

Lloyd's

LEADERSHIP

LETTER

WELCOME TO GROW

By Lloyd Rankin

Welcome to the very first module in our new version of GROW! As you participate in GROW, you are joining leadership teams just like you, meeting across New Zealand.

To give you a little background, we (Vineyard Churches Aotearoa New Zealand - VCANZ) experienced a first decade (1989-1999) of rapid growth in planting churches, and in churches growing and reproducing. But in our second decade (2000 -2009), the growth not only slowed, but we actually went backwards both in numbers of churches and in planting new churches. Also, despite growing in the total number of people in Vineyard churches, many of our congregations were slowly losing people instead of gaining.

While this is actually very common in the early period of a new movement, we didn't want to leave it unaddressed. We recognised that a lot of our churches had subtly and almost imperceptibly shifted from finding and welcoming in new and lost people to just focusing on those who were already part of the church. So we launched **GROW2020** at our 2009 national conference in Wellington and began a decade-long process of helping and equipping and resourcing pastors and church leadership teams to focus on winning and discipling the lost and the unchurched of our nation.

2020 marks the end of our third decade as a movement and also the end of the decade of growth. It also speaks of perfect eye vision.

We are so glad that you care enough about Jesus' passion and purpose that you are giving yourself to this task of providing growing leadership to growing churches through being disciples and making disciples - that together we will build churches that grow disciples who reach the world for Jesus.

Why Vision and Values Matter So Much

In this month's module, we start by looking at how churches "work" - what creates the structure that produces the culture and "feel" of a church. Most people probably don't give much thought to why they like one church but don't like another; why one small group feels safe and enjoyable and why another just doesn't feel like "home". Problems can arise when we think we are building one sort of group or church, but because we, or other leadership voices, are maybe following different vision and values we end up building something quite different.

In this Leadership Letter, and in the other resources that come with it, we are going to look at the key factors that make a group or a church the kind of church we love. Another way of looking at this is "cultural architecture". God gives us as leaders the great privilege of taking His unchanging truths and His "Big Story", and living it out in such a way to help the most people connect. We are building something that is all about Jesus and His purposes, but in a way that makes the best cultural sense to us.

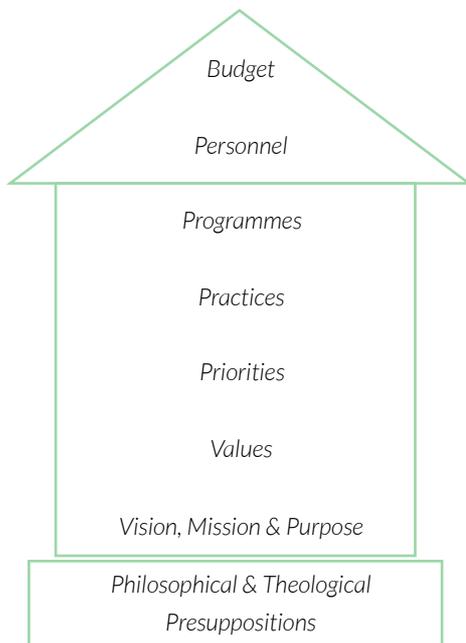
To pursue Christ, we must take up our cross and follow. For someone to take up the cross means that they know their old way of life has ended and their life is now in God's hands - they won't be coming home for dinner ever again! But, to mix the metaphor a little, we can carry that cross in our own way, with a particular group of people, emphasising particular parts of the journey in such a way as to encourage as many other people as we can to make the same journey. So I encourage you to think about what it is that you love about your connect group, and your church. What makes it "home" to you? The more we understand why, the better we can "do church" together.

Lloyd's LEADERSHIP LETTER

All Living Things Have Structure

Hebrews 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

Whenever we gather more than two or three people, we create a structure - whether intentionally or unintentionally. As leaders, it is our privilege to create structures that best help us fulfil our mission and vision.



These words describe how structure is formed and sustained.

The philosophical and theological presuppositions are like the foundations of a building.

The values are like the sub-floor - unseen but vital to strength and stability.

The vision, mission and purpose is like the type of building (its proposed use).

The priorities are like the framing - giving the building its shape.

The practices are the cladding - what you see.

