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Welcome to Innovate 2009

Glue, Myths and Land mines

Cohesion, Persuasion and Navigation in Church Planting

Craig Mathison

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe

2

Glue, Myths and Land mines

- Presenter: Craig Mathison
- Central Thesis:
 - Successful church planting is a successful engagement with people personally, spiritually, and socially (culturally). Understanding what connects a people together (glue), what they unquestionably believe (myths) and what things are hidden but “explosive” for them (land mines) helps the church planter design and build a church model that people see as truly “theirs.”

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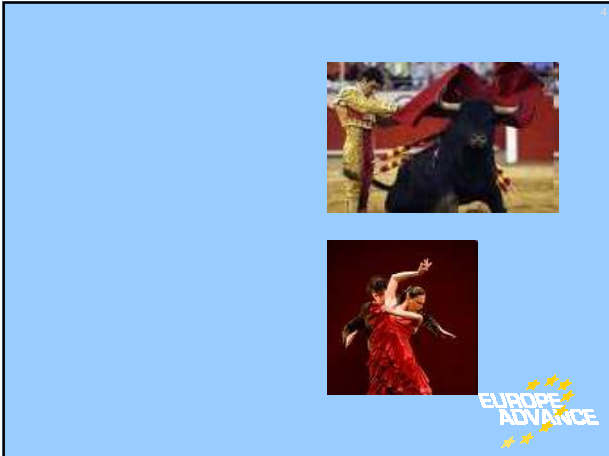
3

Glue, Myths and Land mines

- What makes a group of people feel like they are all part of a whole (entity)?
- Glue:
 - something that binds people together
 - Possibilities: Language, religion, ethnicity, values, stories, habits, customs, culture, art, etc.
- If your church and its presentation of the Gospel does not have the “glue” that people “feel” is “native,” you are asking them to **immigrate** in order to follow Christ.

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6

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- What do people unquestionably believe and therefore is not easily challenged?
- **Myth**
 - a popular belief or tradition that has grown up around something or someone; especially one embodying the ideals and institutions of a society or segment of society
- If your church and its presentation of the Gospel does not account for the **myths** that people “believe,” the central issue is no longer Christ but how and why you are so different from them.

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Glue, Myths and Land mines

- What are things in the culture that you can't step on without being "blown up?"
- **Land mines**
 - Just as military land mines are hidden from view but explode when pressured, there are "social land mines" in every culture that are hidden but explode when pressured.
- If your church and its presentation of the Gospel does not understand the **social land mines** around it, there can be unexpected explosions that turn the conversations away from Jesus.



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