How to Reach a Community

Before you start...

- Do the pre-reading for this week (see Unit Guide pp7-8 + uploads on Moodle)
- From the reading, come prepared to share a question, challenge, implication & application
- Come ready to share how your evangelism challenge went from the previous module
- If it’s your turn, come prepared to share your testimony and/or share about evangelism with your chosen social group

1. INTRODUCTION

How do we go about reaching a community? If Christ’s community—His Church—is called to go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations, then how can we start with those on our doorstep? In the first session we’ll hear from Pastor Ryan Vallee. Based at Riverlife Baptist Church, we’ll consider how this large church has progressively reached out to care for its surrounding community, divided into thirteen geographical zones. Through a web of pastoral care extended to those beyond the Christian community, this practical expression of love is gradually shifting cautious attitudes from outsiders to respond to the embrace of Christ. The simple process of assessing needs and planting seeds bears fruit.

In session two we debrief the readings, as well as the weekly staples: share your testimony, offer some tips, pray for friends, and reflect on the challenge. Then, in session three it’s time to get creative. What kinds of “outreach events” might you and your church plan to build bridges that span the divide to a post-Church society? Whether it’s an individual outreach sharing the gospel, or a whole suburb-sized event as pre-evangelism with a social justice emphasis, this should get your imagination going. We’ll close the session by pooling our ideas, so you can experiment.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this module are to:
1. Consider key elements in a Church reaching its local community
2. Frame a variety of outreach events of varying size and purpose (justice, pre/evangelistic)

OUTCOMES

On completion of this module, the student shall be expected to plan a path forward to assessing the needs of their local community toward planting gospel seeds. In turn, they’ll create a diversity of outreach events.

SESSION FLOW (lecture runs 6:15-9:00pm, breaks from 7:05-7:10pm, and 7:55-8:05pm)
6:15 How to Reach a Community: Assessing Needs & Planting Seeds, with Ryan Vallee (50 minutes)
7:10 Testimony/Tips/Prayer/Challenge | Debrief Readings (45 minutes)
8:05 Getting Creative: Planning Outreach Events (50 minutes)
8:55 Assign those to share for next module + Challenge + Lord’s Prayer (5 minutes)
2. HOW TO REACH A COMMUNITY: ASSESSING NEEDS & PLANTING SEEDS, WITH RYAN VALLEE

Resource 6.1

For distance students, you can hear something of Ryan’s heart for “An Irresistible Church” here. As this podcast (online here; #3 Feb 28, 2018) and message capture, his prayer is that evangelism will become the “profession” of every follower of Jesus, declaring and demonstrating love in our local communities, especially as we extend the invitation to enter the kingdom of God. You can explore some of the pastoral care/community outreach structure of Riverlife Baptist Church (RBC) here, here and here (including English Classes and “taste of Australia” for migrants, a counselling centre, sports clubs, personal development workshops, free playgroup, street teams for suburban care, and ‘handshake’ street vans working with the homeless in Ipswich).

If you’re wondering how a Big Church can simultaneously practice intimate community that engages locals as a Kingdom witness, then check out our “Growing Together: Planting Intentional Christian Community Through KBC Survey” here. Perhaps the greatest initiative my previous local church undertook that helped us reach the local community, was “Kingdom Assignments.” Read about it here. Also, these books are top shelf:


Also see “Ten Paradigms for Community Transformation”, under Moodle, Module 6, extra resources. This is brilliant to work through as a church community, particularly as a leadership team. If your church were to cease, would the community care? The same issue, and a process for assessing needs and planting seeds, is offered by Ray Bakke in the optional reading “Urban Christian pp 106-126”. Last, if you’re wondering how to mobilise both individuals and a Church, take a look under Moodle, Module 6 Extra Resources, “CONNECT ONE”. I put this together with Charlotte Best as RBC’s outreach plan, launching the program with a sermon on Matthew’s conversion here, then backing it up with 2 small group studies (also on Moodle and on Traverse here).

