



21st Century Disciples:
*creating a contemporary whole- life
disciple-making movement in the local church*

with Bishop Graham Cray

13 March 2007

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Outline of the day

- 9.15 Coffee and registration
- 9.45 **Introducing the day**
- 10.00 **Session 1: Awakening**
Foundations for contemporary whole-life discipleship
- 11.15 Break
- 11.30 **Session 2: Fresh Eyes**
The landscape of contemporary whole-life discipleship
- 1.00 Lunch
- 1.45 **Session 3: Repainting my world**
The implications for leadership
- 3.00 Break
- 3.15 **Session 4: Engagement & Transmission**
Creating a whole-life disciple-making community
- 4.30 Close

Speaker: Bishop Graham Cray

Graham is the Bishop of Maidstone and the Bishop for Mission in the Diocese of Canterbury. Before becoming a bishop he was principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, a Church of England theological college, after fourteen years as vicar of St Michael-le-Belfrey, York, where he worked with and then succeeded the late Canon David Watson.

His special concerns are the engagement of the Gospel with contemporary culture, youth ministry and the theology of renewal. He has been chairman of the Greenbelt Festival and is currently chairman of the Soul Survivor Trust and a member of the Council of the Evangelical Alliance. He chaired the working party which wrote the Mission Shaped Church report on church planting and fresh expressions of church.

Hosted by LICC

Tracy Cotterell, Imagine Project Director & Dr Neil Hudson, Church Life Consultant

With

Mark Greene, Executive Director; Brian Draper, Lecturer in Contemporary Culture; Margaret Killingray, Lecturer in Ethics; Helen Parry, Lecturer in Christian Lifestyle; Jason Gardner, Youth Researcher

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity

2007 is our Silver Jubilee.

Twenty-five years ago, John Stott, along with others, saw a significant gap in the Church's response to the challenge of a society that increasingly saw Christianity as irrelevant. And so LICC was launched with a clear vision: to help ordinary Christians to understand and demonstrate the compelling relevance of their faith to every aspect of life, not just to church-based 'sacred' rituals or private devotions, but to work and leisure, to education and media, to boardrooms and factory floors.

Twenty-five years on, LICC continues to build on a prophetic call to nurture men and women who know how to engage with the Word and the world. Our call is to contribute to the evangelisation and transformation of the UK by helping to put vigorous whole-life Christianity back in the centre of church life and in the lives of individual Christians.

Our battle is against one of the key drivers of contemporary church culture: the Sacred Secular Divide. It impacts individuals and invades every aspect of church life. It inhibits growth in faith and life and mission and is a severe truncation of our present hope and our eternal destiny. So our work is increasingly focused on helping Christians make a journey from the sacred secular divide towards whole-life Christianity; releasing and transforming them to grow as followers of Jesus, better equipped to make a difference in today's world - wherever they are and whatever they do.

Of course, over twenty-five years the world has changed and so, too, have the opportunities for responding to our call. We continue to research, to teach and to write. And we're developing our new opportunities to be an influencing organisation through a whole range of media, through innovative partnerships and through the Imagine Project.

The Imagine Project is part of LICC's work that is particularly focused on church life. It aims to help leaders effect a profound shift in their church culture and make whole-life, contemporary disciple-making central and effective in their community life.

The Imagine Project

“Imagine is an exciting blend of the visionary and the practical and the prize is a radical change in church culture that places the nurturing of whole-life disciples at the centre of our efforts to win the lost.”

Derek Allan, former Head of Mission and Training, Baptist Union of Great Britain

The need ‘Imagine’ addresses

4.5 million people attend church in the UK once a month or more but research undertaken by LICC has highlighted the struggle that churches have to equip Christians to live the whole of their lives as growing, missionary followers of Christ in a radically changed and rapidly changing culture. We have enough people to reach and impact our nation but, in the main, we do not resource the people we have. As Bishop Graham Cray has commented, “Churches have to realise that the core of their calling is to be disciple-making communities, whatever else they do.”

‘Imagine’ is focused on helping churches make ‘whole-life’ disciple-making central and effective in their community life, encouraging growth in faith, life, and mission in and through the lives of Christians in their everyday contexts. So the Project is driven by four imperatives: biblical, missional, pastoral, cultural.

