ministry Design Module 18

The norm in the mainline church has been to treat people as sheep, as receivers, as consumers of care and religious teaching. We want to develop people who are simultaneously sheep and shepherd, whose first aim in life is to be a growing disciple of Jesus Christ and whose second aim is to encourage others to become disciples while simultaneously meeting human need.

COACH-ARE WE X'S or O'S?

In the traditional church, people believe that the pastor is the prime "doer" of ministry. We reinforce that by calling the pastor "the minister," by dressing him or her in robes or other vestments, by ordaining him/her to service in a very special ceremony to "set apart" the pastor. We call pastors "clergy" (a word not found in the Bible) and the rest of us "laity," implying "they are the experts and we are the amateurs." While there are many reasons we choose to do this, the fact is that in order to move into a transformational congregation, we must find ways to affirm the role of the shepherd-leader while lifting up the shepherding role of everyone else.

DEAR MOST EXCELLENT Shepherd
Clergy vs LAOS -
only LAOS in scripture
Hershell Hunt
COMMON FEE - THE
WORST 2 WORDS?
IF ONLY
I'M JUST (A LAYMAN)

The idea that ministry is primarily "the minister's" to accomplish has roots early in the history of the Christian church.

The vast majority of church members haven't come to terms with their call to ministry, their gifts for ministry, or their opportunities for ministry. This isn't surprising when we take a look at church history. By the end of the second century, church organization and ministry were increasingly centered on pastors and other key church leaders. The core biblical concept of the priesthood of all believers - the idea that every believer has a God-given ministry - was superseded by the notion that the church leaders did the ministry and the people received it. Those attitudes have certainly continued to the present day and are clearly prevalent in many traditional congregations. But now a new wind is blowing.¹

VESTMENT CREEP IN THE MAINLINE

Greg Ogden speaks of the "New" Reformation, which he describes as returning the ministry to the people of God.

When you read in some church bulletin, "Pastor: Mary Parks, Ministers: all of the members of Clarion Church" it is not to be a nice sounding cliché. It is literally true. The issue is how to make it a reality in congregational life.

GREG OGDEN
THE NEW REFORMATION
RETURNING THE MINISTRY
TO THE PEOPLE
OF GOD -

Ministry Design Module 18

you were ORDAINED
FOR MINISTRY IN YOUR
BAPTISM - OGDEN

¹ Ott, E. Stanley. *Transform Your Church with Ministry Teams*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2004. Print.

THE ONLY ME I WANT TO BE
IS THE POEM OF ME COMPOSED
BY THE R

PP

Four Aspects of Your Personal Ministry:

1. Your heart to impart.
2. Your personal lifestyle.
3. Your spiritual giftedness.
4. Your servant spirit and the Holy Spirit.

FOCUS ON A FEW

PP

1. Your Heart to Impart - the first aspect of personal ministry

Your heart to impart.
 Your personal lifestyle.
 Your spiritual giftedness.
 Your servant spirit and the Holy Spirit.

Your heart to impart is your heart's desire to give yourself away – to invest your life in other people's lives – to impart to others what the Spirit of God has imparted to you.

We have frequently talked of the significance of “people eyes,” seeing people through the eyes of Jesus. Having a “heart to impart” is simply another way of speaking of people eyes – a heart to impart the Christian faith in ways that grow disciples and meets human needs.

“When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today’” (Luke 19:5).

- People eyes are the eyes of Jesus Christ for people.
- People eyes are shepherd eyes.
- People eyes see the hurting and comfort them.
- People eyes see the eager to grow spiritually and disciple them.

In Philippians Chapter 2, the Apostle Paul speaks of Timothy,
¹⁹I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. ²¹For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

Listen to the Apostle Paul's heart to impart what God had given to him,
“For I am longing [can you feel the heart... I am longing] to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you--or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine”

(Romans 1:11-12). When we help other people grow as disciple-followers, we do it to strengthen them; and we will be strengthened at the same time.