For keeners wanting to carry community engagement forward ... On my wishful to-do-list is to follow up with the organisers of the 2017 Regent College Pastors conference on “Seek the Peace of the City: Exegeting Your Neighborhood” (audio here)—featuring the excellent work of Ray Bakke, e.g. *The Urban Christian, Street Signs: A New Direction in Urban Ministry,* and *City Signals Leaders Kit: Principles and Practices for Ministering in Today’s Global Communities*—and integrate this with the work of Mike Frost (e.g., his book, *To Alter Your World: Partnering With God to Rebirth Our Communities,* also his blog posts from Feb 14-Feb 27, 2017 on listening deeply to your neighbourhood here) and Luke Bretherton’s book, *Resurrecting Democracy: Faith, Citizenship, and the Politics of a Common Life.* I’ve also found helpful, on a broader missional spirituality, Mike Frost’s book *Surprise the World: Five Habits of Highly Missional People* (summary; Crossover videos here), and David Fitch’s *Faithful Presence: Seven Practices that Shape the Church for Mission* (my thoughts here).
2.1 First Thoughts

**n.b. Distance Students won’t have access to precisely what Ryan shares. In place of this, you can explore through a range of sites and materials linked to RESOURCES 6.1 (above), and/or watch Ryan’s talk “The Irresistible Church.” The reflection activities will help you put this into practice, working through the “If Jesus Were Mayor” activity below.**

- On a scale of 1-10 (1 being very poor, 10 being great), how would you rate your Church’s connection to the local community?
- If your Church were to cease existing, would the community care? Why? And what evidence do you have that this is true? (How would you measure this?)
- What process might you follow to assess local community needs?
- What cautions should you consider before acting? How might ‘care’ go sour? See here, here + here.
- What are the top 5 needs in your geographical area?
- What community needs is your Church best equipped to meet?
- What kinds of ‘seeds’ might you sow as a sign of God’s Kingdom and shalom?

### Reflection Activity 6.1

Journal at least 30 (meaningful!) words in response the following questions, and tick off the related boxes on the unit guide.

#6.1 Write a paragraph synthesising your reflections in response to the above 7 questions. That is, How is your local Church going about reaching your community?

2.2 Ryan’s Story, and Riverlife Baptist’s Journey to Reaching Its Community

- His background – a community of outreach in Washington State
- Frustrations and hopes with a larger Brisbane Church
- First steps: thinking in zones
- Assessing local needs
- Building Community: The ‘Fireplace’ and Intentional Christian Community
- Reaching Community: Love Demonstrated, Love Declared
  - Helping Hands
  - Street Teams
  - Pastoral Networks
  - Other Projects: ESL, Coach, care packages, counselling, Woorabinda, development, etc.
- His heart for a small–big Intentional (and incarnational) Christian Community
2.3 If Jesus Were Mayor

Class Activity 6.1 (35 minutes)
The following activity is based around the set class reading from If Jesus Were Mayor (by Bob Moffitt and Karla Tesch, 2007), pp. 273-306. (Cf. Ch. 11 here.) This book focuses on biblical (kingdom) principles for mobilising the Church to serve wider society. Make sure you’ve read this, before getting into this activity. See here for a short summary.

**n.b. In-class students will touch on this activity, after Ryan Vallee’s talk. Online Students are expected to work through this activity as their main focus for session one of this module.**

#1. 15 minutes:
Gather with other students who live in the same suburb or region as you (roughly 3-4 per group maximum). First pray together for your community and ask that God would give you insight into His desires for this region. Now, using the blank A3 page, draw your response to this question: “What would Jesus do if He were mayor in your suburb?”

#2. 10 minutes:
What next steps would you take to see this dream become reality, starting simple by planting a “seed project”? Try filling out a “seed project planning guide” from p289 of the readings (see also p302 for an overall “seed project planning guide”).

#3. 10 minutes:
Either pair up with another group to share your responses, or discuss responses as a whole class. Consider sharing these ideas after class with those in your local Church.

Is there *one* project you could take on, even as part of your practical hours for this class?

Reflection Activity 6.2
Journal at least 30 (meaningfull!) words in response the following question, and tick off the related boxes on the unit guide.

**#6.2 After working through Class Activity 6.1 (above), describe how your local community would look different if Jesus were mayor. Is God calling you to a particular need and response? What *one* “seed project” may have the greatest impact, as a sign of the Kingdom of God?**

How to Reach a Community Module 6-4 EM324/524-D
Seed Project Planning Guide

1. Problem: ________________________________
2. God’s intention: ________________________ 3. Scripture: _______
4. Seed Project title: _______________________
5. Primary impact area: _______ 6. Secondary impact area(s): ________

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ADD SPACE FOR ADDITIONAL STEPS AS NEEDED

Checklists: Check to see if your plan is complete by writing the project step numbers below.

