



GENEVA PUSH

MOBILISING FOR MISSION

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This is an abridged version of a longer and crucially important conversation. So here we will raise the principles and point to a much fuller discussion on this subject. But to start with here's three biblical truths that shape this discussion around mobilising the body.

The first biblical truth is that people are lost and they need Jesus. For those of us who are Christians, this was us at one point. For every person the common denominator is this - that if it wasn't for Jesus, his death and resurrection, we'd still be separated from God. Everyone is in dire need of the salvation Jesus provides.

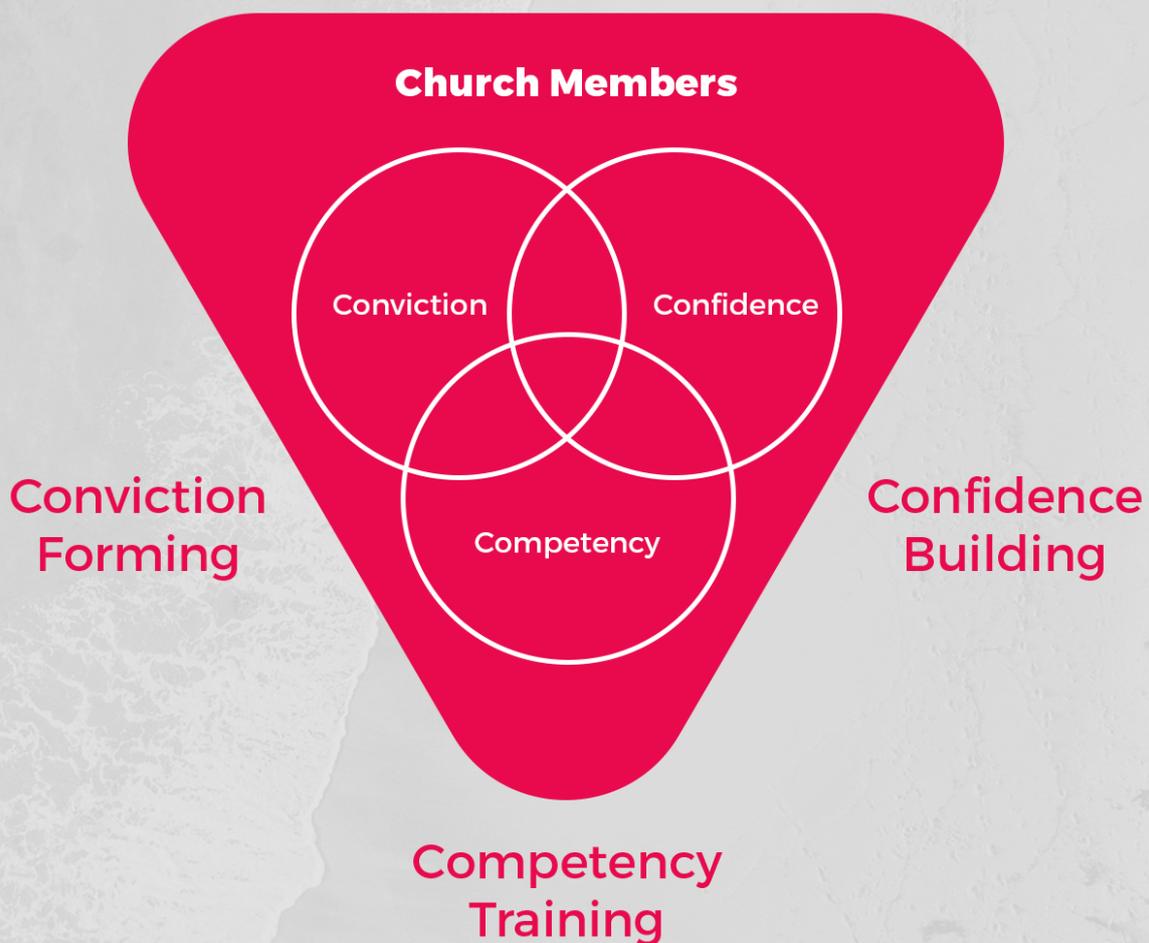
The second biblical truth is that those who belong to Jesus are called to be actively involved in making disciples of Jesus. This is the explicit call that we see Jesus making in Matthew 28- to go and make disciples of all nations. It's also the internal drive found in the Gospel - to love those around us with God's heart for them, wanting to see them come to life.

