

## Mission Consultancy Handout

### Biblical Reflection

What metaphors do we see in Scripture for the church and how do these inform our structures and strategies?

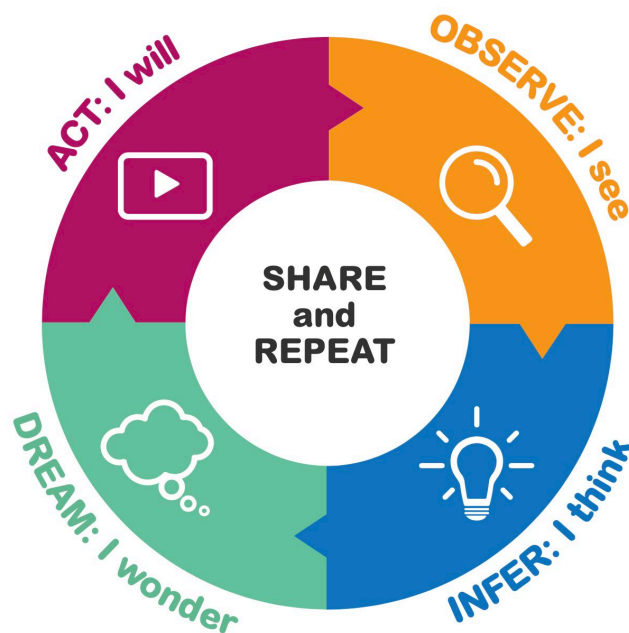
### Why we need to reimagine our church structures and strategies

- The research shows that most churches don't change at the rate the community around them does. This impacts their engagement and mission within the neighbourhood, beginning the slow decline.
- When new churches are started, they outgrow existing churches with transfer, de-churched and unchurched people. The main reason for this is the focus new churches place on cultural exegesis, contextualization, and growth.
- Existing churches equipped with these same skills are more likely to keep pace with the broader community and/or be committed to church multiplication as a means of doing so.
- Governance and structures that are iterative are key to outward focused, reproducing churches.

Churches need structures and strategies that cause them to i) better engage with their community ii) reflect theologically on their observations iii) and adapt regularly to embrace a reproductive life cycle.

### A missional consultancy process to develop agile church structures and strategies

Consultancies usually begin with the church or leaders' objectives. A missional consultancy begins with God's agenda but follows a similar approach in that the consultant is a facilitator, not the expert.





### A [toolkit for missional consultancies](#)

- Prayer walking
- Community Mapping ([watch a video](#))
- Cycle of Contextualisation and Culture Stack
- reDISCOVER CHURCH Coaching Clusters

Suggestions for how to use these tools in a consultancy:

1. Prior to running a workshop, arrange for people to participate in a prayer walking activity either collectively in groups or individually. Encourage them to take a journal to write down what they notice about the community (the build environment, the natural environment, the rhythms, the types of dwellings, conversations with neighbours etc).
2. Host a workshop for the church that allows people to draw a map of the area around the church and add the different elements
  1. **Geography** (boundaries, pathways, nodes)
  2. **Demography** (people groups, subcultures, age profile, household makeup, religious affiliation, type of work etc.)
  3. **Spiritual** (secular and sacred places of worship, spiritual strongholds etc)Alternatively, the consultant can do the research beforehand and map people's awareness of the information by using people mapping tools from your consultancy toolkit
3. Use Focus Groups to transition from "I see" to "I think" and "I wonder". Encourage people to infer meaning from what they see and listen to the perspective of others.
4. Empower a group (staff, leadership, working group etc) to turn the reflections from the workshop(s) and focus group(s) into recommendations. The consultant can be part of this group or acting as an external coach.