

THE DATE: 20-21ST JULY 2006

THE PLACE: WODDSEYDEN, UK

THE PEOPLE: LEADERS, HUBS, CALL-EM-WHAT-YOU-LIKES FROM UK EMERGING CHURCHES
PLUS RYAN BOLGER & KAREN WARD

THE REASON: TO REFLECT ON 'EMERGING CHURCHES'
AND TALK ABOUT ISSUES ARISING FROM THE BOOK

ORGANISED BY
BLAY⁰⁰⁰
CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

EMERGING CHURCHES



CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES, SEATTLE

(AUTHOR OF "EMERGING CHURCHES"
EDDIE GIBBS & RYAN BOLGER
SPCK ISBN 0281057915)

THE 24 HOURS BEGINS WITH THE JOURNEY BEHIND **RYAN** EXPLAINING

2001 - EDDIE GIBBS AND RYAN VISIT THE UK TO EXPLORE THE POSTMODERN DISCUSSION. THE UK APPEARS TO BE 10 YEARS AHEAD OF THE USA. THEIR AIM: "TO CAPTURE A TRAJECTORY A PREMISE: "NO-ONE SHOULD HAVE TO LEAVE THEIR CULTURE TO COME TO GOD. REMEMBER - JESUS CAME TO US"

PARADIGM SHIFTS: "WE LOOKED FOR THE **BIG, THINKING** THEY MUST HAVE THE ANSWERS. WE WERE SURPRISED



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO FOLLOW JESUS IN THIS CULTURE?

A HUGE SHIFT: LEADERSHIP - IT WAS THE SMALL GROUPS

SINCE THE BOOK: "EMERGING CHURCH" IS THE THING IN THE USA. IN UK PEOPLE WANT TO LEARN

LEADING WITHOUT CONTROL. IN THE USA PEOPLE SAY "I CAN'T DEAL WITH THAT"

DISCOVERING WHAT MISSIONAL THEOLOGIES LOOK ACTUALLY LIKE.

THINK IN TERMS OF NETWORKS & RELATIONSHIPS, NOT SERVICES & BUILDINGS.

(MATT) WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A POSTMODERN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND A MISSIONAL-LIVING COMMUNITY?
(RYAN) OVERCOMING THE SACRED-SECULAR DUALISMS OF MODERNITY



THEN THERE IS CHANCE FOR RESPONSES TO THE BOOK FROM UK EMERGING CHURCHES.
 FIRST - ? THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED IN ADVANCE.*



THE BOOK HOLDS A MIRROR UP TO US.
 DOES IT GIVE OUR CRITICS AMMUNITION?
 IT MAY SPREAD THE FLAME, BUT ALSO DRAW FIRE.
 NAMING THE MOVEMENT AND THE TIMES CAN BE A RISKY BUSINESS.
 THE BOOK IS ALSO CREATING WHAT IT IS ANALYSING - ARE THESE CHARACTERISTICS, OR VIRTUES?
 DOES IT MAKE THE EMERGING CHURCH APPEAR MORE COHERENT THAN IT IS?
 IT'S A CAMPAINING BOOK AS MUCH AS AN ANALYTICAL BOOK - SO ARE THESE THE RIGHT VIRTUES? "



A SEMINAL MOMENT.

THE 1ST EMERGING CHURCH WAS THE DISCIPLES.
 THE SPIRIT CONSTANTLY UNSETTLES THE CHURCH.
 WHEN PEOPLE START TO VISIT ALT. WORSHIP IT FORCES THEM TO BECOME EM-CHURCH.
 EMERGING CHURCH IS PART OF THE JOURNEY OF THE CHURCH.
 IT'S NOT JUST POST-CHARISMATIC, WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL!
 ABOUT NOT HAVING DYSFUNCTIONAL COMMUNITIES AS RESULT OF NEW WAYS OF BEING LEADERS
 ABOUT DECONSTRUCTION. WE NEED TO RECONSTRUCT.
 DO WE STILL EXPECT PEOPLE TO COME TO US?
 THE CHALLENGE IS HOW CAN WE BE INCARNATIONAL AND GO TO THEM. "



RYAN RESPONDS...

WE AVOIDED EXTREME VIEWS, BUT FELT THAT WHAT WE INCLUDED WAS REFRESHING.



NAMING THE MOVEMENT - WE RECOGNISE THAT BY PUBLISHING THE BOOK WE WERE BECOMING PART OF THE CONVERSATION.

WE AVOIDED THEOLOGICAL COMPARISONS AS WE FELT THAT THE PRACTICE IS THEOLOGICAL. A MISSIOLOGICAL STUDY - NOT ANTHROPOLOGICAL.



THE BOOK IS A PICTURE OF A MOVEMENT IN CONVERSATION WITH CULTURE. IT WAS WRITTEN TO INSPIRE BUT NOT TO TAKE PRINCIPLES FROM - THEY ARE FAMILY RESEMBLANCES.

THE BOOK SUGGESTS THERE ARE 9 VALUES (OR CHARACTERISTICS) OF THE EMERGING CHURCH:



"THIS IS OUR WAY, NOT THE WAY."

IT'S A LAB, EXPERIMENT AND SHARE.

WE MEASURE SUCCESS DIFFERENT TO OTHER MODELS OF CHURCH "

- JESUS AS A MODEL
- NO SACRED-SECULAR DIVIDE
- COMMUNITY NOT SERVICES
- HOSPITALITY
- SHARING
- PARTICIPATORY (ALL INVITED)
- CREATIVE
- LEADING WITHOUT CONTROL
- WORKING TOGETHER IN SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

"WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF PEOPLE DID TAKE THIS AS A MODEL?!"



IS THIS THE RIGHT LIST? BUT IT'S FINE.

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF BEING COMMITTED?

IS THE BOOK A MANIFESTO?

DAY 2

STEVE COLLING (SMALLFIRE.ORG + SMALLRITUAL.ORG) ON NETWORKS

66 SMALLER, TIGHTER NETWORKS ARE MORE USEFUL THAN LARGE AND LOOSE. CONTAIN 'OPINION LEADER' WHO INTERPRETS MEDIA CONTENT FOR OPINION FOLLOWERS

150 RULE: SIZE OF A GENUINE SOCIAL NETWORK IS LINKED TO THIS NUMBER.

L A T T I C E & N O D E S
DAMAGE! - WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A NODE GETS DELETED?!

IT'S WORTH HAVING 1 PERSON IN EACH GROUP WHOSE ROLE IS TO CONNECT EXTERNALLY.

IF A GROUP ONLY HAS LOCAL CONNECTIONS ITS HORIZON IS SHORT, IF IT HAS LONG-DISTANCE CONNECTIONS ITS HORIZON IS DISTANT.



↑ SINGING THE LABYRINTH
WORSHIP
BREAD, WINE, LAPTOP →

