Releasing “all by itself” Growth

Growth Forces

Our Thanks To:

- Christian Schwarz and Christoph Schalk for their research and development of Natural Church Development (NCD)
  – Overview of the NCD Research and Process online

Growth Forces: As Easy As ABC!

- You have seen them in ministry.
- You have used them, even as a child.
- A human being would find it virtually impossible not to use them.

Insight

The secret in beginning to understand growth forces is recognizing where they are already operating!
The Six Growth Forces

Interdependence
Multiplication
Energy transformation
Sustainability
Symbiosis
Fruitfulness

I Corinthians 12:4-7

4 God’s various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. 5 God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. 6 God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. 7 Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.

Interdependence

Individual units are connected to each other in a larger system.

Changes in one will affect others in the church and community.

Interdependence

What are the short and long-term effects of this action?

“connecting”

Long Term Effects

Multiplication

Healthy organisms do not grow endlessly but reproduce themselves.
Multiplication

- True fruit of apple tree is not an apple, but another tree.
- True fruit of small group is not a new Christian, but a new group.
- True fruit of a church is not a new group, but a new church.

The Power of Multiplication

Would you choose the addition to your account of $10,000 per day for 31 days or a penny doubled/multiplied on day one and the balance doubled each day for 31 days?

- $70,000 – 7 days
- $140,000 – 14 days
- $210,000 – 21 days
- $280,000 – 28 days
- $310,000 – 31 days

- $1.28 – 7 days
- $163.84 – 14 days
- $20,971 – 21 days
- $2,684,354 – 28 days
- $21,474,836 – 31 days

Genesis 1:28-Be fruitful and multiply

Matthew 28:19,20-The Great Commission

Energy Transformation

- Paul - Acts 17: Paul's mission development strategy
- Persecution - Acts 8: Through suffering, the church grows
- Crucifixion of Jesus: Through ultimate sacrifice, life is restored to all
Energy Transformation

How can we utilize positive and negative resources to fulfill God’s purpose?

“leveraging”

Sustainability

Resources used should increase the capacity for on-going growth and development, as well as serve multiple purposes.

Sustainability

How do these actions contribute to future ministry cycles?

“recycling”

Sustainability

EXAMPLE

Raising up apprentice leaders.

(No one serves alone. Each one, teach one.)

Symbiosis

Different ministries can cultivate cooperative relationships so the mutual benefit is greater than operating separately.
Symbiosis

- Cooperation
- Mutual benefit
- Greater results

Fruitfulness

Each ministry needs to produce discernible results in line with its intended purpose.

Acts 13:2 Setting apart Barnabas and Saul (together they were better)

Acts 15:36-40 Dynamic Duo breaks up but they don’t go it alone.

Fruitfulness

Every good tree bears good fruit; you will know them by their fruits (Matthew 7)

Measuring results (John 15)
- Removing
- Pruning
- Cultivating

Matthew 7:17-20-Every good tree bears good fruit

John 15:1-4-Cutting off the unfruitful, pruning for greater production

How can we work together to enhance ministry effectiveness?

“cooperating/teamwork”
Fruitfulness

How can we maximize the **fruitfulness** of this ministry?

“evaluating”

Activity

Growth Forces

1. Interdependence = connecting
2. Multiplication = reproducing
3. Energy transformation = harnessing
4. Sustainability = recycling
5. Symbiosis = cooperating
6. Fruitfulness = evaluating

Think Naturally

Where do you see Growth Forces operating in your life and ministry?

The Eight Quality Characteristics

- **Empowering** leadership
- **Gift-based** ministry
- **Passionate** spirituality
- **Effective** structures
- **Inspiring** worship
- **Holistic** small groups
- **Need-oriented** evangelism
- **Loving** relationships

- Form yourselves into small groups of 3 to 5. Make sure there is a DEM in your group.
- Take out your six month plan and evaluate the activities on it using the six biotic principles. How could you improve your plan by applying the growth forces.
- Help each other strengthen the six month plans by applying the principles.
“Life-Giving” Adjectives

- Life giving leadership
- Life giving ministry
- Life giving spirituality
- Life giving structures
- Life giving worship
- Life giving small groups
- Life giving evangelism
- Life giving relationships

To Learn More

- Read NCD Summary on website
- Talk with your DEM
- E-mail Helen with your questions and observations.

The Quality Characteristics & The Growth Forces

**Growth Forces**

*How* the quality characteristics are developed.

**Quality Characteristics**

*What* a church needs to develop.

Example: Leadership according to *growth forces* is called *empowering leadership*.

The Eight Quality Characteristics

- **Empowering** leadership
- **Gift-based** ministry
- **Passionate** spirituality
- **Effective** structures
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- **Holistic** small groups
- **Need-oriented** evangelism
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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *Natural Church Development* by Christian Schwarz
- *Color your World with NCD* by Christian Schwarz