

making disciples and
new Christian
communities

Dying to live

Vital Church Planting
+Graham Cray

Developing missional communities

- developing character
- participating in mission
- cultivating leadership
- creating community through small groups
- sustaining a rhythm of life

Developing character

- the heart of discipleship is obedience to Christ
- the motivation for discipleship is a vision of Christ and his Kingdom
- part of God's work is to make us like Christ



Outclass our culture!

- a consumer lifestyle will never be overturned by our criticism.
- it can only be outclassed by a Christlike way of life.

The dynamic for distinctive discipleship

- a more captivating motive for daily choices
- a more powerful set of character forming habits
- a proactive supportive community

Character-forming habits

Character

“When one becomes deeply and habitually disposed to respond.

- Habits form character

Galatians 5.16ff

Character-forming habits

“...a time to look at how our daily decisions lead us towards or away from such virtue, towards a point where we have grown to be the sort of people for whom it is unthinkable not to act selflessly and honourably.

Rowan Williams

- ‘The answer given in the New Testament is that the transformation we are promised at the end of time *has already begun in Jesus*. ...
- This means that the steps we take towards the ultimate goal already partake in that ultimate goal.’

Tom Wright

“The wonderful thing about the work of the Spirit is that his work transforms us so deeply that our very desires even begin to change.

Lucy Peppiatt

Participating in mission

Serving teams

There is no discipleship without mission

- to ‘be with’ Jesus is not static but active
- it involves following (and going - being sent)
- there will be no discipleship apart from the following and going.
- if making disciples is at the heart of mission, then mission is the essential context for learning discipleship.

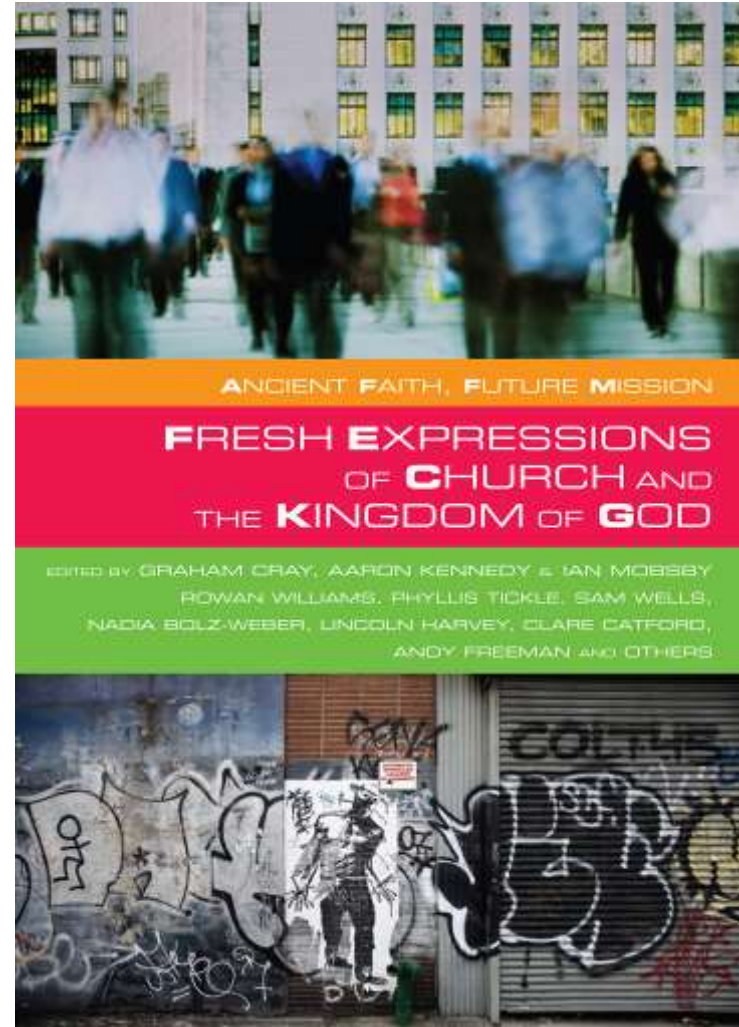
There is no discipleship without mission.

- this is the calling of ordinary worshipping Christians, with their doubts and struggles
- worship and mission are inseparable
- they form the rhythm of church life
- authentic worship leads to mission
- authentic mission wins worshippers

“Discipleship emerges out of prayer, study, dialogue, and worship by a community learning to ask the questions of obedience, as they are engaged directly in mission.