Planned Impact Areas
Write “Primary” or “Secondary” to the right of the planned impact area.

On the left, list the step numbers that relate to the planned impact area.

___ Wisdom ________
___ Physical ________
___ Spiritual ________
___ Social ________

Seed Project Characteristics
List the step numbers that fit each characteristic. There may be more than one number on each line.

___ Covered in prayer
___ Compassionate—not manipulative
___ Motivated by God’s intentions
___ Thoughtfully planned
___ Simple and short
___ Done with local resources
___ Directed toward those outside the church
___ Those who benefit participate
___ Spiritual impact where appropriate
___ Evaluated by Kingdom standards

Planned Impact Areas List only the steps that have a planned impact on the project’s recipients.

Seed Project Characteristics Consider all the steps, whether they affect recipients, planners, the church, or others.
Seed Project Planning Guide

1. Problem: _______________________

2. God’s intention: ___________________ 3. Scripture: ___________________

4. Seed Project title: _______________

5. Primary impact area: ___________ 6. Secondary impact area(s): ___________

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2.4 Extra Stimulus: Summary of Bob Moffitt’s “If Jesus Were Mayor”

The Local Church is the Principle Organization that God has Chosen to Bring Transformation to the World

Ephesians 3:10. In verse 9, Paul writes that he is going to reveal the mystery that God has kept secret from eternity to now and I’m going to explain how that mystery is going to be fulfilled.

First of all, we know that the mystery is the healing of our communities through the blood of Jesus Christ. In Colossians 1:20, the Holy Spirit tells us through Paul that Jesus’ blood was shed not just for the salvation of our souls but for the healing of everything that was broken in the fall.

In verse 9, Paul says he is going to explain how that healing is going to take place. And, in verse 10, this is what Paul says, “It is now through the church that God has chosen to demonstrate His agenda for healing. And He is going to do that before those that observe in heavenly places.” What God is saying is “I am going to use the church more than I use the government, more than I use politics, business, education, or any other thing. I am going to use the church to demonstrate this healing. It’s going to be the administration of this healing.

What this means is the pastors and the leaders of the local church are more important to the healing of Indonesia than anything else.

The church cannot fill that role unless it understands that is its job. If the church doesn’t understand that its job is to bring about transformation, if the church doesn’t understand that the role of the church is to accomplish the healing and restoration, it will not be able to do it.

The Church Needs to Understand the Strategy

How does the church do it? Most churches thing its primary responsibility is evangelism. That’s part of the job but not the end of the job. We need to understand the task and, secondly, we need to understand how.

Let’s look at Ephesians 4:11 where Paul tells us HOW. In Ephesians 3:10 he tells us WHAT. The WHAT is that the church is going to be used by God to bring about God’s big agenda. And now in chapter 4:11-14, Paul tells us how.

Verses 11-13. In this passage, Paul gives us 5 categories of leaders in the church. Apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, and evangelists. But then Paul gives them all the same job description. Sometimes we think the jobs of an apostle and preacher are different. But here Paul tells us that the job description of everyone in the church is the same.

In the Greek the ministry is to serve. All of the leaders of the church, have one job, and that job is to equip the people of the church to serve. And when they serve, three things happen.

One is unity comes to the body of Christ. Unity will not come because we agree theologically. When we serve together, when the people are equipped to serve together, Pentecostals, non-Pentecostals, no matter what denomination, the body becomes unified.

Second thing. When we serve, we become mature in Christ. What does Paul say brings maturity? Service!

So, when we equip our people to serve they become united and matured spiritually.

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1 For Bob’s ministry, see http://www.harvestfoundation.org/.
And, thirdly, they express the character of Christ. It is the character of love. The main character of God is love. And, when we equip our people to serve they reflect the fullness of Christ – which is love.

Transformation is not that complicated. God says in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that when we live the way God created us to live, He will heal our land. Transformation is something that is supernatural and it happens as a byproduct. It’s a byproduct of living the way God’s called us to live.

