

REVITALISATION - SUMMARY

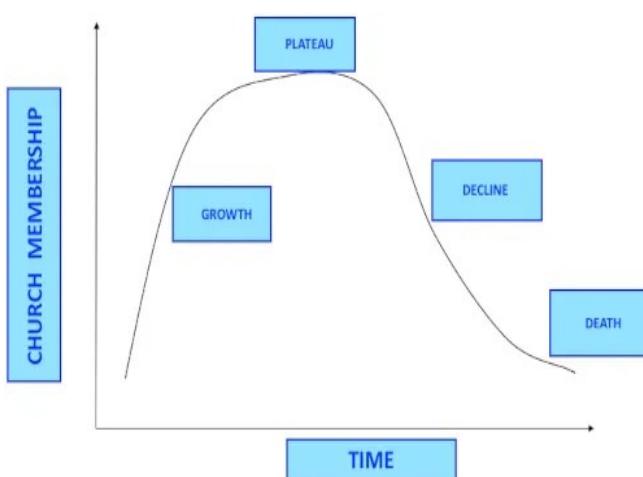
The ongoing REVITALISATION of a local church

“Then Haggai, the Lord’s messenger, gave the people this message from the Lord: “I am with you, says the Lord!”

So the Lord sparked the enthusiasm of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the enthusiasm of Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the enthusiasm of the whole remnant of God’s people. They began to work on the house of their God, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.” (Haggai chapter 1)

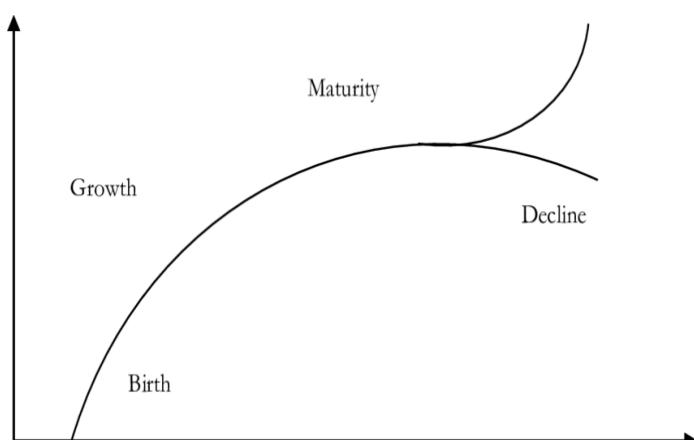
And the Lord stirred up the spirit of...
Then the Lord revitalised the spirit of...
So the Lord energised and encouraged...

Why REVITALISATION?



Why church revitalisation?

In an increasingly secular society, churches can, over a period of time, face stagnation and disappointment, so begin to settle and plateau and then dip down into decline. Revitalisation seeks to help bring a church back to spiritual health and vitality.



What is REVITALISATION about?

Church REVITALISATION is the process of leading an established church to a place of better spiritual health and vitality all in the pursuit of God's glory.

Revitalisation is about more than survival; it's about God breathing new life into the church and into our discipleship and rediscovering God's purpose.

HEALTHY CHURCH QUALITIES

- Empowering Leadership
- Gift-Oriented Ministry
- Passionate Spirituality
- Functional Structures
- Inspiring Worship Services
- Holistic Small Groups
- Needs-Oriented Evangelism
- Loving Relationships

A healthy church is a fellowship of redeemed believers

- **who love God with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their mind, with all their strength (Mark 12:30)**
- **who love people (Mark 12:31)**
- **in their cultural context**

Acts 2 v 42-43

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

CHURCH REVITALISATION RESEARCH

5 stand out REVITALISATION research themes

CHANGE OR DIE

Effective church leaders and revitalised churches must be willing to embrace change while remaining anchored to unchanging truths.

CHOOSE MEANINGFUL MEMBERSHIP

EMBRACE CHILDREN AND THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS - DON'T JUST TOLERATE THEM

For churches to grow and remain healthy, they must reach, enfold, and retain the younger generations.

CONTEXTUAL UNDERSTANDING IS IMPORTANT

Contextualisation is the action of translating and adapting the communication and ministry of the gospel to a particular culture without compromising the essence and particulars of the gospel itself.

ADAPTIVE AS WELL AS ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP IS NEEDED

The church or the church ministry area that refuses to innovate and adapt is destined to become irrelevant.

Some church revitalisation assumptions:

- We see the need to keep the GOOD-NEWS of Jesus CENTRAL. Paul told the Corinthian church to hold and stand firm in the gospel that he had preached to them, because it was of first and most importance, and that by this gospel we are saved. (1 Corinthians 15:1-3). Because of this it is assumed that we as a church want to continue to present and proclaim the gospel confidently, lovingly, and persuasively.

- We see Revitalisation as a God work and so we will be a PRAYERFUL people as we look to God by the Holy Spirit to be at work in and through us.
- We are called to seek the KINGDOM OF GOD and so we are Kingdom people - not church only people.
- That mission is about the church in both GATHERED and SENT and SCATTERED mode.
- That church Revitalisation flows out of a wholehearted WORSHIPPING and BELIEVING RELATIONSHIP with God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Revitalisation in a church is not an accident; it results from intentional actions and commitment to revitalising core elements of church life, but it must begin with us as we look for GOD to revitalise us, his people.

