



EUROPE ADVANCE

Welcome to Innovate 2009

Unleashing the potential of the local church
Speakers: Sebastiaan van Wessem, Joel Domingo and Kent Redfearn

Ephesians 4:7-8 (NASB)

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "when He ascended on high, he led captive a host of captives and He gave gifts to men."

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe

EUROPE ADVANCE

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NASB)

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe

EUROPE ADVANCE



4

Two Kinds of Gifts: “grace” and “gifts”

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe



5

Greek for “grace” = “charis”

related to “charismata” (grace gifts)
= spiritual gifts

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe



6

“earnestly desire the greater gifts”

1 Corinthians 12:31 (NASB)


Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe



7

Some spiritual gifts... (1 Cor.12)

- word of wisdom
- word of knowledge,
- faith that works miracles
- gifts of healing
- prophecy
- distinguishing of spirits
- tongues
- interpretation of tongues



Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe

8


2) "Gifts"

- "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men" (Ephesians 4:8)
- "You have ascended on high, You have led captive Your captives; You have received gifts among men" (Psalm 68:18)

Note:

- "among" is replaced by "to"
- "received" is replaced by "gave"

>>> These "gifts" are people!



Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe

9

People as gifts to the church

- "And He gave some as apostles,..."
– laying foundations, planting churches
- "...and some as prophets,..."
– forthtelling and foretelling
- "...and some as evangelists,..."
– proclaiming the good message about Jesus
- "...and some as pastors..."
– oversee and care for the spiritual needs of the church
- "...and teachers..."
– clarify, expound and proclaim God's word



Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe

10

What is the purpose of that gift?

God uses apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to:

- Equip the saints for the work of service
- So that the church will be built up

>>> both the potential of the local church and of the saints is unleashed!

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe



11



Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe



12



Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe





13

Joel Domingo

- Personal journey
- Calling to service
- John Wesley: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

EUROPE ADVANCE

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe

14

The power of liberating the laity

- Culture
- Formation
- Structure
- Leadership and hard questions
- An example

EUROPE ADVANCE

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe

15

Cultural similarities

- Hilversum and Seattle
 - Urban
 - Creative class environment
 - Pluralistic
 - Busy lifestyles: who has time to serve?

EUROPE ADVANCE

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe



16

Central Premises

- Interdependence to fulfill the gifts God has given to the local church through formation and service.
- Church planters must have the ability to manage, sustain, and navigate the people and personalities within their congregation.
- Principle of the church scattered

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe



17

Formation

- God's Spirit act us upon people
- People make repeated decisions resulting in a different ethos / worldview / being formed in them
- People make better decisions, more accountable decisions and more repeated decisions when in community

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe



18

Structure and processes

- Defining and creating systems
 - Communication commitments
 - People not processes
- Structure must submit to Spirit
- Structure, I discovered, is important; there is no point in saying that every member is a minister if the structure of the fellowship says the exact opposite

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe





19

Leadership Implications

- Leadership in unleashing the potential of the local church is the calling and commitment to the loving relationships, artful processes and enlightened practices that build the trust and confidence that empower teams to successfully embrace, navigate and arbitrate surprise, tension and paradox

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe



20

Questions to ask as you unleash...

- Wrong question: How do we grow this church
- Tough question: How do we serve this community?

- Wrong question: How do we develop ministers for the church?
- Tough question: How do we develop missionaries to the culture?

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe



21

Questions to ask as you unleash...

- Wrong question: How do we develop church members?
- Tough question: How do we develop followers of Jesus?

- Wrong question: How do we develop leaders for church work?
- Tough question: How do we develop leaders for the Christian movement?

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe





22

An example:

- Worship / Service / Community
 - All Saints Church

- 1+1+1

EUROPE ADVANCE

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe

23

1+1+1

- Dimensions for accurately demonstrating a healthy church
 - Gathering together: gatherings
 - Serving together: service teams
 - Life together: life groups

EUROPE ADVANCE

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe

24

Summary

- Formation, process, leadership
- Dependence on God
- Where are His hands
 - To HIM who is able...

EUROPE ADVANCE

Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe



Innovate 2009 conference



25

PLANTING LIFE-GIVING CHURCHES IN POST-CHRISTIAN EUROPE



Planting Life-Giving Churches in Post-Christian Europe