How has God called us to live? He has called us to serve. So, how does God use the church to bring about transformation? He brings it about when we accomplish His purpose. What is His purpose? The end-purpose for the church is to equip all its people to serve.

If Jesus were Mayor, the very first place he would go would be to the church and he would help the church to understand that he has appointed them for transformation. And the way that happens is we equip every member of the church to lovingly serve his neighbor. And, when every member of the church begins to serve its neighbor they become unified and mature. They express the fullness of Christ which is love and then in response God brings transformation.

I want to illustrate that with some graphics on this slide.

When we look at the condition of the world, we see that the people are broken. We see that all the inclinations of the human heart without God are evil. Romans 3:23 tells us that all of God’s people are sinful. And in Ephesians 2:1 that in our sins, we are dead. Dead people can’t do anything. Dead people are not going to bring transformation. In our sin we are dead and hopeless.

In Romans 2:5 we see that dead people in their sin are headed for God’s wrath.

But God’s attitude towards this broken man is not to destroy him but He came to save him. In Philippians 2, Paul writes that we are to have the same attitude towards that broken man that Christ does.

Let’s look at what God’s intentions are in the future for this broken man. In Isaiah 11:4-9, God’s intention for the future is there’s going to be peace and enough for everyone. Is that good news? In Isaiah we see that we are going to participate in this Good News in the restoration of this process towards healing.

In John 14:1-4 we see that Jesus is right now preparing a place for us. Are you ready to go there? This is the future.

In Romans 8:21, we see that all creation is going to be liberated. No more tsunamis. Is that good news? Amen.


Matthew 19:28, we see that Jesus is going to return as King.

When is this going to take place today or in the future? This is God’s intention for the future. If we look to the diagram to look at that future this is what we would see. No death. Peace. Enough for everyone. And best of all, God is going to live with us. And many of our churches are preaching this gospel. They’re preaching the good news of the future.

But too many times the church of Jesus Christ is only talking about the good news of the future. But God wants the people to know about the good news now. Let’s look and see what the Bible has to say about good news now.
If you belong to a liturgical church, every Sunday you say this verse. Let’s say the Lord’s Prayer together in Indonesian. We know it by heart but often we don’t pay attention to what it says. This is the only prayer Jesus taught His disciples.

And this is how it begins, “Our Father may we honor Your name.” How do we honor Your name? We honor Your name by bringing Your Kingdom. How does Your Kingdom come? By Your will being done.

The Kingdom of God equals the will of God being done. That’s what we are to bring.

“Father, may Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”

If the Kingdom of God came to Surabaya, would transformation come? How? By Your will being done. That’s how Your Kingdom comes. When God’s people are doing His will.

I have a question. Where is God’s will being done perfectly right now? Where? In Heaven. God’s will is perfectly done in Heaven. That’s why Heaven is heaven.

Next question, what does Jesus teach us to pray about God’s will? We are to pray Father, may your will be done in Surabaya as it is being done in Heaven.

Next question, what are God’s intentions for the present here in Surabaya? God wants His will to be done in Surabaya. But, what would happen if God’s will were being done in Surabaya as it is being done in Heaven? Transformation. Surabaya would be like Heaven. Let’s look and see what is God’s will for the present. In John 14:30, we see that God’s will is that we obey Him. That’s number one. God’s will in Surabaya is that His people in Surabaya obey His will.

And, secondly, this is very important. God’s people are to teach other people to do His will. We are to obey God, we are to teach others to obey God.

That’s why it is the church that is God’s instrument for bringing transformation. Non-Christians cannot teach people how to do God’s will and they generally will not do God’s will unless it’s unintentional. But it’s God’s intention that God’s people in Surabaya do God’s will and teach others to do the same. That’s the summary. That’s how transformation comes.

Let’s take a look at whether or not we are obeying God’s will.
Let’s take a look at God’s will for our personal life.

- Acts 14:22. God’s will is that we endure hardship.
- Ephesians 5:17-20. God wants us to live sober, Spirit-filled lives, He wants us to be singing and thankful.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3,11 is that we live holy, pure and productive lives.

