

The Apostolic Gardens

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the tens of thousands of first generation grassroots level house church leaders, who have suffered hunger, persecution, loss of property, loss of jobs, ostracization by their own families and communities and often put behind bars. They earn their own living and provide hospitality to innumerable people who come to them for prayer and discipling. They are precipitating a social, cultural, economic, political, ecological and spiritual transformation of their communities by filling the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. While the traditional Christians are still glued to the pews and the pulpit, these meek men and women of God are restoring the wilderness into Gardens of Eden in the regions beyond and inheriting the earth as never before.

INDEX

Reinventing The Church	1
Yeshua Conducts Performance Based SWOT Analysis	1
Church changes the Goal Posts	3
Freedom is not Free.	4
Unleash Awesome Fire Power	6
The Church is the Biggest Stronghold	8
Prayer as a Stronghold	9
The Untouchables or Dalits	10
Indigenisation	11
The Higher Castes	12
The Cultural World View	16
Economic Stronghold	18
Kingdom-Economics	20
Green Economy	21
Educational Stronghold	21
Mission Schools have lost the Mission	22
Health Stronghold	24
Yahweh's Prescription	25
Political Stronghold	26
City Church is a Stronghold	27
Kingdom of Priests to the Nations	27
The Land is Defiled	29
Ecology	30
Violence and Terrorism	31
Spiritualism is a Multi Billion Business	32
The Stranglehold of Media Over the Youth	33
The Virtual Church	34
Cyber Churches for Cyber Generation	34
Legalized Legitimate Sins	35
Gender Discrimination	36
The Women Pastors	38
The Sandwich Generation	39
Tithing is a Stronghold	39
The Flip side of Missions	41
Mentoring	41
Baptism of the Feet	43
The Choke Chain	43
The Dysfunctional Body	45
A Letter from an Atheist	45
The Dirty Fighter	46
Faith is not only Believing but Acting	47
The Horizontal Ecclesiastical Ladder	48
Yeshua Started the First House Church	49
Methodists a Showcase	50
NT Practices and Their Consequences	51

House Ekklesias in Danger of Becoming a Denomination	53
Churches Have Age Related Mindsets	53
The Top Ten Reasons for Starting House Churches	55
Holy Communion as a Stronghold	56
Baptism as a Stronghold	58
Ordination as a Stronghold	59
The Charismata	59
Prayer For Profit	60
Accountability Structure	60
Brides Must Reproduce Brides	62
Spiritual Fathers Needed	63
How Rapid is Rapid	64
Hyperacceleration	64
Organic House Church	65
The Temple Died in AD 135	65
The NT Church Died in AD 312	66
Men and Women Were His Method	66
Discipleship Chain Based on 2Tim.2:2	67
Self-Audit of a Committed Vs Label Christian	68
Watch the Down line	70
Not Just Disciple Makers But Spiritual Parents	70
Identity Crisis	71
The Law of Averages	73
The Church Needs Ideological Catharsis	73
The Dang Community Model	74
The Power of One	75
The Power of Agreement	75
The Ekklesia is the Authentic Government	76
The Generic Christian	77
Inheriting the Planet Earth is the Agenda	78
Joshua Vs. Moses Generation	79
Nebuchadnezzar/Grasshopper Syndrome	79
A Clergy Free Church	80
Royalty Functions	80
The Platform Ministry	81
The Road Map	81
The Ekklesia Has a Geo-Political Agenda	82
Number Crunching	83
The Genius of Yeshua	84
Bypass Surgery	86
The William Carey Model	86
The Print Culture is a Stronghold	87
Cosmetic Curriculum	88
The Whole Bible is the book of Acts	88
Yeshua Was Himself a Mobile Seminary	90
Potato Power	92

The Opium of Morning Devotion	92
Crusades are a Stronghold	93
Critical Pathway	93
Paul’s Consistent Missionary Method	95
The Nimrod Syndrome	95
Love is a Bilateral Covenant and not just a Doctrine	96
The Fractured Mandate	97
Praise and Worship as a Stronghold	98
The Ekklesia Must Pastor The Whole City	100
Are You a Failed Pastor?	100
The Tragedy	101
9/11/2001 boomerangs	102
Our Jewish Inheritance	103
The Feasts of the Lord	104
Organizational Strongholds	106
Three Levels of Leadership	107
The Veil Must be Removed	108
Discover His Methodology	109
The Pope Recants	109
Deconstruct the Church	110
The Saturation Principle	111
How Many is too Many in a House Church	113
Faith Goals	113
Vision	114
The Shift	115
Reaching Ta Ethne is the Goal	116
The 153 Big Fish	117
The Parking Lot Church	118
Research	118
Sequential Ekklesia Growth Drivers for Hyper	119
Spiritual History of the City	122
The Firstfruits	123
The Kingdom Indicators	123
Apostolic Gardens	124
The First Convention	125
Transitioning	125
The Seven Kingdom Expanders	127
The Legacy	129
Get the Horse Buggy ready	129

English Book's :

1. Greet the Ekklesia: The Church in your House
2. Prayer Warrior: Church Planters Daily Prayer Guide
3. Acts: The House Church
4. Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh 2001: Strategy Co-ordinators and Church Planters Prayer Diary

Hindi Book's :

- 1- çkFkZuk ;ks}k ,oa x`g dyhfl;k jksid dh nSfud iFk çnf"kZdk
- 2- egku vkns"k vkSj ?kjsyq dyhfl;k
- 3- vkids vkfRed vf/kdkj
- 4- dyhfl;k jksid çf"k{k.k gsrq y?kq iqfLrdk
- 4- eks{kknkrk ;h"kq elhg ,oa lUrksa dh ve`rok.kh
- 5- jktuhfr vkSj elgh
- 6- osn vkSj elhgk
- 7- lar lekxe~

The purpose of this book is to help position the ekklesia to finish the unfinished task of discipling all nations in our generation.

Old Testament (OT) Jews needed the temple, the Levitical priests, sacrifices, circumcision, the Sabbath and tithing to obtain salvation. When Yeshua came, He disenfranchised the whole OT system by taking the kingdom out of the grip of the temple oriented Jews and giving it to all the nations of the earth.

The modern day church has reverted back to the temple model and rejected the mandate to go and make disciples of all nations. In this way, they limit the limitless Yahweh within the four walls.

The New Testament (NT) Christian does not need Gothic buildings, professional priests, Sunday services, musical instruments or tithing in order to disciple the nations.

To fulfil the Great Commission, the Action Plan of our Lord, it is necessary to move from church buildings to houses of peace, from a professional priesthood to the priesthood of all believers, from large Sunday gatherings here and there to the daily gathering of two or three everywhere, and from offering church tax to offering broken and contrite hearts.

PREFACE

The history of earth begins and ends in a garden. The battle for world domination was fought and lost in the Garden of Eden. The defining moment for reclaiming the earth was fought and won in the Garden of Gethsemane. Yeshua was buried in a garden tomb and even mistaken for a gardener. Yeshua will return on the Mount of Olives and His throne will be in the garden city with life giving river issuing forth from the throne with trees of life bearing abundant fruit. The most enduring sign of ultimate peace in the scriptures is a man sitting with his neighbour under his fig tree sipping herbal tea made from nation healing leaves.

This book is not meant to be an anti-clerical rhetoric or a eulogy of culture insensitive cross cultural missionaries. It is a creative critique of the existing reality and a plea for a shift in the way we do the church. Its purpose is not condemnation but candid analysis and strategic action. The objective is to create awareness that the mandate of the church is to finish the mission of Yahweh to subdue the earth and have dominion over it by planting apostolic gardens that fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory as the waters cover the sea. The church exists to fulfil that vision.

Roman Emperor Constantine (AD 272-337), derailed the church, resulting in the fracture of this mandate. We need to get back on track and to finish the commission of incarnating Yeshua among all tribes and tongues, so they can worship Yahweh their creator.

Martin Luther's Reformation was only partial. He managed to throw out Mariolatry and Papacy but many unscriptural structures and practices continued. He preached the priesthood

of all believers without practicing it. He rebaptized Catholic priests as Pastors and unbiblical Reverends. Many other Catholic practices continued with only cosmetic changes—for example, Sunday’s Gregorian “Order of Worship,” the Eucharist, the altar, the pulpit and the sermon. Most church practices are counterproductive, damaging and distracting people from Yahweh’s intended purposes. If the freefall of institutional church membership and the nose-dive of youth attendance are any indicators, then the church urgently needs to junk the remaining unscriptural systems.

In view of the Adversary’s steeply rising popularity, a team shakeup is necessary. This means culling nonperforming members who merely sit in the pews with mysterious Mona Lisa smile but do nothing for the kingdom. A radical restructuring is needed in the way we do church, shifting from wilderness to robust multiplication of garden cities everywhere. We need to remove all blatant attempts to contain a limitless church universal within the four walls and shift from castle building to kingdom building, with the liberation of the lost world, rather than with concocted rituals.

The church is afflicted with leaders without vision, planners without focus and members without concern. We are not genuinely concerned about the lost. We invite them to increase our membership and coffers. Plenty of packages and programs have come and gone but *Ha Shem* (The Name) has yet to be made known among the Gentiles. The church can no longer pursue her strategic interests on the basis of an old colonial mindset and with bureaucratized traditional tools of evangelism.

Qualifying for the Messianic meal at the marriage supper of the Lamb is the real deal—not just partaking of a bread crumb and a sip of wine. It is not a question of how many worship in your church, but how many will be worshipping before His Throne.

You can make a joyful noise with the ninety-nine on Sunday, which does not make heaven rejoice, or you can go and rescue a lost soul and join the company of millions of hip hopping angels in heaven. Let your conscience decide what is manifestly obvious.

Yahweh is doing a new thing by restoring the rapidly multiplying house churches with kitchen gardens worldwide. All you have to do is to resonate with His will and join the bandwagon.

This booklet is for private circulation only.

This is not a standard book with sections, topics and chapters. It is a collection of insights; but I make no claim to originality. All I have done is to pick up precious pearls which saints and sinners alike kept dropping and threaded them together to adorn your hearts and minds. I have taken the editorial liberty of rewording some of the statements to make them more contextual. However, it is the golden thread of the Great Commission that connects them all together. The book is designed to disturb you greatly so that when the sediment settles, the brightness of being a light to the Gentiles will dawn on your horizon like never before, and will remove the all pervading darkness and chaos that exists in their lives and change both their and your destiny forever.

This book is not designed to adorn your bookshelf but is for kick starting discussion in small groups. Although written for an Indian context, the insights and principles have universal application. This book will not make you an expert disciple maker or church planter—for that you have to find an accomplished mentor. But at least it will challenge you to change. If you do decide to take the plunge, then hopefully it will save you from many glitches.

The word “church” is confusing and conjures up images which do not fit the New Testament (NT) pattern. Hence it is retained for the traditional church but for the NT model, the original “Ekklesia” (out called) has been used. Similarly Yeshua and Yahweh, their original names have been used as no one has the right to change them.

A very special thanks to Dr. Felicity Dale for proof reading. There is no copyright and you may freely translate or use excerpts for Yahweh’s glory with acknowledgment to the author.

Shalom.

Even though Christian organizations and the churches claim divine origin, divine revelation and divine purpose but basically they are human in nature. Being part of wider sinful structures, they have done most unholy things in the past and sadly continue to do them today. (Vincent Sekhar)

To evangelize the world, we need to unleash the church on everyone, everywhere. All we need to do is to stop “going” to a come, sit, soak and stagnate church and instead start “being” a church by equipping the saints for the edification of the Body. (Molong Nacua / Galen Currah)

In that day, says the Lord, I will build my tabernacle (ekklesia). I will plant my people as priests and ministers on their land. They will possess the ethnos (Gentiles, nations, pagans, heathen, people), rebuild ruined cities, plant gardens and eat the fruit thereof and everlasting joy shall be theirs. (Amos 9:11-15; Isa. 61:4-7; Acts 15:14-17)

REINVENTING THE EKKLESIA

It required the genius of theologians and clergy to create the murky mess we are in today. The sublime was probably never in knowledge based seminaries and sermon delivering churches. The lack of Spirit led apostolic/prophetic leadership and members who are “overcomers” rather than bench sitters are the most critical issues facing the church today. The church has lost her mission to demolish the gates of hell and make disciples of all nations. Instead, she has compromised and has become a major stronghold herself. She no longer has the road map for the salvation of the lost or the mandate to saturate the earth with “Apostolic gardens” and restore it back to the original Paradise. She has discarded the mantle to inherit the earth. There is an urgent wake up call for a candid and worldwide spiritual audit. The time has come to question everything we do as church.

The present church structures, practices, ecclesiology and theology are part of the problem and not the solution. For a total solution we need to go back to the original NT model.

Yeshua Conducts Performance-Based SWOT Analysis: The church has miserably failed to penetrate the vast spiritual hinterland of the world in the last 2,000 years. A SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) of the seven ekklesias of Revelation was conducted by the Lord Himself. This was an evaluation of the whole Body. It was not based on their leadership, doctrine, anointed sermons, music, worship, buildings or church programs but on their ability to overcome overt and covert demonic deceptions. These city churches were meant to be a “Golden Lampstand,” a source of light to the Gentiles who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Most churches do not have an appraisal system for their performance. For a candid feedback they should be turning to their real stakeholders, the lost people of this world.

Ephesus, the best ekklesia, mentored by the apostles John and Paul, lost her first love in just thirty-five years. She did not repent and exists no more. Others had the Jezebel spirit of adultery or the Nicolaitan practice of one man domination, or idolatry. Yet others were busy chasing the money trail like the prophet Balaam. Yeshua asked Peter, “Do you love me more than these?” and then asked him to feed the lambs and not fleece them. All these sins are now rampant in the apostate churches. The churches were pronounced “Guilty” and worthy of indictment if they did not take immediate steps to rectify the situation (Rev. 2-3).

We should be thinking salvation of cities and regions, not just individuals and congregations. Yeshua spoke directly to Tyre, Chorazin, Bethsaida, Sidon, Capernaum and Jerusalem.

Yahweh spoke to Malachi the last prophet saying, “From sunrise to sunset, My name shall be great among the Gentiles” (Mal. 1:11). Yeshua’s last command to His disciples was to “Go and make disciples of all nations (Gentiles); baptize, equip and send them to make more disciples” (Matt. 28:19). Paul’s angry and anguished cry before his execution to the spiritually deaf, dumb and blind Jews was “Let it be known to you that the salvation of Yahweh has been sent to the Gentiles and they will hear it” (Acts 28:26-28). Yet we never conduct a brainstorming session or a cold clinical diagnostics of our failure to impact the Gentiles. Yeshua came to demolish the works of the Devil (1John 3:8), to seek and save that which is lost (Luke 19:10), to set the captives free (Luke 4:18) and build His ekklesia. This must continue until all nations, tongues and tribes are discipled (Matt. 16:18; 28:19).

A disciple is a learner who follows both the teachings and the teacher. The sermon making minister has the option to obey and become a disciple making minister or remain irrelevant.

Another parameter of our judgment is community transformation; “I was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, and sick and in prison.” The church needs to get out of her state of suspended animation, put on the whole armour of Yahweh and do the good work of destroying the unjust systems and demonic structures in society that dehumanize people. But Yeshua did not come to do just humanitarian work, “The poor shall always be with you”; He came to demonstrate the kingdom of Yahweh. While we must take care of all those who come in His name, “I was hungry”, they must be converted into lasting fruit, “And the poor have the gospel preached to them”, otherwise “good works” have no value (Math. 5:16; 11:5; 26:11).

Only sheep can reproduce sheep and goats can reproduce goats. Pastors, preachers, evangelists and theologians cannot produce disciples. Only disciples can reproduce disciples.

Every minister needs to seriously ask himself, “If Yeshua were to come today, how many of my flock would qualify as sheep and how many as goats?” A minister needs to first change from being a Sunday orator to being a disciple making minister and then convert all his goats into sheep by changing them from mere Sunday worshippers to disciple makers, (David S. Kirkwood).

The Church changes the Goal Posts: The word *saviour* comes only fifteen times in the Scriptures whereas the word *Lord* comes over six hundred times. Yeshua is not just a saviour but He is the Lord. He has all authority in heaven and earth. The Lord has decreed and declared that we should go and make disciples of all nations and make them obedient to Him. All those goats in sheep’s clothing in the pews and pulpits who are listening to the prosperity gospel are in for a shock because they have knowingly or unknowingly rejected His command. Yeshua cannot be their Lord unless they obey. The overriding agenda of the ekklesia is to finish the unfinished task of making disciples of all nations (Matt.24:14; 28:19; Rom. 11:25). A lack of understanding has resulted in the church losing the road map of salvation for millions.

It is the traditionalists who pose the greater threat of stifling the life out of the ekklesia, not the heretics outside. It is criminal intimidation to enforce mindless submission and keep concocted legends, distorted manmade traditions and rituals. This has done the greatest damage to the spread of Christianity (Col. 2:20-22).

Yeshua said that you shall know the truth and the truth will make you free; free to worship in spirit and in truth, neither in Jerusalem nor on Mount Gerizim in Samaria but anywhere and everywhere, any day and any time (John 8:32; 4:20-24). Obviously the church does not know the truth (Yeshua). If she did, she would instantly set her captives free and worship in Gentile homes. (Malachi 1:11)

A layperson is an insignificant nobody; his opinion of no consequence. He has the value of a dumb milk cow. Scripturally, every believer is a royal priest and must carve out a niche of the kingdom, in order to practice his priesthood (Luke 12:42).