The programmes are the room layouts - what you do in different rooms.

The personnel is like the roof - chosen according to the type of building.

The budget - is the budget! We only spend money on what we believe to be important and right, and without budget nothing is built.

Different Kinds of Groups

When we are looking at churches, or small groups, we are actually dealing with sociological groupings or sets of people which can be categorised into one of three types of sets - fuzzy, bounded and centred. (See Appendix 1 of accompanying Vineyard College Next Level Additional Material for diagrams)

The fuzzy set has no boundaries, and no definition. These types of groups are often anti-structure, anti-leadership. They are a form of anarchy, with no clear direction or purpose.

The bounded set has clear, distinct boundaries, with a clear insider and outsider mentality. They often have dominating leadership and parent-child relationship. They value conformity, visibility, success and excellence.

The centred set has no clear boundaries, but has a clear defined centre - which is dynamic. There are levels of integration with the issue being who is moving towards the centre and who is moving away. The communication is adult-adult.

We are building groups of people that are centred sets. We know who is "with us" by whether they are moving towards the centre - even if they seem far away - rather than whether they believe the same, or act the same.

Contextualizing the structures

Every generation needs to redesign or re-develop what the church could and should look like so that it remains connected to the culture it finds itself amongst. When we work cross-culturally, it is obvious that we need to contextualize both the gospel (what the words and concepts mean in that culture) and the structures (how we do things) if we are to connect at all to the people we are trying to reach. It is just as vital to contextualize to a generation, a socio-economic, an ethnic context.

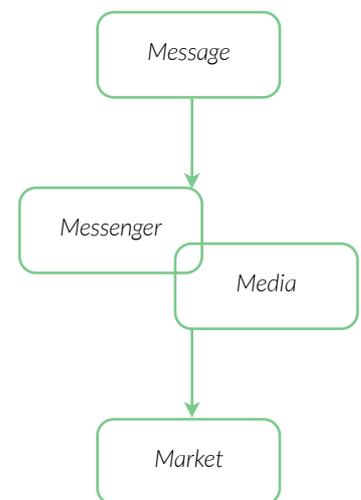
The four main elements we need to work with are:

The **Message** - while we must never add to or take away from the gospel as expressed in the Bible, it must be translated into the place we find ourselves.

The **Messenger** - those who have embodied or incarnated the Message - people like you and I who are living the message of the gospel in such a way as to encourage as many other people as possible to follow.

The **Media** - the various ways we carry or communicate the gospel. These obviously change with technological advances and culture changes. For example, websites, blogs, YouTube and social media were not mainstream communication forms even five years ago.

The **"Market"** - our culture, society and communities are dynamic and ever-changing and so we must change with them, or be left behind as an irrelevant group. The challenge and pleasure we have is to bring the unchanging Message to a dynamically moving Market, using appropriate Media and Messengers who embody the Message and are in the world but not of it.



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Philosophical and Theological Presuppositions

Our philosophical and theological presuppositions are what we believe to be true about life and God - our worldview. As Christians we start with a number of "givens". For example, we are theists not deists. A deist believes there is a God, some sort of divine being, but that god does not involve himself in our world. A pan-theist believes that god is in everything, and is everything - whether created or uncreated. An a-theist believes there is no god. A theist believes in a God is who beyond creation (transcendent) but who is intimately involved in creation and especially in people's lives (immanent).

a.) We hold to an evangelical theology, yet in our practice we are Pentecostal. Rich Nathan coined the phrase "Empowered Evangelicals" We walk in the "radical middle" - Gordon Fee: "Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God." We place ourselves in the evangelical mainstream, avoiding the extremes at either end of the continuum (fundamentalism and reconstructionism and at the opposite extreme "word of faith" and restorationist). Theologically the Vineyard is a movement that occupies the "radical middle" between conservative Evangelical and Pentecostal. We are Bible-centred and Kingdom of God-centred.

b.) We have a comprehensive statement of faith. (see the downloadable media links)

c.) The key issue is "How does the Kingdom of God advance?"

Either I need to get more anointing to make progress; or I do acts of obedience - an empowered vision - seeing the advancing edge of the Kingdom.