PEOPLE EYES
 VIDEO IN
 NOT SEEN

In 2 Timothy 2:1, the apostle Paul said a very interesting thing, "and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well." In other words, Paul tells Timothy to both *be* a disciple and to *make* disciples. Have a heart to impart. Don't you just be a religious consumer, be a giver. Be blessed and be a blessing. Be a sheep and be a shepherd.

Think about the number of spiritual generations in this verse "What you have heard from me through many witnesses." "Me," Paul, is the first generation. "Many witnesses" are the second generation, and "you", Timothy, is the third generation. From Paul to the many witnesses to Timothy. Three generations. Then Paul continues, "what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people." So "faithful people" are the fourth generation, and "who will be able to teach others as well" are the fifth generation.

Chuck Miller puts it this way, "Growing disciples of other people is reproducing in others what the Spirit of God is doing in you and enabling them to pass it on to a third generation." That is the heart to impart. That third generation may be your own child, your friend, your neighbor, your fellow worker, anyone. So, in this matter of being disciples and making disciples, it would seem a first step is to consider who are the people you will seek to encourage in their faith? We talk extensively about "focusing on a few" – those who live in your home, your family members wherever they are, people in your small group, and individuals you feel a calling to encourage.

Again have a heart to impart – to pass on to others what our Lord has given you.

4TH GENERATION
GROWTH AFTER
HAWERSON DUE
TO THE DISCIPLE-
MAKING OF THE
PEOPLE

PP

2. Your Personal Lifestyle – the second aspect of personal ministry

- Your heart to impart.
- Your personal lifestyle.
- Your spiritual giftedness.
- Your servant spirit and the Holy Spirit.

PP MINISTRY IS A LIFESTYLE TO BE LIVED BEFORE
IT IS A PROGRAM TO BE RUN

Jesus loved the many while he focused on a few. Everyone of us is given a few - family, friends, church people - into whom we are to invest our lives with the express purpose of growing with them as disciples of Jesus and addressing their human needs.

So what do we do with our "few" in order to impart the faith to them? Our contact with most of the people in our lives comes through natural

See page 1

PP

The Acts 16:5 Congregation

Seven Lifestyle Practices and Seven Congregational Strategic Domains



Ministry Mobilization

interactions of life and our spiritual impact upon them is the impact of life on life, of our lifestyle on their lifestyle.

Although the church typically expresses ministry in its most visible form in its various activities and programs, ministry at its most essential level is a lifestyle to be lived rather than a program to be run. The classic practices of such a personal lifestyle are witness, prayer, care, Word, with-me, send, and give.

PP 3. Your Spiritual Giftedness – the third aspect of personal ministry

- Your heart to impart.
- Your personal lifestyle.
- Your spiritual giftedness.
- Your servant spirit and the Holy Spirit.

AGAIN SEMINARY TEACHERS
 LITTLE
 EARLY 70'S - CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT
 1972 BODY LIFE RAY STEEDMAN
 WILLOW CREEK SHAPE
 LITTLE TOUCHED THE MAIN LINES

Another significant way to impart to others what God has given you is to use the spiritual gifts and abilities, the particular interests and capabilities God has given you for service.

Such gifts and passion may lead you to impart faith to others by being in a choir or teaching a class or being an usher or leading a scout troop or volunteering in the local hospital or food bank or Meals on Wheels or serving on the local school board. It is using your giftedness to build the Body of Christ, the church, and to engage missionally your community on behalf of Jesus.

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness (Romans 12:6-8).

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed” (1 Corinthians 12:1).

“So with yourselves; since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church” (1 Corinthians 14:12).

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” (1 Peter 4:10).

There are some twenty or more spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament, gifts given to those who are followers of Jesus.