It is time for the church to dismantle the terrorist tactics of keeping members as hostages. She must release her prisoners to go and fulfil the agenda of discipling the nations, which has been gathering dust for the last 2000 years. Yeshua came to set the captives free.

Freedom is not Free; it has a price tag. Salvation is not free. Yeshua paid for it with His own blood. Being **Faithful** is not free because it requires that you be faithful until death (Matt. 17:20; Rev. 2:10). Being a **Disciple** of Yeshua is not free; it requires that you bring forth abundant, lasting fruit (John 13: 34,35; 15:8,16). To be a **Follower** is not free; you must deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him (Mark 8:34). Being a **Friend** is not free; you must obey His command to disciple all nations (John 15:14; Matt. 28:19). Being a **Brother** is not free. “Whoever does the will of the Father is My brother” and the will of the Father is that none should perish but all should come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved (Matt. 12:50; 2 Peter. 3:9; 1Tim. 2:4). Even **Repentance** needs to bring forth fruit worthy of repentance (Matt. 3:8; Acts 26:20).

Araunah the Jebusite offered free oxen to David for burnt offering. David refused saying, “I will not offer anything to Yahweh my Elohiym that has cost me nothing” (2Sam. 24:22-24). It is time for believers to count the cost before calling themselves Christians.

Do not be deceived: salvation is not assured nor is going to heaven free. Salt without saltiness is worthless just as faith without works is dead (Matt. 7:21; Jam. 2:26).

Most Christians cannot lose their light because they were never a light to the Gentiles. Nor can they lose their saltiness because they were never the salt of the earth in the first place.

With the increasing fundamentalism in many countries, there is a less freedom to preach. We can expect an increase, both in the frequency and severity of persecution. A Chinese pastor remarked, “God loves China more than other nations; that is why He sent persecution to us.” The Chinese ekklesia today is the biggest ekklesia in the world with one hundred million strong believers and growing. Persecution refines and filters, leaving only quality Christians. Only quality Christians can produce quality Christians.

Noisy worship is a common cause of persecution. Sadly the same lips get zipped when the sacred meets the secular in the market place (Heb. 13:13-15). Scripturally, the very label “Christian” assures persecution (2Tim.3:12). The worst form of persecution is no persecution—the Devil does not think you can do any damage to his kingdom and hence are not worth the bother.

Accelerated growth, rapid multiplication and consequent persecution are the norm. A church that is not remodelling communities by restructuring social and economic inequalities and nurturing an inclusive culture is separatist and isolationist.

In the face of severe persecution, the disciples filled the city with Yeshua’s doctrine. What comes out of the pulpit today is unadulterated hogwash because it does not build us up to damage the Devil’s domain and fill the city with Yeshua’s doctrine (Acts 5:28, 29, 32; 20:32).

Traditions are like the Indian curry with hot spices. They add nothing to the nutritional value but leave your palate on fire at dinner and lots of sound and fury at the other end in the morning.

The word “church” conjures up images which do not fit into the NT pattern. It is better to call her an ekklesia, an assembly or a gathering. “The English word “Church,” Scottish “Kirk” and German “Kirsche” are named after the Greek enchantress named “Circe” who turned men into swine. Sadly the process continues. Throwing pearls before the swine is no fun because they love to wallow in the mud of traditions (2 Pet. 2:22; Mark 7:8, 9, 13). We need

a few pigheaded guys who are willing and determined to go whole hog to break out of the institutionalized pigpen (Gal. 5:1; 2 Cor.3:17; 2 Pet. 2:19; Jam. 1:25).

Christian leadership is all about leading a cross-generational, multi-cultural and trans-national gathering, dressed in white waving palm branches, to celebrate before the King of kings.

Unleash Awesome Fire Power: The ekklesia exists, not to protect man's traditions which are costly perversions, but to fulfil Yahweh's plan. Yeshua came to proclaim liberty to the oppressed and set the captives free. His church needs to do the same before it preaches liberty to others (Luke 4:18). Until Christians are released from the cage and "allowed" to soar, and become priests and kings, the grand plan of world evangelism will remain buried (Matt. 24:14).

The highest return comes from moving from independence to interdependence. While secular businesses pursue partnerships and go global, churches, instead of cementing alliances to build synergy, insist on hoisting their own flags. (Bobby Gupta)

The bad news is that today, most of the 40,000 denominations are suffering from senility and out of date. Tens of thousands of their retail outlets (churches) have succeeded in keeping two billion Christians of the world unengaged and condemned to sit in the pews as cash cows until they are ready to shift six feet underground in the church cemetery. The good news is that there is a huge build up of a new generation of believers with awesome firepower ready for an immediate meltdown of Satan's kingdom. Again the bad news is that the cross-cultural missionaries (Outsiders), do not realize their rapidly diminishing role and refuse to hand over the baton to the sons of the soil (Insiders).

Reducing the church to a particular place and time or to mere words is minimizing an understanding of the kingdom. The kingdom must come in a demonstration of power, vibrant growth in faith and a daily increase in numbers (1Cor.2:4; Acts 16:5).

Missions can make missionaries, seminaries can transfer knowledge and denominations can imbibe traditions but they can never make you priests and kings. All those condemned pew sitters need to metamorphose into royal priests who multiply the kingdom of the King. They must become stakeholders in the business of possessing the planet earth. The King did not give more money to the faithful servant to multiply his business but gave him the rulership of ten cities to multiply His kingdom (Math. 25:21).

The King commanded us to "Seek His kingdom and His righteousness first". Kingdom comes with the King. Righteousness (*dikaisune*) does not mean being religious. It is a legal word which means obeying the dictates of the King. Do not plan to meet Him in Heaven. He is already in your midst. All you have to do is to obey His commands. If you don't, then "the kingdom will be taken away from you and given to a nation bringing forth the fruit thereof". Remember, the kingdom comes with violence and shatters your existing kingdom. If you are still living "as always", you have a different king ruling in your midst (Math. 6:33; 11:12; 18:20; 21:43).

The Church is the Biggest Stronghold: Christ anoints a new convert with a new heart and a new spirit but the modern church insists on anointing him with Western culture. It was not the apostles, but the black hands of Simon of Cyrene that helped Yeshua carry His cross (Matt. 27:32). There are 3,500 ekklesias being planted everyday worldwide, the majority of them non-white, so the ekklesia already has an Eastern aroma just as it did before Islam replaced it in the 7th century. Breaking links with the West has become an urgent issue as the

oriental culture and ethos will no longer permit violation by Western culture. If these links are not broken, Christ will remain unknown and unacceptable, cloistered within the four walls of Gothic buildings. The church must flow with the people without rejecting their culture, images and terminology, through which millions understand their spirituality, morality and social justice.

The first millennium belonged to Europe, the second to the Americas and Africa in the West. Now the third belongs to the East, to preach Christ with eastern flavor, not the western culture.

Missionaries were dismayed by the plurality of the cultures. Instead of using them as entry points, they decided to homogenize and worse still, imposed their own culture resulting in shallow Christianity. Yeshua never said, “Go to church.” He said, “Go and tell others what great things Yahweh has done for you” (Mark 5:18-20).

Churching the unchurched is the bane of Christianity. Yeshua taught us to allow the yeast to leaven the whole community. We need millions of Crypto Christians who stay below the radar and quietly catalyze their communities. Churching them leaves the rest of the community not only unleavened but hostile.

Madras city has 300,000 church members, but there are twice as many non-baptized believers outside the institutionalized church. They practice a Churchless Christianity. This is where vigorous and vibrant church growth is taking place. (Herbert Hoefler)

Prayer as a Stronghold: Jews were good at praying. So it was strange that the only thing they ever asked Yeshua to teach was, “Teach us how to pray”. This is because they saw His intimacy with the Father when He prayed. Prayer is not a shopping list but intimate fellowship with the Father. Our battle is not with flesh and blood, but sadly most of our prayers are in the flesh and remain earthbound (Rev. 8:3,4). We are seated in heavenly places to shoot the arrows of the manifold wisdom of Yahweh at the principalities and powers and rulers of darkness. This will result in Satan falling like lightning from heaven (Eph. 2:6; 3:10; Luke 10:18; 11:1).

Instead of bombarding Yahweh with a torrent of words, we must pray like Samuel, “Speak Lord, your servant hears” and Yahweh will have a chance to tell us what He wants done (1Sam. 3:10).

Yahweh commands, “Ask Me and I will give nations for an *inheritance* and the uttermost parts of the earth for your *possession*.” Inheritance (*Nachalah*) is what you get for free from the Father. Like the family deed it is limited. Possession (*Achuzzah*) is what you seize by force and there is no limit to it (Psalm 2:8). Adam was given the Garden of Eden as free inheritance with a mandate to subdue the earth and have dominion over it. Abraham was given the land of Canaan and ten tribes as his inheritance with the mandate to possess the gates of the enemies. In the New Order, your neighbourhood and worksite is your free inheritance but the ends of the earth is for your possession by making them disciples. (Gen.22:17; Isa. 61:5-7; 66:12; 2 Cor. 8:14).

Prayer is not just fruitless crying out to the Lord but it is also labouring for the harvest. Elohim chided Moses for crying aloud and commanded him to stretch out his rod over the sea (Exo. 14:15,16). The process of harvesting includes battling with the demons of weeds and predators, watering and manuring the crop, reaping the harvest, bringing in the sheaves, threshing, gathering and getting ready for the next harvest.

It requires tear-soaked prayers, sweat and sometimes even bloodshed to make the Gentiles fellow heirs of the Body. Sadly the church is full of spiritual derelicts who pray but do not act

The Untouchables or Dalits (Crushed): Eighty percent of Christians in India come from Dalit background. All human rights are denied to Dalits; there is no education for their children, their women are sexually abused and their men are used as slaves. They are humiliated in a myriad of other ways. The discrimination continues in subtle ways even in the church. Dr. Ambedker, the architect of our Constitution, along with millions of Dalits converted to Buddhism, because it looks more indigenous than an institutional church with its foreign stigma, was a monumental blunder. Still the church did not learn anything.

In the West, they take off their hats while entering a religious place whereas in the East we take off our sandals. Decoupling from Western culture is an urgent necessity. We must not appear spiritually and culturally bankrupt by looking apologetically to the West for approval for everything we do as church.

Any commanding lead the church had with Dalits is rapidly evaporating. They hold the church in contempt because of the widening faultlines between Dalit and the high caste Christians. Christianity cannot be a religion of unequals and must be reformed. Christ in us must annihilate caste, class, race and gender inequalities.

The high caste Brahmins, mostly educated in Christian institutions, constitute only 3% of India's population but dominate government, politics, economics, the media, the judiciary system, religion and the Silicon Valley. The Christians also constitute 3% of the population but are invisible in the public arena and in nation building. Something went terribly wrong in the way we played church. Our beneficiaries are now ruling over us and even persecuting us. To reverse the process, we need to take the bull (high castes) by the horn and learn the skills necessary to turn them to Christ. For this the spectators will have to be trained into skilled bull fighters.

Dalit women cannot convert to Christianity because the church insists on removing ornaments which are not religious but symbols of their wedding vows. While the church is focused on external symbols, Yahweh looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Complying with man-made church rules results in their death sentence.

Even though the Gospel is trans-cultural; structures, systems, context, culture and circumstances influence its outcome.

Indigenisation: In the first ever mega-apostolic convention in Jerusalem (Acts 15), all the Jewish customs were declared null and void. Idolatry, adultery and eating strangled animals and drinking blood continued to be forbidden. Astonishingly, in the next chapter Paul, the master contextualizer, circumcised Timothy in broad daylight because he was going to minister to the Jews in Jerusalem. Later he shaved his head and offered the hair at the Temple along with other acts of purification including offering an animal sacrifice. He ate the meat sacrificed to idols which was sold in the market and encouraged others to imitate him. He contended with Peter for not eating with the Gentiles (1Cor. 10:25-28; Gal. 2:11-14). It is alleged that whenever Paul went to a synagogue, he put on his Pharisaic gown just to have ready access to the *Bima*, the Jewish pulpit, to argue his case. He did all these highly controversial acts for the salvation of his people, the Jews, for whom he had a great burden (Acts 15:20; 16:3; 18:18; 21:24-26).

While Yeshua and Paul practiced indigenization, the institutionalized church has a pathological obsession for a Western church culture which effectively slams the door on other cultures. The Jews needed regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary made with human hands but the New Covenant does not. All it requires is a change of human heart (Heb. 9:1,11; 2 Cor. 6:16).

Yeshua did not tell the Samaritans to worship in the Temple. He told them that they can worship in truth and spirit anywhere. A church that has no heart for the lost is truly lost.

The ekklesia needs to go to the people, not to convert them but to restore them to the image of their Creator. Yeshua lived in Galilee of the Gentiles so that those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death would see a great light. The church exists to lighten up the lives of the lost people and restore them into beacons of light (Matt 4:15,16; 5:13; John 4:14, 40; 7:37).

The British did a lot of good but failed to understand the culture. Worse still they left behind a legacy of an Anglicized Christ.

The Higher Castes: High castes form only 15% of the population while the Other Backward Castes (OBC) constitute nearly 45% of the more than one billion people of this nation. They have hardly been touched by the gospel. There are many crypto believers among them who cannot “convert” because of sociological reasons. The westernized church insists on changing their culture, names, dress code, life-style, mode of worship etc. These higher castes do not need the handouts of the church as they are financially better off. Their sacred books are full of the hidden Christ, including the concept of *Mahadeva*, the Most High Yahweh, the *El Elyon (Alah)* of Melchizedec who became *wagwai Bramha* (the Word); he became the sacrifice, *Prajapati yagna*. To them “Jesus of Nazareth” means nothing, but “Yeshua of Ramah” (Ramah is the place where he was born), ignites immediate interest as Ramah is one of their main gods (Matt. 2:18). They do not connect with the Anglicized Christ, but with the humble Guru of the masses. The word “Christian” has negative associations for our Hindu and Muslim brothers. The worst possible sin is to corral them into a church compound and make them socially and spiritually offensive in their own communities. They need to see Yeshua (salvation) incarnated in their own culture and context to form their own communities of faith.

We know that Allah has revealed 99 names to the sons of men that they may worship him. But the one name, the one hundredth name, he has told only to the camel. And the camel, he is not talking. (A Muslim proverb: Quoted by Kevin Greeson)

Millions pray to Allah, Khuda, Rabb, Parmeshwar, Dewa, including God (earlier a Teutonic deity) and hundreds of other pagan expressions. His original name is **Yahweh**. The Jews call Him *Ha Shem* (The Name). Yeshua always called Him the Father. **Yeshua**, means “He shall save” (Exo. 3:15; Matt. 1:21). No one likes to have his name changed. The English word “Jesus” means nothing.

The sacred books of the Magi mentioned a star that would herald the birth of a King. This induced them to take a 1,000 mile camel ride across the desert. Similarly, Yahweh has put the “Unknown Yeshua” in the epics of people of other faiths. Acquiring these most powerful entry points and bridges, where in lie buried the secret keys for unlocking their mind’s eyes, is the first step towards a successful ministry.

William Carey, hailed as the “father of modern missions” who gave us the slogan, “Expect great things from God and attempt great things for God” not only translated the Bible and its

portions in 46 languages but also translated the great Hindu epic, *The Ramayana* into English and the New Testament into Sanskrit.

Hindus and Muslims are not interested in the Christian religion but definitely interested in *Moksha/Nirwana/Nijat* (Salvation), which they would like packaged in their own expressions and metaphors. The first step is to make them better Hindus or Muslims by revealing the hidden Christ in their own sacred books.

Even though the basic ingredients of the food are the same, local herbs and spices have to be added to suit local taste buds. Even so the gospel must be dished out in a palatable form.

Conversion Vs. Restoration is not just semantics but it is of vital importance for conceptual clarity. The Scripture does not teach us to convert the people of one religious system into the Christian religious system. They are already created in the image and likeness of Yahweh. For the present they are like prodigal sons who have gone astray. Our job description is to restore and reconcile their relationship with the Father (Acts 26:18).

The commands of Yeshua are non-negotiable but cultural issues can supersede apostolic traditions (1Cor. 9:20-22). To penetrate a culture, we need to radically change our paradigm. Local cultures are the wild olive trees from which any idolatrous branches bearing evil fruit must be cut off and Christ grafted in. Thus without changing their culture people can continue to use their cultural roots for sustenance and yet bear good fruit (Rom.11:17-24; Gal.4:19; 5:22; Phil.1:11; Col. 1:27; Matt. 7:16-20; 12:33).