What is God’s will in our families? This is for Christians now.
- Ephesians 5:21 – We are to be submissive
- Ephesians 5:21 – We are to be respectful
- Ephesians 6:4 – We are to train our kids in godly living

What about God’s will for our Christian brothers.
- John13:24 - We are to love each other.
- John 17:20-23 - We are to live in unity

What is God’s will for our relationships with our community?
- Romans 13:10 – Love our neighbors
- James 1:27 – Care for widows and orphans
- Jeremiah 22:3, 15-16 – Advocate for those in need
What is God’s intention for our employees and servants?
- Colossians 4:1 – Care for those under our authority
- 1 Peter 2:13-15 – Respect those in authority
- Romans 2 - Submit to one another

How do we relate to our enemies?

As we look at God’s will, we become very conscious that, in general, we are not doing God’s will. Let this symbol represent doing God’s will. Doing God’s will is obedience. In summary, obedience is the demonstration of God’s love.

But there’s a problem. The problem is there is a wall and the wall keeps the broken man from seeing God’s goodness in the present and the future. What is that wall? Sin. Whose sin? Who is not doing God’s will? It’s us. When we look at what God’s will is we recognize it’s not the sin of the world that keeps the broken man from seeing God’s good news. It’s our sin. That wall is our sin. But God has put a window in that wall. And that window is the church.

That window is divided into four parts. And those 4 parts represents God’s concern in the physical, spiritual, social, and the wisdom areas of our lives. And, we get those 4 categories from Luke 2:52. “Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

So, God gave us the church. And, as people of the world look through the church, they would be able to see the good news not just in the future but in the present.

There’s a problem. Some churches look at the physical area and say that’s not for us, that’s for the government or the United Nations. So they cover that area of the window.

Other churches look at the social area and say that’s not for the church. That’s for the social agencies. And they cover that area of the window.

Some churches look at the wisdom area and say, “No, this man needs to come into the church to experience God’s wisdom.”

And many churches look at the spiritual area and say, ah yes, that’s our job we are going to tell people about the spiritual area. And the people on the outside when they look through all they can see are God’s spiritual intentions. What do we need?

We need to wash the window. How? By demonstrating God’s love physically, socially, spiritually, and in the area of God’s wisdom.

There are many images of the church in the Scripture. The image of a clear letter of God’s love. The image of a light. The image of salt. The image of a good servant. The image of a good neighbor. These are all images that God gives us of the church, a church that demonstrates God’s love in every area of our lives.
2.5 Extra Stimulus: Movement Day

Have you heard of Movement Day? Growing out of the Lausanne Movement’s issue-based network under Mac Pier on “Cities”, cooperating with Tim Keller’s Redeemer Presbyterian Church’s New York emphasis on seeking the shalom of the city, Movement Day came of age: challenging, inspiring and catalysing the advancement of the gospel movement in your city.

From New York, London, and a host of other global cities, it has now come to Sydney for Australia’s own Movement Day here: “Movement Day is a two-day conference that continues the conversation, tells the stories and encourages church and marketplace collaboration in the proclamation of the gospel in word and deed to the towns and cities of our nation.”

Check out this 5 minute video, “Your Place Matters to God,” summarising the 2017 National Gathering.

For a taste of the teaching at this event, see their video collection here. In particular, Roger Sutton from Manchester, with his book, A Gathering Momentum: Stories of Christian Unity Transforming Our Towns and Cities (cf. Mac Pier’s book, A Disruptive Gospel: Stories and Strategies for Transforming Your City, and his Lausanne Global Analysis article on “Global City Influence”), lays the vision and theological foundation for this whole church and whole city transformation here.

What’s particularly potent in this movement is that it’s ecumenical, practical, story-based, and is very attentive to the particularities of each place, thus being contextual. Definitely worth checking out, and joining with your church, as we move to State based gatherings celebrating how God is at work for the flourishing of your community.
3. TESTIMONY/TIPS/PRAYER/CHALLENGE | DEBRIEF READINGS

Class Activity 6.2 ... “The Staples” – stuff we do each week

Testimony: ______________ is sharing their story this session ...
Each module one student will share a very brief testimony. A testimony is simply sharing
What your life was like before you accepted Christ + How you came to ask Jesus into your life
+ How life has changed

Reality is, though, most people will switch off after a couple of minutes. Religious jargon turns them off
within a minute. So we’ll do it differently. ... All I want you to share is an answer to the question:
“What makes Jesus ‘good news’ for me?”