PP HIST OF GIFTS

SPIRITUAL GIFTS
 HEART
 ABILITIES
 PERSONALITY
 EXPERIENCES
 THE WHOLE YOU
 YOUR POEM -
 GOD'S POEM

A Few Thoughts About Spiritual Gifts

- God designed you with your gifts before you were born. You are no accident. The Body of Christ needs you and your gifts. You have been designed to fulfill a definite and particular role in your church or fellowship and you have the necessary gifts to function in that role and the necessary power in the person of the Holy Spirit.
- Gifts have no term of service. Romans 11:29 says, "The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable." God will never, ever take them back.
- Lifestyle is the total life response of a Christian to Scripture. All Christians grow in the same lifestyle as we use the Scripture as our teacher. In this way, Christian lifestyle is a point of unity among all Christians. A gift on the other hand is a special endowment of the Holy Spirit to each one of us. This creates diversity among all Christians.
- What happens if you don't use your spiritual gifts? According to the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, we discover that God will hold us accountable for our gifts. If you don't use your gifts, it is easy to have a poor self-image of yourself as a member of the Body of Christ. You can feel like you do not have a part or do not belong. Yet, each of us has personal value and each of us has a unique role to play in the service of Christ.

The Relationship Between Serving Roles and Gifts

Spiritual gifts need a harness. To say, "I have the gift of teaching or of serving or of mercy" doesn't mean much without a specific way to put that gift into service.

Now there are both public and private serving roles. The public or visible serving role is simply an up-front job such as elder, deacon, preacher, and teacher. Public serving roles receive lots of recognition. People often think, "If I am not like an up-front person, I must not be gifted." Perhaps up to three-fourths of all spiritual gifts are not to be used in a public, up-front way. Instead, they are used privately, person-to-person, and therefore, are invisible to the public, recognized only by the people to whom you minister.

What Are the Gifts?

There are three primary biblical lists: 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. There is no definitive list of gifts in the Scriptures. Nowhere does the Bible give "the list."

POIEMA / POEM

little w - all called to witness
 Capital W - some called as evangelist
 t - all teach - PARENTS - ETC
 T - some are TEACHERS

By THE WAY
 EVERY PERSON
 IS A POIEMA W/
 UNIQUE GIFTS ±
 EVERY CONGREGATION
 IS ALSO

Catherine of Sienna -
 IF YOU ARE WHO
 GOD INTENDS YOU
 TO BE YOU WILL
 SET THE WORLD
 ON FIRE

Ministry Design Module 18

Ministry Mobilization

How to Discover Your Gifts

DO THIS AT HOME

Ray Stedman offered a straightforward process of spiritual gift discovery. I have always appreciated the simplicity of his approach, which may be summarized with these questions.²

PP

ROBERT QUINN - 25
PEOPLE EMAILED HIM
HIS GIFTS - EMBARRASSED
HIM + CHANGED HIS
LIFE (Prof Michigan)

- Do you see the gift in you? [Do you see yourself as having the gift(s) of mercy, serving, encouraging, giving, administrating, teaching, and so on?]
- Do others see the gift in you? [Do those around you recognize you have a gift(s) such as teaching, encouraging, mercy, and so on? Ask your friends, your small group, others who know you well.]
- Does using the gift bear fruit? [When you teach, show mercy, encourage, give, do you see fruit being borne in the people to whom you are ministering? Do you improve?]

TOM RATH PP
Strength Finder 200

JAMIE BUCKINGHAM PP
NOW DISCOVER YOUR
STRENGTHS
A strength is what
YOU FIND JOY IN DOING

You probably have several gifts and abilities, which the Spirit has given you. I want to say to the person who cannot seem to find anything on a list of spiritual gifts that fits you, that you can identify the strengths you have now and use those strengths in service of the Body of Christ.

There are many marvelous spiritual gift inventories that can help you in the discovery process. Such questionnaires are not “tests” in the sense of evaluating your success or failure. You cannot fail a gift questionnaire. They function like an X-ray machine or CAT scan. They help you assess who you are and the gifts you have.

There are many excellent online spiritual gift assessments such as

- <http://gifts.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>
- http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcf_pdf_discover_your_spiritual_gifts.pdf
- Group Publishing - \$79 for access for your church online <https://www.group.com/product/9781470710866-spiritual-gifts-discovery.do>
- Holistic Spiritual Gift Analysis – Looking at your whole self

²Stedman, Ray. “Equipped for Community.” *His* Mar. 1972: Print.. See also Stedman, Ray C. *Body Life*. Glendale, CA: G/L Regal, 1995. Print. For an excellent discussion of spiritual gifts and ministry teams see Bauknight, Brian Kelley. *Body Building: Creating a Ministry Team through Spiritual Gifts*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996. Print.