The third biblical truth is that we're not called to do this alone. We don't need to do it by ourselves. We're a body and everyone plays a different role. There are different gifts within the body that work towards that goal. Paul identifies this diversity in Ephesians 4, Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. Which means some of us will be great evangelists and some of us won't. That does not mean that some are involved in mission and others aren't. The conclusion is that we're all going to be involved in building and growing the church, but we're all going to be involved in different ways because we're gifted and wired differently to one another.



As planters this changes how we think about, lead and align the body. Our goal is to mobilise and encourage all parts of the body to work together on mission, using our different gifts & opportunities, while speaking the truth in love to build each other up into maturity in Christ Jesus. We encourage and equip people to be bold to speak of what Jesus has done for them and to have realistic next steps to introduce their friends to Jesus.

From the diagram, we see the framework made up of three areas: Convictions, Confidence and Competence. Most of the challenges to building a culture of mission in churches come down to these three areas.



Much of this material is derived and adapted from Sam Hilton from Hunter Bible Church's course "Mobilising for Mission" which can be found at training.churchinabox.online



We need to nurture deep, biblical convictions that reorient how people see the world, and how they see others. Do they see the world as in need of Jesus? Do they see Jesus as the only answer? Without this conviction people will either remain unmotivated OR will operate from a purely religious/ legalistic place. We want to sow deep Gospel convictions so our church sees the world as God sees it. This comes through in our preaching, the vision and narrative of our leadership, and the poetry and plumbing of our church. The foundation for mission is deep Gospel convictions.

Lack of confidence is what holds people back from speaking about Jesus or inviting people to your events. This idea is drawn from Sam Chan's material. We need to help people see that they don't have to do this alone. They're not solo missionaries. They're part of a body. We want to build into our plumbing moments of prayer for the 3-5 people each of us know who don't know Jesus. We encourage and create spaces where those people can meet our church community. We help the church understand and share their own faith. These things are not a silver bullet, but they begin to create awareness, alignment and connection between our lives, our church, and the grace we know people need.

Sam Chan, *"How to Talk about Jesus (Without Being That Guy): Personal Evangelism in a Skeptical World"*

Finally, competence. For many who lead churches, there's a frustration that the passion we have for reaching the lost isn't reflected by the church. Sometimes this is a lack of conviction from our church. Sometimes it's a lack of connection between those they want to see saved and a place they can hear the Gospel. However, sometimes both conviction and connection are in place but we haven't given people the tools to join the dots. Some people will walk in off the street and ask to start exploring Jesus. The majority of the time our mission field is the friends, family and colleagues of those in our church. So the first place we need to build competence in is equipping our church for those conversations. Giving them the skills to listen to people's stories, and to be able to share their own of how the Gospel has shaped them, and being able to share a basic gospel outline. But it can't stop there. When people step into our space it creates moments not just for people to hear the Gospel but also to equip Christians in how to talk about their faith. Our preaching models how we talk about difficult topics, our events model a clear and gracious Gospel clarity, our evangelistic courses model gracious and robust discussions. We also need to give our church what they need to take the next step. Whether it's business card invites or a website that's easy to navigate and clear about what to expect - all these things build the competence of our church to engage in mission.

So these are the principles that we want to keep coming back to at each stage. How are we sowing deep Gospel convictions? How are we building confidence in our people and how are we giving the tools for our church to feel competent in being involved in mission? In church plants we have a unique opportunity, while the cement is still wet, to bake these things into our DNA.





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