The Hebraic foundations of our faith and transforming discipleship cannot be fully understood unless we return to biblical matrix from which it emerged. We urgently need to conceptualize and restore this timeless truth. (John Garr)

It is the oppressors, the caste, class, race and gender discriminators, the land usurpers of the indigenous people, that need to repent and convert. The Dalits (oppressed), who become the followers of Yeshua can celebrate their glorious liberty in Christ. (Sunil Sardar)

A Hindu brother thinks of a spiritual man as one who renounces the world, prefers contemplation and meditation and teaches quietly while seated. Their perception of a Christian preacher is of an actor and performer pacing up and down the stage yelling his lungs out. In the West, conversion is an individual decision, but in the East it is a household decision. Injudicious pressure to join the church can cause families and communities to fall apart. An elderly Muslim brother commented, “You expect Muslims to go to the church which is impossible, but you and me coming to each other’s house for a meal is not only possible but desirable.” (Susanta Patra)

The Jewish believers have never called themselves Christians but only Messianic Jews. There is no reason why their Semitic cousins should not be called Messianic Muslims and Masihi Hindus.

A new “convert” has a powerful testimony but the church insists on him waiting to share it until the fire has gone out of him. Yeshua gave the highest priority to connecting His new converts to their inheritance, often without waiting for the formality of baptism. He sent the demonized man of Gadara, the Samaritan woman, the cripple and the blind back to their communities as powerful witnesses. Their testimony changed people’s lives and they gained an eternal inheritance for themselves. The ekklesia must have the foresight to encourage new believers to become “functional and fruitful followers of Christ” immediately, instead of destroying them by making them “cultural Christians.”

The sign of the ekklesia is the seven branched lampstand (Menorah) and not the cross, popularized by Constantine in AD 310. A church that is not a beacon of light to the Gentiles and not connecting them to Christ and show them the beauty of their heritage is a counterfeit church (Rev. 1:20; 2:1; Acts 13:47).

The nations (Gentiles) are our inheritance. Yeshua has placed us wherever we are as His witnesses to connect us with our inheritance (Isa. 54:3; Psalm 2:8; Acts 1:8; 1John 2:27).

Churches that cater only to Christians need an urgent audit. The ekklesia exists to finish the task of discipling all nations (Matt. 24:14). Yeshua said that the harvest is ready but the labourers are few (Luke 10:2; Matt. 9:35-38).

The institutional church has now become corrupt to the core. With false birth, baptism, death and marriage certificates and fake ordination and Ph.D. credentials for sale, not to mention the scandals of money pilfering, sexual abuses, property grabbing, report fudging and numerous other sins, the church is no longer the ambassador of Yahweh. The church has a choice in the words of Peter, “Repent and be converted (revert) that your sins may be blotted out for refreshing (revival) to come; so that all the families of the earth can be blessed” (Act 3:19, 25).

Messiah commanded us to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to Yahweh what belongs to Him but most Christians will rob both of them to keep what rightly belongs to the Apostles.

No church in the Scriptures catered only to Christians. Yeshua said, “My house shall be a house of prayer for ‘all’ nations.”

Is there hope for the dead church? The answer is a resounding “Yes!” If Yahweh can revive dry bones then He can certainly revive His church. But the barren church must first put on ashes and sackcloth and “enlarge her tent, stretch forth her habitation, break forth to the right and to the left, make her seed inherit the Gentiles and restore desolate cities” (Eze.37:1-14; Isa. 54:1-3). We need to evaluate whether we are skilled in finding the lost sheep and making disciples or only in fleecing the flock and making them twice as fit for hell?

The Cultural World View: Cultures imparted by our mothers, family and the community mould our mindsets which do not change easily. Israel saw the mighty acts of Yahweh but reverted back to idolatry repeatedly. Imposing church culture of shadows (traditions) destroys the cohesive fabric of the society. It breeds contempt towards the new convert, *the Kafir (infidel)*. A Muslim questions from Quranic mindset while a Hindu insists that gods incarnated in different forms but all paths lead to Supreme God.

In a Christian ministers’ meet, the standard questions are who will marry the young and bury the dead, serve the Lord’s Supper, baptize babies, and deliver sermons? According to their worldview, all these activities belong within their domain even though there is not a single verse in the Scriptures to substantiate this. While Hindus and Muslims focus on primary issues of faith, sadly for Christians, secondary issues of traditions dominate their thought process.

Yeshua asked about the worldview of the lawyer who came enquiring about eternal life. “What is written in the Law and how do you understand it?” The weakest link in modern day evangelism is imposing our worldview on others without making any attempt to understand their cultural make up (Luke 10:26,27).

The Athenians expected Paul to tell them about a foreign god. But Paul visited their pagan temples, studied the objects of their worship and made full use of heathen literature when he addressed them at Mars Hill. He made known to them their own “Unknown God” (Acts 17:23, 28). Just as the whole USA is not like Hollywood, everything in other religions is not evil. Scripture teaches us that we are to keep whatever is good, noble, true, just, pure and lovely, and whatever has any virtue (Phil. 4:8).

There are divisions of people groups, languages and ethnic groups, and each group needs distinct strategies, bridges, tools, approaches and specifically trained workers. (K. Rajendran)

Thousands of unemployed youngsters, driven by economics, are being trained in Bible schools to be cultural misfits by introducing them to the “jeans and T-shirt culture.” They command little respect among the village elders who do not accept them as religious authority but see them as foreign implants. Millions are being spent to train and support them, but despite triumphalistic reports, the return on investment is just peanuts. They are being trained as evangelists and not as church planters. *They know the scriptures but not the mechanics of discipling or ekklesia planting.* Entry points, bridges from other religions, spiritual warfare, mentoring multi-generational disciples and other relevant topics, which are powerful predictors of CPM, are not taught. Hence the number of baptisms and church plants per missionary, are extremely poor. Drop out rate from the Bible schools and their attrition rate later on from the ministry are unacceptably high. Joshua commanded a huge self-supporting army. Nehemiah built the Jerusalem wall with a volunteer force in fifty-two days. The Antioch church sent Saul and Barnabas as self-financing missionaries. Paul appointed self-supporting elders in every city. We need to make a complete U turn in the way we do the gospel.

We are training the wrong people, with the wrong motives, in the wrong place, by the wrong teachers in the wrong traditions.

The theological graduates cannot earn a living other than by doing ecclesial programs for a salary. Instead of lecturing to captive Christians, they should be trained like Paul to dialogue with intellectuals of other faiths. Yahweh is at work among peoples of other faiths. “In Him there is no partiality and every nation who fears Him and works righteousness, is accepted by Him.” Watch out non-performing Christians! The new converts are coming from the four winds to partake of the Messianic banquet sprinkled with exotic herbs and spices (Acts 10:34, 35; 15:14; Zech 2:9; 8:20-23; Luke 13:29; 22:30).

The church is a repair shop for fixing broken hearts and spirits. But we have replaced the mechanics with the academicians.

Economic Stronghold: Poverty does not translate only into empty belly but the shame of it ravages personality, destroys relationships and robs the joy of life (Chasdei Yosef). Yeshua came to restore the joy of abundant life. But the church tacitly condones the politics of economic deprivation that benefits only the rich by exploiting millions who toil at the bottom of the pyramid for less than one dollar a day. We worship Mammon, the god of wealth. We are economic patriots without conscience who admire our millionaires. It is the poor who build our houses but themselves live in shacks. They build schools but cannot educate their children; build hospitals but cannot afford medical treatment. They live in villages, slums and shanty towns. The saddest part is that they are the people who break their backs to put food on our tables, clothes on our bodies and roofs over our heads.

The present world economic order, by the rich - for the rich, ecology destroying industry and carbon emitting tailpipe transportation resulting in booming prosperity for a few and damning poverty for many, are biblically untenable. Billions of dollars worth of Bailout packages encouraging consumerism with borrowed money is not going to work. With the modern financial system in tailspin making millions jobless, Yahweh is orchestrating the return of the meek to the green jobs and land based economy to inherit the earth.

Billions of dollars were lost by Christians who invested them in “secure” stocks. This money could have been easily put at the financially insecure apostles feet who would have transformed the world by now. *Salvation without an “economic conversion” is meaningless. The road to eternity passes through the poor neighbour’s house* (Mortimer Arias). Zacchaeus the hated tax collector went from house to house returning the ill gotten wealth after the Lord proclaimed, “Salvation has come to this house” but the rich young man lost the Kingdom by hanging onto the security of his earthly riches (Col. 3:5; Isa 5:14; Luke 19:9; 18:23).

Self-help groups give loans with interest that promotes debt and retails pseudo Christianity to the poor and then ruthlessly recover loans. The best barometer of Christianity is “generosity”, giving even to the enemy without expecting any return. Not very practical but very biblical. Not teaching the poor to give, deprives them from the blessing of giving to break the curse of poverty (Luke 6: 34,35).

There is no difference between a godless person and a regular Christian when it comes to the vulgar display of consumerism and materialism. Both are devout Mammon worshippers.

Baptisms in Africa outnumber those in Europe, North and South America combined, and those choosing to become followers of Christ in Asia do so at a rate five times greater than Africa. Yet the economic reality is that an average pastor in those nations cannot afford to buy a Bible to read, a bicycle to go and preach and food on the table to share with others. (Fred Palmerton)

Yahweh baptized Israel with all their possessions in the Red sea; similarly Christians should be baptized along with all their possessions. “No one called his possessions his own but they had all things in common.” (1Cor.10:1-5; Exo. 12:37,38; Acts 4:32-36) (Sanjay James)

Levites, the custodians of religion, were in full time ministry and tithed their mint and cumin but not their position, power and security. They were rejected by the Lord. Full time ministry and tithing do not guarantee our salvation without the servanthood but fruitful role modelled by Christ. Mother Teresa saw the face of Yeshua in the poor of the gutter but failed to convert them into lasting fruit.

To be invited to the Lamb’s banquet, you need to first invite the fatherless, the widow, the cripple and the Gentile to your house. To occupy mansions in heaven, you need to first fix their fallen tents (Luke 14:21; Deut. 16:11; John 14:2; Acts 15:16).

Kingdom-Economics: “Yahweh has already blessed us with *all* spiritual blessings” (Eph.1:3). Yeshua came so that we may have abundant life (John 10:10). Meanwhile, the adversary has usurped all the power, glory and the wealth of the nations and he gives it to whomsoever he likes (Luke 4:6). Now Yeshua has given us legal power over *all* the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19). All we have to do is to bind the strongman in the Name which is above all names and plunder his illegal possessions (Acts 4:12; Matt. 12:29). If you are still poor and lack everything, then you have not exercised your authority. The Devil is always seeking Christians who do not know their authority and he devours them for breakfast, lunch

and dinner (1Peter 5:8). Praying alone is no help. Submit to Yahweh and use your authority to rebuke the strongman and appropriate what legitimately belongs to you.

The biblical way to break economic strongholds is to have potluck meals (break bread) with our deprived neighbours; then every valley shall be exalted and every hill made low. (Isa. 40:3-5)

Holding a secular job and being a fulltime missionary are normative in the NT (Acts 20:33-35; 1Thess.4:11; 2 Thess. 3:11). They are not mutually exclusive—as exemplified by Yeshua, himself a taxpaying citizen (Matt.17:24-27). Peter owned fishing boats (Luke 5:3); Paul told Philemon to charge his debt to his online Bank account (Philemon.1:18); Lydia was a seller of purple clothes (Acts 16:14) and Phoebe was a multinational business woman (Rom. 16:1,2). Most of the top New Testament leaders were redeemed professionals and business people.

Millions of Christians spend 9 AM to 5 PM quality time in the secular world with colleagues and clients in the office, the government and the market place. What is missing is a genuine critical analysis of the church's unengaged apostolic workforce and the strategy for their deployment. The church needs to retool them to be effective work place ministers to change the secular into celestial gardens.

Green Economy: In the new dispensation, economy will not be driven by money, the market or Mr.Mammon but it will be garden based. There will be no Canaanites (merchants) (Zech. 14:21; Rev. 18:11-19). When the curses are broken (Rev.22:3), there will be a “green revolution” with abundance of food, and a “white revolution” with plenty of milk and butter, with overflowing of sweet wine and honey. These will grow in your own land (Amos 9:13-15). Even in the cities they will have kitchen or roof or window gardens. You will not need any money to buy as every thing will be free (Isa 55:1) and no one will be unemployed as everyone will be busy tending their gardens. Everyone will love his neighbour by sending home-grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

Educational Stronghold: Our educational system introduces an unhealthy spirit of competitiveness early in life instead of caring, sharing and building relationships. The neo-rich have captured the best schools, thus depriving the poor of a good education. In many families there is hyper-parenting, putting abnormal pressure on the children to excel in school, in the hope of future bulging pay packets. For this, the parents are willing to pay whatever it takes, even bribing officials to fudge the mark sheets. Naturally this competitive, acquisitive and consumerist criminal spirit has percolated into our businesses, politics, administration and religion.

There is no such thing as secular. Yahweh owns it all.(Ps 24:1)

Education must produce change agents who bless communities. It is not about producing job seekers but job creators who make the excluded into included, by offering the best for the least.

Yahweh gave Adam and Eve a choice, but they foolishly chose knowledge instead of intimacy with the Father. Their eyes were opened but they could no longer see their Creator. All they could see was their nakedness. This is the kind of “enlightenment”, secular (Godless) education, ideologies and religions offer.

It is well known that there is no difference between Christian and non-Christian children when it comes to cheating, telling lies, stealing and other crimes in the school. Both the

parents and the schools have abandoned the primary objective of equipping the children for societal transformation. In the rat race for money, wealth and power, we are educating our children to be Mammon worshippers. This is an endorsement from Hell.

The greatest challenge facing the church is to convert “cultural Christians” into fruitful “functional Christians.” Education must include learning fruit bearing practices.

There is no difference in the IQ (Intelligence Quotient) of children from differing background. The discrepancy lies only in the opportunities available to them. The exploitative system does not allow poor children to get into our own good schools. The hypocrisy is that Christian educationists go abroad begging for money in the name of the poor but in practice misuse the facilities for building up private empires.

Preferential admission to rich children while neglecting the legitimate claims of the poor creates a permanent spiritual and digital divide and commits violence to development of egalitarian transformational leadership.

Mission Schools have lost the Mission: Our schools have been usurped by liberals who believe in pluralism. An Absolute Yahweh cannot be preached, Judeo-Christian principles cannot be taught and no one becomes remotely Christian in our schools.

The British started the educational system in India but the high caste Brahmins objected to their children sitting next to the untouchable Dalit children. Sadly many mission schools also stopped admitting Dalit children. The carnage continues today by charging high fees or fixing high marks as merit to exclude admission of Dalits. Most prestigious Christian institutions hardly have any Christian students. In fact they do not have Christian teachers so how can they impart Judeo-Christian values. It is tragic that the education system which was started by the church to restore dignity to the poor has now become the citadel of gross violations of human rights against her own people. The digital divide between literate Hindus and comparatively illiterate Christians is alarming. We have become the tail and not the head.

We need to equip Christians for political, judicial, administrative, and other influential posts, not to compromise with the system but to provide a radical alternative and replace the system and precipitate a godly government. The missionaries taught us to be separatists and not wholistic, resulting in the lack of leadership for the penetration of the secular world. The church needs to get out of the debris of historic blunder and equip Christians to be professionally competent, socially relevant and spiritually vibrant.

If the church had not kept the Dalit Christians out of her educational institutions, they would have been governing the nation by now. (Vishal Mangalwadi)

Daniel knew that in the last days knowledge would increase. But worldly knowledge does not save. Only the gospel has the power to demolish ideological strongholds, make carnal knowledge captive, restore liberty and transform people. (2Cor. 10:3-5; Dan. 12:4)

Secular education does not transform. During an eclipse, a professor of astrophysics took off his clothes and sat cross-legged in a Yoga position, worshipping the sun, believing a Dragon had swallowed it. On being questioned, he had no conflict. He said, “When teaching academics from my head knowledge, the sun is a furnace of nuclear energy, but in my heart I believe that he is god and I worship him.”

Scriptural Position: Yahweh is the fountainhead of all knowledge and life and the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Prov. 1:7). Academics has nothing to do with godly

wisdom. A carnal mind is enmity against Yahweh (Rom. 8:7). The lack of godly knowledge destroys families and communities (Hosea 4:6). The Devil, the god of this world, shuts the mind's but godly knowledge opens our spiritual eyes and leads to repentance (Job 42:5,6; 28:28; 2Cor.4:4). Sound knowledge teaches us to walk in the light and apply biblical truths in our daily lives. It includes the ability to win souls (Titus 1:9). A healthy fear of the Lord leads to miracles and multiplying ekklesias (Acts 2:43; 9:31).

Health Stronghold: In the wilderness, Yahweh commanded Israel to keep His statutes in order to avoid all the diseases which afflicted the Egyptians (Exo. 15:26). The only time that Israel had any disease was when they rebelled against Yahweh and were bitten by fiery serpents (Deut. 29:5; Num. 21:5-9). We may only see an incomplete physical cure taking place after our prayers because we do not obey Yeshua's command to "Heal the sick and preach the kingdom" (Luke 9:1,2; 10:9).

The ekklesia should be a strong vocal advocate of universal, excellent, accessible and affordable health care for all.

A healing ministry does not just consist of providing curative services in a mission hospital. It involves planting apostolic models of health, healing and wholeness for the entire community. Our health system is frankly iniquitous, brutal and often fatal for the poor. Poor nutrition, filthy water, rotting garbage and absent sanitation cause 80% of diseases, and are signs of demonic influence. Naturally the basic health indicators are getting worse.