PP

4. Your Servant Spirit and the Holy Spirit– the fourth aspect of personal ministry

- Your heart to impart.
- Your personal lifestyle.
- Your spiritual giftedness.
- Your servant spirit and the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 4:10 says, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.” Spiritual gifts are for service. “For even the Son of man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

This means we must be servant-centered. We focus on serving not simply on using our gifts (Mark 10:45).

Not infrequently, there is more to be done than we have people who are either appropriately “gifted” or even interested. That is why one of the overarching attitudes of the equipping-sending church is that of developing people who have a servant heart. Such a person would say, “My preference is to greet people and show hospitality but I will handle the publicity and the chair set-ups because that is the need of the ministry.”

Finally, but of great significance, is that which powers the gifts of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit. Your humble openness to the filling of the Spirit, trusting the Holy Spirit by faith to work in you and through you is essential to the fruitful use of your spiritual gifts.

Summary of Personal Ministry

So we see the four aspects of the personal ministry of any person are:

1. One’s heart to impart.
2. One’s personal lifestyle.
3. One’s spiritual giftedness.
4. One’s servant spirit and the Holy Spirit.

The question for any transformational congregation is how to equip and send a person in each of these four aspects.

—VS “SORRY I
DON’T DO
THAT”

HILARDS - FAR MORE
THAN GENEROSITY

PAUL BOTS #1+2

MARITA MPPG -
AT A BREAK

Ministry Design Module 18

The Nature of Equipping and Sending

Equipping is the key concept we discover in Ephesians 4:12 "To equip [*katartismos*] the saints for the work of ministry..."

The Greek verb *katartismos* means:

- To equip.
- To make competent.
- To make ready.
- To prepare.
- To make effective.

VS THE DUMPTON

WE ARE ALL NOBLE + FLAWED

The basic idea is that the one who is equipped is ready to act. This doesn't mean "has no weakness" or "is completely formed." If we waited until we thought we were 100% ready for anything, we would attempt nothing. To be equipped is to learn enough to begin, to start, and to trust God in the process.

Katartismos may also carry the sense of "mending the nets" or "setting a bone." "Repairing the saints" makes sense as a part of equipping since it is difficult for people to fully exercise their spiritual gifts and to serve if they are deeply wounded or broken in some aspect of their life. However, the major sense of *katartismos* is the equipping, the preparing of the saints, of making them ready to function in ministry.

FT BRASS OBSTACLE COURSE

Equipping the saints involves two steps: discovery and development. With *discovery* we discern the spiritual gifts, interests, and passion of an individual along with opportunities for service. With *development* we work to train, prepare the person to use his or her gifts, and to serve effectively.

KEWBALL

1. Your heart to impart.
2. Your personal lifestyle.
3. Your spiritual giftedness.
4. Your servant spirit and the Holy Spirit.

Become an Equipping-Sending Church

An Equipping-Sending Church prepares and sends its people to serve with servant hearts and their spiritual gifts. This is ministry mobilization.

To become an Equipping-Sending Church, consider these requirements:

1. A new Defining Vision and new Defining Practices
2. A new congregational self image and culture

ODR
DEMONSTRAT
DO +
REVIEW
CRABBING

3. A new role for the people of God
4. A new role for the ruling board
5. A new role for the pastor and staff
6. Some new structures

1. A New Defining Vision and New Defining Practices

20/80 → 50/20

A new Defining Vision: Our aim is making the ministry of every believer a reality among us.

An Equipping-Sending Church takes seriously the ecclesiology, the theology of the church, given to us in Ephesians 4:11-13. The role of the pastor and congregational leadership is to equip the people for the work of the ministry.

