

re-**imagine** **2009**

exploring alternative imaginations of mission and church

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re-imagine

overview

In recent times it is clear that more and more we are recognising the pressing need to re-think approaches to church and mission if we are to be effective in a rapidly changing world.

For some it's a realisation that 'people just aren't coming' while for others it may be a struggle with the busyness of church life, or with an overly corporate model that lacks a resemblance to the biblical forms. At Forge we don't pretend to have all the answers, but we do believe we have the ability to ask some significant questions and offer practical missional insights and well developed biblical philosophies to help churches re-imagine their approach to mission.

The **re-imagine** stream at Forge is a specific one year process designed to help established churches re-calibrate the shape of their community life using a *missional incarnational* framework. We recognize that many organisations already run conferences teaching you how to get more people into your church, however our focus is on developing a process that will enable more churches to get their people back into the community – to mobilise the congregation for mission fully expectant they will go and live as salt and light among their friends and neighbours.

If this is the journey you are on then please keep reading!

what people are saying about forge

"I cannot think of any training models that are as effective as The Forge Mission Training Network in equipping the church to accomplish her mission. The folks who serve the Lord in this network are some of the sharpest people I have had the pleasure of working with."

Neil Cole - Author of *Organic Church, Cultivating a Life for God, TruthQuest* and *Search and Rescue*.

Director of Church Multiplication Associates

"The roots of Forge are deep in practice - not just theory. If I lived in Australia it would definitely be on my list of groups to connect with and learn from."

Bob Roberts - Glocalnet.

"Forge Mission Training Network is building an excellent and deserved reputation for encouraging and equipping people to think and act missionally. This is such a pressing need, which is why I am thankful for the contribution that Hirsch and the other Forge guys are making."

Steve Timmis, The Crowded House, Editor of, and contributor to, *Multiplying Churches* (Christian Focus) Co-author of *The Gospel Centred Church* (Good Book Company), *The World We All Want* (Authentic Media) and *Total Church* (IVP)

re-imagine outcomes

In the re-imagine stream we will be working towards 6 specific outcomes. We will be seeking to:

1. Develop people who think and behave like missionaries in their own communities and workplaces.

We believe the western world is a missionary context and requires disciples who will boldly go into their communities and plant gospel seeds among the people, loving, serving, and speaking of Jesus. We are convinced that the missional incarnational impulse must drive our endeavours and this will in turn help us shape up biblically faithful, indigenous communities of faith.

> re-imagine - your own identity as a missionary.

2. Help churches operate with an APEPT framework, emphasizing particularly the need for apostolic, evangelistic and prophetic influence.

In the Christendom mode church was dominated by the 'pastor/teacher' and while they are an essential part of the body we see it as our calling to re-ignite the spirit of the apostle, prophet and evangelist so that the church is fully formed. We will focus primarily on equipping people to function apostolically, prophetically and evangelistically.

> re-imagine – how church functions as a missional community

3. Help to re-think church structures and modes so that a multiplicity of ecclesial expressions can be conceived and birthed.

The 'one size fits all' concept simply does not make sense in a culturally diverse climate, so we will encourage participants to consider the many different ways that 'church' can be expressed. This may result in a re-configuration of your existing church or the birthing of new initiatives alongside the existing community.

> re-imagine – what church looks like as a missional community

4. Help develop an imagination of church primarily as an organic system and simplify processes accordingly.

The primary images of church in the Bible are organic and not corporate. While we recognise the importance of healthy structures, we will seek to help you approach structure and organisation from the perspective of a living system so that a movement mentality can be established.

> re-imagine – how church is organised as a missional movement

5. Help focus on the core task of disciple making, exploring how churches facilitate healthy discipleship and avoid consumerism & co-dependency.

We will help you review and assess your current disciple making processes. We will explore the extent to which discipleship is being tainted by consumerism and will equip you to challenge the dominant myths of our culture. We will emphasise the importance of journeying with people as they find faith, rather than simply 'getting them across the line'.

> **re-imagine** – what it means to follow Jesus in a missional context

6. Help people develop a heightened sense of community through a shared missional journey where risk is normal and faith is required.

In exploring the notion of 'communitas', we will help you develop people who journey together thru missional adventures knowing that the bonds they form will be significant and vital to their discipleship.