The ekklesia is a healing community for hurting people in the midst of despair, pain and suffering. The healing ministry is to console (2Cor. 1:3-5), to reconcile (2Cor. 5:19), to love (1 Cor. 13:1-13), to minister (Matt. 25:31-46), to show compassion (Matt. 9:36-38) and to heal (Matt. 10:8; Mark 16:18). The ultimate mission of Yahweh is the healing of the nations. (2 Chron. 7:14; Rev. 22:2). (Toshi Sanglir)

Christ in us is the only hope of Gentiles. But only when we become seeker-driven, then we remove the aroma of eternal death from those who are perishing. (2 Cor. 2:16; Col. 1:27,28)

Yahweh's Prescription: Isaiah prophesied: "Surely He (Yeshua by His death and resurrection) has borne ***all*** our sickness and diseases" (Isa. 53:4,5). Peter asserts it as an accomplished fact: "By His stripes you ***were*** healed" (1Peter 2:24). You no longer have to pray for healing, it is there for you to merely appropriate it. It has already been bought and paid for and you are His purchased possession (Eph. 1:3,14). You can pray for somebody for healing till you are blue in the face but nothing will happen, certainly Yahweh will not heal, until the person concerned or his intercessor believes in the Word, walks in faith, receives his healing and refuses to believe the Devil's lie. You do not pray for healing because healing already belongs to you, but pray for your unbelief. Yeshua always said, "Thy faith has healed thee." Healings take place in crusades simply because faith healers raise their faith levels up several notches. You can do the same but unlike them, do not make the mistake of abandoning the physically healed but disciple them into the kingdom, lest you come to judgement (Matt. 7:20-23; 9:22; 8:13,17; 17:17-20; Heb. 11:6).

Yeshua commanded us to visit the sick (Matt.25:35-40). There are profound implications to this command because you will wipe their tears and bring healing and the joy of salvation into their lives.

Every time you speak life and health, you give marching orders to Dr. Death to pack up his bags and get out (Prov. 18:21).

Political Stronghold: Yeshua is the King of kings and He shall reign eternally with His saints. The Scripture says, “The Government is upon His **shoulders**” (Isa. 9:6). The church is the authentic government because Yeshua is the head of the ekklesia and we are His hands, feet and “**shoulders**” (Eph. 1:22,23).

Corrupt people are elected on the basis of money, muscle power, race, class and caste factors (Isa. 59:14-16). This inherently corrupt system needs to be changed. The church avoids politics as she fears pollution and precisely for this reason that the government continues to be corrupt. Interestingly every day we pray, “Thy kingdom come and thy will be done on earth...” but then we do nothing about it. How can dirty politics change unless godly people reign on earth?

“Christians should not participate in politics” is a lie straight from Hell. Yeshua will sit on David’s throne and the law shall go forth from Zion. He died to make us priests and kings to reign on earth and inherit it. (Mica 4:2; Isa. 16:5; Rev. 5:9,10).

The destiny of our nation depends entirely on the sons of the King who are busy praying for their own families, jobs and ministries but not for the nation. Without supplications, intercession and thanksgiving, the rulers will not come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved (1Tim. 2:1-4). In the absence of prayer cover, even good leaders become corrupt. We must become kingdom minded and pray kingdom prayers for the healing of our nation.

If My people will repent, pray and seek My face then I will heal your eretz (land, nation, country) (2 Chron. 7:14).

Yeshua never got involved in social, political, legal and financial problems of this world to make it a better place to live. Instead He demonstrated, lived and preached a radical alternative, how life looks under the reign of Yahweh. His empire offers a different foundation and framework for life that is completely different in values and principles of this world. (The Starfish Vision)

Those who work for wages are hirelings but the sons do not work for wages, they own it. The King is looking for sons and daughters who will take ownership of His creation. He will not give it to servants. He has delegated the authority and the mandate to manage the planet earth to His heirs. Through prophecy, priestly intercession and direct intervention we must subdue the earth and have dominion over it. Then the gates of Hell will be shattered and righteous governance will come and we shall reign on earth (Gen. 1:28; John 1:12; Gal. 4:6,7; Rom. 8:14,17,19; 2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 5:10).

The institutional church offers membership and laymanship for a fee while the Father offers sonship and rulership for free.

City Church is a Stronghold: The evaluation of the seven ekklesias in Revelation was a city-wide audit. These ekklesias were to be witnesses to the city but miserably failed. In fact they were polluted by the sins of the city. Yahweh is going to be a city dweller so He is especially keen to get the cities cleaned up (Rev. 21:1-3; Isa. 54:3). The authorized agency is the whole city church. The churches must transcend denominational differences and move from mutual confrontation to cooperation to bless the city.

With Lutherans singing liturgy, Baptists baptizing, Presbyterians appointing elders, Brethren teaching sound doctrine, Methodists in midweek accountability classes, pacifist Mennonites finding “men of peace” in every locality, Catholics doing humanitarian work and

Pentecostals speaking in tongues to the Gentiles, we should so gridlock the city, that no stray fish can escape the net. Interlocking and cross pollination will cure all denominational doctrinal delusions.

Kingdom of Priests to the Nations: Yahweh is not only Yahweh of the Jews and Christians but the Yahweh of all nations. He sent Joseph and Moses to Egypt in the South, Daniel and his colleagues to Babylon and Jonah to Nineveh in the North. Israel suffered when Yahweh sent them in diaspora as slaves. They spread their prayer mats and prayed for Jerusalem but Yahweh told them to pray for the Babylon, “Because in its welfare is your welfare” (Jer: 29:7). Yahweh’s heart bleeds for Babylon, where He found Abraham. Esther an orphan girl in diaspora took part in a beauty contest and was crowned “Miss Persia” and became the queen. She fasted and prayed and took a stand against the genocide of the Jews. She had the enemy Haman hanged on the gallows and proclaimed the name of Yahweh from India to Ethiopia (Esther 1:1; 4:14). Yahweh appointed Israel to be, “*A Kingdom of priests to the nations*” (Exo. 19:5, 6) but the Jews did not believe that their holy Yahweh could work with Gentiles and Samaritans. They chose to be temple-centric and put a notice, “Gentiles keep out”.

Yeshua’s blood makes us a kingdom of priests to the nations (Rev 5:9,10). He said, “My house is for all nations”. Yahweh is nation-centric and Diaspora (*dias=scatter; spora=seed*) continues to be His strategy for reaching the nations. Stephen’s death resulted in thousands of ekklesias. Peter wrote to the pilgrims in dispersion to be Priests to the nations (1 Pet. 1:1, 2:9). (Bob Newton)

All the important events in the OT took place at the city gates. Abraham, Job, David and many others sat at the city gates where important decisions were made. Rebekah, the bride of Isaac, was blessed to have ten thousand children to possess the gates of the enemy (Prov. 31:23; Gen. 22:17; 24:55-60). The upper room prayer closet was not a dark room but had two windows, one facing the city gate and the other the temple, enabling the Jews to pray for the important events in the city (Matt. 6:6). The venue has shifted but being visible and audible in the decision making City Council and judging every evil must continue to be high on the agenda of Abraham’s descendents (Deut. 16:18; 17:2-10).

The Ekklesia must be a breeding place for birthing inheritors who must pastor the whole city. People must be restored in the image of Yahweh and the land into fruitful garden to bring shalom to the city to receive Christ the King (Ps. 46:4; Rom. 8:17-23; Isa. 54:3).

The Bride of Christ does not need pastors, she needs midwives to appropriate Rebekah’s blessing to birth tens of thousands of inheritors, who will go and possess the gates of the enemy.

The Land is Defiled: Adam and his son, Cain, defiled the land with disobedience and the shedding of blood so that it would not yield its strength but grew weed. In the Garden they only had to tend and protect the garden but now we have to till the cursed land with the sweat of our brow to produce cursed food. All people born are also cursed because they come out of the cursed land and shall return to it. Today the land continues to be defiled by the sins of the people—bloodshed, adultery, idolatry, exploitation and the shifting of land boundaries etc. Yahweh made a covenant with Abraham for the land of Canaan and the ten iniquitous tribes (Gen. 15:16-21). Yahweh then commanded him, “Arise and walk through the length and breadth of the Promised Land” and Abraham marked the territory with seven altars where he offered sacrifices (Gen. 13:17,18). Yahweh has now made a fresh blood covenant with us for

the possession of the land and the people with dire consequences for those who tread the covenant underfoot (Heb.10:29; Luke 24:47).

Every year a Jew offered a basket of firstfruits and announced “I have taken possession of the land flowing with milk and honey, given to me as my inheritance (Deut. 26:1-10).

When sin abounds, the land vomits its people, i.e. sends them as refugees (Leviticus 18:25-29). There are millions of refugees today. Many are without home and hearth in their own countries. The land is cursed by bad relationships within the family. Yahweh sent John the Baptist to turn the hearts of the fathers to their sons and of the sons to their fathers. If that does not happen then He will smite the earth with further curses (Luke 1:17; Malachi 4:5,6).

Solomon’s dedicatory prayer was in the context of locusts, pestilence and desolation of the land and its people and their healing through prayer of repentance (2Chron. 7:12-14).

The Adamic, Noahaic, Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants are all “people and land deeds.” “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” Even Yeshua’s Great Commission is the same: “Make disciples of all nations, to the ends of the earth.” Yahweh has given us the land and its people as our eternal inheritance. We must break the land curses by prayer walking its length and breadth like Abraham and establishing altars (house ekklesias), where from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, sinners with broken and contrite hearts can be sanctified, washed, and offered as a living sacrifice, in Gentile homes (Matt. 5:44; Rev. 22:3; Mal. 1:11; 1Cor. 6:9-11).

World poverty and hunger can never be removed nor a green revolution possible without dealing with sin and breaking of the land curses (Rev. 22:3). Then only there will be so much food production that sweet wine will drip down from the mountains and the ploughman will overtake the reaper (Zech. 13:2; Amos 9:13).

The seminaries need to make a complete paradigm shift from planting Trees of Knowledge to planting Trees of life in the apostolic gardens to be on the same page with Yahweh.

Ecology: The disastrous ecological changes taking place spells the death of the creation. We are destroying creation through chemical pollution of the land, pesticides in the food chain, even mothers’ milk now has a dangerous concentration of poisons, water contamination, poisonous emissions from vehicles, and in a myriad of other ways. While in Yahweh’s economy there is enough for everyone’s need, there is not enough for our greed. All this avarice is causing an environmental catastrophe. Yahweh says that He will destroy anyone who destroys His creation (Rev.11:18). In the meanwhile the creation is waiting for the sons of Yahweh to go green through eco-friendly activities so that we do not hand over a damaged planet to our grandchildren (Rom.8:19-22).

We need Green Christians with green faith to break generational and land curses to restore peace with the plundered planet, the inheritance given to us by our Father. (Anand Veeraraj)

Yahweh asked Abraham to bless all the households (*mishpachah*) of the earth; this presumably included their property. Yeshua asked us to say peace to the *house* and only indirectly to the man of peace. It is not just the salvation of souls that is an indicator of abundant life, but clean air, pure water and wholesome food are also the benchmarks. Wherever “awesome threesomes” gather, there is an authentic ekklesia. Because He is present, we have all the power and authority needed to salvage the creation and restore the original greenscape (Gen.12:3; Luke 10:5; John 10:10; Matt. 18:20).

Violence and Terrorism: Terrorism was birthed in the Garden when Papa Adam and Mama Eve disobeyed Yahweh. Today the earth is still being smeared with blood along sectarian divide. This is bringing more curses on the earth. Terrorism breeds in shantytowns. The presence of unjust societal structures result in lack of creative opportunities for the youth to break out from the shackles of poverty and frustration resulting in vengeful hearts.

Every believer has been given the ministry to reconcile the world through Christ (2Cor. 5:17-21). We, as ambassadors of Christ, should be conducting a peace process through intercession and direct negotiation with extremists. Instead of finding ways of infiltrating militant strongholds with the gospel, we, the emissaries of the Prince of Peace, choose to remain boxed in our own strongholds. Hence by default, we are guilty of the making and maturing of terrorists. We give the “Judah’s kiss of death” by not removing the veil of darkness from them.

We need to intercede until the terrorists turn their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks and learn war no more but instead learn to walk in His ways (Mic. 4:2,3).

The media inform us about all kinds of atrocities, injustices and brutalities taking place in the city every day but Christians, the champions of compassion and justice, remain as silent spectators. The passive mindset is so perfidious and ubiquitous that many Christians will not even go and help a neighbour in need.

The best way to prove that we love an awesome Yahweh is to love our awesome neighbours. Christians must take a stand against injustice and wrongdoing. We must dare to dream and conquer the world for Christ. For us surrender is not an option.

Spiritualism is a Multi-Billion Business: God men and gurus of all shades, who are in reality mind controllers, air their wisdom to multitudes on TV. The sale of CDs, VCDs, audio tapes, literature, medicines and health products, talismans and trinkets, idols and materials pertaining to various faiths such as incense, rosaries, coconuts, flowers is escalating. Added to these are health products, Yoga, religious tourism and art and culture, all with religious overtones. Devotional music tops the list as a money-spinner. There is a spate of religious building mania afflicting all religions including Christianity. Some Christians think that Yahweh can be worshipped only in a sacred building, in spite of the fact that Yahweh’s residential address is the human heart (Acts 7:48,49; 2Cor. 6:16).

For hyper-acceleration, spawn culture specific ministries using first generation converts to reach the priests of their original faith through their sacred texts and cultural lingo (Acts 6:7).

The TV channels showing foreign celebrity evangelists are largely ignored by people of other faiths and mostly viewed by westernized Christians. But the motivational talks do not mature them enough to do any damage to the demonic world. Still the celebs will not outsource to the natives. Even where they do, it is to their clones who preach through a Western filter and have an insignificant impact on other religionists. In the meanwhile in Yahweh’s scheme of things, crusades and other large gatherings have substantially come down due to persecution, fuelling small but fruitful gatherings.

Yahweh is not looking for decision cards but disciples. The popularity ratings should not be measured by the number of Christian listeners but by the seeker/mentor contacts established.

What few gains are made are lost due to the poor quality of follow up. Writing stereotyped letters and sending gospel packets is not the answer. Broadcasting is like throwing seed to birds unless there is someone on site to bring it to fruition. There is an urgent need to indigenize and outsource the follow up to church planters on site. Electronic media is a very important tool for the penetration of the Gentile population. It should not be wasted on ever-learning and never-practicing Christians (2Tim. 3:7). Professional speakers and singers need to be replaced by those who can disciple people of other faiths through interactive participatory programming. Indigenization does not just involve worship and music but includes using the nuggets that Yahweh has put in their sacred texts.

In this age of advanced telecommunications, emails, mobile phones and faxes, it should be possible to connect a seeker to a local mentor for one on one discipling within hours.

The Stranglehold of Media Over the Youth: The Devil controls the world through media barons who decide what we should see, hear and read. They stigmatize Christ, denigrate the Bible and conduct hate campaign against Christianity. The demonic power of the media seduces our children with many kinds of sexual, social and religious propaganda. It is a major stronghold that is destroying the church as nothing else. Many parents are not at home, abdicating their responsibility to the media which has become surrogate parent for their children. Naturally they do not honour their parents. This cuts down their life span (Exodus 20:5). Still the first priority of most Christian homes is to acquire a colour TV, set it on a pedestal and worship it for hours daily. The Scripture says that the enemy will come through the window and destroy your children (Jer. 9:21). Look at the TV cable that brings pornographic internet signals, streaming through a tiny hole in the window frame. What is decimating your family must be of concern to you.

The hippies came while the church slept and India gave them hashish, free sex and Hare Krishna. Now thousands of Jews are coming to the Dalai Lama and they are getting the same mix plus Buddhism while the church is still sleeping.

Generation X is well-informed, brash, computer savvy, willing to chill out with drugs, sex, alcohol and anything that is cool as dictated by Hollywood. They are being sexualized beyond their age—being sexy is the ultimate accolade even though they lose their self worth in the process. For them money is the sole measure of success. Eating unhealthy fast food and a sedentary life style is resulting in obesity, spinal problems, diabetes, impotency and hypertension, accelerated aging and premature death. The seduction of our children through films showing pornography, evil extraterrestrial creatures, occult and deifying movie actors and sports heroes as demigods, should be giving us sleepless nights.

The shrinking space in the church's agenda for the restoration of unregenerate youth should be searing our conscience.

The Virtual Ekklesia: The workplace today is rapidly becoming younger, more flexible, multicultural and demanding, encouraging people to work from home by creating a virtual office. Similarly, the future ekklesia will be borderless, flexible, adaptive and open with multi-generations working and worshipping as equals. The ekklesia will be a catalytic enabler of people for truth and freedom. Everyone will be a Yeshua brand ambassador and customer (sinner) focused. This will create fresh ideas and act as a huge growth driver. Young people with similar aspirations in London, New York, Paris, Beijing, Tokyo and Delhi are converging rapidly. The ekklesias must urgently find a unified strategy for getting their names written in the Book of Life before they hit the bottomless pit. The address of the virtual ekklesia will not be a sacred building but a home or the workplace.

Cyber Ekklesias for a Cyber Generation: With broadband Internet facilities reaching remote villages in developing countries, governments are planning e-governance and multinationals are planning computer-based strategies to market their products. Since the youth will not come to the terrestrial church, the church needs to go and plant cyber ekklesias to connect with them. This ekklesia will not be the traditional sermon based model but a chat room based interactive model.

