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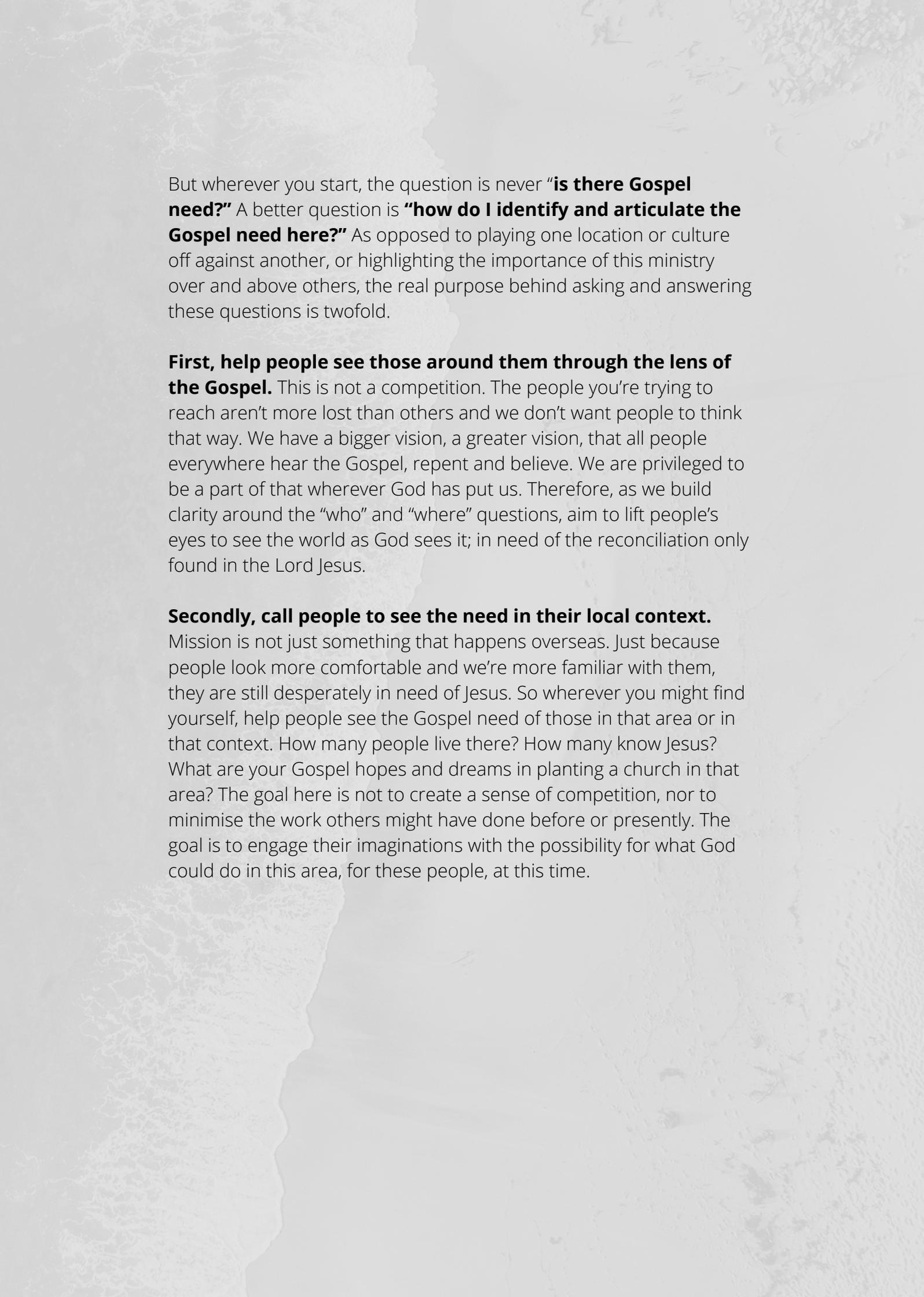
**WHERE  
COULD YOU  
PLANT?**

“Where could you plant? In this single question, there are two questions: one about **people group** and one about **geography**. Some church planters have a people group in mind and then work out the best place to locate themselves. Others will have an area in mind and then identify the people who live there.

For example, it might be that you’re wanting to reach the Filipino community in Australia. Having decided on that, you’ll be looking around for places like Blacktown in Sydney which has a huge Filipino population. But for others the question of planting begins with geography. Where should I go? And there are any number of metrics that can be used to answer this question - current population, population growth, influence and impact of those you’re trying to reach on other parts of the country or the world, or access to a viable Gospel witness.

Whichever question you start with, eventually you’ll have to ask both questions. It’s just a question of the order in which you ask them. If you start with geography, you’re still going to need to understand the people who live there. If you start with a people group, you’re still going to need to identify the most effective place to live and plant based on where they’re located.





But wherever you start, the question is never **“is there Gospel need?”** A better question is **“how do I identify and articulate the Gospel need here?”** As opposed to playing one location or culture off against another, or highlighting the importance of this ministry over and above others, the real purpose behind asking and answering these questions is twofold.

**First, help people see those around them through the lens of the Gospel.** This is not a competition. The people you’re trying to reach aren’t more lost than others and we don’t want people to think that way. We have a bigger vision, a greater vision, that all people everywhere hear the Gospel, repent and believe. We are privileged to be a part of that wherever God has put us. Therefore, as we build clarity around the “who” and “where” questions, aim to lift people’s eyes to see the world as God sees it; in need of the reconciliation only found in the Lord Jesus.

**Secondly, call people to see the need in their local context.**

Mission is not just something that happens overseas. Just because people look more comfortable and we’re more familiar with them, they are still desperately in need of Jesus. So wherever you might find yourself, help people see the Gospel need of those in that area or in that context. How many people live there? How many know Jesus? What are your Gospel hopes and dreams in planting a church in that area? The goal here is not to create a sense of competition, nor to minimise the work others might have done before or presently. The goal is to engage their imaginations with the possibility for what God could do in this area, for these people, at this time.

As a practical example, here's how Josh & Sarah Allen articulated the impetus behind their church plant in Melbourne:

*'Footscray is a fast growing inner-city region with people moving here from all over the world, as well as from within Melbourne and Australia. Of the approximately 90,000 local residents only 10% even claim to be Christian. As people move into Footscray, they're often at a point where they're quite open minded. They're here to experience new ideas, new cultures and to share stories. They're also often coming very lonely and in need of help and friends and this is a natural opportunity for the Gospel.'*

You'll notice that they started with the *where* and then moved towards the *who*. The two questions are always connected, and will flow from each other. The Allen's weren't convinced that Footscray is the only place to plant. They were convinced that the people of Footscray need the Gospel. Since then, God has used Laneway Church to do just that.



Laneway  
Church



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