The scope of ‘Imagine’

Two conclusions have significantly shaped the development of the Project. Firstly, the need that ‘Imagine’ seeks to address has its roots in two fundamental flaws:

Theological: specifically the failure to grasp the comprehensiveness of God’s salvation and his interest in all aspects of human life. People are not fully persuaded that God is really interested in every aspect of life, both personal and public. That is why they live with the sacred-secular divide.

Methodological: Churches are struggling to find relevant, transferable and sustainable ways of making disciples for all of life in today’s context.

These flaws have helped determine the default settings of the church. In the main, local churches are set primarily to evening and weekend activity not to 24/7 life; they are largely locked on to the local neighbourhood not wherever Christians are; they tend to orientate towards inner piety rather a whole-life adventure with Jesus in the real world. As a result of these default

settings we tend towards 'leisure-time' Christianity, rather than 'whole-life' Christianity.

So the UK Church needs a fundamental shift in church culture and this means a change in core values. This has the potential to radically transform the effectiveness of the UK Church's ministry to its own people and its ministry and mission to those currently outside the Church. In sum, *Imagine* is not a project designed to offer the church a new tool, to add a raisin to the church bun, it is a project designed to add yeast to the dough, to change the orientation of church communities in the UK.

An outline of the Project

The Project has four core foci:

- To champion the cause for whole-life disciple-making church communities, envisioning local church leaders and their communities, key influencers in the denominations, para-church organisations and theological and ministerial training colleges.
- To run a three-year experimental church pilot programme with a small number of representative local churches in order to develop the models and methods that will effect this culture shift.
- To develop appropriate training for church leaders and the starter resources that support the task.
- To feed the above through focused biblical, historical and contemporary culture research and analysis.

To date the Project has produced two foundational booklets, which have been distributed to around 60,000 people, *Imagine how we can reach the UK* and *Let My People Grow*; a DVD for use in small groups and churches, a book and a website. There has been a wide-ranging series of consultations, speaking engagements, a conference in 2005 with highlights available in an audio CD set, and a series of workshops in 2006 with feedback on the website.

The three-year experimental church pilot programme commenced in January 2007 with the first cohort of churches and work on the starter resources to support the pilot has started.

An outline of the Church Pilot Programme

The primary aims of the pilot church research programme are as follows:

- Challenge 15 churches representing a reasonable spectrum of the UK church to live as whole life disciple-making communities.
- Work alongside these church leaders as they work it into their own lives and out into the life of their church over a period of up to three years.
- Identify the key principles, practices and resources that enable churches to start to live out a growing whole-life discipleship as communities of believers committed to ‘all apprenticing together’.
- Present the learnings of this research programme to the wider church world so that others are able to appropriate and apply these learnings without the direct input of LICC.

Anticipated outcomes from the Project

These are likely to include an understanding of the dynamics of culture shift within local church communities, mechanisms to help leaders assess their churches as whole-life disciple-making communities, vision-casting tools for use by leaders, leadership training modules, Bible Study products, a networking of churches together, identification of best practice, key web, print and DVD publications.

We have been excited by the hunger with which ‘Imagine’ has been received, and by the wide range of support expressed. The opportunity is enormous and also daunting. May God give to us all his wisdom, grace and joy as we work on this together.

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21st CENTURY DISCIPLES

Session 1

DISCIPLESHIP

- '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

AWAKENING

FOUNDATIONS FOR WHOLE LIFE DISCIPLESHIP

- The Lordship of Christ
- The Future Hope
- The Priority of Mission
- The Presence of the Spirit

THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

'The Lord Jesus Christ'

- 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 21 He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.
- 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

'Another King called Jesus' Acts 17:7

- 'Paul's missionary work must be conceived not simply in terms of a traveling evangelist offering people a new religious experience, But of an ambassador for a king-in-waiting, establishing cells of people loyal to this new king and ordering their lives according to his story, his symbols and his praxis, and their minds according to his truth.' Tom Wright

'The Revolution is Here!'

- 'The word *revolution* seems calculated to shock and makes the apolitical Christian hearer uneasy. But is that not exactly what Jesus' kingship of God language was bound to do? Kingship no less than Revolution was a political term; and to establish a kingship which is not as yet effective *is* to bring about a revolution.' Dick France

'Prepare the Way of the Lord'

- Phil 1:27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,
- Phil 2:1-11
- 2:14-15 Do all things without murmuring and arguing,
- so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world.