Millions of modern youth live in the cyber world. We need to go and chill out there and disciple them within the cyber culture, context and lingo. Yahweh said, “Even if you make your nest (satellite) among the stars, I will get you” (Obad. 1:4).

The church stands guilty of misusing the youth as praise and worship leaders decaying worship to singing high-octane choruses *ad nauseam*. But the heart wrenching cries of the lost youth are drowned in all these religious decibels. Shouting “Glory, glory!” does not glorify Yahweh but bearing abundant fruit does (John 15:8,16).

Who is a follower of Christ? Not those who say Lord Lord. Yeshua said, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” It is the fishers of men who are the genuine followers of Christ.

The church should be seriously embarking on digital diplomacy drive aimed at on-line discipling. Our youth could do wonders if they realized that the real act of worship is discipling lost youth and offering them as a peace offering. It is time to unshackle our youth and equip them to be fishers of men in cyber cafes, coffee houses, discos, hangouts and chat rooms.

We need to convert all our musical Christians into high-tech followers of Christ to go fishing in cyberspace for e-discipling.

Legalized Legitimate Sins: Yeshua prophesied for this generation, “As in the days of Noah, they ate and drank and got married. In the days of Lot, eating and drinking continued unabated but they also went to the stock market to buy and sell and forgot to get married” (Luke 17:26-29). Many women are watching pornographic Internet sites to bring zing to their jaded sex lives and jealous that their teenage daughters have more active sex lives. Marriage is out and pornography, sodomy, abortion and divorce are now legitimate legalized sins. Gays are trying to ban the Bible legally as it hurts their feelings. With globalization, the harlot is now truly sitting on many waters (Rev. 17:1-6).

Those wanting to go to seminaries, beware. Only one minister in ten finishes well. Nine out of ten fall victim to liberalism, adultery and the pursuit of Mammon. Increasingly, ministers are being caught with their pants down with shady ladies. The liberals control the church through shallow rationalists who major in the natural but minor in the supernatural (2Tim.3:1-5). The Dragon fights through the unholy trinity of religious mindset, hierarchical governance and perverted monetized morality. Gold, glitz, glory, gays and gals are destroying ministries. But Yahweh is extra-dimensional and is not limited by time, space and the rational mind.

How can justice roll like a river and righteousness like a mighty stream unless Christians take their butts off the pews to go and deliver people from darkness and translate them into the kingdom of His dear Son? (Amos 5:24 Col. 1:13,14)

Sins are being legitimized by acts of Parliaments. A perverted vocal minority is pushing through these laws, even though the great silent majority is against them. In Spain, government sponsored school textbooks teach children how to have abnormal sex not only

with humans but also with animals. This is because the church herself is living in the flesh instead of keeping His laws and statutes. She has become the tail and not the head (Isa. 30:15-17; Deut. 28:13, 44). The crafty old serpent has dug his fangs deep and bruised her heel and left her gasping.

In the New Testament ekklesia, the apostles loaded their guns with Prayer and the Word and went with both barrels blazing at the Dragon and changed the world (Acts 6:4).

Iconic leaders make us feel like grass hoppers. Wise ants without a leader gather food in summer, weak conies build nests on high rocks, locusts advance without a king and spiders invade palaces. It is the ordinary believers who need to be galvanized into action to invade and possess demonic kingdoms (1Cor.1:26-30; Josh.13:33; Prov.6:6-8; 30:24-28).

Gender Discrimination: According to Gender Gap Index, women have made great progress in economic, political, education and health fields but in the church, the gender gap continues unabated. It is time to bundle out all gender benders and put gender back on track and restore New Testament values in the Yahweh's family.

In the past, the women were just a piece of property. The Pentecost changed it all. Men, women, children, Jews, Black, white, Parthians, Medes, people from Mesopotamia, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia and from every nation under heaven. In Babel they were confounded because they could not understand each other. But now they were confounded because they clearly understood in their own language. People from all nations, tongues and tribes were worshipping with one accord without gender, class or race discrimination. The women then fuelled the explosive growth of the gospel until men took over and propelled it into dark ages (Acts 1:14; 2:5-11).

In the modern day expression of the Pentecost at the Azusa Street in 1906, the revival was started by a black woman named Neely Terry, in a church led by a woman pastor named Julia Hutchins. Later it shifted to the house of Richard and Ruth Asberry until the house collapsed under the sheer weight of the people and shifted to Azusa Street. Their black leader William Seymour, spoke in tongues for the first time in Ruth's house church. After Seymour's death, his wife Jenny became the pastor of the Azusa Street church. Men, women, children, Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, Chinese and Asians, rich and poor freely worshipped as one Body. There were no choirs, musical instruments, sermons or collection boxes. Hundreds came every day. A core group of eighteen Afro-American women led the movement. After the Catholics, they are now the biggest church worldwide with five hundred million Pentecostals and Charismatics. Sadly, the Pentecostal church today is the worst offender when it comes to oppressing the women.

The church is totally disoriented about the role of women. In 1Timothy 2:12 and 1Corinthians 14:34,35; Paul did not disenfranchise women in general but only "wives" (Greek *Gune* can be translated both as woman or wife) from teaching their husbands in public. Not allowing women to participate contradicts the context of the prophecy of Joel 2:28,29, where men, women and sons and daughters are to prophesy. Prophecy is done in public while the speaking in tongues is to be done in private. In a Spirit led church, the speaking is done by the Holy Spirit and not by men or women who are merely conduits. Hence restricting women would amount to resisting the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 14:3).

Misinterpreting Paul and disenfranchising half the workforce is a delusion orchestrated by the Deceiver. The woman was only deceived but it was through the wilful sinning of man (Adam) that death came into the world. Yahweh not only forgave Eve but also blessed her saying that her seed shall crush the head of the enemy (Gen. 3:14,15; 1Tim. 2:14; Rom. 5:12;

16:20). Women have always outnumbered the men by a large margin as missionaries. The Taliban like attitude against women must be sent to ground zero. We must find more creative roles for women than as sandwich fixers and cookie pushers during coffee breaks in the men's meetings. Woman was not an after-thought but only after fearfully and wonderfully creating her, did Elohim exult, "It is *very good*" (Mark 15:40,41; Acts 17:4,12; Ps. 139:14; Gen. 1:31).

The Women Pastors: Even though men were the priests in Israel, it was the women who announced the commencement of the Sabbath and the feasts and made sure that everything was in order. All the house ekklesias mentioned in the NT had women pastors—Mary, the mother of Mark, Dorcus, Priscilla, Lydia, Phoebe, Apphia, Nympha, Julia and many others. In many cases their husbands' names are not even mentioned. The men were mostly out on business, so the women facilitated the ekklesias and did such a remarkable job that Paul sent greetings to them (1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 1:1,2). Women have a natural aptitude for multitasking, which is an essential skill for a good pastor.

The Jewish women bred prolifically, often producing ten to twenty children. Women are the symbols of multiplication and there is no earthly reason why the Bride of Christ should not be repeatedly pregnant and multiply prolifically (Exo. 1:19).

It was a sad day indeed when men gave up earning their bread and planting ekklesias, stayed back at home, replaced the women as pastors and became professional religious service providers.

The Sandwich Generation who are neither young nor old but are burdened with growing children, aging parents and heavy personal commitments, are the most prolific ekklesia planters. The fastest growing ekklesia today is "the kitchen ekklesia" where women simply walk into a neighbour's kitchen and help with the chores and share the gospel. Ordinary housewives start nearly 80% of the ekklesias. Repenting and washing their feet is the key to acceleration.

Tithing is a Stronghold: All wealth belongs to Yahweh who gave us the power to earn wealth for fulfilling the covenant He made with our forefather Abraham to be a blessing to all the Gentiles (Deut. 8:17,18; Gen. 12:3). The purpose of all our wealth is to fulfil the Great Commission. Hence, all money and gifts must be expended for apostolic purposes. (Acts 4:25, 27; 5:2). Eventually the resources must come from the harvest field, but the initial seed money must come from elsewhere to kick-start a movement.

Money must follow the apostles and not the other way around. A sinner-centric budget is a true indicator of a church's maturity.

The institutional church is plagued by extra-biblical baggage that devours all her resources, leaving mere crumbs for evangelism. If all fruitless churches were shut down, billions of dollars would be saved and millions released to go as shepherds to find the lost sheep and feed them in their own house churches (John 10:16). Our mandate is not to fill the church but to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea, so that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Yeshua is Lord (Hab. 2:14; Phil. 2:9-11). For this, the church needs to be an economic powerhouse fuelling social, cultural, political and spiritual changes.

There is no such thing as tithing (tenth) in the NT. It is all about extravagant giving. Yahweh is not looking for those who are legalistic about tithing but those who are willing to gladly spend and be spent for the gospel (Acts 5:1-11; 2Cor. 12:15).

Many books have been written about the teachings of Yeshua and Paul but hardly any on their fiscal management. Imitating Paul implies working with your own hands to support yourself and your ministry as well as the poor. Tens of thousands of bivocational house church leaders at the grassroots level are doing just that. The highest returns are investment on their training. They are maximizing every penny spent on their capacity building, which is resulting in a huge harvest of souls (Acts 20:33-35; 1 Cor. 4:12; 1Thess. 2:9, 3:6-12, 4:11, 2Thess 3:7-12; 1Tim. 5:8; Gal. 6:10; Eph. 4:28).

Traditional church donors feel morally bound to support partner institutions even if they are dying. Business foundations, however, come with “security first” attitude and even ask for a matching grant because they do not want to take the risk of ownership. This is to avoid dependency by increasing donor base. They come with expansion and diversification paradigm and favour leveraging rapid growth and multiplication models. This outcome oriented catalytic funding has added millions of new souls. Earlier the funding agencies used to give on the basis of trust and relationship and the missions responded by changing entire religious landscapes. Now young executives coming from corporate background ask endless questions, all related to the outcome, which cannot measure integrity, character and commitment. Many mission leaders equipped with laptops and PowerPoint are spending precious time donor hopping, lusting for Yankee dollars. They then buy up local ministries to inflate their statistics. The donors need to know that Yahweh owns it all and that they are mere conduits (1Tim. 6:10). The relationship must be that of partnership and not controlling. Equally a white man should not be seen as a walking ATM machine—press the right buttons and the money spills out.

George Muller ministered to thousands of orphans based on faith and prayer. He proved that those who take God at His word and yield to His will, He is the same yesterday, today and forever: that the days of divine intervention and deliverance are past only for those with whom the days of faith and obedience are past. Prayer still works wonders. (Pierson & Wright: Quoted by Liz Adleta)

The Flip side of Missions: The missionaries extracted the new believers from their communities, (“Come out of her My people” (Rev.18:4) and herded them into mission compounds. They made converts rather than disciples, divided them into denominations and imposed cross-cultural leaders and a uniform language. They banned tribal culture and now their youth are addicted to Western music, drugs, sex, and AIDS. They discouraged Christians from getting into business and politics. Now non-Christians provide all businesses and professional services while the Christians work as servants. This is unbiblical (Lev. 25:45-48). Meanwhile, the remaining tribals have become gospel resistant and even hostile.

The institutionalized church is incarcerated in a narrow box of mindless submission, uncritical faith, unquestioned practices and a miniaturized understanding of Christianity.

The mistrained ministers must be rewired to into self-supporting fishers of men. It is a shame to waste money on church buildings, training and supporting myopic ministers when thousands of villages and tribes have yet to hear the gospel.(P.C. Muanthunga)

Mentoring: This is a new buzz word. It means many things but mostly discipling, an overused word. In Greek mythology Odysseus left his son Telemachus under the care of Mentor who became a teacher, counsellor and a father figure to him. In the Scriptures, Moses was a mentor to Joshua, Elijah to Elisha, Yeshua to the twelve and Paul to Timothy. Mentoring is not just transferring “head knowledge” by seminaries nor is it imparting hands on “practical” skills by missions. Most leaders like to train in large numbers (quantity issue) whereas Yeshua focused on a few (quality issue). Yeshua’s mentoring process was

“relational”. It was dynamic and spontaneous. It was straight from His heart to their hearts and it changed their character. Structured programs imparted by hierarchical system incapacitates the mentor and the mentee and produces *positional leaders* (do as I tell you) rather than *relational leaders* (I am you friend). (Phil Arendt / Vasantharaj Albert)

Mentoring takes place on the job and implies keeping up with the mentee until skills and insights are passed down to several generations. The dynamics should produce zero positional leadership and exclusively birth relational leadership. A variation on Model, Assist, Watch and Leave (MAWL) is a MODEL for mentoring disciples:

1. **Model:** “You became our followers and the Lord’s.” 1Thess, 1:5, 6
2. **Observe:** You became examples to us.... 1Thess 1:7, 8
3. **Delegate:** “Commit these to faithful men who will be able teach others.” 2Tim.2:2
4. **Encourage:** “You must continue in the things you have learned” 2Tim. 3:10-17
5. **Leave:** For this reason I left you to appoint elders” Titus 1:5-9

Each generation must leave to start another 2Tim. 2:2 cycle and like Paul, follow up and mentor multiple generations of disciples. Paul left young Titus in Crete and authorized him to equip and appoint elders. Paul did not ask Timothy to “teach all and sundry” but to “commit only to faithful men.” Paul focused on a few for maximum impact. Being accountable for multiple generations of disciple makers is critical for any sustainable Ekklesia Planting Movement (Bill Smith). Cross-cultural missionaries are like temporary scaffolding and must be removed early to allow the burden of authority to gravitate onto local pillars (Rod Gilbert).

Paul, a champion multiplying mentor, planted a church in spiritually barren Ephesus and used the Hall of Tyrannus (a tyrant) as a training hub for global missions. Within two years he released a chain of Asian leaders like Epaphras, Philemon, Trophimus, Tychicus, Archippus, Nympha, Apphia and others who mentored more disciples and planted churches and changed all of Asia.

The Bride must be obsessed with her Lord’s mission, but how do you teach passion, compassion and obsession in seminary? Instead, seminary may be the best place for curing an infatuation.

Baptism of the Feet: The organized church is facing oblivion because the clergy, speaking from the comfort and security of an established church, focus on education through knowledge-based sermons. A Spirit-led believer, on the other hand, goes out and speaks to the lost from the heart focusing on planting pilgrim ekklesias. It is not the academic eggheads, but practitioners with itchy feet who are needed (Rom.10:15). Yeshua refused to wash Peter’s head but insisted on baptizing his feet. Most Christians have enough head knowledge of the scriptures; all they need is to baptize their wayward feet, converting them into “beautiful feet that carry the gospel of peace where sin abounds so that grace may abound even more” (John 13:9, 10; Rom. 5:20; 10:14-17). A mere cognitive approach is impotent unless “Christ in you becomes the hope of glory for the Gentiles” (Col. 1:27).

Stable, self-supporting and sustainable churches are all good ideas, but not necessarily God idea. Sending 2x2 where Christ has not yet been named is definitely a God idea.

The Choke Chain: Many churches throttle their laymen by keeping them on a leash. When the dogs get together, they quarrel according to their denominational delinquency. Show them a rabbit (direction) and remove the choke chain (traditions) and they will go for the rabbit. Only after the choke points are removed, can they make a decisive dart in the right direction.

A core vision with basic discipling skills must be instilled in every believer, to plant pilgrim churches everywhere.

Before teaching in seminaries and preaching from the pulpits, skills to tenderize and pulverize the demonic strongholds must be acquired. (Neil Gamble) (Luke 10:19; Mark 16:17; Matt 12:29)

Paul, a graduate of Gamaliel Seminary, trained his disciples in the midst of lashes, imprisonment, hunger, perils of drowning and threats from heathen and false brethren. Yet he became all things to all men in order to save some (2Cor.11:23-33; 1 Cor.9:22). However our theologians, cloistered in the comforts of seminaries, are trained for overkill by nitpicking from the Greek and Hebrew. They learn so much about words that they miss the message. At best they are condemned to holler from the pulpit or at worst, they become managers without any formal management training. Yeshua trained His disciples as fishers of men in streams full of drowning human beings. Fishing can never be taught in a classroom. Seminaries must give up passing on information only and make the training intensely practical, aimed more at “skills” for salvaging perishing souls; otherwise their product will continue to be noisy decorations on the pulpits, irrelevant to the lost of this world.

Seminaries lay the foundation on academic sand and send them to pastor the saints, while Yeshua sanctified His disciples with truth and sent them to disciple the sinners (John 17:17-20).

Choose your coaches carefully. There are seminarians who sit on the beach to teach you how to swim. In case of disaster they abandon you because they themselves do not know how to swim (make disciples). Then there are those who like to teach swimming from a yacht. They are more interested in the yacht than in their trainees (empire builders). Finally there are those who actually get into the water to train you to swim and as soon as you have learned how to swim, they leave you (spiritual fathers). (Anuroop Swamy)

Despite claims of uniqueness, outdated, cookie cutter, and stereotyped syllabi plague all curriculums. Many teach comparative religions without imparting the skills to disciple Hindus, Muslims or Buddhists. Lecture/sermon method must be replaced by Socratic discussions in Schools of Tyrannus through reasoning, disputing, confounding, persuading, and convicting all comers daily, so all those who dwell in Asia can hear the gospel (Acts 6:9; 9:22,29; 15:7; 17:2; 18:4; 19:8-10). Bereans were “more noble” not only because they searched (Gk, *anakrino* means to scrutinize, investigate, interrogate, examine even judge) the Scriptures but their interaction resulted in many influential women and men becoming believers (Acts 17:11,12). Seminaries should be evaluated on the basis of their impact on the spiritual landscape and not on their academics.

