

SUNDAY APRIL 24, 2022

The Church is not an automobile showroom - a place to put ourselves on display so that others can admire our spirituality, capacity, or prosperity. It is more like a service center, where vehicles in need of repair come for maintenance and rehabilitation. Dieter F. Uchtdorf

2 Corinthians 3:18 TPT We can all draw close to him with the veil removed from our faces. And with no veil we all become like mirrors who brightly reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus. We are being transfigured into his very image as we move from one brighter level of glory to another. And this glorious transfiguration comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

D.L Moody "The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation"

TITLE: TRANSFORMATIONAL CHRISTIANITY

Begins with a calling: "I want to make a **difference**.

Calling: when your purpose (why) becomes bigger than you. There are two great days in a person's life: the day they were born and the day they discovered why.

If you have a heart to make a difference, you will always find an answer. If you don't want to make a difference you will find an excuse.

If you have a heart to make a difference, you might have delays, dead ends and distractions. Don't worry because when you find your why (purpose), that's when you will find your way! You won't find your way until you find your why.

When you find your **why** you will not only find your **way**, but you will discover your **will**.

The power of transformation is caught not taught. It is an experience that begs to influence.

The # 1 reason believers don't believe a city can be transformed is because they question whether they have been transformed themselves.

What it means to be transformed? **transform**, metamorphose, convert. Transfigure **means** to change a thing into a different thing. **Transform implies** a major change in form, nature, or function.

Our Vision

We see Nova Scotia and the Maritimes Area filled with a network of Impact Churches. We see a church with a kingdom minded people, sold out to seeing revival in our communities and where lives are equipped and where people realize their purpose. We see a church committed to raising, training, and empowering a generation that committed to global transformation. We see a church that will fill every sector of culture to affect sustained transformation. We see Impact Church serving as a seedbed for raising up and releasing many leaders to plant churches throughout the Maritimes through an intentional process of focused leadership training and mentoring. We will encourage the development and strategic alignment of team ministries that will go to the nations of the world with an apostolic mandate of realizing global glory.

Our Mission and Title today is:

“Transforming lives to Impact their world.”

“To establish a global high-impact Church that will raise up team ministries which will declare and demonstrate all the Good News of Jesus Christ in a relevant way to this generation causing many people to realize freedom.”

A Church That Will:

RECOGNIZE –High Impact Ministries

Identify each individual’s distinct life purpose.

RESOURCE –High Impact Ministries

Impart to each individual to develop their life purpose.

RELEASE –High Impact Ministries

Ignite a passion in each individual to demonstrate their life purpose.

How did Jesus do what he did in a little over 3 years? How did he transform lives? How did he really impact his world in such a short time? ANSWER: He did only what he was told to by the father.

How many people attend my church? 8,790 as of 2021! They do not know it yet. I pastor the whole city.

Transforming lives to impact their world

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

He didn't say I will build my temple, a place of worship or my building.

CHURCH IN THE GREEK is Ekklesia

For years gospel preachers have called attention to the etymology of **ekklesia**. The word is a compound of two segments: **ekk**, a preposition meaning “out of,” and a verb, **kaleo**, signifying “to call” — hence, “to call out.”

It is a holy convocation and holy assembly of like-minded people. We gather. They came together. We gather together because it fuels our faith. We need each other.

Jesus' Church or “called out ones” are not merely on the defensive; we are also on the offensive. Many read the passage above as though we are merely surviving attacks from the evil one. However, it does not say the gates of life shall prevail. Rather, it states that the gates of hell shall not prevail. The kingdom of God is on the offensive; the Church is the aggressor. The church is the called-out ones. In other words, **he (JESUS) will build you.**

God will build his called-out ones and the gates of hell will not prove more powerful or victorious over you.

Greeks would take the best of the best, the best learners, the influencers and pull them out of the population and teach them the Greek culture. Then they would receive this impartation and become the influencers of Greek culture themselves.

They would then become the EKKLESIA

The Romans had a similar word called **Conventus**

They would take over societies and train the best and make them Roman citizens. The Romans Rulers taught the Conventus that wherever you go, you take the Kingdom of Rome with you. Even if there is only 2-3 of you, you have the authority of Rome and you speak on behalf of the Roman Empire.

That why the locals got upset when he said, I will build my Ekklesia/Conventus

The most common definition of “church” was a gathering of people who assemble for a common goal.

The word “church” was used in the Old Testament in Deuteronomy 4:10 ‘Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and *that* they may teach their children.’

NIV says, “Assemble” EKKLISIADZO

Sum up it means, Gods people gathered together

We are different from the rest of society. Jesus is building a brand-new community.

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Now we all have heard people say, “We don’t go to church because we are the church” I totally get the statement because the church is not buildings, creeds, denominations or institutions. The church is a living, breathing family that helps anchor my priorities.

The “going to” is just as important as “the being.”

“The being” needs the “going to” simultaneously.

Karl Vaters said, “If we’re serious about being the church, it should make us passionate about the essential need to go. To do one without the other is to make neither very seriously.”

2. The reason we gather together is that it enhances our humanity. We were not meant to be alone. We need community, fellowship, partnership and even accountability. Isolation is a private prison. We were created to interact.

Genesis 2 “It is not good that man be alone”

When people are alone, they experience something called, “Failure to thrive” It is a medical term. It has really hit the elderly who are facing difficult life situations but are dying from adult failure to thrive.

An NBC article said because of this isolation they become quiet, disengaged, and withdrawn. The isolation accelerates the aging process.

70x the New Testament uses the phrase, one another

3. It Provides Accountability:

Proverbs 18:1 “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all [a]wise judgment.