THE FUTURE HOPE

Live In The Light Of The Future

- 'To be a Christian, a person of faith, is precisely to live as a person for whom God's future shapes the present.' Richard Bauckham + Trevor Hart

The Resurrection

- 'To be a Christian might be defined as living in the light cast by the resurrection; living, that is to say, as those who insist on interpreting this world in terms of its (surprising and unexpected) future as made known to us in the resurrection of Jesus by his Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.' Bauckham + Hart

New Heavens And New Earth

- Isaiah 65:17-25
- 'New creation ... an act which preserves the identity of the first creation while creatively transforming it.' Bauckham + Hart
- 2 Peter 3:8-13
- Hebrews 4:1-11
- 'Hebrews understands this divine sabbath rest as the rest that God will finally enjoy in the new creation.' Bauckham + Hart

New Heavens And New Earth

- 'The entire universe is summoned by the Spirit to a new future, .. a destiny centred on the one who says "Behold I make all things new"'. Jeremy Begbie
- Revelation 21-22
- 'A fresh creative act of the transcendent God, who would thus make of his creation what it had no immanent capacity to be.' Bauckham + Hart

Other Key Texts

- 1Corinthians 15:24-28
- Romans 8:19-22
- Ephesians 1:9-10
- 'To gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.'
- Colossians 1:15-20
- 'To reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven.'

Only Half?

- 'God after all is the creator. He has no interest in leaving earth to rot and making do for all eternity with only one half of the original creation.' Tom Wright

The Christian Metanarrative

- ... is the biblical story of the world from creation to consummation. It is the story of the Trinitarian God's relationship with his creation. It sees God as the beginning and end of all things, their source and their goal, Creator and Lord, Redeemer and Renewer, the one who was and who is and who is to come. It is a story which is not yet completed.
- The end of the story is still to come, with the God who is also to come to his creation in the end...
- This means that those who live by this story live within it. It gives us our identity, our place in the story, and a part to play in the still-to-be-completed purposes of God for his world.' Bauckham + Hart

Creation Waits Rom. 8:19-25

- The world has no future apart from the Church.
- The Church has no future apart from a redeemed world

A Foretaste

- 'The Church does more than merely point to a reality beyond itself. By virtue of its participation in the life of God, it is not only a sign and instrument, but also a genuine foretaste of God's Kingdom, called to show forth visibly, in the midst of history, God's final purposes for humankind.' Eucharistic Presidency

What The Church Is For

'Living as a demonstration of what God plans to do in and for all creation in Jesus Christ.' Roxburgh + Romanuk

'The congregation comprises the people of God, called to be formed into a unique social community whose life together is a sign, witness and foretaste of what God is doing in and for all creation.' Roxburgh + Romanuk

THE PRIORITY OF MISSION

Mission Catalyzes Discipleship

- 'Christian goodness or spiritual fitness is developed not primarily for our own sake but for God's and other people's.' Graham Tomlin
- 'If disciple making lies at the heart of our commission, then we must organize it around mission, because mission is the catalyzing principle of discipleship. In Jesus they are inexorably linked.' Alan Hirsch

Matthew 28:16-20

- 'If the church is to carry out its commission faithfully, it must draw its models, inspiration, motivation and wisdom from the earthly ministry of Jesus, in relation to the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- At the heart of Jesus mission was the training of a group of close followers They were first disciplined learners (disciples) before they were sent out as his personal representatives (apostles).' Eddie Gibbs

Discipleship In Context

- '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.*' Bob Roxburgh

Mission to Whom?

- 'The discipleship towards which Jesus called was a discipleship for sinners, a discipleship which lived through a spirit of thankfulness, a discipleship ready to accept those counted unacceptable by the opinion formers, ready to serve rather than look to be served.' James Dunn

Jesus' Style Discipleship

- 'The openness of Jesus' discipleship, and of the circles around him to the still wider circle of discipleship, was one of the most disturbing and challenging features of Jesus's whole ministry.'
- 'The discipleship for which Jesus called was both open and committed. For many people today (including Christians) these two are a contradiction in terms.'

THE PRESENCE OF THE SPIRIT

The Ministry Of The Spirit

- The Spirit as the certain evidence that the future had dawned, and the absolute guarantee of its final consummation. Gordon Fee
- 'The Spirit has given both the first fruits and the hope of full liberation, and we are stretched between the two.' Peter Hocken
 - 'If God's Spirit is among the people of God wherever they are, then those are the places where it is possible to incarnate a missional life.'