The difference between obedience-centred and anointing-centred is a little bit like this: - you can become an exceptional salesperson selling a mediocre product - or you can be a mediocre salesperson with a great product that almost sells itself.

d.) Bible-centred

The Bible is primary - this is the first place we go for what we need. It is authoritative.

e.) Kingdom-centred (see statement of faith)

f.) We are not a confessional movement, but a movement that is centred in good theology and practice

A couple of really helpful recommended books: Power Points (John Wimber); Empowered Evangelicals (Rich Nathan & Ken Wilson)

Vision, Mission, and Purpose

1. Mission

Being Disciples, Making Disciples

2. Vision

To build churches that grow disciples who reach the world for Jesus

Our vision, mission and purpose describe what we are here for (what business are we in) and what we intend to do about that.

Vision is a clear picture of what we see the church being or doing - it is that picture of how things could be.

Mission describes what we will do to get to that place

Purpose is like the destination sign on a bus.

For example, we desire to find and win disciples for Jesus, who will be worshippers of God and rescuers of people. We want to achieve that purpose through evangelising the lost, and planting churches that will plant churches, through servant hearted leaders who are empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak the words of the Kingdom and do the works of the Kingdom.

At its core, Vineyard is an evangelistic church planting movement motivated by a passionate desire to pursue Jesus. Everything else we get involved in is important yet peripheral.

When you meet as a group, it would be a helpful exercise to write down what you do as a church that is essential, or central, and what other things you do that are important, but not

at the centre. You would still be the church without doing them.

We are to do all the things that are necessary but to remember what is central.

Our Values

3. Our guiding principles

Jesus called us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" and to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31). He also said to love one another as He loved us (John 13:34). Vineyard churches outwork these commands through three guiding principles, for which we use the analogy of the head (our theological centre), the heart (our relational centre) and the hands (our ministry centre).

Theological centre - kingdom theology and practice

Vineyard churches are committed to the theology and practice of the kingdom of God - which we view as the over-arching and integrating theme of the Bible. We are committed to proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and to bearing witness to the "already and not yet" of the kingdom in word and deed through healing (physical, emotional and social), doing justice and seeing people released to enjoy a full relationship with God.

Relational centre - loving God and loving people

Vineyard churches welcome God's presence, seeking in worship and prayer to hear His voice and to be obedient to His leading. As we become increasingly sensitive and responsive to the Spirit's presence, we "see what the Father is doing" and pursue that with passion.

We also love people - inside and outside the church - with relationships characterised by respect and honour. "Being disciples, making disciples" spreads into every aspect of what we do, both with people who are part of our churches and those who are coming towards faith in Jesus.

WHAT LOVE CAN DO

2012:

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP AND MISSION

“WORSHIP IS LOVE ON ITS KNEES;
MISSION IS LOVE ON ITS FEET”

N.T. Wright

When Jesus said “Follow me”, he had two great adventures in mind:

- Developing a loving relationship with God and
- Inviting those around us into His loving community

In other words, worship and mission, loving God and loving others.

What Love Can Do will help us discover the roots of Jesus’ invitation to follow him – and the divine tension it represents – as we better understand how love can transform lives both inside and outside the church.

Featuring ...

Alan and Kathryn Scott, from Northern Ireland

Alan Scott is senior pastor of the Coleraine Vineyard Church in Northern Ireland, birthplace of the international phenomenon of Healing in the Streets in which Christians from hundreds of churches worldwide are praying each week in the main street of their town for people to be healed – and seeing God’s miraculous hand move.

Kathryn Scott is a prominent international songwriter whose worship songs include Hungry, Blessed Be Your Name and Child of God.

WHERE

What Love Can Do 2012 will be held at Northcross Community Church, 826 East Coast Rd, East Coast Bays, Auckland.

COST

\$10 night sessions, \$30 full day, \$60 full conference

REGISTER NOW

Head to vineyard.org.nz to register you and your team.