The vision for ministry in traditional congregations typically has three emphases:

- The prime doer of ministry is the Minister. People ask, "Pastor, how may I help you with your ministry?" In transformational congregations, the pastor says to the people, "How may I help you with your ministry?"
- Church members serve by being elected to boards in three-year terms of service.

← TRADITIONAL MINISTRY

Thus the traditional congregation emphasizes the ministry of the pastor, elders, deacons, and other key leaders. In such cases, 20% of the people do 80% of the work. The famous 20-80 Rule applies in such congregations that the minority expends the majority of effort while the majority is in essence "religious consumers."

It is true that in ordination, the church and the Holy Spirit set some of us aside as pastors, elders, and deacons for the specific ministries of the Word, leadership, and compassion. However, as Greg Ogden says, all of us were ordained in our baptism to service.

2. A New Congregational Self-image and Culture

As a consequence of the new Defining Vision of an Equipping-Sending Church, the congregation lives into the meaning of the priesthood of all believers. Just as we use methods such as the Halverson Benediction to develop the self-image, "I am sent, we are sent" so we use other phrases to constantly teach "I am gifted by God to serve." "I have a ministry." "I am to serve the people God puts into

VS A CONSUMER CHURCH ("FEED ME")

Ministry Design Module 18

Ministry Mobilization

my life,” and so on. We develop a sense of “sent-ness” – “every one of us sent by God in all humility to serve.”

3. A New Role for the People of God

“We cannot be ourselves unless we are true to our gifts. We are responsible for spending them in the world and we will be held accountable.” Elizabeth O’Connor

In her excellent and highly practical book on growing a ministry of church volunteers, Marlene Wilson tells us, “to stop looking at volunteers as the means to the end: completing tasks. Instead, volunteers *are* the end. Getting them involved in ministry is worthwhile in itself.”³

The role of pastor and congregational leadership is to, “Get your ministry moving!”

4. A New Role for the Session

The Session makes the ministry of every believer a congregational Defining Vision and supports the creation of the organization to make it happen.

This suggests a shift for the Session from purely policy development and supervision of church programs to also engaging in leadership development and supporting the beginning of new ministries. The fundamental change is the shift from a body that “approves/disapproves” to one that is permission-giving and communicates, “How may we help you make your ministry dream a reality?”

The Session shifts from reporting solely “who did what last month and what motions are there for us to consider?” to consider “Who can we raise up or support in undertaking what new ministries?”

A “sending” mentality instead of a “controlling” mindset is grounded in the spirit of mutual trust and in Scripture and prayer as an on-going process of discernment.

LEVEL 5

³ Wilson, Marlene. *Creating a Volunteer-friendly Church Culture*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2004. Print.

5. A New Role for the Pastor and Staff

The pastor makes a gradual shift from the self-concept of “the doer” of ministry (preacher/caregiver/administrator) to one who is both “equipper and doer.” The pastor as chief doer of everything begins within the seminary environment and is reinforced by the affirmation of the congregation. This, of course, limits the organization to the limit of the personal energy of the pastor and deprives the people of their own God-gifted opportunities to serve. It is why Greg Ogden has titled his book, *Unfinished Business: Returning the Ministry to the People of God*.

As a “doer,” there are certain functions that the pastor alone is to do (although there are fewer of those than may meet the eye) such as the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism. An equipping-sending pastor understands that “the ministry” is not what she or he does alone but it is what the pastor equips the people to do – in order to build up the church leading to unity and to the knowledge of Jesus in Christian maturity.

As Sue Mallory says in *The Equipping Church*:

“Why are these things so difficult to do? I think part of the problem is the fact that we find it easier to *talk* about gift-based ministry than to commit ourselves to the trials and tribulation of applying this value to the way we actually do things. In a local church, the commitment starts with the senior pastor. Senior pastors cannot be those who think they can do everything but are willing to let a few help them. Rather, they are those who know they can’t do everything, don’t want to do everything, and are not willing to do everything; they welcome others to come alongside with their gifts in order to form a powerful team for Christ.”