The Dysfunctional Body: In a medical condition known as Guillen-Barre syndrome, a demyelinating neuritis, a loss of sensation and muscle control slowly inches up the body until everything, including the hands and feet, and finally the breathing muscles are paralyzed. The person dies unless life support systems are instituted. The head, however, remains quite clear. A similar malady has hit the church. While the head (Yeshua) remains clear about His objectives, the Body has become dysfunctional (Col. 2:19).

The church is full of dysfunctional members who have ideas and insights, who pray and study the Scriptures but who never act.

The essential difference is that the traditional system is a one way communication while mentoring is a two way street. Lecturing is time effective but mentoring is time consuming.

Lecturing transfers information but keeps them forever in milk drinking stage as there is nothing to implement. Mentoring is not just one on one process. Yeshua mentored in the context of team building. Mentoring initializes chain reaction of multiplication by passing on skills and insights to others from day one. Lecturing does no such thing.

It is a great pity that pastors have been reduced to a microscopic view of managing one congregation whereas they should be having a telescopic view for managing the Kingdom.

A sermon that has no application and nothing to implement is a hollow rhetoric. A pulpit orator needs no syllabus because he expects no change in the people he is talking to, but an apostle needs competencies to remove evil structures, to transform sinners into saints without removing their cultural cushions and to rebuild desolate communities into Gardens of Shalom (Isa. 32:13-20).

A Letter from an Atheist: An atheist writes:

“Do you consider yourself to be compassionate of other humans? If you’re right, as you say you are, and believe that, then how can you sleep at night? When you speak with me you are speaking with someone who you believe is walking directly into eternal damnation into an endless onslaught of horrendous pain that your ‘loving’ god created, yet you stand by and do nothing.

If you believe one bit that thousands every day were falling into an eternal and unreachable fate, you should be running the streets mad with rage at their blindness. That’s equivalent to standing on a street corner and watching every person that passes you walk blindly directly into the path of a bus and die, yet you stand idly by and do nothing. You’re just twiddling your thumbs, happy in the knowledge that one day that ‘walk’ signal will shine your way across the road. Think about it. Imagine the horrors Hell must have in store if the bible is true. You’re just going to allow that to happen and not care about saving anyone but yourself? If you’re right then you’re an uncaring, unemotional and purely selfish (expletive) that has no right to talk about subjects such as love and caring.” (Excerpt from an email to Pastor Ray)

The church is out of sync with the people. Will people of other faiths ever come to the church and what use that be anyway?

The Dirty Fighter: Yeshua came to destroy the works of the Devil. He chased out demons every day. The principalities, powers and rulers of darkness build strongholds in our minds and cause spiritual blindness. The Devil goes around like a roaring lion, constantly looking for someone to devour. The whole world is under his wicked control. Yeshua gave us the authority over all the power of the enemy and told us that unless you bind the strongman first, you cannot plunder his possessions. He gave us the keys of the kingdom to demolish the gates of Hell and build His church. Strangely most Christians are either ignorant or have very shallow understanding of spiritual warfare. This does not mean that you go looking for sulphur breathing demons in every nook and corner but there is an urgent need for teaching on demonology. Our training must include tactics of engagement with an adversary who is an expert on deception and a dirty fighter who does not respect rules. (1John 5:19; Luke 9:1,2; 10:19; 2Cor. 4:4; 10:3-5; Eph. 6:10-18; Math. 12:29; 16:18,19; 1Pet. 5:8)

Faith is not only Believing but also Acting on Yahweh’s Promises: Many men of character and dedication work hard but this is not enough. The priests of Baal were very hard working and dedicated people who jumped up and down slashing themselves until their blood flowed, but no fire came down to burn the sacrificial bull. Even though they were sincere,

they were sincerely wrong (1Kings 18:26-28). Elijah worked much less, but he was obedient and the fire came down. What about the people? They had come to be entertained by the priests—not unlike what happens in our churches today.

The house ekklesia is not just an ultra low cost substitute but is liberally endowed with people with gifts and talents and the freedom to use them. We must make a shift to the micro-ekklesia paradigm, to finish the mega task of discipling the nations.

We know that the just shall live by faith (Romans 1:17), but we also know that faith without works is no good (James 2:17). All the NT and OT great men were men of action. Abraham believed on the promises of Yahweh and it was counted unto him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6), but his faith had to be proved by walking the length and breadth of Canaan to take possession of the Promised Land for his descendents who at that time did not exist (Gen. 13:17,18). Yahweh told Joshua three times to be strong and courageous (Josh. 1:5,7,9).

Courage is essential if you want to take possession of your inheritance; otherwise you have already made the decision to stay in the wilderness and perish. You need to battle with the priests of modern day Baals who work iniquity as false prophets, deceitful workers, frauds faking righteousness and dark angels of light both within and without the church. Your courage must be proved by your ability to take the perilous path of confrontation with the phoney while dodging their fiery bullets (2Cor. 11:13,14; Eph. 6:10).

Knowledge, passion and courage are not enough in themselves. Paul had plenty of these but even he made a mess of things in Damascus and Jerusalem and had to be shunted to the deserts of Arabia. It needed Barnabas to mentor him to make him fruitful (Acts 9:22:31; Gal. 1:17).

Orthodoxy, biblical knowledge, loyalty to the church, tithing and religious status can make you feel faithful but cannot make you fruitful. For that you need to find a mentor like Barnabas (Matt. 7:16,20; John 15:8; 15:16; 2Peter 1:3-8).

“Let us go forth and fight the good fight of faith” should be the catchcry of all soldiers of the cross. Yeshua is our Commander and we are His soldiers. The ability to deftly wield the double-edged sword of the spirit against a brutal and merciless enemy cannot be learnt while sitting in the pews but only in the war zone. We need to junk all the rusty old traditional tools and use the best weaponry available to dismantle all demonic landmines (1Tim. 6:12; 2Tim. 4:7; Isa. 55:4; Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17).

The Horizontal Ecclesiastical Ladder: There is no Clergy/Laity divide in heaven so why should it exist here? Hell, however, has a special welcome waiting for the privileged and mighty (Isa. 14:9; 5:13-15). Only those who carry their cross daily will make it to heaven. In the earthly ekklesia of Yeshua the ecclesiastical ladder consists of:

- 1. “Persons of peace”** who open their homes as the church’s concrete expression of love in the neighborhood (Luke 10:5-9).
- 2. “Believers”** who believe in Godly promises that they can pray for the sick, expel demons and boldly preach (Mark 16:17-20).
- 3. “Disciples”** who mentor and agonize for multiple generations of disciples (John 15:8,16; 2Tim. 2:2; Col. 2:1,5).

4. **“Fivefold ministry gifted equippers”** who equip saints and release disciplers into the harvest field (Eph. 4:11-13; Acts 16:5).
5. **“Elders”** who are of good character, good managers of their household and hospitable, who can convict sinners and are accountable for multiple generations of disciples (Titus 1:5-9; Heb. 13:17).
6. **“Ambassadors”** who are willing to go to regions where Christ has not yet been named (2Cor. 5:17-20; 10:16; Rom. 15:20).
7. **“Priests”** who offer Gentiles with broken and contrite hearts as a spiritual sacrifice (1Cor. 14:24-25; Rom. 15:16; Ps. 51:17).
8. **“Kings”** who reign on earth as servant rulers (Rev. 5:10).
9. Finally, to inherit the kingdom, we can all leap frog to the top rung and become **“Witnesses” (martyrs)** and have our names written in the Book of the Lamb (Acts 1:8; Rev. 21:27).

Hirelings convert perfectly good Christians into dumb sheep while good shepherds go out into the field to find dumb sheep and convert them into good shepherds (John 10:10-16).

Yeshua Started the First House Ekklesia: Preaching to multitudes does not produce leadership. Yeshua’s method was to invest Him in a few simple people and build them up to be competent world changers. He defined His ekklesia, “Where two or three congregate in My name, it is a congregation.” It is an authentic ekklesia because it has all the power in heaven and on earth” (Matt. 18:18-20).

Programs and activities do not translate into spiritual growth and maturity. The church is a factory for producing disciples and not a warehouse for storing them (Jonathan David).

Yeshua started the first house ekklesia when He invited a couple of fishermen to come to His abode. The ekklesia lasted only one day but the interaction so impacted them that they not only became His disciples but they immediately went out and found others who also became His disciples (John 1:38-51). There was no worship, singing or shouting Hallelujahs, no anointed sermons, not even a collection for His ministry. All He did was to make disciples.

Yeshua founded a non-hierarchical ekklesia whose primary function is to worship Yahweh by discipling the nations.

Methodists a Showcase: Francis Asbury, a twenty-six year old disciple of John Wesley, started his ministry in the USA in 1771. At that time there were only three hundred Methodists and four ministers. By 1816, there were two hundred thousand Methodists and two thousand ministers. He travelled three hundred thousand miles on horseback. (Don’t feel sorry for the horse—he changed many horses but never his methodology!). He focused on unchurched people, equipping and empowering unqualified, ordinary people as local leaders who marched with the people to the frontiers in the West. They spoke extemporaneously with passion in their heart language and planted self-governing congregations who did not have to take orders from a distant authority.

The Mainliners stayed in the comfort of established churches in the East. By 1840-50 there were over a million Methodists who dominated the religious landscape. Astonishingly, just when a landslide victory was in sight, the Elders made the suicidal decision to replace all their amateur but performing ministers with “properly qualified” ministers. This disintegrated and decomposed the movement. (www.steveaddison.net)

Apollos was a brilliant scholar and an eloquent orator but it took a tent-making woman named Priscilla to cut him down to size and teach him the perfect way of Yahweh (Acts 18:24-26).

The United Methodists (UM) now have 35,000 churches in the USA of which 7,000 have less than 25 members and 3,000 have less than 15 members—not very different from house ekklesias. However they still need finances for greasing their organizational gears. For all their worth, these 35,000 UMCs plant only about 100 new churches a year. This is sad because the amateur leaders of the original “Midweek Classes” model of John Wesley could easily exceed this within a few weeks and for a fraction of the cost. (Extracted from Global Ministries UMC).

Most Christians are so busy attending other peoples’ meetings that they have little time for making their own disciples.

Interactive house ekklesias have great potential in the West because from childhood, Westerners are embedded in the Judeo-Christian culture of asking questions. They are also blessed with a logical mind. Once convinced, they can act without the shackles of caste, community and gender that Eastern cultures face. Already these are happening in Holland, Norway, the UK, the USA and many other nations.

Initially in the West it is the Christians who leave their frustrating pews for interactive sofas to find fulfilment, but they often continue to be inward looking, whereas in the East, it is the new converts who flock to the house ekklesias to be discipled and who add to the statistics. The club house gatherings need to shift into seeker-driven multi-site paradigm to be effective expanders of the kingdom. (Tony Dale)

NT Practices and Their Consequences:

1. Apostolic leadership with a decentralized management structure leads to the planting of rapidly multiplying organic ekklesias (Acts 6:1-7; 11:19,20; 16:5; 14:23; Titus 1:5-9).
2. Close family fellowship (*Koinonia*) leads to caring and sharing ekklesias (Acts 2:42; Eph. 2:19; Heb. 10:24,25; Titus 1:8).
3. Community meals (breaking bread) leads to the breaking down of caste, class, culture and racial barriers (Acts 2:42; 46,47; 1Cor. 11:20-22; Acts 20:7; Rev. 3:20; Gal. 3:27-29).
4. Prayer with “one accord” and prayer walking everywhere with holy hands raised up, praying for rulers and those in authority, binding and loosing the strongman leads to tearing down of the strongholds and release of those in bondage (Mark 3:27; Acts 4:24-28; 2Tim.2:1-4, 8; Rom. 15:6; 16:20).
5. Unity among the believers leads to sharing their material blessings with the poor so that none lack (Acts 2:44,45; 4:32-35).
6. Going out two by two, finding the “Person of peace,” selecting performers rather than intellectuals, contextualizing culture, (as Paul did when he used heathen literature) and power encounters, result in miracles, baptisms and daily addition to the numbers of believers (Luke 10:1-9; Acts 2:46,47; 8:5-13; 17: 23, 28; Rom. 15:19).
7. Searching the Scriptures daily, sharing the whole wisdom of Yahweh from house to house, and convincing those who contradict, grounds the new believers in sound doctrine (Act.17:11; 20:20,27; Titus1:9; Heb. 3:13).

8. Convicting an unbeliever to repent and offering him as a sweet smelling sacrifice as a central part of worship results in everyone practicing the priesthood of all believers (1Cor. 14:24,25; 2Cor. 2:14-16; Rom.15:16).
9. Participatory and interactive reasoning, disputing and persuading in small groups under fivefold ministry gifted equippers, and recognizing the gathering of two or three as an authentic ekklesia, results in the rapid growth and multiplication of mature ekklesias (1Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:11-13; Matt. 18:18-20; Acts 16:5).
10. Paul discipled Timothy, who discipled faithful men and they discipled others and monitored multiple generations. This model of setting up a discipling chain fulfils the Great Commission to “make disciples of all nations” (2Tim. 2:2; Matt. 28:19; Acts 6:7).

Evangelism is easy but discipleship is hard. Intentional raising up disciples through modelling was the mission, the passion and consistent focus of the Man from Nazareth. Paul also mentored multiple generations, like Timothy ▪ Epaphras ▪ Archippus and Nympha (Col. 4:12-17). The key to reaching the ends of the earth is to doggedly maintain every discipleship chain. Every break delays the completion. Institutional churches are the worst offenders because they permanently quarantine and shackle believers and prevent their maturing into disciple makers.

House Ekklesias in Danger of Becoming a Denomination: Organic house ekklesias are simple, flexible and have the capacity to multiply and reach the most unreached areas. Most churches, all over the world, were birthed in the homes of the people. Later on when buildings and structures were added on, they went into captivity, which made them barren. Most creatures do not breed in captivity and the Bride certainly does not. Like humans, the Bride has only a short period of reproductive grace after which menopause takes place. Hence the urgency for the early diagnosis of barrenness and corrective therapy.

Man made Bride requires bricks and mortar, music, academic credentials, anointed sermons, professional priests and programs but has no womb. It can grow big but it can never reproduce. Whereas an organic Bride is born with multiplicative organs.

Churches Have Age Related Mindsets: Missions, which started over one hundred years ago, have schools, hospitals, property and problems but no harvest. They think survival. Charismatic missions are forty to fifty years old. They opened up new territories but refused to leave and move on. They practice outdated, traditional methods of evangelism embedded as they are in making converts rather than disciples. Many have become experts in sheep stealing. They enter unsuspecting house churches, introduce loud music, which they call worship, and give sermons with lots of sizzle and acrobatics but little harvest (Acts 20:29,30).

The international missions were afraid of offending the local churches and opted to be only the “evangelistic arm” of the church. This flawed philosophy came from the West where churches (Bodies) exist everywhere. But what can the arm do where the Body does not exist? (George Ninan). They trained “workers” who distributed gospel packets by the millions and screened the Jesus film everywhere and gathered lots of wonderful stories for fund raising but it did not translate into lasting fruit. What little harvest they had perished after handing it over to the institutionalized churches. They are now getting into the church-planting act. This is unlikely to bear much fruit because they are still embedded in the old paradigm of evangelism rather than making disciples.

Resistance to change has little to do with doctrine. Its bottom line is the lure of filthy lucre and the challenge to the temporal authority of religious bureaucrats (Tit.1:11).

House ekklesias are still in their infancy but they already dream about reaching the ends of the earth. They do not need the traditional paraphernalia to do ekklesia. To them their shop, office, home, bus or train, the market place, in fact wherever two or three gather in His name, is the authentic ekklesia and a fit place for gossiping the gospel.

The Greek words “didesko,” “dialegomai” and “elegcho” do not mean sermons but teaching, learning, dialogue, persuading, reasoning, debating, convincing, even disputing and rebuking (Acts 9:29; 17:2,4,11; 18:4; Titus 1:9).

If you are shooting for eternity, even a small error in the trajectory can land you in hellfire. Money can accelerate a Church Planting Movement (CPM) but it cannot sustain it. If we change from constantly pumping resources to priming the pump, a CPM can function on its own (Gene Davis).

Yeshua is more anxious than us to come to small, reproductive fellowships (the Bride), where He can meet the lost people who are willing to obey Him, share a meal and love each other.

Money cannot disciple hearts and minds. God uses people to disciple people. (Floyd McClung)

Reasoned dialogue is a sign of maturity. Replacing dialogue with monologue is like emasculating the ekklesia. Yeshua spent His lifetime dialoguing. All the extra-biblical accretions must be replaced with an outward looking model that includes dialogue, caring, sharing meals and disciple making. In spite of many claims, true NT house ekklesias hardly exist. Beware, the enemy enters as a well-meaning dominant male who then works overtime to jettison the “iron sharpens iron” interactive paradigm and kills the ekklesia by making it “inward looking” (Acts 20: 29,30).

