

making disciples and  
new Christian  
communities

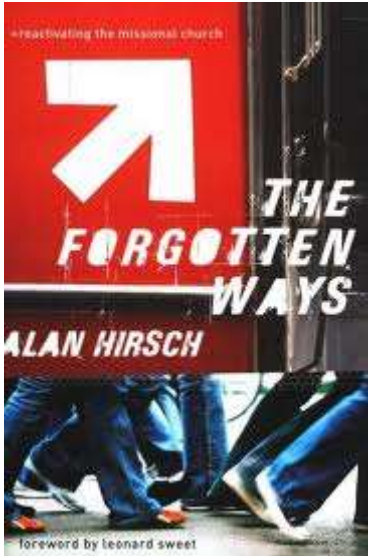
# Dying to live

# Vital Church Planting +Graham Cray

# Laying the foundations

# Introduction

# Discipleship the key



“ When dealing with discipleship, and the related capacity to generate authentic followers of Jesus, we are dealing with that single most crucial factor that will in the end determine the quality of the whole - if we fail at this point then we must fail in all the others.

Alan Hirsch

# The great commission

“ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28.16-20

# How are disciples made?

- **going**  
incarnational mission
- **baptising**  
initiation into Christ and his  
community
- **teaching**  
training in all Christ has taught us

“Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life... Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you.

Matthew 28.19-20 (The Message)

# What is discipleship?

“ It is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher.

Matthew 10.25

- The heart of discipleship is being with Jesus, in order to be like him.

“ If I am to be Jesus’ disciple that means I am with him to learn from him how to be like him.

Dallas Willard

“ We obey Jesus teachings because we are captivated by his person.

Lucy Peppiatt



- 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



# A fresh expression of church is:

- **missional**  
it seeks to benefit non-churchgoers
- **contextual**  
it seeks to fit the context
- **formational**  
it aims to form disciples
- **ecclesial**  
it intends to become church

That men and women may

- be in Christ
- be transformed to be like Christ
- participate in Christ's mission

“Becoming like Jesus is a work of the Spirit in our lives.

Lucy Peppiatt

# Disciple predates Christian

“It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called ‘Christians’.

Acts 11:26

- The idea of being Jesus’ disciple predates the word Christian.

# Discipleship requires the church

“ [Church is] people on the move with Jesus going wherever Jesus leads them.

Church Without Walls

“ [In the Epistles] the plural of disciple is church.

Alison Morgan

- be intentional
- be contextual
- set an example

# Be intentional

# Be intentional from the start



# Discipleship is no after-thought

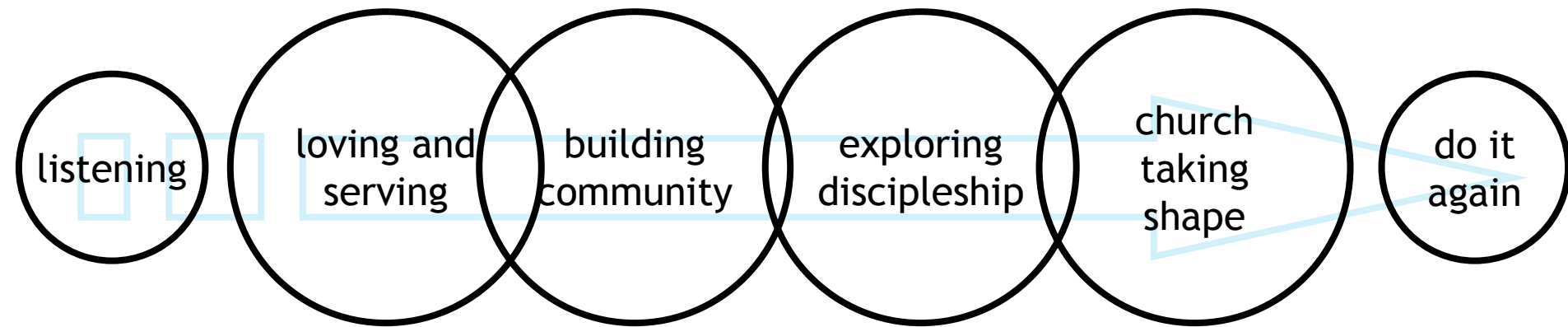




- “ make the fresh expression itself about discipleship from beginning to end.
- “ aim to provide an experience of Christian community for those with little contact.
- “ allow for the long journey people go on as they come from initial attention to openness to respond to the gospel.