Keep it under 250 words (preferably written out), and focus on a HINGE to your story ...2
“I was striving ... but now I’m grateful.”
“I was self-destructive ... but now I’m healthy.”
“Guilty ... but now liberated.”
“Fear-stricken ... but now confident.”
“Despairing ... but now hopeful.”

... See Bill Hybels, Walk Across the Room, p126

Your story then becomes a tie in to the BIG STORY: Designed for good ⇒ Damaged by evil
⇒ Restored for better ⇒ Sent together to Heal ⇒ God sets everything right

Tips: ______________ is sharing this session about evangelism with ______________
Each module, one student will share for a few minutes some tips for reaching a particular demographic
(e.g. skaters, business-people, bikies, teachers, lesbians, work-at-home mums, athletes, etc.).
❖ Describe the Group and your involvement with them
❖ Tell one story from your own experience with this group, out of which you answer:
  o What are the key traits of this group that affect how they hear/receive the gospel?
  o What shouldn’t you do in witnessing to this group?
  o What should you do, that you’ve found helpful in sharing with them?
  o What actions help to demonstrate the gospel of the Kingdom for this group?
  o Any other thoughts or illustrations?
❖ At the end of this, one other student will pray for God’s empowerment on you as a witness

Prayer:
Who has God laid on your heart to see come to faith? Across this course, we’ll pray in pairs that God
would draw this person to Himself, and use you in the process. Pray as you feel led.

Challenge: Last module = “digital witness” (‘Falling Plates’ facebook &/or www.missionaryfromhome.com)
Most modules I will set a CHALLENGE for us each to try before the next class. Like *show and tell* when
you were at primary school (surely your favourite activity!), this segment is a chance to share a story or
two of how it went, living it out. You may also have an experience to celebrate or reflect on concerning
evangelism, that’s worth bringing to the rest of the class to debrief. Reflect on these for FORUM POSTS.

2 Here’s my attempt: “Jesus is good news to me because I’m an annoying “why” kinda’ guy. Ever since I was a kid, I
loved to ask why, and wanted to make sense of why the world is the way it is. My dad came to faith through facing the
toughest questions (origins, meaning, morality, destiny), and so he encouraged me to think. The more questions of
the Bible, and Jesus that I asked, the more it made sense. But it wasn’t until I was 21 and had a spinal injury, becoming
virtually quadriplegic, that I found this belief move from head to heart. As I prayed, God was closer than my wife’s
hugs, and spoke through a friend that within 10 days I would be able to walk again. Against medical predictions, this
happened exactly on the 10th day. If any worldview is true, it should at least make sense of science and love—the way
the world is, and the heart of our existence. In Jesus I’ve met and experienced the Creator and logic that makes the
universe hang together, and I’ve found a personal God who steps into my brokenness and deals with my issues in love,
paying for my wrongs. Logic, Love ... Jesus ties these two together and offers the way, the truth, and the life, making
sense and meaning out of an otherwise confusing and empty existence.”
Class Activity 6.3 – Readings Debrief

In response to the pre-reading for this module, students will be picked to share on one of the following:
- **a question**—something you don’t get, or want to clarify
- **a challenge**—something you disagree with, or want to nuance
- **an implication**—“so what” for our evangelistic practice
- **an application**—something useful right now in your context

The whole class can then contribute to further discussion. The aim is to ground the readings and apply them to one’s life in general and ministry context in particular. *This is the ideal time to bring up whatever is confusing, or questions you have in regards to the course material, so don’t be shy!*

**N.B.** For modules 1-10, I’ve set up a FORUM (cf. assessment requirement 1) to outline your two hours of outreach each week, and a question raised + lesson learned from the experience. This is a great tie in point for distance students, to feel part of the class. Take the time to comment on what others post, and let’s get the conversation going. Some great ideas may flow from this kind of dialogue.

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To help you process the readings, the following questions and thoughts are what strike me. How would you answer these kinds of questions?

**Bob Moffitt, If Jesus Were Mayor, 9-24, 273-306.**

- What story of community impact inspired you most? Why?

- In your community, where is the greatest disparity between the Kingdom of God and the daily lived reality? How could you and your church respond?

- What is the rationale behind “seed projects” being “short, small, and simple … done by local churches, using local resources to demonstrate God’s love to those outside the church”? What example of this have you seen that made a real difference?