Alan Roxburgh

Church for the Kingdom

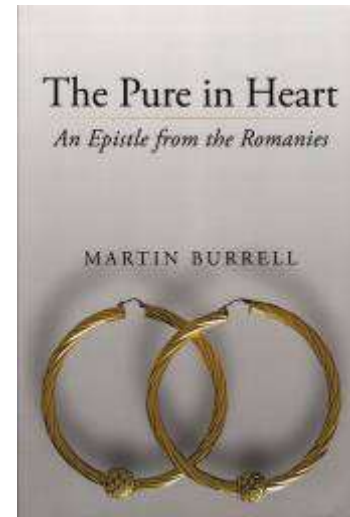
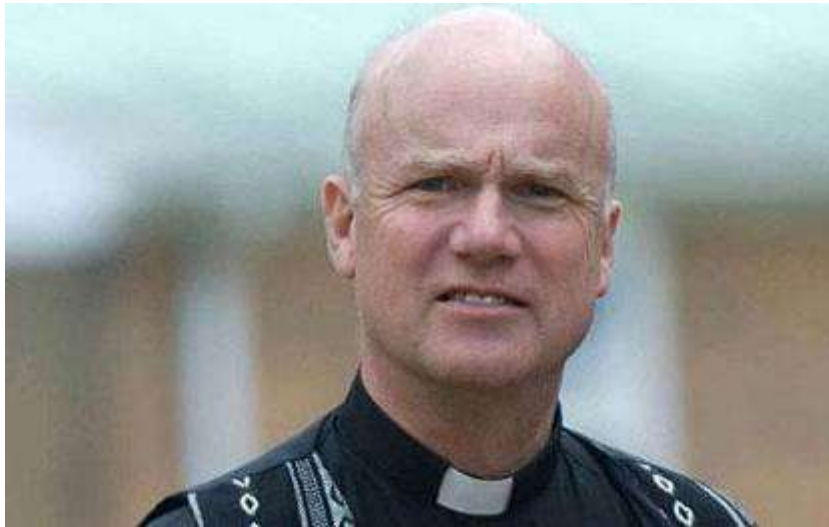


Cultivating leadership

Develop indigenous leadership

- “ The decisive moment is the first moment, when the first contact is made between the evangelist and the enquirer...
- “ The traditional response would be to send a salaried teacher to work among them and prepare them for baptism...
- “ Experience made it clear that there is another possible response.

- “ It is to find out what the Holy Spirit had already done among them and to build on that...
- “ The evangelist must acknowledge the person whom the Holy Spirit has thus touched as, for the time being at least, the chosen minister of the Gospel to that community...
- “ He already has a spiritual authority which the evangelist has no right to ignore.



Alan Roxburgh, Scott Doren

- “Our rock-bottom conviction is that the Spirit of God is among the people of God...
- “The Spirit is actually at work in our ordinary common lives.
- “This means that God’s future - putting into action God’s dreams for the whole world - is among God’s people.

- “ Very practically, a missional church is formed by the Spirit at work in the ordinary people of a local context.
- “ A practical implication is that this imagination changes the focus of leadership.
- “ Rather than having plans, programs, strategies and goal, they ask how they can call forth what the Spirit is doing among the people.

- Missional leadership owns vision when it has played a part in discerning that vision.

St George's Deal

“ Leadership is about cultivating an environment that innovates and releases the missional imagination present in a community of God’s people.



The ministry of the Spirit



“ An environment in which the Spirit given presence of God’s future may emerge among the people of God.

Al Roxburgh

8 til late

Nelson



8 til late

Balcony



CoNnect



Greenerway

Bridging the Gap



Emerge



"NO LIMITS"

PULSE

Trans4m



Lighthouse

Stepping
Stones



Centrepoin



Creating community through small groups



- discipleship is personal but essentially corporate.
- it is lived in and from community
- hence the frequency of ‘one another’ in the New Testament

“The concern from beginning to end is with Christian life in community, not with the interior life of the individual Christian... ‘The fruit of the Spirit’ engenders ‘love, joy, and peace’ within the community, not primarily within the believers own heart (5:22).

Gordon Fee

“Christian community is not primarily about togetherness... togetherness happens but only as a by-product of the main project of trying to be faithful to Jesus.