To reach your community you need community. We need the rah rah of each other. Something unique happens when we corporately come together for worship. Connection: Praying, working, building, fellowship

Upon this Rock I will build my church

- 1) **Disciple Nations:** God is raising up the influencers. The Ekklesia!! What makes something sacred is not the title but the calling. Did God sanction it?

- 2) **Reclaim what's been redeemed:** everything! We partner with His original plan. That none and nothing shall perish. People and systems. He came to seek and save THAT which was lost, not just *those* that were lost. If we are going to rule and reign, then we also co-create while we are on earth.
- 3) Everyone is a minister
- 4) Take the Kingdom everywhere
- 5) Eliminate poverty mentality: it is important to feed people, but we need to teach them how to feed themselves. Poverty is a choice.

Ephesians 4:28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

This is the definition of transformation

What is Impact Church known for in Bridgewater?

What do we want to be known for?

We are to be salt and light in everything.

How can the transformed, called out, influential ones impact a city?

What does it mean to be salt and light?

Salt is used to enhance flavor, and as a preservative. To 'be salt' means **to deliberately seek to influence the people in one's life by showing them the unconditional love of Christ through good deeds**. Light is a symbol used to mean awareness, knowledge, and understanding.

As the “earth is filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” ([Hab. 2:14](#)), the effect of these transformed lives on our local communities will have the salt-like effect Jesus expects them to have (cf. [Matt. 5:16](#); [1 Pet. 2:9–12](#)).

Matthew 5:13-16

New International Version

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Rueben Hunter: Lead pastor of [Trinity West Church](#) in London Wrote an article “Should your church transform a city”. He said, “So it’s every church planter’s dream that they move into an area and grow a church that has a *transformative* effect on both the lives and also the culture in a given area. When it comes to the church’s role in “transforming” community or culture, we should see that this happens in the weekly rhythms of the gathering and scattering of church members—coming together each Lord’s Day to be transformed by participating in Word and sacrament, then scattering to

labor faithfully and prayerfully in whatever sphere God has deployed them.”

Luke 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two^[a] others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. ⁵ “When you enter a house, first say, ‘**Peace to this house.**’ ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

Here are some basic principles taken from [Luke 10:5-9](#)

Bless

Speak peace to people and to the systems that are around us.
I cannot change what I do not embrace.

We bless people don't blast people. We need to show people more what we are *for* rather than what we are against. We must earn the right to be heard! No longer can we command and demand respect just because of our faith.

We don't have to bless what they do and condone a lifestyle choice, but we demonstrate God's love in that while they were still in sin Jesus loved them and so do, we.

Fellowship - We befriend people

Listen to find out where the pain and brokenness is.
I cannot fix what I don't know is broken.

Matthew 9:10-17 ¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

We bless, then we fellowship, then tell

We are a sweet-smelling aroma of glory where people are refreshed when we show up.

You get a burden for the lost when you walk with the lost.

We bring the Kingdom of God in lots of ways, not just healing the sick. You can't give the good news in a bad way!

Repent Repent or to hell be sent

Minister: Not everyone is called to be an evangelist but we are called to be a Christian.

Talk to God about someone else's problem.

I connect man's need with God's resources.

We bless, then we fellowship, then we love

Declare We bless, then we fellowship, then we love, then tell

Let it be known that the kingdom of God is near.

I confirm that the power and presence of God is "in the neighbourhood".

To see what we have never seen, we must do what we have never done, or else we will continue to see what we have always seen.

How do we bring his kingdom to Bridgewater?

When was the last time you did something for the first time?

1.00 Car Wash We give them a card from the church and 1.00 to show Gods love in a practical way by serving them. Kingdom Principles incognito. Transforming so they are absorbable.

Pick up trash at the expo

FLIPPIN FOR THE FATHER

How do we do that? **Four ways the Kingdom of God changes nations:** How God Has Designed the Church to Transform Cities and Nations **Floyd and Sally McClung**

1. ENGAGE

Engage individuals. We engage in people's lives by sharing the good news of Jesus. We engage their lives first by praying fervently for them. We engage by praying for the city and nation we live in. *But we do not just appeal to God for people, we also appeal to people for God.* One without the other is half the truth God wants us to obey.

We engage our communities, our culture, and people personally. It starts with neighbors, family members, people at work, and spreads to everyone in our sphere of influence.

To engage a person is to pray for them and to share with them the good news of who Jesus is and what he has done for them by dying for their sins.

2. ESTABLISH TRUST

Establish small groups that establish foundations in people's lives. The goal of these small groups is to establish foundations of freedom from sin, being part of a spiritual family, experiencing the Father's love, and each member learning how to tell others about Jesus and disciple them to grow in their faith. The best way to *establish* people is through both one-on-one intentional discipleship relationships and in small groups of like-minded people, which is why Thursday Nights are so vital.

3. EQUIP-Train and mobilize

Equip people to hear God for themselves. Equip people to engage others and to repeat the process of engage, establish, and equip, then empower.

4. EMPOWER

Empower the people to grow into small simple churches, that in turn reproduce other simple churches. Empowered people change nations by learning to take responsibility for their own lives. Empowered people break the cycles of passivity and create their own ministry.

Empowered people learn that everyone has a role in the church. Simple church experience is an empowering process.

God's design for **empowerment** is simple but profound: engage the lost, establish foundations in their lives, equip them to do the same thing by starting other small groups.

God will never bypass the church as his main way of changing the world. The church is the hope of the world. Families of churches banding together are powerful forces for transformation in society.

These four steps outlined above are how God has designed the church to bring about transformation. It is a simple summary of a process we see over and over again in history, and in the first church in the book of Acts. If we ignore these four steps and the values found therein, we can still experience God's revival presence, but it most likely won't be conserved or have a wide and lasting impact.