*(If this reading excites you to reach your community, also check out the optional reading from Ray Bakke “08Opy_UrbanChristian_108-126.pdf” on Malyon Moodle. This book is excellent.)*

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**Tim Keller, “God’s Global Urban Mission” (8pp)**

- Why does God care so much for the city?

- What principles do you draw out of Israel’s exilic living in Babylon, as recounted in Jeremiah 29?

- How might this apply to your local context? What does it mean to “work for the shalom of the city”?

- In what ways is, and isn’t, your church a “contextual church” for the city?

- What one change would better position your church to join “God’s Global Urban Mission”?*
Optional: SE “God’s Justice and Good News ... Evangelism and Antiracism,” 409-415

1. Why is racism a central gospel issue, and how common is racism in your church and local community?
2. What gospel based initiatives might curb these problems and be a sign of the Kingdom?

Optional: CEG “Extraordinary Lifestyle,” 43-46

1. How have you seen “servant evangelism—using God’s kindness to reach the human heart” most powerfully practiced?
2. Strategically, why is “servant evangelism” a good starting point for a church to reach out?
3. What do you see as the most pressing need in your local community? How could you and your church show Christ’s love in this context?

Optional: CEG “Immigrants + International Students,” 276-285

1. What people group are the most common immigrants in your area? (And where could you go to find out the data?)
2. Does your church have any systematic outreach to immigrants or international students? If so, what? How could you personally participate?
4. GETTING CREATIVE: PLANNING OUTREACH EVENTS

Resource 6.2

As you brainstorm for Class Activity 6.4 below, you may find the collection put together by a previous Malyon class helpful. See Moodle, Module 6, under Extra Resources: “Creative Outreach Ideas”.

Tim Keller’s “Gospel in Life” 8 session small group DVD series is brilliant for focusing your church on how to reach the city. See here and here for the trailer.

Also, as you consider the nature and needs of various demographics within your local community, you’ll find various pdfs uploaded to Moodle, Module 6, Optional Reading, very helpful:

- CEG_Immigrants_InternationalStudents_276-285
- CEG_ExtraordinaryLifestyle_43-46
- SE_EvangelismAntiracism_409-415
- SE_EvangelisminAfrica_352-373
- LOP9_WitnessstoLargeCities here
- LOP22_WitnessstoUrbanPoor here
- LOP35_LeastReachedPeopleGroup here and for reaching people with disabilities here
- LOP37_TransformationofCities here
- LOP44_TwothirdsWorldChurch here
- LOP51_ReconciliationMissionofGod here
- LOP55_NewPeopleNextDoor here

This book is also helpful to that end:


Finally, this was promoted in the earlier Resource spot (6.1), but it’s *that* worth reading: download from Moodle Module 6 Extra Resources the pdf “Ten Paradigm Shifts for Community Transformation.”
Class Activity 6.4 (50 minutes)

Community outreach events can take many forms, and have many purposes. In general, it’s best to tighten the form and purpose/audience for a targeted effect, such as in the table/rubric below this class activity.

#1. 25 minutes.

In groups of 3-4 (best in suburbs/regions, as per earlier activity), and using the table below, come up with as many activities as you can. (Start, though, with *one* idea per box—the best idea you can think of.) Only record the ideas if you really think it would work in your region, and you would be prepared to try it as you reach out to the community.

#2. 20 minutes.

As a group, go category by category calling out your ideas for outreach. We will fill in a class version for later distribution via Moodle.

*Is there *one* activity you want to try? Get some friends together to give it a try, or meet with your Pastors and Elders to see how this might actually happen.*

#3. 5 minutes.

Ask God for which activity (from the table) represents His heart and your calling. This is not necessarily committing to run this activity, but commit it to God and pray for your local suburb with the others in your group.

Reflection Activities 6.3-6.4 [Distance Students only]

Journal at least 30 (meaningful!) words in response to the following questions, and tick off the related box in the unit guide.