Hauerwas and Willimon

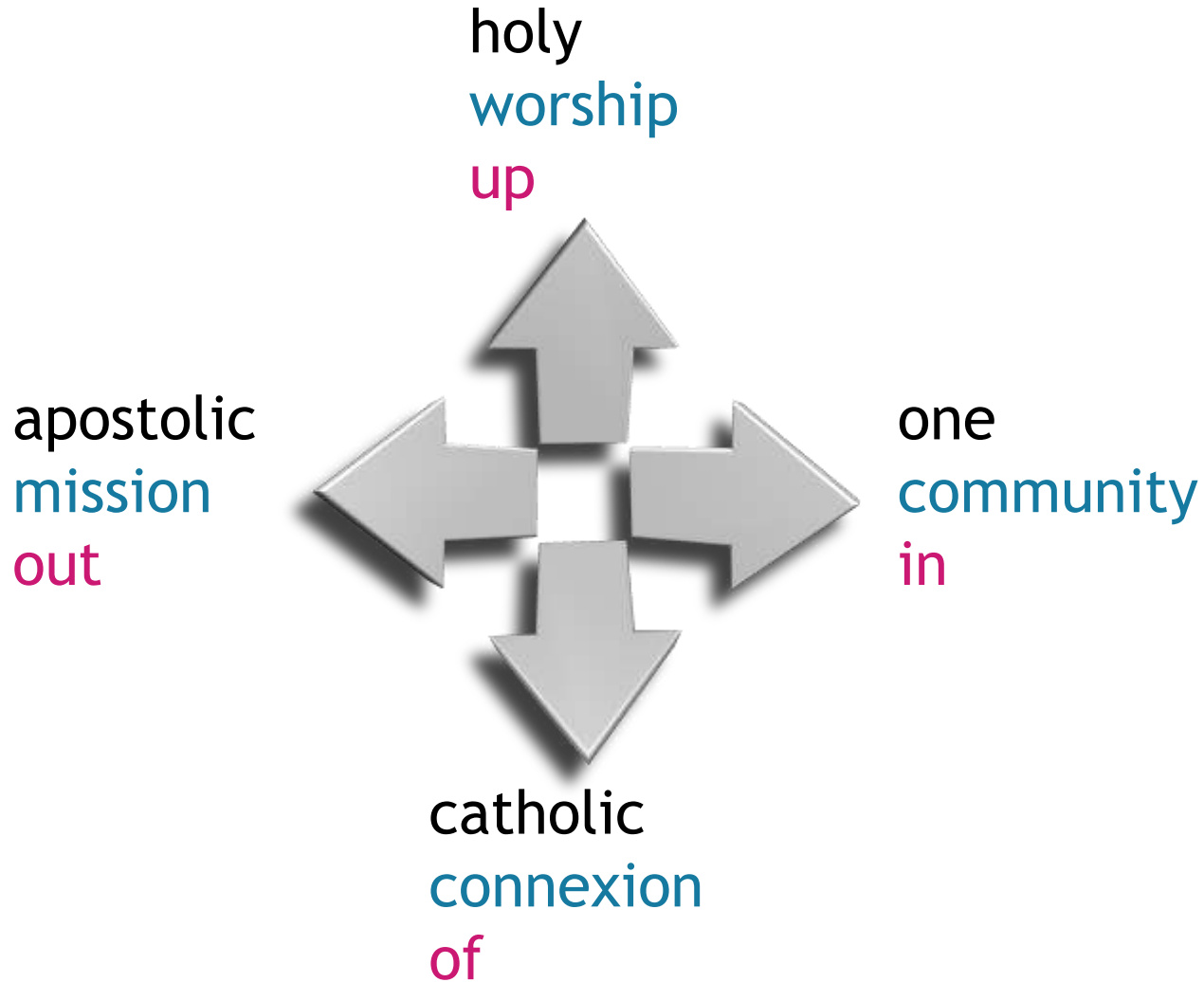
- ‘one anothering’
- never purely pastoral
- or just to study the Bible

- mutual support
- honesty
- mission-focused

Sustaining a rhythm of life

A rule or rhythm of life

Becoming mature church



Be an iceberg for God



How much of you is
below the surface?