Watch this space!

- 'God continues to create new futures in the most inauspicious of places.'
- 'The biblical narratives are full of stories about places and people without hope who became centres of the Spirit's creative, world changing, activity.' Roxburgh + Romanuk

Session 2

AWAKENING

Fresh Eyes

- Discipleship as Mission
- Discipleship as Vocation
- Double Edged Discipleship
- Discipleship in a Consumer Society
- Discipleship in Community

Discipleship as Mission

Whole Life Mission, Whole Life Discipleship

- 'The Gospel is Good News concerning the Kingdom and the Kingdom is God's rule over the totality of life. Every human need therefore can be used by the Spirit of God as a beachhead for the manifestation of his kingly power' Rene Padilla

Embody Jesus

- The primary concern is to embody Jesus (to be the body of Christ) within the local culture or cultures.
- This does not mean making Jesus accessible by removing every part of his message which people find difficult or costly.
- But it does mean making Jesus, with all his challenge, understandable within people's world and worldview.
- It aims to face people with the real Christ, in their own culture and language,
- with no hint of a suggestion that to follow him should mean leaving behind their own culture and language, rather than having it transformed.

Disciple Making

- Missionary churches are not so much looking for prayers of commitment but for life long commitment.
- A life shaped by Christ's incarnation is inherently counter-cultural, in that it aims at faithful Christian discipleship within the new context, rather than cultural withdrawal or cultural conformity.

Discipleship as Vocation

Make your choice!

- 'The church is failing because people have better things to do with their time.'
Graham Tomlin

Rediscovering Vocation

- Whole life vocation.
- The vocation of all believers in and for the Kingdom of Heaven Mt. 25:14-30
- Gifting for service, as fulfillment.
- 'We must honour the purpose and the interests of the Church of Christ in all our individual callings.' Os Guinness

Double Edged Discipleship

Salt & Light Mt. 5:13-16

- Salt slows decay, and adds flavour.
- Light dispels darkness, and shows the way.

Lessons from Corinth

Involved Distinctiveness

- A countercultural community which also seeks common ground with its society whenever possible.
- It is to be involved rather than withdrawn from society.

Countercultural

- Morality
- Rights
- A vision of the future
- A visible alternative community
- God's temple, Christ's body

Involved

- But seeking common ground.
- Not withdrawn.
- 5:9-11

Subversive Engagement

- A proactive community doing good in its society
- (because the good can last.)
- While subverting some of society's social values
- (because they cannot last.)

Doing Good

- Seeking the benefit of others
- 10:23-11:1
- Love of neighbour
- Imitation of Christ
- Empowering others ('Build up')

Subverting

- Subverting patronage
- Paul's example
- A patron transformed (Stephanas)

Double Edged Discipleship

- 'All able bodied members of the Christian community were to seek the welfare of others in the city, even though they might be treated as 'foreigners'.
- Eschatologically, for them 'every home was a foreign land',
- but in terms of their social ethics, 'every foreign land was their home'.' Bruce Winter

DISCIPLESHIP IN A CONSUMER SOCIETY

Consumerism

- 'The everyday challenge of consumerism has yet to be fully acknowledged by most Christian communities.' David Lyon
- 'In the dynamics of our culture, consumption has now become the dominant faith and individualism, together with other subordinate commitments, serves it.' Alan Storkey
- 'Consumption and consumerism is gradually trickling into all areas of human life. It is closely related to being an individual, and is – for good or bad – the foundation of human existence.' Ekstrom & Brembeck

Metaphysics

- 'Why has consuming come to occupy such a central place in our lives?' Colin Campbell
- 'There is no disputing tastes'
- The customer is always right'

The Only Authority

- 'I would suggest that the assumptions embodied in these two sayings – that there is no disputing tastes and that the customer is always right – have become the basis for a widespread and largely taken-for-granted individualist epistemology, one in which the 'self' is the only authority in matters of truth.' Colin Campbell

An Assurance Mechanism

- 'The deeper underlying human need for reassurance concerning the reality of the self.'
- Consumerism makes religion seem unnecessary or turns it into a consumer experience!
- A kind of default philosophy for all modern life.