#6.3 Fill out *one* idea for each box in the table below—an idea you really think would work

#6.4 Which *one* of these ideas most resonates with you? Consider steps you could take whether individually, with a group of friends, or as a whole church, towards making it happen

Watch this clip (“#3. Sign of Lifeguard” from 35.48 – 40.42) of how Dave Leth got outside the Church bubble. Rather than replicating motorcycle clubs with a sanitized Christian version, he joined “Black Sheep” and integrated into H.O.G. (Harley Owner’s Group). After two years of connecting with this community, on their own terms, they made the unprecedented decision to appoint Dave as their Chaplain. Since that time, he’s dropped off care packages, attended weddings, spoken at funerals, and been Christ’s hands and feet in this group.
### Table for Class Activity 6.4.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCOPE</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Small group</th>
<th>Suburb/Region</th>
<th>Church Wide</th>
<th>City Wide</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FORM/AIM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fun ... building relationships</td>
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<td>Serving &amp; Social Justice ... church initiative</td>
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<td>Partnership with community organizations and events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Evangel ... initiating dialogue and showing relevance</td>
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<td>Evangelistic ... direct gospel presentation</td>
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</table>
5. PREPARATION, CHALLENGE, AND PRAYER

For next module, the two students sharing will be:
TESTIMONY: ________________ TIPS: ________________ Demographic: ________________

Preparation for Next Week ...

- Pre-reading, as per Unit Guide pp7-8 ... *Come prepared to share* ...
  - a question—something you don’t get, or want to clarify
  - a challenge—something you disagree with, or want to nuance
  - an implication—“so what” for our evangelistic practice
  - an application—something useful right now in your context
- If it’s your turn, come prepared to share your TESTIMONY and/or TIPS for outreach

CHALLENGE for the Forum Activity Module 6

The **CHALLENGE** for this week is *community outreach*. You might choose to either
(a) Take steps to making *one* of the activities in the table from Class Activity 6.4 a reality;
(b) Rather than replicating a community based program, join something *already happening* this week in your local community. E.g. Rotary sausage sizzle, environmental action group, RSPCA walk, fitness/walking/cycling group, chess club ... whatever’s local. Make sure you truly listen and participate as one of them, and see what doors God opens up as your lives intersect.

Post to the FORUM (cf. assessment requirement 1) under Module 6 on Moodle to outline your two hours of outreach each week, and a question raised + lesson learned from the experience.

- Remember, you should bounce off one of the recommended readings in your response. You should have processed these readings *prior* to completing this module.

Put your response on the Moodle Forum
Let’s close by reciting the Lord’s Prayer together:

Our Father who is in Heaven,
Holy is Your Name.
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done
   On Earth as it is in Heaven
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
   As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
   But deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory
   For ever and ever, Amen.
Significance for Christian theology, life and thought...

What in this session is most significant to you personally, in forming your own theology, life and thought?

In “Ten Paradigm Shifts Toward Community Transformation” (see here), Eric Swanson suggests we should move, in response to the Spirit ...

1) From building walls to building bridges

2) From measuring attendance to measuring impact

3) From encouraging the saints to attend the service to equipping the saints for works of service

4) From “serve us” to service—from inward to outward focus

5) From duplication of human services and ministries to partnering with existing services and ministries

6) From fellowship to functional unity

7) From condemning the city to blessing the city and praying for it

8) From being a minister in a congregation to being a minister in a parish

9) From anecdote and speculation to valid information

10) From teacher to learner.

I couldn’t agree more. Each challenge is truly a ‘paradigm shift’.

Number 2 catches my attention in particular. (Perhaps because it’s in bold?!) The big question looming on the horizon is:

“If our church ceased to exist, would the community care?” ... would it even notice?

Granted, the Church exists for many functions, including worship as we gather together, often in a building tucked away from the world. Yet a primary function in this life—something we won’t be doing ‘on the other side’—is giving all people a taste of Christ’s Kingdom, that they may be reconciled to Him. If this is the case, how are we going?

There was a time when—despite my local church being fairly large—I’m not sure anyone outside our fellowship cared about our existence or otherwise.

But, praise God, simple decisions to reprioritise our time and money have made multiple inroads for Christ. Word has spread. Randoms in the street hear our Church’s name and positives come to mind:

“You’re the guys who helped my neighbour rebuild after the flood. ... You cleaned up the yard of an elderly neighbour who was waiting for a hip replacement. ... You ran that seminar on marriage and parenting, that saved us from divorce. ... As a new refugee, you got me a job and taught me how to work and pray.” And the list goes on.

Each time, all praise goes to God. How satisfying it is to join the Master’s work to love the world.