THE JOURNEY AND THE STEPS we have ALREADY TAKEN can act as the building blocks for a REVITALISED church - it is not so much reinventing as revitalising what has become part of our life together. We therefore can look at 12 areas of CBC church life and mission and ministry all flowing out of our agreed CBC Vision and our adopted 8 modes of mission.

We have become more MISSIONAL which includes our 104 hours of sent mission, as well as our gathered missional outreach - all based around our 8 modes of mission.

We are becoming a MULTI CONGREGATIONAL church.

We are growing into a more MULTICULTURAL church community.

We have moved to being an all age - multi generational church but we could become more intentionally an INTERGENERATIONAL disciple making community.

We have invested into being able to develop a DIGITAL ministry and mission.

We have continued to have a GLOBAL outreach perspective with our Albanian partnership and BMS World Mission partners.

We have suggested how a more PARTICIPATIONAL church covenant membership could revitalise how we belong together.

We have remained identified as - word and Spirit - Baptist EVANGELICALS.

We have begun PASTORAL developments into wholeness and mental health wellbeing with different groups, courses and resources.

We have recognised the biblical call to be HOSPITABLE.

THE QUIET REVIVAL with a new openness towards the Christian faith gives us at CBC a fresh opportunity to engage with Gen Z-ers and build upon a renewed Young Adults ministry and at the same time not forget about the next generation coming up behind them.

With Muddy church we attempted to bring a more CREATIONAL dimension to mission and worship.

12 REVITALISATION WORDS

MISSIONAL

MULTI CONGREGATIONAL

MULTICULTURAL

INTERGENERATIONAL

DIGITAL

GLOBAL

PARTICIPATIONAL

EVANGELICAL

PASTORAL

HOSPITABLE

REVIVAL

CREATIONAL

MISSIONAL

We encourage new pioneering projects and missional actions that enable us as a church to more fully engage in our CBC 8 Modes of Mission. Our goal is to equip the Church, to be the means through which Jesus makes Himself known in our neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools, and in the places we find ourselves throughout the week.

MULTI CONGREGATIONAL

We could experiment with the idea of MICRO CHURCH PLANTING including DIGITAL MICRO CHURCH as well as being ready to PLANT and ESTABLISH missional congregations.

MULTICULTURAL

We adopt these principles to begin with -

- There will be nothing to prevent an appropriately qualified person taking up any role within the church congregation, regardless of that person's ethnicity.
- People of all ethnic backgrounds will be encouraged to participate in the vision, mission and life of the church and to work together to achieve our fellowship objectives.
- Those in leadership roles will affirm publicly and regularly that the church is a multicultural environment.
- The benefit of having people of differing ethnic backgrounds sharing church life together will be celebrated and appreciated by all.

INTERGENERATIONAL - CROSS Gen

Within our multi-generational expression of church we become more intentionally intergenerational which means embracing and developing ways to engage creatively in intergenerational disciple making, serving and fellowship.

DIGITAL

Hybrid church means that we will become more intentionally a digital missional church organisation and therefore we will not limit our gospel reach to the size of our auditorium or our geographic location but see digital technology as a major opportunity to pioneer in mission and reach out further.

GLOBAL

We will seek to maintain a passion for the Great Commission task of world mission as we aim to continue to push outwards as we get caught up in God's local global mission in the world.

PARTICIPATIONAL

We could aim to make membership more meaningful and move from a static once made decision to a dynamic annual renewal model of covenant membership and fellowship participation.

EVANGELICAL

We will continue to be a church that embraces biblical truth. For centuries, Christians have relied on catechisms - question-and-answer summaries of faith - to teach the faith and disciple new believers. We can explore ways to use this ancient method of catechism that systematically builds an understanding of what we believe and is a defence against distortions of truth. We continue to identify with Evangelical Baptists and the Evangelical Alliance.

PASTORAL

We will support one another to participate in the communal process of Christian pastoral formation, of growing in our relationship with God and of being formed, transformed and conformed into the image of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

HOSPITABLE

In the power of the Spirit and as part of being a good news people we should express hospitality by extending warmth, kindness, and generosity towards one another, guests, visitors, or even strangers, creating an environment that fosters genuine human connection and a sense of belonging as we aim to fulfil the specific NT commands to offer hospitality.

REVIVAL

We can seize a revival opportunity, particularly amongst Gen Z-ers, and help a generation that is full of curiosity and perhaps short on gospel understanding to encounter Jesus as we commit to journey with people in their pursuit of the good news of Jesus. In terms of our work with all newcomers, we will look to ensure that all newcomers to CBC are connected with six people within six months to help them and stay with us within our church community and fellowship.

CREATIONAL

In our expressions of Christian SPIRITUALITY, APOLOGETICS & EVANGELISM we look in the future to become more focused on God as our creator.

Out of the 12 revitalisation words which 3 are you most drawn towards and would like to get involved with?

Out of the 12, which 3 areas would you like to explore in more detail?

Out of the 12 CBC revitalisation themes which one will you commit to pray for?