“Another hurdle is the failure to remember that the largest group of people available and equipped to help in any ministry will not volunteer to do so on their own. They have to be detected and identified as passionate or gifted and then invited to respond to a specific opportunity to serve.”⁴

6. Some New Structures

- ➔ • Small groups – participants in small group Bible studies that engage in Word-Share-Prayer are equipped for lifestyle ministry.

THIS IS TOUGH FOR PASTORS WHO WERE TAUGHT THIS + AFFIRMED IT THEY DO IT - TOUGH FOR THE POG WHO HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO EXPECT IT (FACEBK update ALMOND BRANCH)
 Ken Askeu - HABITAT

NOTE: HAVE + ENFORCE A CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

⁴ Mallory, Sue. *The Equipping Church: Serving Together to Transform Lives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001. Print.

Ministry Mobilization

- Ministry teams – ministry teams combine the emphasis on spiritual growth and supportive fellowship of the small group with the task-ministry orientation of a committee. Teams not only build participants as disciples, they work to plug every team member into a ministry responsibility that utilizes that person's gifts, abilities, and passion.
- A ministry mobilization system – a ministry team that addresses two critical actions necessary to deploy a significant number of church people in specific ministry. First, "Discovery," the process by which a person through self-assessment and coaching learns of the unique spiritual gifts, passion, interests, and abilities God has given her or him. Second, "Deployment" by means of 1). an assessment of all (or as many as possible) of the current and future specific opportunities for service that exist in the congregation and in its surrounding community and 2). a specific protocol that matches people with serving opportunities.

Ministry Mobilization Systems

Getting Started

Begin a ministry team. Seek initial team members whose interest, passion, and ability will be key to the success of the ministry mobilization effort. Such an effort takes a tremendous amount of organization and requires great sensitivity to individuals. The kinds of persons who best lead such an effort are proven leaders with a heart to help others find their places of service.

Resist the pressure to fill slots. The pressure to staff organizational slots to maintain the program of a congregation of any size can be rather heavy, especially on staff members, elders, and others with great responsibility. To ignore such pressure is naïve. On the other hand, to simply plug any willing servant-hearted person into any slot means such persons may not be serving in the place most capable of taking advantage of their unique abilities and gifts.

A Few Mobilization Systems

Make Vision Shift 10: Shift from a "leader-deploying" ministry to a "leader-developing" ministry, from committees to ministry teams.

• **Ministry Teams Mobilize People for Ministry***

The power of ministry teams rests in their success in mobilizing ordinary people for ministry. The vast majority of church members have not come to terms with their call to ministry, their gifts for ministry nor their opportunities for ministry. See E. Stanley Ott, *Transform Your Church with Ministry Teams* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005), pp. 14-16.

D+D
SOME EXCEL MORE
AT DISCOVERY
THAN DEPLOYMENT

• **Church Volunteer Central** www.churchvolunteercentral.com

Sponsored by Group Publishing, Church Volunteer Central builds its work on three principles: The Priesthood of All Believers, The Giftedness of All Believers, and The Uniqueness of All Believers.

X+D

The work of Sue Mallory and her foundational text on equipping, *The Equipping Church*. It is one of the few ministry mobilization systems available that puts sufficient emphasis on both the discovery and the deployment halves of a mobilization effort.

• **LifeKeys** To get a copy of *LifeKeys Discovery Workbook: Discover Who You Are* go to Amazon.com

“At LifeKeys we believe your unique design can be used for more than identification. Let us help you discover and use your God-given design.

• **SHAPE** (Saddleback) www.saddlebackresources.com

One of the key emphases of Rick Warren’s Purpose-Driven model is to help people answer the question, “What is my ministry?” in fulfillment of the fourth of five great life-purposes: “You Were Shaped for Serving God.” The process for discerning spiritual passion and direction for one’s personal ministry that Saddleback offers is known as SHAPE.

- Spiritual gifts –What I am gifted to do?
- Heart – What do I love to do?
- Abilities – What natural talents and skills do I have?
- Personality – Where does my personality best suit me to serve?
- Experiences - What life experiences have I had?

