Being A Game Changing Church in a Different World: Old Maps and Melting Icebergs

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Lance Watson: “We were trained to reach a world that no longer exists.”
“Our Iceberg Is Melting”
The footprint of Christianity is shrinking in America
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- Sundays are more about soccer and Starbucks than the Sabbath.
- Fastest growing religious affiliation among young adults is “None.”
- Once great and thriving mega churches are close to closing.
The footprint of Christianity is shrinking in America

• The churches of our parents are graying and dwindling or have been gentrified.

• Seminaries are being questioned about their relevancy.
Where God is leading the Church ain’t on the map
What should we be planning for, praying about in order to be faithful to the mission God has assigned us in light of the fact that “It’s a different world than where we’ve come from?” We must capture the spirit of the Dogan people in Africa and not the map drawers in Western Europe.

• What transformation is required of we who are called to Christian ministry?
• We must learn to “thrive off the map in an exciting and rapidly changing world” which “means learning to let go, learn as we go and keep going no matter what.”
What should we be planning for, praying about in order to be faithful to the mission God has assigned us in light of the fact that “It’s a different world than where we’ve come from?”

- The author of Canoeing The Mountains challenges us to “reframe this moment of history for Christians in the West as an opportunity put before us by God for adventure, hope and discovery—all the while embracing the anxiety, fear and potential loss that comes from answering this call.” This is especially exciting for FW given our sense of mission that reconnects Jesus with justice in a world of hurting people hungry for justice leadership and prophetic witness.
- Further, he challenges us to recover the missionary calling of what it means to be the church.
What is the mindset of a game changing church in a different world? How do we operate off the map since our iceberg is melting?

• The world in front of us is nothing like the world behind us
• Doing ministry off the map in uncharted territory requires improvisation and adaptation
• The world around us has changed and we can’t live on the successes of the past
What is the mindset of a game changing church in a different world? How do we operate off the map since our iceberg is melting?

• Leaders make hard choices about what to preserve and what to let go?
• We must become students of organizational dynamics, our respective ministry field and the church in these changing times.
• We are challenged to change!
What is the mindset of a game changing church in a different world? How do we operate off the map since our iceberg is melting?

• We must reduce complacency and have a sense of urgency.
• We need a team that will guide the needed change.
• We must create a vision of a new future.
What is the mindset of a game changing church in a different world? How do we operate off the map since our iceberg is melting?

• We must consistently and creatively communicate the vision of a very different future.

• We must make everyone feel empowered to minister off the map.

• We must never let up and become allergic to complacency.

• We must live by faith (as nomads) while changing the environment.
You are called to leadership “for such a time as this” that is off the map in the face of melting icebergs.

- Leadership is focused on what could be and must be.

- Leadership tackles and solves problems. Leadership is always about personal and corporate transformation.

- Leadership operates with eyes on the future In a way that is transformational in the present.
You are called to leadership “for such a time as this” that is off the map in the face of melting icebergs.

- Leaders don’t blame, they act.
- Leaders lead the learning when they don’t know what to do.
How can we change the game in this different world?

• Recommit ourselves to our mission and sense our calling within the mission. (Greatest athletes always worked to improve their game. How are you working to improve your game?)

• Rededicate to living out your “Faith in Public Life.”

• Remember to live your “outer life from your inner sanctuary”.

• In this kairos moment have the wisdom of the descendants of Issachar and discern the times to see what we must do.
Practical Lessons From “Rethink and Retool”

• Need to get accurate numbers of how many people are joining and how many people are attending

• How many people are viewing via streaming?

• How many of those who stream give?
Practical Lessons From “Rethink and Retool”

• What are attendance numbers for youth and children’s church?

• How many people are in our ministries, bible studies, new members classes, HTBI, etc?

• These numbers should be analyzed in order to evaluate our effectiveness and increase our ability to be fruitful in ministry.
Connections matter

• How can we cultivate and connect with our online viewers and e-members?

• Can you be a member of our church and never set foot in side of the church?

• How can we make online viewership and connectivity a part of our culture?

• We need to have someone managing and engaging people online.
Connections matter

• We must produce an online experience.

• Kill dead space and make sure our camera angles are right.

• We need to give the people online a good experience musically. Split sound so sound in the house is different from sound online.
Connections matter

• Online camera hosts should pitch directly to online viewership. We must offer face to face interaction with the online viewers.

• Create webinar experiences for our online members
Being the Beloved Community that worshippers and visitors EXPERIENCE

• We have to make the worship experience worth attending.

• Our environment must be loving, welcoming and accepting from the parking lot through uniting with the church and their experiences in orientation, bible study and ministry. (Greeters and hospitality is vital. 5 to 7 people have to greet and make people feel welcome)

• They should experience the power of prayer and become prayer partners.
Being the Beloved Community that worshippers and visitors EXPERIENCE

• Through fellowship provide opportunities for people to connect with others and the church.

• Facilities. Church has to be clean and things must be done with excellence.

• Amenities. Church should offer something. Embrace a culture of generosity. Every Sunday give something away.
Being the Beloved Community that worshippers and visitors EXPERIENCE

• We must preach/teach the importance of believing and belonging.

• We have to seize the opportunity to enlarge the borders of ministry in new ways.

• Create an atmosphere of excellence and expectation, connection and compassion.