Christians preaching to Christians does not expand the kingdom. The kingdom expanders operate outside the box.

House ekklesias are not independent entities but are interdependent, fortified by the local network of ekklesias. The “individualistic Western exclusive culture” customizes an individual for a personal relationship with Christ, resulting in a fragmented church, whereas the biblical model is based on an “inclusive collectivistic culture.” The Body of Christ, His holy temple, is being built up. Some are feeble, some not so honourable and others who are not so comely, but all the same, they provide social, cultural and spiritual connectivity to each other. (1 Cor. 1:26-31; 12:12-27; 1Pet. 2:5).

We must move from proclamation (evangelism) to saturation church planting (application) as our goal. (Raju Abraham)

The Top Ten Reasons for Starting House Churches:

- 1. Biblical** - This was the New Testament pattern established by Jesus and the apostles and carried on by the early church for the first three centuries. It has emerged again and again in renewals, reforms and revival movements throughout the history of the church.
- 2. Exponential** - To reach a growing world, we need to multiply, not just add. Current house church movements worldwide are spreading more rapidly than traditional church planting and church growth efforts.
- 3. Effective** - The most effective method of evangelism is not growing existing churches, but planting new ones. House churches are the most easily reproducible form of church, proving to be the most obvious choice for church planting.

4. **Natural** - House churches become part of the local community and easily tap into existing relationship connections, thereby more readily taking on an indigenous flavour.
5. **People Focused** – House churches focus on relationships and the development of people, not on organizing programs or projects.
6. **Efficient** – House churches are more mobile, flexible, and adaptable than conventional churches, especially in areas characterized by persecution and/or poverty.
7. **Equal Opportunity** - Because of their small, intimate and participatory nature, all believers have the opportunity to exercise their spiritual gifts during house church meetings, not just professional ministers or key leaders.
8. **Unbounded** – House churches are not limited by church buildings. Whatever use buildings may or may not have, history shows that they are not necessary for rapid church planting movements to start; in fact, buildings may be a hindrance. Although church buildings are not evil by any means, nor are homes in any way “magical,” the practical release of time, energy and money away from building maintenance and into evangelism and discipleship should cause us to rethink current practices.
9. **Inexpensive** – House churches are less expensive than traditional church, because no costly buildings, programs or professional ministers are required.
10. **Immediate** – A house church can start now, right in your living room. Simply come together, listen to Yeshua and do what He says. There is no need to rent a special hall, or wait for a building to be constructed or a full-time pastor to be hired to begin a church.

Rad Zdero in “The Global House Church Movement” (Wm Carey)

Holy Communion as a Stronghold: Holy Communion is a memorial of the Passover meal. Yeshua served roast lamb, bitter herbs, bread and wine for the Last Supper and said, “do this in remembrance of me” (Exodus 12:8; 1Cor.11:24,25). The Agape meal (Jude 1:12) is a full meal and does not just consist of a wafer and a sip of wine. The early ekklesia celebrated it with a potluck dinner. In the Corinthian ekklesia, some rich members ate their food before others and Paul sharply rebuked them. Not only the meal but *Haggadah* “telling the story”, was central to the Passover (Acts 20:7; 1Cor. 11:20-23; Exo. 12:26,27; 13:8). The entire Jerusalem was discipled on their *Benshem*, the dining tables while sharing meals and stories and the Lord added to their numbers daily. The Passover included burning the leaven bread, searching the hidden Afikomen, rushing to open the door for Elijah’s return and young ones freely asking questions about the meaning of the ritual, “passed over” the story of their heritage. This resonated with everyone, especially the youth.

Compared to the exciting interactive Passover, our Holy Communion is a funeral service. The crumb and sip paradigm must shift back to Agape meal from house to house.
(Varadaraj)

Every day, Yeshua and His disciples ate in somebody else’s house. He accepted invitations from all kinds of sinners, including tax collectors. Sometimes He invited Himself. No wonder He was called a glutton and a winebibber. His ragtag evangelistic team consisted of fishermen, tax collectors and women like Mary of Magdala, famous for seven devils, Joanna, wife of a rich official, Susanna and many others who left everything to be with Him. They ate together symbolizing the eschatological wedding meal at the Lord’s Table in the new Kingdom (Acts 2:46,47; Luke 7:34; 8:1-3; John 4:34).

It is not how many eat the Lord’s Supper in your church now but how many will eat at the marriage supper of the Lamb?

Christianity begins with eating in the House of Peace (Luke 10:5-8). It multiplies by eating from house to house (Acts 2:46,47). It is affirmed by hungry Yeshua knocking on the door and eating supper with you. It is sustained by addiction to hospitality (1Cor.16:15). It ends in a banquet with the redeemed harlots, publicans and sinners eating with Christ (Rev. 3:20; 19:9; Matt 21:31).

In a caste, class, gender and race-ridden society, eating together sends a very powerful message of love, justice and equality, so necessary for the evangelization of the world.

Baptize The Whole City: When the Jews came to Jerusalem for the feasts, they would camp around a *Mikve* (pool). There were 200 of these. Before entering the Temple, they would make their confession to two witnesses and then take a Bath of Purification. Women confessed their sins to women and went to a separate pool for the cleansing dip. The Day of Pentecost was celebrated with thousands baptizing each other with no pastors in sight. This was not a one-day event but it continued until stopped by persecution. By then most of the city had been baptized, the Temple was empty and the believers were worshipping in homes (Acts 2:46,47).

Baptism is a defining moment. The sight and smell of the great unwashed crowds around us should be bothering us.

Yeshua was not all sermons and miracles, but a greater champion baptizer than John the Baptist (that is what the Jews accused Him of) (John 4:1,2). Constantly moving up the next level of the “Fivefold Pentecostal model” is the key to avoid stuckages:

1. ▪ Pray 2. ▪ Anoint 3. ▪ Baptise 4. ▪ Equip and 5. ▪ Send

Sadly millions of Christians are stuck in the wilderness of Prayer cells, Bible study classes and meetings but will not cross the Jordan to take possession of their inheritance. What use are all these if we are not converting the harvest into lasting fruit? We need to get back to the Pentecostal model and convert all our unfruitful members into champion baptizers, and then only can we reach the four billion unwashed people on the planet. Peter gave a three-minute sermon and opened his account with 3000 baptisms. Yahweh baptized 600,000 families in the Red Sea, knowing that most would backslide and will have to be destroyed in the wilderness (Exo.12:37; 1Cor.10:1-5). Israel was baptized on the basis of their belief in the great works of Yahweh and not because of the prayers or the great sermons of Moses (Exo. 14:31).

To delay baptism is unbiblical. (Mark 16:16). While a Great Commissioner **Disciples, Dunks** and makes them **Diligent** (obedient), a Duplicate Christian does not. The malpractice by the clergy of monopolizing dunking disenfranchises the ordinary believer. It is the biggest church growth inhibitor. Yeshua, Peter and Paul all relegated dunking to their juniors (1Cor.1:14-17).

Most Christians are fake. In spite of the Lord’s clear command, they do not disciple nor dunk and remain disobedient.

Ordination as a Stronghold: The religious elite manipulate control of the church through the process of ordaining a select few who then do church ministry—serving the Eucharist, baptizing, conducting wedding and funeral services and, of course, giving sermons. These functions are not mentioned anywhere in the Scriptures. While the elders can lay hands on us and bless us, it is the sovereign act of the Holy Spirit that “chose and ordained” each one of us to bring forth abundant fruit (John 15:8,16 KJV).

The Charismata: Speaking in tongues is publicly misused on Sundays and privately unused the rest of the week (1Cor. 14:4,5). In reality, a church without multiple gifts is a dead church. Every single believer has been provided with free gifts and is therefore charismatic (1Cor. 12:7). There is a large spectrum of gifts to choose from. *The Father* has given us

Motivational gifts such as helping, serving, giving aid, administration etc. (Romans 12: 4-13). *The Holy Spirit* has given us **Manifestation Gifts** such as the utterance of wisdom, revelation, knowledge, faith, healing, tongues and interpretation etc. (1Cor. 12:4-11). *The Son* has given us the **Equipping Gifts** such as apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers (Ephesians 4:11-13). All these gifts are not titles for flaunting but practical ministries for building up the Body of Christ. Any ranking in the ekklesia would contradict this context since each one has a different mix of gifts and upgrades are freely available. All you have to do is to desire them, work for them and use them (Mark 16:17; 1Cor. 12: 29-31; 14:1). (David White)

Praise Yeshua for the 150,000 who choose to become His followers everyday worldwide. We need to shoot for one million a day to catch up with the backlog of four billion lost people.

Prayer For Profit: Healed or delivered people are often exploited with the threat of the return of the sickness or the evil spirit to extract the last ounce of oil from them. Healing oil and holy water are sold for a price and have become a good source of income for many. The evil practice of praying for maximizing profit is not new. Balak offered money to Balaam to prophesy. The rampant merchandization of prayer through mushrooming Prayer Towers, where prayers are offered at a price, is sad indeed.

The Bride of Christ is the most abused and merchandized entity. Going to church just to feel good is masturbation because it is just self-gratification. If you are not sold out for God then you only have a refrigerated Christianity. (Sunday Adelaja)

The Lord's Prayer is both apostolic, (Thy kingdom come on earth) as well as holistic, (Give us this day our daily bread).

Yahweh walked with Adam and walks in the midst of His people (Lev. 26:12; 2Cor. 6:16; Acts 15:14). Enoch's grandson Methuselah which means, "When he dies the flood will come." The forthcoming devastation sent such shock waves that Enoch started walking with Yahweh and walked right into heaven. A much greater devastation by fire is coming when the elements will melt (2Pet. 3:12). This should send tectonic shock waves through us to walk with Yahweh, raising our holy hands and praying everywhere (1Tim. 2:8).

Prayer walking is the most effective prayer strategy and fastest growing ministry. It results in the demolition of religious, cultural and social strongholds, building of roads, opening up of fountains of water, abundant food production and finding the man of peace.

Accountability Structure: There is no standard NT model of the ekklesia. The sheer variety of practices varies from all night prayer at Mary's house (Acts 12:5,12) to gathering for breaking bread (Acts 20:7), fasting and praying for the appointing of elders or sending missionaries (Acts 13:1-3;14:23), crying out to the Lord for more power and boldness in the face of persecution (Acts 4:29-31), and searching the Scriptures together daily to check the veracity of Paul's teaching (Acts 17:11). There are many forms of local expressions of the Body from whom we can learn many lessons, but we do not have to blindly duplicate their structures. We do not need to appoint Elders, Deacons and Bishops and establish authority structures as a priority. Paul never addressed people by their titles but simply called them brothers, sisters, elders, fathers, mothers, sons, disciples and saints. In the church, relationship comes first, then strategy. The structure comes last. A reversal of this pattern is a recipe for disaster (1Cor. 14:33).

For greater transparency, accountability and effectiveness, Paul appointed a plurality of Elders and not just one leader.

This does not mean that there were no rules of the game and everybody did as they liked. There was apostolic authority and supervision (bishop means supervisor), but no control. The modern day vertical authority structure controls and therefore dehumanizes. A plurality of leadership consisting of fivefold-ministry gifted equippers (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds and Teachers) provided a horizontal authority structure of spiritual fathers. This is indispensable for the rapid and balanced development of effective leaders.

Yahweh ruled through the prophets who ranked higher than kings like Samuel over Saul, Nathan over David, Elijah over Ahab. The presence of prophets made the kings shiver. King Josiah and Hilkiah the High priest submitted to the authority of Huldah the prophetess, who was just a housewife (2Kings 22:12-14).

Yeshua did not leave us a model to build but a guide to follow. We experience the life of the ekklesia not because we meet in a certain place or in a certain way. If we substitute any method or design then we end up following it and not Him, thus building a counterfeit church instead of the real deal. (Wayne Jacobsen)

It is not us and them. It is just us. There is only one Body of Christ. We are the ekklesia and we can do more united than divided. So let us unify, simplify and multiply. (Robert Fitts)

Brides Must Reproduce Brides: Believers are not accountable to just one leader demanding loyalty and allegiance, but relate to a plurality of spiritual fathers (Heb. 13:17; 1 Cor. 4:15). The objective of appointing Elders was not to provide permanency and stability to the ekklesia, which would eventually lead to senility and obsolescence, but to keep the gatherings reproductive and multiplicative.

It is not how many come but how many are sent out, that is the benchmark. Seeker-driven, multi-site, decentralized micro-ekklesia is Yahweh's strategy for reaching the ends of the earth.

Going to church is a non-productive exercise, while going to make disciples is a highly profitable activity. If the ekklesia becomes a discipling hub then the differences can be blurred. The ekklesia was never meant to be a permanent structure with the same people meeting together and singing the same songs, under the authority of the same person. It is like a nest that birds build for a season and when the purpose is fulfilled then everyone flies away to build their own nests. Reproduction is normative in Yahweh's creation. Just as every bird must build her own nest, Yahweh in His mercy has given ministry gifts to every believer to build his own ministry (1Cor.12:7; 1 Pet. 4:10).

The Bride of Yeshua must breed unashamedly and unapologetically. She must be prolifically fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. A Bride that does not replicate is a barren Bride and lacks intimate relationship with her Lord.

Making disciples is the central function of the ekklesia; hence hospitality and the ability to convict seekers are the most important qualifications of Elders (Titus 1: 8,9; 1 Tim. 3:2; 1Cor. 14:24,25; 1Peter 4:8-10). Eloquent sermons, motivational talks and structures have little role to play in discipling the nations. Fivefold gifts are not titles or offices to be flaunted but ministries to be done. They should result in the perfecting of the saints and the edification of the Body (Eph. 4:11-13). The explosive growth of the Jerusalem ekklesia lasted only eight years and then it was no more (Acts 8:1). The gospel, however, spread all over, both spontaneously through ordinary believers (Acts 11:19-21) and intentionally through apostolic design (Rom. 15:19-21).

While the world is haemorrhaging, irrational exuberance and raucous Sunday celebrations must give place to bringing fruit worthy of repentance (Math. 3:8; Luke 3:8). There is merit in celebration only when we win a victory over the enemy and possess new territories. In the ekklesia, everyone is a minister and must have a ministry of his own and set his own milestones for celebration (1John 2:27).

Maintaining the status quo is not just weakness; it is betrayal. In the ekklesia everyone is a minister and anyone who refuses to go and possess his inheritance prepared from the foundation of the earth, is either ignorant of the consequences or disobedient.

Spiritual Fathers Needed: A true discipling ekklesia grows and multiplies outside of human control. The Jerusalem ekklesia, history's fastest growing ekklesia, had no formal structure. The Spirit gives different vision and different methodology to each one at different times and places (1 Cor. 12:4-11), provided we tarry for the Spirit to envision and empower us. Further, the Spirit gives different utterance to everyone in the assembly. To some He gives psalms, to others teaching, revelation, tongues, interpretation, dreams, visions, prophecy etc. (Cor. 14:3, 23-32). The second time the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples, they did not speak in tongues but preached the gospel boldly (Acts 4:31). There is no single method, but heterogeneity is normative. However, one dominant male can mess up the message.

The purpose of gathering is not for empty worship but the people get together with an expectancy that Yahweh will reveal his "action plan" to His prophetic ekklesia (Amos 3:7). By the end of the meeting, everyone should know what Yahweh wants "done." The Holy Spirit rather than the leader is in command. A leader is only a fatherly facilitator, not necessarily a speaker and definitely not a controller.

How Rapid is Rapid?: If Yeshua could multiply the fishes and the loaves for the five thousand hungry families at an incredible speed, there is no reason why He cannot multiply His ekklesia just as rapidly but for the church acting as a speed breaker.

The difference between an institutional church and a NT church is not denominational or doctrinal. An institutional church is lead by the wisdom of the flesh while the NT model is led by the power of the Spirit. (1 Cor. 2:4,5) (Wolfgang Simson)

The preaching, healing, deliverance and baptizing in Philip's **Evangelistic** ministry in Samaria did not result in lasting fruit until the Apostle Peter came and baptized them in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:16; Matt. 7:22,23). In Paul's **Apostolic** ministry, rapidly multiplying ekklesias with lasting fruit consistently resulted (Acts 19:1-12). Apostolic mentoring and impartation of the Spirit on the local people, results in an ekklesia planting movement. Because Christ lives, being a martyr is not a tragedy but a triumph.

A Church Planting Movement (CPM) is a rapid multiplication of indigenous churches planting churches that sweeps through a People Group or a population segment. A CPM must outstrip population growth rate to reach the entire nation. (David Garrison)

Hyper acceleration: Yeshua empowered His disciples to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. *Within hours* of their anointing, thousands were being baptized in the **Jerusalem** with an exponential growth of disciples (Acts 1:8; 2:41,47; 6:1,7); *within days* ekklesias were multiplying in **Judea** and beyond (Acts 9:31; 16:5); *within weeks* thousands were baptized in **Samaria** (Acts 8:5,16); *within months* the gospel had been sounded all over **the World** (Col. 1:6, 23). The rapid discipling of nations is the norm in the New Testament ekklesia; otherwise you are wasting time and wallowing in John's shallow water baptism. Rapid fruitfulness is a consistent indicator of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. "You say it is four months but I say the harvest is ready now" (Matt.3:11; John 4:35).

