



Compass

December 2009

Welcome to Compass!

Our Newsletter for Leaders at Highfield Baptist Church.

Each month, I hope to offer insights and learning from seminars and from other sources.

We'll look at two main areas each month.

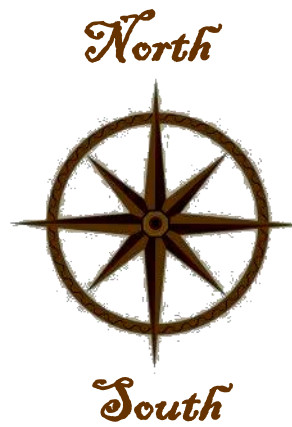
North and South - Teaching points to help us gain insight or direction.

East and West - Reflection to think and apply the teaching

Plus, we'll highlight events and opportunities coming up.

I hope you will find Compass helpful and encouraging as you work and plan in your ministries.

Blessings and Merry Christmas,
Pastor Troy



“Igniting Vision” Seminar by David MacFarlane

“ReconneXion” Seminar by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada.

Canada is changing quickly. Let’s look at one example - Immigration.

Immigration is not new in Canada, but what is changing is the home country of immigrants. Most of us can trace our ancestry back to Europe, but in recent years this has changed so that more immigrants are coming to Canada from non-European countries.

This produces great challenges for us since non-European cultures and languages can be very different from our own. To face these and other challenges, we must be intentional in understanding our mission and purpose.

We gain insight into our mission as a church as we look at Mark 2:2-12, where men lowered a paralyzed man through the roof of a house so that Jesus could heal him.

They Were Outward Focused

The men saw the paralyzed man. Many people were gathered in the house, but four men saw this paralyzed man. They did not try to get in for themselves, but rather brought him. We must always work to see past our own needs to those of others. This is what it means to be outward focused.

They Were Motivated by Hope and Faith

The men who brought the paralytic knew in the bottom of their hearts that Jesus could do something for the man. If they did not, they would not have gone to the trouble of carrying him to the roof, and risking embarrassment or shame by disturbing the meeting. Hope and faith drove them to do it. Leaders who are motivated by faith and hope

match community needs to the passion and gifts of the body because they know Jesus can make a difference.

They Were Intentional

The four made a plan and stuck to it. “Hey guys, if we take him to the roof, we can cut a hole and lower him down.” Someone provided tools and rope, and then they did it.

Planning is important and so we must ask vital questions. What do we want to do in the future? Who could lead this? How would we do it? What will it take to make it happen? What do we have already? What will we need and how will we get it?

They Equipped Themselves

It took four of them to carry the man and they needed tools and supplies. This required teamwork and equipping.

Some tasks are simple and others are complex, but they all need teamwork and equipping. We do this by *praying*, first. Then we offer ourselves to *serve*. We *invite* others to come along so that we can *share* the burden. We *explain* and train as we go along. And as we do this, lives are *transformed*.

They Became a Community for Mission

They had a simple purpose - to carry the man to Jesus. So, they formed a community of four to make it happen, and they blessed the man in the process. Blessing is not possible with belief alone. We need community to make it happen. Believe - Belong - Bless.

They Were Innovative

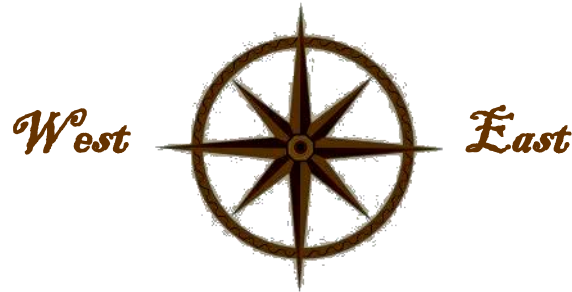
They made an opening in the roof. Everyone else came in through a door, but this was not possible so they looked for other options. Their solution was unconventional, and it even ruined property, but without their creativity and innovation the man would not have been healed. The old ways don't always work. That's OK - it takes innovation to move forward.

There Was Transformation

The man was changed on two counts. His body was healed, and his sins were forgiven. When people encounter Jesus Christ, transformation happens.

They were Excited and Fruitful

"We have never seen anything like this!" They became people who were full of God stories, accounts of things that could only happen because God was in them. Sounds exciting, doesn't it!!



Reflection Questions

- What are the "key gathering points" in the next ministry season? Ex. New Year, Valentine's Day, March break, Easter, fun events, closings, etc.

-How could these be used to build community in your group?

- How can you be innovative in your group? To do old things in new ways, or do something entirely different?

- When is the last time you heard someone say, "I know this sounds crazy, but what if we...?" How could you encourage people to be creative?

- What are some ways to equip the leaders of your group so they can be all that God wants them to be?

Umbrella of Mercy



Many leaders use the "Umbrella of Mercy" to encourage people to tell others about their creative ideas.

When someone says, "Umbrella of mercy," it means they think they have a good idea, but it may be a little crazy. No one is allowed to criticize the idea or say things like, "But what about..."

The umbrella of mercy allows people the freedom to express their ideas and may spark a creative solution.

Calendar



“Webinar” Web seminar - Dec 15, 1pm

“Values-Driven Leadership” by the Malphurs Group.

This seminar will help churches identify and assess commonly held values. Values are the ideals which guide us. They are invisible motivators which determine what we do, and why we do it. They also determine what we do not do, and why not. Aubrey Malphurs is a leading expert on strategic planning for churches. An important and helpful seminar - plan to attend. No cost.

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Advent

Sunday evenings, 6pm

Dec. 13 “The Great Gift Exchange” Sunday School Christmas Concert

Dec. 20 “A Family Christmas”

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 6:30 & 8:30pm

Check www.highfieldbaptist.com for more information and events

Compass - a leadership newsletter for leaders of Highfield Baptist Church incorporating teaching from seminars recently attended by staff and leaders of Highfield Baptist, 290 St. George, Moncton NB Canada.

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