Seduction

- Seduction is not really about the seductive qualities of particular products, but the ongoing process that keeps us moving on from one consumer choice to another.
- 'Seduction concerns our relationship to objects of desire. Contrary to what is generally assumed, consumer desire is not focussed on particular objects, but is instead stretched out across an endless series of potential objects.' Miller
- Provides a consumer hope, a consumer promise of the future.
- 'Consumer desire is not focused on particular things; it is constantly enticed to go beyond what has been acquired to consider something new.' Miller
- 'Seduction spurs consumption by prolonging desire and channelling its inevitable disappointments into further desires.' **Miller**
- Augustine: 'You made us for yourself and our heart find no peace until they rest in you.'
- Miller: 'Consumer desire mimics the restlessness of our earthly pilgrimage.'

Misdirection

- Misdirection services the idolatrous element of consumerism.
- Misdirection is 'the advertising strategy of associating commodities with needs, desires and values that are not directly related to the given products. Misdirection works by encouraging consumers to fulfil more profound needs and desires through consumption.' Vincent Miller

Countering Consumerism

- Contentment - Phil. 4:11-13
- Assurance - Rom. 8:15-17
- Vocation - Rom. 8:19-25
- Character - Gal. 5:16-25

Discipleship in Community

Who Disciples Who?

- 'If we don't disciple people, the culture sure will.' Alan Hirsch
- 'There is always a tension between a church missionally engaged with its context and becoming colonized by its culture.' Roxburgh+Romanuk

'The Corrosion Of Christian Character'

- Former town aldermen and school board members, they have now dropped out from pursuing these offices. They've just lost interest in civic affairs.
- The one community engagement the men do keep up, indeed pursue with even greater vigour, is membership in and stewardship of their local churches.

What are our real priorities?

- 'There is something about middle-class culture which seems to be contrary to authentic gospel values. ... Much of what goes by the name of middle-class involves a preoccupation with *safety* and *security*, devoted mostly in pursuit of what seems best for our children.
- But when these impulses of middle class culture fuse with consumerism, we can add an obsession with *comfort* and *convenience* to the list. And this is not a good mix – at least as far as the gospel and missional church are concerned.' Alan Hirsch

A Way Of Life Worthy Of The Gospel

- '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.'
- Be accountable to one another.

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

Be An Iceberg For God

- How much of you is below the surface?

Secret Living

- Pray - Secret time with God
- Give - Secret generosity
- Fast - Secret self-denial
- Listen - Secret study
- Do - Public obedience

Session 3

FRESH EYES

REPAINTING MY WORLD

- Leaders as Teachers
- Leaders as Movement Shapers
- Leaders as Cultivators of Vision
- Leaders as Investors in People
- Leaders as Community Builders

Leaders as Teachers

The Theological Task

- 'The primary task of the leader is to reconnect ecclesiology and missiology in order that the church be defined first and foremost by its God- given mission.' Eddie Gibbs

Training For Mission

- Introducing them to the missionary God and the scope of Missio Dei.
- Teaching them to interpret scripture with a consistent missional hermeneutic.
- Equipping them to participate, first in God's mission and, secondly, in church activities.
- Developing a process whereby they engage in missional activities and reflect on these with mentors. (Stuart Murray)

Integrity & Accountability

- 'If the church is to be credible as it communicates the message of the good news of the reign of God, it must demonstrate the values of the kingdom, including humility, honesty, integrity, purity of life, justice and compassion. Not only must leaders explain these qualities in the light of the baptismal covenant, but they themselves must model such qualities and live in relationships of mutual accountability with the churches they serve.' Eddie Gibbs

Leaders as Movement Shapers

From Institution to Movement

- 'There are essential differences between an institution and a movement: The one is conservative, the other progressive; the one is more or less passive, yielding to influences from the outside, the other is active in influencing rather than being influenced; the one looks to the past, the other to the future. In addition the one is anxious, the other is prepared to take risks; the one guards boundaries, the other crosses them.' H.R.Niebuhr
- 'Focus on leadership by the church in the world, rather than ministry in the church largely confined to the existing members.'
- 'Beyond the weekly gathering; building teams engaged in ongoing mission.' Eddie Gibbs

Leadership - Alan Roxburgh

- 'The pastor apostle is one who forms congregations into mission groups shaped by encounters with the gospel in the culture - structuring the congregation's shape into forms that lead people outward into a missionary encounter.'
- 'But in this kind of congregation, the pastor will be able to lead only as she or he models the encounter with the culture.'