WHAT LOVE CAN DO 2012

VINEYARD CHURCHES
Presents

A CELEBRATION OF
WORSHIP
— & —
MISSION

FEATURING:
Alan and Kathryn Scott (UK)
EAST COAST BAYS, AUCKLAND - APRIL 12-14

WWW.VINEYARD.ORG.NZ

@miss

TIMETABLE

Thursday, April 12

7.30pm-8pm – worship and welcome

8pm-9.30pm – Alan and Kathryn Scott - *Breaking through disappointment with God*

Friday, April 13

Morning

10am-10.30am – worship

10.30am-11.30am – Alan Scott - *Changing the community one life at a time*

11.30am-12 – break

12-1pm – Kathryn Scott - *Experiencing goodness in a broken world*

Lunch: with Kathryn Scott for Vineyard worship leaders

Afternoon

2.30pm-4pm – Alan Scott - *Healing in the Streets*

Evening

7.30pm-8pm – worship

8pm-9.30pm – Alan and Kathryn Scott - *An encounter that changes everything*

Saturday, April 14

Morning

10am-10.30am – worship

10.30am-11.30am – Kathryn Scott - *Who do you think you are?*

11.30am-noon – break

Noon-1pm – Alan Scott - *Washing the feet of the city*

Lunch: with Alan Scott for Vineyard pastors

Afternoon

2.30pm-4pm – Kathryn Scott - *Trusted rulers*

Evening

7.30pm-8pm – worship

8pm-9.30pm – Alan and Kathryn Scott - *Building generous compassionate lives*

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Ministry centre – effective mission

Vineyard churches want to bring the gospel of the kingdom wherever we sense God's leading, most often by planting culturally-relevant churches in a wide variety of settings. We are called to compassion and healing, leaning towards the lost, the poor, the outcast and the stranger as though we serve Jesus Himself.

4. Genetic code - our "DNA."

Ten common factors that are high priorities in Vineyard churches:

- a.) Clear, accurate, inspiring biblical teaching where we hear and obey God's word to us.
- b.) Contemporary worship in the freedom of the Holy Spirit, worshipping God with our whole being with Jesus at the centre as our Lord.
- c.) Sensing the presence and power of God and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit, both in church and anywhere else we go.
- d.) Physical healing with emphasis on signs and wonders as seen in the Gospels and the book of Acts.
- e.) An active small group ministry with an emphasis on discipling believers.
- f.) Holistic care for the broken, poor and needy, such as the homeless, the disadvantaged and single parents and their children.
- g.) Commitment to church planting in New Zealand and missions throughout the world.
- h.) Unity with the whole body of Christ and authentic, intimate, enabling relationships within our own churches.
- i) Preaching and living the Gospel of the Kingdom, always looking to what the Father is doing in bringing people to reconciliation with Him and participation in the community of faith.
- j.) Training and releasing people into committed discipleship, ministry to others, serving, giving, responsible use of finances and healthy relationships.

5. Vineyard values

A church's values are often unseen, but they are powerful drivers of how we relate to people – and to God. In Vineyard churches we value:

The pursuit of God

We are hungry to know God's presence, hear His voice and pursue Him (Psalm 63:1-3).

Christlikeness

We desire that through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' love, mercy, grace, truth, purity, power and integrity will shine through all that we are and do (Ephesians 5:2).

The mercy of God

Mercy is fundamental to all God does in salvation. We, therefore, aim to extend mercy to one another and to all to whom we minister (Colossians 3:12,13)

Prayer

Prayer is a primary means of our communication and relationship with God (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 4:6).

Integrity

It is important for us to speak the truth, deal honestly and live uprightly (Ephesians 4:15).

Servant leadership

We aim to exercise leadership with humility, selflessness, grace, care for the people and a sincere desire to build up the Body of Christ (Mark 10:37,44-45).

The individual

Single or married, we want to enable and support mature relationships and family growth (Romans 12:9-10).

Relationships

We are honoured by every person God adds to the Vineyard. We aim to maintain mutual respect, open communication, determined co-operation and believe and speak the best about each other (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Unity

All who belong to Christ are one in His Body, the Church. We aim to maintain unity by honouring all who call on Jesus' name and by

seeking relationship with all parts of the Church (John 17:21-23).

Reality

We aim to walk in the Spirit and see supernatural works of God, while also valuing the intellect and our physical humanity (James 1:5).

Simplicity

We wish to do nothing for "religious effect" but to act in natural, non-hyped ways. We desire to do the ministry of Christ with joy (Philippians 4:4).