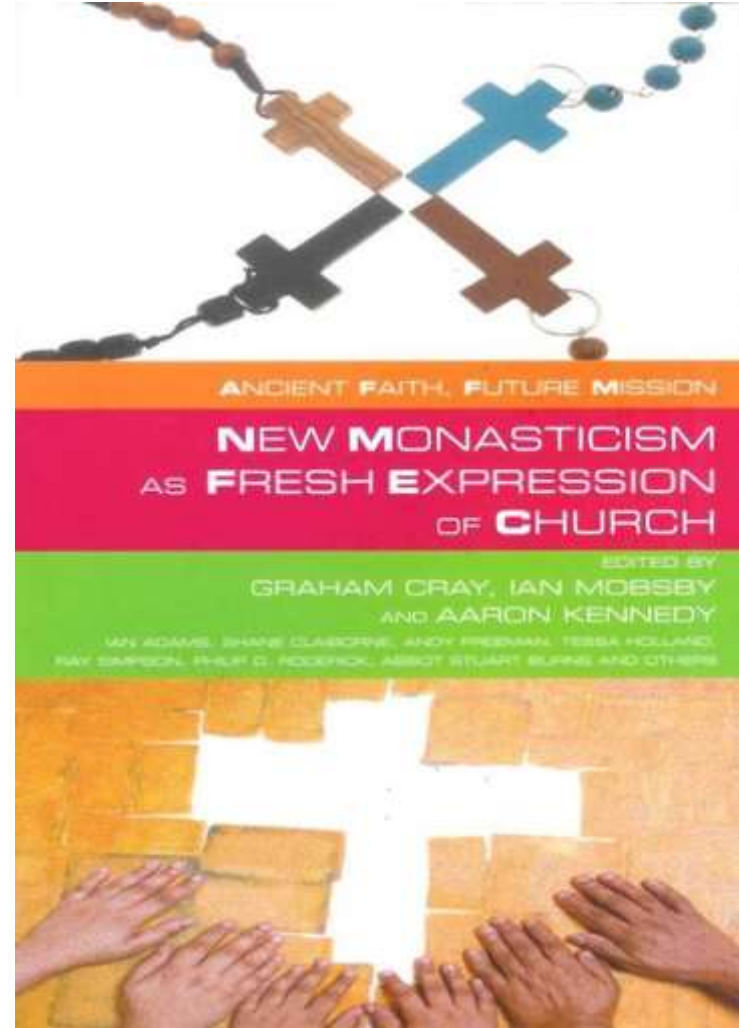
- pray - secret time with God
- give - secret generosity
- fast - secret self-denial
- listen - secret study
- do - public obedience

Rhythm of life

All brought together in a light touch,
adjustable rhythm of life, supported
through a small group.

A rule or rhythm of life

- disciplines of prayer and community
- a rhythm of life
- community to sustain discipleship



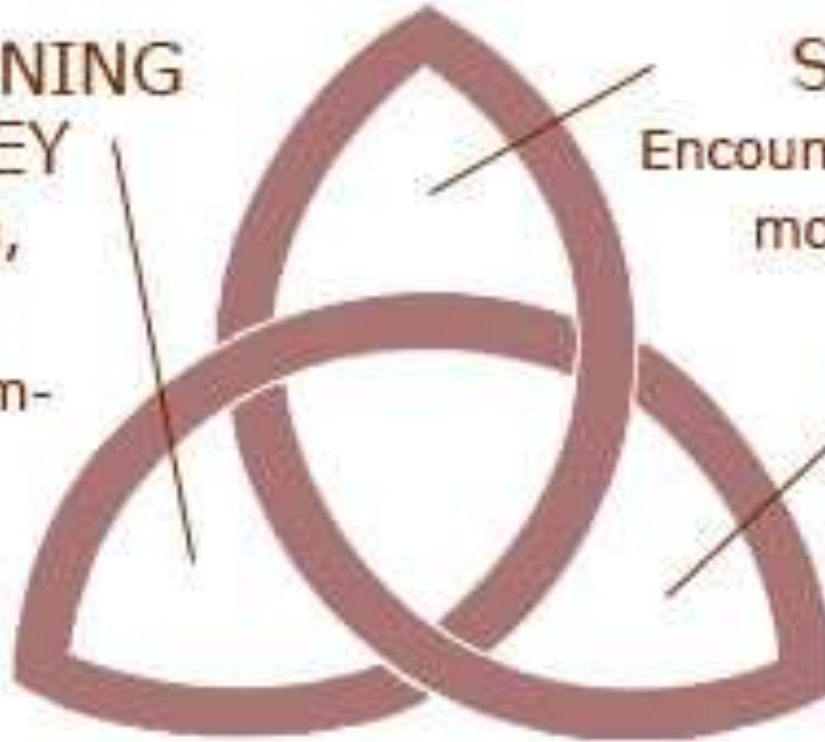
Moot's rhythm of life (intentionality)

- the aspirations
- presence
- acceptance
- creativity
- balance
- accountability
- hospitality

A shared rhythm of life

A LEARNING JOURNEY

Equipping,
exploring
and accom-
panying
others



STILL WATERS

Encountering the present
moment in quietness

ACROSS THE THRESHOLD

Engaging with
wisdom on the
boundaries

“Ultimately the evidence for the credibility of the gospel in the eyes of the world must be a quality of life, manifested in the Church, which the world cannot find elsewhere.

Towards the Conversion of England,
1945

Christian community: for the world

“We have nothing to share with the world than what we are sharing with each other. We can effect no change in the ways of the world, unless we ourselves are being converted from those ways.

Jim Wallis

A community whose life together, and personal witness, provides an imperfect, but believable picture of the future Christ has won.

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