'The place of leadership is at the leading edge modelling engagement with the culture in the name of the gospel.'

Leaders as Cultivators of Vision

Hope For The Church

- 'Many leaders are giving up on existing congregations in the misguided belief that there is no hope among the established ones. But the biblical stories which lead to the Incarnation keep telling us these are the very places where God's future emerges.' Roxburgh + Romanuk

Leadership

- 'Leadership is about cultivating an environment that innovates and releases the missional imagination present in a community of God's people.'
- 'An environment in which the Spirit given presence of God's future may emerge among the people of God.'

Discernment The Key

- If mission really is 'seeing what God is doing and joining in', churches will need to develop new skills of discernment.
- It may be that the skills of spiritual direction will need to develop in new ways, as a form of mission accompaniment.

Watching

- 'We must relinquish our missionary presuppositions and begin in the beginning with the Holy Spirit. This means humbly watching in any situation in which we find ourselves in order to learn what God is trying to do there, and then doing it with him.'
John V Taylor

Out of Control

- 'Leadership is about connecting, not controlling.
- It is about bringing people together for the purpose of creative synergy.' Eddie Gibbs
- 'Missional leadership cultivates an environment in which the people of God imagine together a new future rather than one already determined by the leader.'

'...do not try to call them back to where they were, and do not try to call them to where you are, beautiful as that place may seem to you. You must have the courage to go with them to a place that neither you nor they have been before.' Vincent Donovan

Leaders as Investors in People

Investment

- 'The founding of the whole Christian movement ... was initiated through the simple acts of Jesus investing his life and embedding his teachings in his followers and developing them into authentic disciples.' Alan Hirsch

Leaders as Community Builders

Disciple Making

- 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.
- There is a direct connection between whole life discipleship and evangelism. Lives which consistently display Christ create hunger for Christ in others.
- Evangelism without discipleship borders dangerously on hypocrisy.

Christ's Community

- 'The church is marked by community, inter- personal relationships, mutuality and interdependence.' Howard Snyder
- 'A form of solidarity constructed through reversing the conventional positions of high and low, wise and foolish, honourable and dishonourable, and fostering instead a mutual and egalitarian other-regard.' David Horrell

Session 4

ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSMISSION

Could This Be You?

- 'The ministry training that I received was for a world that no-longer exists.
- The major challenge for leaders is not only the acquisition of new insights and skills, but also the unlearning of what they already know.' Eddie Gibbs

Blindness In The Church

- 'Churches are occupied with an obsessive struggle just to repeat the past, to survive or to offer shelter from the storm
- Nevertheless, God's intention for the fulfilment of the whole creation is always the Church's horizon.' Robin Greenwood

'To Boldly Go'

- Leadership is your capacity to guide others to places they (and you) have never been before.' Eddie Gibbs

Starters

- Read and pray.
- Draw some potential change leaders into your study and prayer.
- Do an 'opportunity audit' of the congregation's contacts and networks.
- Try a pilot project and get involved.
- Expect God to speak in an unexpected way, or through an unexpected person.

A Call To Courage

- The courage to hold to a vision long term.
- The courage to appoint people who have gifts you do not
- The courage to mentor people with the intention that they will become more able than you.
- The courage to support, defend and interpret for people whose ministry you do not fully understand.
- The courage to manage the vision, not control the people.
- The courage to admit publicly when you were wrong
- The courage to seek reconciliation at great cost.
- The courage to correct with gentleness.
- These sorts of leaders are granted authority to enable change.

+Graham Cray – March 2007

Recommended Reading

Richard Bauckham & Trevor Hart 'Hope Against Hope' DLT 1999
Colin Campbell 'I Shop Therefore I Know That I Am: The Metaphysical Basis of Consumerism' in 'Elusive Consumption' Ed. Eckstrom & Brembeck Berg 2004
Graham Cray 'Disciples and Citizens' IVP forthcoming.
James Dunn 'Jesus' Call to Discipleship' CUP 1992
Eddie Gibbs 'leadership Next' IVP 2005
Alan Hirsch 'The Forgotten Ways' Brazos 2006
Vincent Miller 'Consuming Religion' Continuum 2004
Alan Roxburgh & Fred Romanuk 'The Missional Leader' Jossey-Bass 2006
Graham Tomlin 'Spiritual Fitness' Continuum 2006