

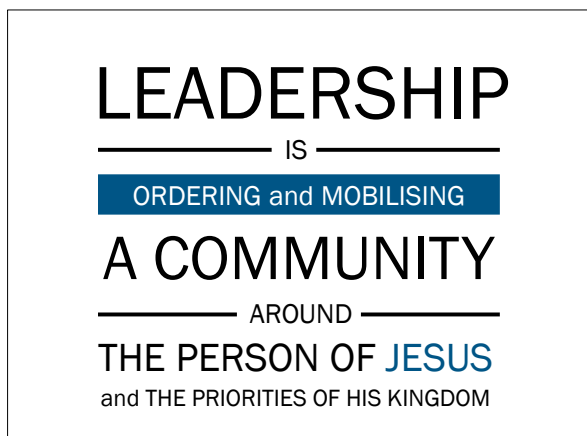
# ORDERING A COMMUNITY AROUND EVANGELISM (1)

## The Backdrop

### Review

The role of the leader in evangelism:

- Connect.
- Model.
- Order.
- Mobilise.



Four things to order and mobilise a community around evangelism:

- Shape an evangelistic culture.
- Discern an appropriate strategy.
- Equip ordinary people to play their part.
- Engage evangelists and pioneers.

### KEY QUOTES AND INSIGHTS

'...keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.'

2 Timothy 4:5

# ORDERING A COMMUNITY AROUND EVANGELISM (1)

## The Biblical Backdrop

### Mission – The Backbone of the Scriptures

#### GENESIS 12:1-3 – ALL PEOPLES BLESSED THROUGH ABRAM

The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 'I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'

#### EXODUS 19:5-6 – ISRAEL'S CALLING

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

#### PSALM 67:1-2 – BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us – so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

#### ISAIAH 49:6 – A LIGHT FOR THE NATIONS

It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

#### LUKE 2:29-32 – SALVATION IN THE SIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.'

#### MATTHEW 28:19-20 – THE CHURCH'S REASON FOR EXISTENCE

Therefore go and make disciples for all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

#### ACTS 1:8 – POWER TO GET THE JOB DONE

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

#### MATTHEW 24:14 – AN ACHIEVABLE TASK

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

#### REVELATION 7:9 – THE VISION SET BEFORE US

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

### KEY QUOTES AND INSIGHTS

# ORDERING A COMMUNITY AROUND EVANGELISM (1)

## Brakes on Evangelism

### EXERCISE

What's the brake on evangelism in your context?



### KEY QUOTES AND INSIGHTS

'The study also shows that Christianity is extremely bad at either making converts or retaining cradle believers. The two big denominations, the Catholics and the Church of England, lose at least 10 members for every one they convert.. "Evangelism" turns out to be a game that Christians play with each other, and not with the outside world.'

The Guardian

'What this study reveals is that people are far more open than we might realise. After we've had conversations with non-Christians about Jesus, one in five of them is open to finding out more about him... So we need to talk about him: to more people, more often and more relevantly.'

Talking Jesus report



# ORDERING A COMMUNITY AROUND EVANGELISM (1)

## 1. Shaping an Evangelistic Culture

### Starting Point

#### CHURCH MATHS

#### WHAT IT REQUIRES

- Clear thinking.
- Concerted effort.
- Enormous courage.
- Creative consistency.



#### Definition of Culture

- Dictionary – sum of attitudes, customs and beliefs that distinguish one group from another.
- 'Organisational culture is the personality of the church.' (Chand)
- 'Culture consists of group norms of behaviour and the underlying shared values that help keep those norms in place.' (Kotter)
- 'Culture is... the basic assumptions and beliefs that are shared by members of the church and operate unconsciously, defining the church's view of itself.' (Schein, adapted)

Culture is how we live out our beliefs and values in our context: 'the way we do things around here.'

#### KEY QUOTES AND INSIGHTS

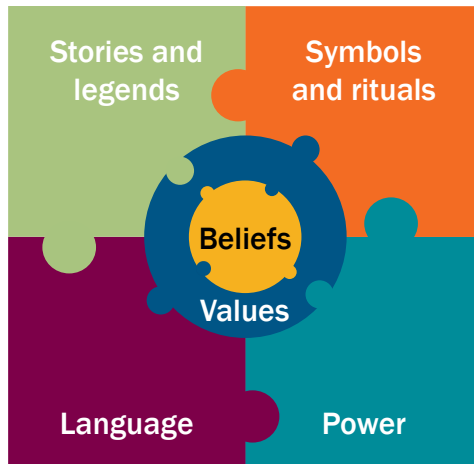
'Changing a culture requires clear thinking, concerted effort, enormous courage and creative consistency.'