Paul Moore

# a formative journey



underpinned by prayer, ongoing listening and relationship with the wider church

# DNA of fresh expressions



Everything that will  
grow is present at  
the beginning

# DNA of fresh expressions

- listening
- serving
- forming community
- evangelism and discipleship
- church taking shape

# Start as you mean to go on



Only what is in the  
seed can grow

# Be contextual

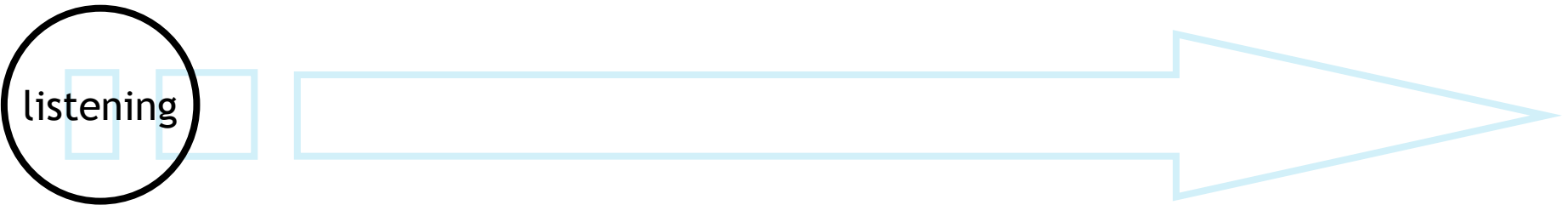


- although there is a dominant Western culture, the key to planting a fresh expression of church is the local context.
- what forces shape a locality, whether neighbourhood or network or a combination of the two?
- Disciple-making is a process of inculturation, involving the reading of a local culture.



# Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministries

# a process of discernment



underpinned by prayer, ongoing listening and relationship with the wider church

# Health warning!

- listening not cloning
- don't take 'models of church' off the shelf
- follow the Holy Spirit
- an Invitation to improvise!

# Discipleship is contextual

- “The church creates the conditions where people can live the Christian life.
- “Not franchise church planting
- “What is God doing among these people in this particular place?

Chris Russell

# How do you know it is contextual?

- “ I did not sit in lounge dreaming up what to do, the community asked.
- “ The mission initiatives create the relationships and the relationships form the community.
- “ Everyone who has joined the fresh expression has come in this way.

Katie Miller

# Incarnational means countercultural

“The gospel has to be heard within the culture of the day, but it always has to be heard as a call to appropriate repentance. It is the incarnation of the gospel, within a dominantly consumer society, that provides the Church of England with its major missionary challenge.

Mission-shaped Church

# Set an example



# How are disciples made?

## Only disciples make disciples

“ He commissions his own disciples to go out and replicate themselves by creating communities of obedience among the nations. ... Mission is replicated through discipleship, learned through ethical obedience and passed on through teaching.

Christopher Wright

# Sacrifice: not church as you would like it!



# The price of mission

- The church must always be willing to die to its own cultural comfort in order to live where God intends it to be.
- “Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit.

John 12.24

“The seed loses its previous identity, which was to be part of the sending church with its particular manifestation and culture. It will become something different to what it was before. Dying to live is inherent in the planting process.

## Mission-shaped Church

# The Sunday Sanctuary

# Dying to live... something unforeseen can grow



Courtesy of Professor Michael Herbst

# ‘Dying to Live’

“A commitment to lay aside one’s own preferences, give priority to a different culture, and work with those in it to discover how to express an authentic shared life in Christ, is the opposite of self-centred consumerism.

Mission-shaped Church

- build sacrifice and service into the culture of the fresh expression from the beginning
- don't create an environment so comfortable that it gives no hint of the cost of discipleship or the call to serve.



- not church-lite
- but deep church
- taking the right shape
- in the right place
- at a price... the comfort and convenience of those who plant it

# Vital Church Planting +Graham Cray

# Laying the foundations