Cultural relevance

We aim to speak and act in ways in which our culture can respond positively. For example, we value worship music in a style that is relevant to our time and society, and the people our churches are reaching (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

Fruit and gifts

We value living and expressing the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit. We value character above giftedness.

Liberty

We want to create freedom to follow Jesus rather than conforming to arbitrary standards. We embrace grace, not legalism.

Sovereignty of Holy Spirit

We want to maintain flexible structures, traditions and practices to allow the Holy Spirit to move sovereignly.

Our Priorities

The way we organise and order our priorities has a profound influence on how a church feels, and what impacts people who are part of it.

1. Worship

We desire to worship God with our whole being. We want Jesus at the centre as our Lord. We want intimacy with God and desire to experience His presence.

We desire Spirit-enabled worship in a style that is intimate, dynamic, culturally relevant and life changing.

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2. The Bible

We want to hear the Word of God taught in a practical, inspiring way, in conjunction with His current prophetic word.

We aim to hear and obey God's Word to us, to be "doers of the Word" who are being transformed into the likeness of Christ.

3. Fellowship

We are the family of God, one Body in Jesus Christ, joined together as brothers and sisters forever.

We seek to develop real, intimate, enabling friendships together, built on covenant love, mutual responsibility and faithfulness.

4. Ministry

We believe all Christians are called to serve Christ in the power of His Spirit, in ways that build up the local church.

We are called to do the ministry of Christ in the world today, for example to:

- Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom.
- Persuade people to repent and believe in Jesus.
- Heal the sick.
- Care for the poor and those in need.
- Counsel those in need of God's wisdom.
- Teach believers to follow Christ.
- Give our resources to the work of Christ.
- Train Christians to serve the Lord.

5. Training

We believe all Christians should be trained to do the work of Christ.

We are committed to the "show and tell" model of "on the job" training, in which trainees are introduced to doing ministry functions with trainers and then are taught during and after the training experience.

We aim to provide training for all aspects of responsible Christian life and ministry.

6. Sending

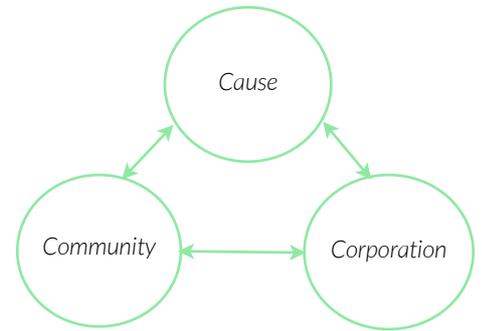
We aim to renew, refresh and enable existing churches by sending trained personnel out on short-term ministry trips.

We aim to build the Church of Jesus Christ by sending trained personnel to plant churches around the world.

Final thoughts for your church

Churches, as they grow, often get stuck at certain points. When you understand vision and values, it frees you to look accurately at structure.

Generally, there are three things we need to think about as churches grow. We tend to move around the triangle: as you address one factor, the next one begins to affect growth.

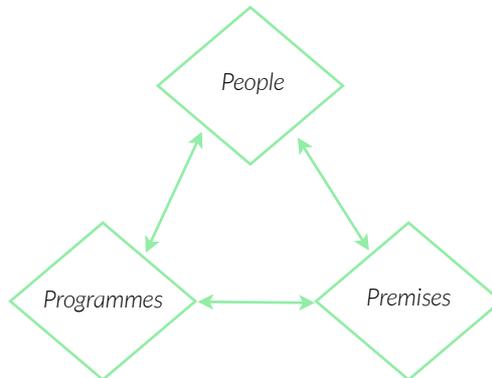


So as you meet together spend time clarifying the vision and mission of your church.

Then what is central and what is peripheral for your church.

Discover where your church is at with regard to people, premises, programmes. What is the pressure point?

Finally, what is the pressure point with cause, corporation and community?



Another paradigm that can be helpful is: cause (being on Jesus' mission), corporation (our structures) and community (the sense of being together).

INFLUENCE 2012

A learning event for all those who are doing GROW 2012

Oct 4 -6, Urban Vineyard, Auckland

This is a free event for all who are registered for GROW.