Sam Chand

# ORDERING A COMMUNITY AROUND EVANGELISM (1)

## 1. Shaping an Evangelistic Culture

### Identifying our Existing Culture



#### Identify core beliefs

Beliefs are things which we hold to be true. Form basis of things we value.

#### Recognise values

Values are key principles which act as templates and inspiration for all our actions, against which all we do is measured.

#### Listen to the stories and legends that are told

What stories do we tell? Who are the heroes? What do we look back on with fondness? What jokes are told?

#### Read the symbols and rituals

Ask yourself 'what do we always do...' and you are probably identifying rituals.

#### Listen to language

Language shapes culture: what words do people use when talking about evangelism, mission, discipleship?

#### Map the power

What makes decisions and why? What do the structures, posts and titles say?

### KEY QUOTES AND INSIGHTS

Beliefs and values influence our **assumptions** (a thing that is accepted as true or as certain to happen, often without proof) and **attitudes** (a settled way of thinking or feeling about something).

'Words have the power to shape lives and organization – the problem is that for most of us the words that we use are second nature – they need to be examined / fashioned to produce the desired outcome'

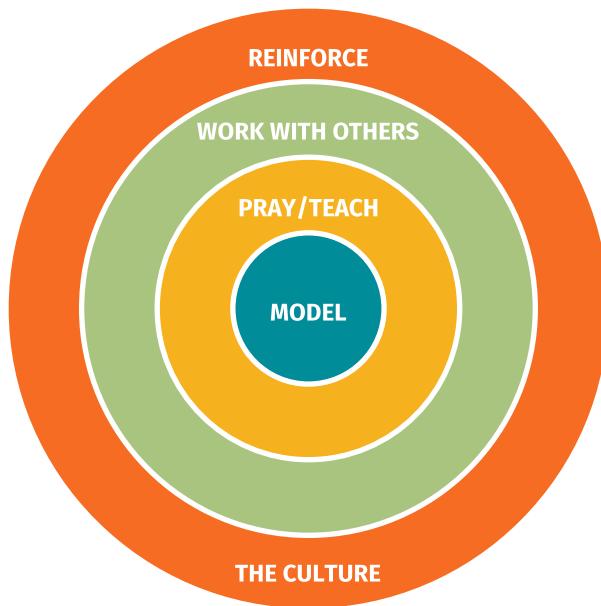
Sam Chand



# ORDERING A COMMUNITY AROUND EVANGELISM (1)

## 1. Shaping an Evangelistic Culture

### Shaping a Culture



**MODEL: BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE**

**PRAY AND TEACH**

**WORK WITH OTHERS**

**REINFORCE**

### KEY QUOTES AND INSIGHTS

'In my experience if the key leaders in the church are not promoting or practicing evangelism, it will not become a high priority for the congregation as a whole.'

Dave Male

'In a sense, culture-creation encapsulates what leaders need to do: it is by far the most important responsibility of leaders.'

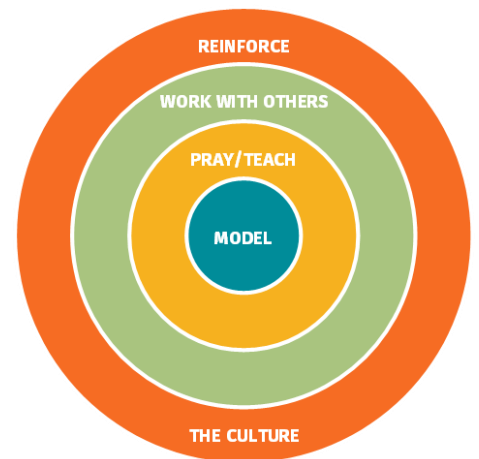
# ORDERING A COMMUNITY AROUND EVANGELISM (1)

## 1. Shaping an Evangelistic Culture

### EXERCISE

Reflect on the four ways to shape a culture.

- What are you already doing to shape an evangelistic culture?
- What could you do?
- Out of all the possibilities, what would be your next best step?





# ORDERING A COMMUNITY AROUND EVANGELISM (1)

## 2. Discerning a Strategy

### FOUR QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Are there clear pathways that help people find faith in Christ?
2. Are decisions made favourable to evangelism?
3. Are resources allocated to further evangelism?
4. Are people equipped to engage / play their part in evangelism?