> **re-imagine** – dynamic missional community life

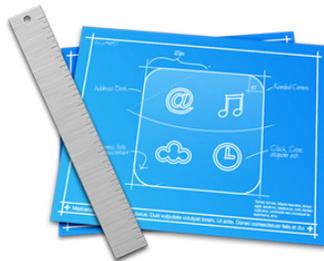
These are specific objectives that flow out of our Forge DNA and we believe they are pivotal in the transformation of any existing church community.

It is important to be aware that in the **re-imagine** stream we are not trying to help you do existing church better. We won't be telling you how to be a better preacher, or how to pull a crowd on Sunday. We won't be teaching how to deliver inspiring worship services or run fantastic small groups.

If these are what you seek then there are plenty of excellent training programs on offer.

- Our dream is to work with a group of people who will lead boldly into uncharted territory, who will take risks and pioneer new initiatives, believing that in the process we may be planting seeds that will give life to church in the future.
- Our dream is of releasing church leaders back into their local communities to live, serve and model incarnational mission to those within their churches.
- Our dream is of equipping church leaders to inspire those in their community to live as salt and light and infect their region with the love of Jesus and the values of his kingdom.

If you regularly find yourself dreaming of this kind of church then we need to talk!



structure of re-**imagine**

The essential components of re-**imagine** are:

- a) Your own placement / church where you are processing the issues we discuss on an ongoing basis.
- b) The learning / input component which will consist of specific learning days and times that will focus on the issues relevant to transitional ministry, several of which will be specific to the re-**imagine** group and some of which will be generic. There will be 8 or 9 of these available to you over a year.
- c) Assignments that will stretch you to grapple with questions and frame responses coherently. These are completely 'optional', but your learning will be proportionate to your engagement with these.
- d) Coaching/consulting for your church. At least 2 consults per year, but preferably 3, with the option of more

we can't do **magic**

Over the years we have seen many people come to Forge because there is a problem with the church they are in. Sometimes it's a problem that has been in existence for a really long time and has deep roots. Sometimes it's the actual leader who is the problem. Sometimes it's just a really difficult situation and Jesus himself would be hard pushed to turn it around.

So here's the deal:

- We can't turn those who aren't naturally gifted leaders into people who are.
- We can't make you get involved in your local community if you don't want to.
- We can't stop your church from complaining about your sermons, kids ministry, pews etc.
- We can't make your church into a vibrant community of missionaries if they don't want to go there.

We can't do magic!

However, we can equip you, support you and encourage you as you lead your church on a missional incarnational adventure, realising that there are no simple answers or instant solutions.

What you attempt might bring new life, energy and hope to people who have all but given up. It may be the catalyst for the re-birthing of many new initiatives in your midst. What you attempt might crash and burn and you may get wounded in the process. This journey is not for the faint hearted or those who like to play it safe and please others.

So if you're willing to push the boundaries, prepared to take risks, willing to fail as much as succeed then please get in touch. You sound like the kind of person re-**imagine** is designed to serve!

costs of re-imagine

Please note it is not possible to do re-imagine on your own. You must have at least 2 people from your church but preferably 3 or 4 so that there is a sense of shared journey and camaraderie. To help a church refocus is a difficult task and to do it alone is even harder so to travel the journey with a group of people who also 'get' what you are saying will be invaluable.

Costs for 2009 (note in particular 're-imagine' for your circumstances)

Individuals Attending an Event

Early Bird (Prior to 2 weeks before event): \$50 per event

Normal: \$70 per event

One-off Consultancy or Coaching Sessions

\$70 per hour

Personal Internship Package

Includes attendance at all stream events, monthly personal coaching and group discussion sessions for one person.

\$1500

New Missional Communities Package

More than 5 from one Community at an individual event.

\$50 per person per event

Subscription Package One

Unlimited spots at all events in one stream for the year.

re-imagine Established Church OR Missionary Living OR New Missional Communities.

\$2500

Subscription Package Two

Unlimited spots at all events in one stream for the year, plus 3 consultancies with the leadership team.

\$3000

Subscription Package Three

Stand-alone Ongoing Consultancy over the year (ie—6 meetings with leadership team, 2 tailored seminar days for your church people and 4 coaching sessions with individual leaders. For event attendance see 'Individual' at top of page or 'Premium Package' below.

\$3000

Premium Subscription Package

Unlimited spots at all events in a stream and an ongoing consultancy arrangement for the year.

\$5000



F O R G E

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academic credit

The Forge intensives and the internship is recognised and accredited by the Australian College of Ministries up to Master's level. It is also quite possible to cross accredit with other colleges and universities. The re-imagine stream has not been *specifically* accredited by any college at this point.



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