### Diagnostic Question

How do people come to faith today?

### STORY TIME

Think of a person who has come to faith within the last two years. What were the key stages on the path as they have come to faith in Christ? For example:

- People they met?
- Conversations they had?
- Circumstances they were going through?
- Experiences they had?
- Interactions with church/organisation?
- Background?

What can we learn from this? What is surprising, unsurprising?



### KEY QUOTES AND INSIGHTS

'Without careful attention, faith-based organisations will inevitably drift from their founding mission. It's that simple. It will happen.'

Peter Greer and Chris Horst

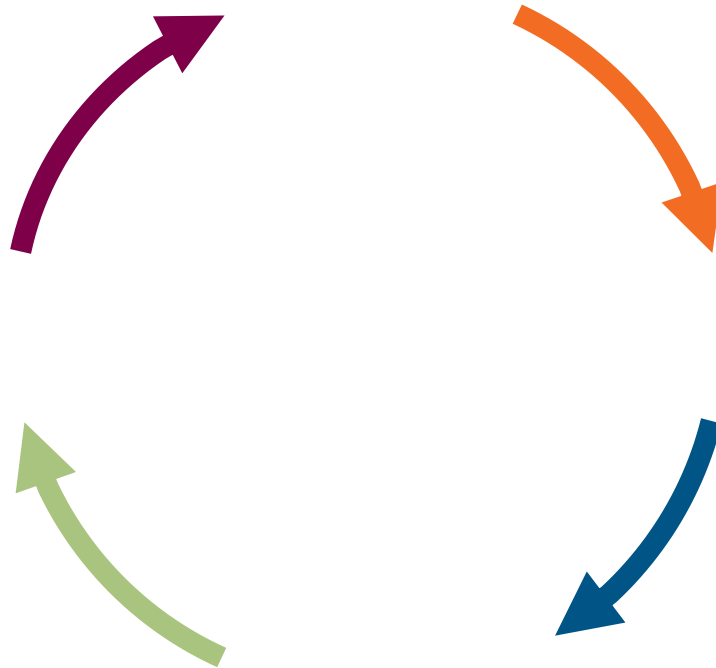
'This is not a quick-fix strategy, but a long-term commitment to changing the story in our nation, so that people might meet Jesus, love him and follow him.'

Talking Jesus report

# ORDERING A COMMUNITY AROUND EVANGELISM (1)

## 2. Discerning a Strategy

### Growth Cycle



A suggestion of some stages in the process (cf. Keller):

- **Awareness** 'Oh, I see...'
- **Connection** 'I need this...'
- **Realisation** 'I need this because it's true...'
- **Acceptance** 'I accept this...'
- **Reinforcement** 'This is what it means in my life...'

Or see Five Thresholds to Faith handout from residential 2.

# ORDERING A COMMUNITY AROUND EVANGELISM (1)

## 2. Discerning a Strategy

### A MAP



- God at work.
- What is the appropriate next step for all?
- Accompanied journey.
- Takes time.
- Rarely in a straight line!
- Limited fruit?

### KEY QUOTES AND INSIGHTS

'Many of the 'tried-and tested' models of evangelism have been honed on university campuses. Among students and graduates, they have proved effective. But transport these same methods to working-class and deprived areas, and you may find yourself answering questions that no one is asking.'

Tim Chester

# ORDERING A COMMUNITY AROUND EVANGELISM (1)

## 2. Discerning a Strategy

### Exercise

Work on a strategy for accompanying people to faith in Christ in your context.



### OPTIONS

1. Take a blank piece of paper and give it a go.
2. Use the map on page 11 as a way of thinking about where your two people you are praying for are and how you could accompany them on their journey.
3. Use the grids in the additional handouts section to plot where people are.
4. Use the following questions:
  - What are the brakes on evangelism and what could release them?
  - What are the opportunities you have to help people come to faith?
  - What specific steps need to happen to create a clear strategy? Who would I need to involve in this?
  - What action might you take next beyond this residential to move things forward?
5. Use the shifts from the book *the Trellis and the Vine* where they talk about vine work as the work of disciple making and trellis work as the work of supporting the work of disciple making. They encourage a shift from...
  - Running programmes to building people.
  - Running events to training people.
  - Using people to growing people.
  - Filling gaps to training workers.
  - Solving problems to helping people make progress.
  - Solo leadership to team leadership.
  - Focusing on immediate pressures to long term growth.
  - Focusing on trellis work to leadership.