The quantum jump in the Book of Acts from *simple daily addition of believers* (Acts 2:47; 5:14) to *daily multiplication of disciples* (6:1-7), to a *daily multiplication of churches* (16:5), had several growth drivers. The Apostles chose Greeks of good repute, filled with the Spirit and wisdom. The strategic transfer of dominant Hebraic leadership to the despised Greeks was a watershed that changed everything that Jews held sacrosanct for millennia. The apostles remained spiritual Fathers and focused on the ministry of the Word and prayer. The rapid penetration of the gospel into the Gentile world then made the ekklesia grow out of human control.

Organic House Ekklesia: Unlike the orderly program-based institutional church, the free for all, participatory and interactive format of the house ekklesia may sound a bit chaotic; but the Holy Spirit ensures that it is creative chaos. Where Christ is, there is liberty (2 Cor. 3:17). The Spirit-led ekklesia “blows where it lists and no one knows where it comes from and where it goes” (John 3:3-8). The NT ekklesia is an experience quite unlike the stereotyped, repetitive and predictable Sunday service. The ekklesia is the household of Yahweh (Eph. 2:19), a symbol of freedom of expression where everyone in the family is encouraged to grow to their fullest potential. Nothing kills Body life faster than control by one man; an insult to the Holy Spirit led, collective wisdom of the assembly of Royal Priests (1Pet. 2:9).

The Temple Died in AD 135: Yeshua foretold His disciples, “Not a stone will be left of the Temple buildings.” In AD 70, the Roman general, Titus, burnt the Temple to ashes. The golden dome melted and the soldiers extracted the gold by removing the stones. The Menorah was stolen and the Temple was no longer the light. In AD 135, Hadrian decimated what remained. He ploughed the Temple area and outlawed circumcision, the Sabbath and the synagogue. No two stones remained together. Yahweh sent a strong signal that sacred buildings had no place in world evangelism. The survivors went to the ends of the earth preaching the gospel. In the new kingdom there will be no temple and no sun, as Yahveh and the Lamb will be the temple and the light (Matt.24:2; Acts 7:48,49; Rev.21:22,23).

The NT Ekklesia Died in AD 312: First the NT ekklesia went through a genetic mutation by the Roman Emperor Constantine, a sun worshipping, hybrid Christian. He replaced house ekklesias with sacred buildings, self-supporting ministers with paid clergy and daily gatherings with Sunday services, effectively murdering the NT ekklesia. All reformation in the past have been only theological, not structural. With the addition of Western church culture, the modern church has incarnated as a sterile mongrel, not the genuine Bride. No one has the right to restructure Yahweh’s Bride. She needs to be resurrected and restored.

Men and Women Were His Method: Yeshua used the principle of “Small is not only beautiful but also effective.” Yeshua did not change the world but He produced a team of world changers. We need to shift from the pastor/teacher-centered model to a “team building” model and aim at producing world changers.

The ekklesia should not only be passionate about fulfilling the Great Commission but actually paranoid about it.

There is no such thing as a “spontaneous” ekklesia planting movement (CPM). Only weeds grow spontaneously. Sparking rapid “Saturation movement” requires continuous intentional “stimulus packages”. The harvest does grow while the man sleeps, but it still needs a sower to sow the seed and a reaper with the sickle to gather the harvest (Mark 4:27).

To succeed, keep clarifying the vision, narrow the focus and enter into the mechanical phase of implementing the vision. Think steps and not programs. To avoid glitches, discuss your options and their implications with many. Monitor outcome for course correction, and work hard on succession planning.

Today the greatest challenge before the church is to multiply earth inheritors to whom the King will say, “Come blessed of my Father, inherit the earth prepared for you from the foundation of the earth” (Matt. 25:34). What Yeshua needs is “the blessed meek who are willing and determined to inherit the earth” (Matt. 5:5).

Discipleship Chains Based on 2Tim.2:2:

During our life span of three score and ten years, we can, at best, relate to about four biological generations by name (Psalm 90:10; Job 42:16). Paul made it a point to intimately follow multiple generations of his spiritual descendents by name, which he **Mentored, Observed, Delegated, Encouraged and Left (MODEL)**. He agonized in prayer for every one by name, even for those whom he had not met (Col. 2:1). This continuous ongoing mentoring chain released hundreds of well-equipped, export quality men and women into the harvest field, which resulted in tectonic changes in Asia and Europe. Paul could honestly claim, “I have “fully” preached the gospel from Jerusalem to Illyricum” (Acts 19:10; Rom. 15:19).

1. The first Gentile ekklesia at Antioch was planted by Christian refugees. Barnabas was sent by the ekklesia in Jerusalem to disciple them. He brought Paul who was sulking in Tarshish, having made a mess of his ministry in Damascus and Jerusalem. Barnabas mentored Paul for a whole year (Acts 9:22-31; 11:19-26).

2. Paul was sent by the Antioch ekklesia; he discipled Timothy and left him in Ephesus to train “faithful men” (Acts 13:3; 1Tim 1:3).

3. Timothy trained Epaphras who worked in Colossae (Col. 1:1-8).

4. Epaphras trained “others also.” This included Archippus who trained Nympha, a woman and a fifth generation disciple who led an ekklesia. Epaphras left them to itinerate with Paul (2Tim.2:2; Col.4:12-16).

Paul had many disciples who mentored their own down line. He handed over the baton to the Genext, while he continued to MODEL his own spiritual family. The result: “All over the world the gospel is bearing fruit and growing” (Col.1:6). (Bill Smith)

There are two kinds of Christians, the wheat and the chaff. “Wheat Christians” die to multiply disciples. The “Chaff Christians” also die but do not extend the kingdom. (Rom. 15:19)

Self-Audit of a Committed vs. a Cultural Christian

1. If your Master came to seek and to save that which is lost, are you doing the same things as His follower and making the angels rejoice? (Luke 19:10; 15:7,10)
2. If your Lord came to destroy the works of the Devil and the first sign of a believer is that he can cast out demons, how much damage are you causing to the demonic kingdom? (1 John 3:8; Mark 16:17 Math 16:18; Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Cor. 10:3-5)
3. If the agenda of the Chief Shepherd of your soul is to “gather the sheep who are not of this fold,” have you added any lost souls to His fold lately? (John 10:16; 1 Peter 2:25)
4. If your Best Friend has given you a new commandment to love each other as He has loved you so that the world may believe in Him, is the world responding to Him because of your loving relationships? (John 13:34,35; 15:14,15)
5. If your Saviour has commanded you to go out two by two to be His witness and make disciples, have you discipled any nations lately? (Luke 10:1-2; Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19)
6. If your Father has chosen you to be fruitful, loaded with abundant fruit that remains, do you have any permanent fruit to your credit to qualify you as His disciple? (John 15:8,16)

- 7.If the Owner of the keys of Heaven and Hell has handed over the keys of the kingdom to you, how busy you are locking the door to Hell and opening the doors to Heaven? Or have you misplaced the keys? (Matt. 16:19; Rev. 3:7; Luke 11:52)
- 8.Your High Priest offered His own blood to make you a priest and a king. Are you offering Gentiles as a sacrifice to qualify you as a priest and reigning as a servant ruler? (Rev. 5:10; Heb. 9:12; Rom. 15:16)
9. If the King has appointed you as His Ambassador to reconcile His creation, have you opened any embassies lately in your neighbourhood, worksite or downtown? (2Cor. 5:17-21; Rom. 8:19)
10. If your Yahweh loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten son that none may perish, how much are you giving to save the perishing? (John 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:9)

There are many challenges the Lord has set before us. Most of us need to work hard to change an empty label into the genuine article.

If this simple formula of going out two by two and making disciples is followed, then an unstoppable chain reaction will result and within one generation the gospel can reach the most inaccessible parts of the world. You can bypass the religious wheelers and dealers and open your own account by discipling lost souls. And the angels in heaven will get into praise and worship mode (Luke 10:1; 15:7,10).

The smallest ekklesia has two families and the largest has three. After that it is time to multiply. The Antioch ekklesia had six and they sent two of them as missionaries (Matt. 18:18-20).

You have a choice. You can go to the remote boondocks and gather lost souls and the heavenly angels will start hip hopping. Or you can go to church on Sunday with ninety-nine other fruitless Christians who clang their own cymbals and sound their own brass. Presumably it is the other variety of angels who are delighted to tango with them. Yeshua is only interested in gathering the wheat, not the chaff (Luke 15:4-7; 1 Cor. 13:1; Matt. 3:12).

Yeshua command Peter to feed His sheep. The sheep are not fed weekly, but daily out in the pasture; then only they will reproduce. The barren ones are sent to the butcher (John 21:15-17).

Muslim Jehadis train young people to die for Allah. Seminaries train people to maintain the status quo. This produces congregations who want to hog all the blessings for themselves. On the other hand, short term, church planting seminars empower ordinary people and release them to be a blessing to others, which is the core agenda of the ekklesia (Gen 12:3). The ekklesia must produce world conquerors and not church hogs.

Praise Yahweh for the six hundred Christians worldwide who die every day while reaping the harvest. (David Barrett)

Nothing will happen until the church fulfils her mission of training the thousands of shepherds we need. We are not thinking about a city with large churches but communities saturated with (house) ekklesias. The best place for training is the extended family because the success of a pastor here does not depend on his ability to deliver great sermons to large crowds but in the sincere communication of truths that can be replicated in one after another within a small group context. (Daniel Gonzales Garcia)

Watch the Downline: Many multi-million businesses bypass the hierarchy of middlemen, the dealers who eat up the lion's share of the profit, and instead deal directly with the client on a profit sharing basis. All you have to do is to mobilize just two clients and watch the

“downline” grow by making sure that every disciple makes two disciples. Very soon the cheques begin to come to all the participants.

Your income depends on your downline. When that stops, so do the bucks. Paul’s strategy was to equip, empower and exit, but always keep in touch through visits, letters and agonizing for his downline, individually and by name.

Jesus started His ministry by discipling just two fishermen. He asked them to go out two by two and make disciples. In the short span of three years of ministry, He had thousands of disciples (John 1:40; Matt 18:18-20; Acts 13:1-3; 2 Tim. 2:2). Peter and John, the two, made disciples all over Palestine and Samaria (Gal. 2:7-9; Acts 8:14). Paul and Barnabas made disciples wherever they went and turned the Gentile world upside down (Acts 13:1-3; 17:6).

Not Just Teachers But Spiritual Parents: The most enduring relationship, even in heaven, is that of Father and Son. Yeshua called Yahweh His Father. Yahweh changed Abram, the “father of a clan” to Abraham, the “father of nations” (Gen 17:5). Yahweh changed Sarai, the “princess of a family,” to Sarah, the “mother of all believing daughters” (1Peter 3:6). Paul called Timothy his spiritual son. He told the Corinthians, “You may have ten thousand instructors but I am your spiritual father because I have begotten you.” He did not teach them as a brilliant scholar but as a loving father (1Tim. 1:2; 1 Cor. 4:15; 1Thess. 2:11). The key differentiator is that while a spiritual father invests in his children so they can become better than him, a teacher has no such burden (Gen. 17:6; John 14:12,13). The Devil’s tactic is to destroy families, the primary unit of Yahweh’s blessing. Faulty parenting disintegrates families by diminishing the role of fatherhood. The original church was a family ekklesia. We are called to be spiritual parents in order to birth spiritual children.

Every ekklesia must reproduce herself, just like each family does. Reproduction cannot be delegated to others. Sarah outsourced to Hagar and created a huge problem.

Identity Crisis: Israel was to be a kingdom of priests to all the nations of the earth because Yahweh said, “For all the earth is mine.” They miserably failed to understand the concept of “the priesthood of all believers for all the nations of the earth.” Instead they built Jewish ghettos called synagogues, which Yahweh never mandated, all over the world—not unlike modern day church buildings. The church has completely failed to comprehend that she needs to pastor the whole city and the nation and not just cater to the whims of Christians. The two billion Christians of the world have been sent the wrong signal—that they are worthless laity. The concept of “the priesthood of all believers” is foreign to them. The idea that the ekklesia is an “Assembly of Royal Priests” who will reign on earth for a thousand years has not percolated into their minds (1Peter 2:9; Rev. 20:6).

Most Christians have yet to open their portfolio of saved souls. Many set secondary goals of reading more Bible or praying more, rather than the primary goal of birthing spiritual children.

Yahweh’s vision is to have all nations, tribes and tongues standing before his throne and worshipping him. For this purpose He sent Yeshua, who died to make us priests and kings. The function of the priest is to offer the Gentiles as a sacrifice. The function of the king is to bring community transformation through godly governance. There are millions of Christians in the world, but very few realize that they are priests and kings.

The refugee Christians from Jerusalem, the so called laity, disciplined and planted ekklesias in Cyprus, Phoenicia, Cyrene and Antioch and even as far away as Rome, long before Paul and Barnabas got there (Acts 11:19-26; Romans 16:7). There are zillions of non-Christians from all over the world in Diaspora in the Christian world. All options must be explored to reach and disciple them.

The game has changed. Top down society is dead. The predominant power has shifted into the hands of us nobodies. Our big sleep has ended, our seventeen hundred year nightmare is over, and we are launching the final transformation of the earth. (James Rutz)

Most churches do not comprehend Yahweh's comprehensive vision of making disciples, baptizing them, equipping and sending them on to plant gardens of hope. They have a splintered vision and put roadblocks in front of the next step. "Christians only" interacting in a house church produces a lot of heat but no light. A collision with dissidents generates sparks, opens their eyes and lights up their path and expands the kingdom.

We need to give up the divisive denominational designations of being called Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Pentecostals and Baptists. Even calling oneself a Christian should be a thing of the past. We should simply be called "Followers of Christ and His royal priests." That defines our form and function. Many Christians are just gyrating with no sense of direction. Sadly, most Christians do not even know that they are in a race (1Cor 9:24-26).

Instead of just preaching to the converted, the church should be chasing the Devil out of town all the way to the Gates of Hell and equipping royal priests to reign on earth for an eternity.

The Law of Averages: An average Christian heads for church on Sundays while the Great Commission Christian goes where Christ has not yet been named. While a nominal Christian goes to listen to sermons, an authentic Christian goes to make disciples. While an average evangelist preaches to Christians, Philip and Paul preached the gospel to the heathen by expelling unclean spirits, healing the sick and baptizing new believers (1Thess. 1:5; Acts 8:5-7, Rom. 15:19-21). A celebrity evangelist mesmerizes and hypnotizes organized crowds of gullibles and makes a fast buck in the bargain but leaves no permanent fruit. Unlike these glitter bugs, a small time apostle reasons with a ragtag bunch of people, causes turmoil in their lives, often comes back beaten and broke, but leaves behind a discipling ekklesia. The great evangelist Billy Graham found that the majority of the people who were churching without face-to-face discipling after his crusades lasted less than a year (Acts 14:19-23; 16:13-15; 20).

Yahweh does not care a damn about your degrees, doctrines, denominations or celebrity status. He is looking for people who do not limit a limitless Yeshua in the church but candidly and passionately share their faith anywhere and everywhere .

The Church Needs Ideological Catharsis: The church must change from a "bless me" to a "bless all the families of the earth" ideology (Gen 12:3). For too long the church has been languishing in the comforts of a warm cocoon—sacred buildings, Sunday schools, prayer cells and Bible study classes. She needs to shift into the boardrooms, factories, business places, parliaments, government offices, hospitals, schools, labour unions and the homes of sinners where the rubber meets the road (Malachi 1:11). How can the sordid and corrupt environment of these institutions change unless the church penetrates them? The church already has an infrastructure of Christians in most places. All it needs to do is to equip, network and operationalize them. For too long, equipping has been left to the seminaries, which are infected with spiritual inertia and liberal beliefs. Yeshua conducted daily seminars on the streets; Paul shared the whole wisdom of Yahweh in the market place while making tents. He planted his first ekklesia in the palace of the Governor of Cyprus. The church needs to shift to the realities of the market place and invade the hostile political, economic and social strata of society and the rest of the secular world (Acts 13:7-12).

The church must stop churching people to fill the pews and coffers. There is enough money locked up in the church's bank accounts to evangelize the entire world, but for the sad fact that it is all budgeted for non-essentials. (Nathan Shank)

The Dang Community Model: On Christmas Eve 1998, an anti-Christian mob torched sixty-eight bamboo churches in the Dang villages of Gujarat state. They did not harm the concrete traditional church building in the city, because “nice people come here every Sunday and sing nice songs, but do not convert anybody.” But they despised the little bamboo ekklesias because people went there and got converted. Since then, the Dang Christians have gathered with the whole village and the village council, which often has many non-Christians, and asked their permission to build a worship centre. They not only obtained permission but also cash, bamboo and the goodwill of the community. The church now belongs to the whole village community and not just to the Christians. The Hindu nationalist state government spent millions trying to reconvert them without success. The little bamboo ekklesia looks so weak and fragile, and that is precisely her strength because it protects her from being proud, insolent and secure. Yahweh's strategy has always been in small bytes rather than in one megabyte (Deut. 7:22.). We must not despise these little ekklesias because today, the discipling of the nations is taking place on a mega scale in them (1Cor.1:26-30; Zech 4:10; Obad. 1:2).

Nothing immobilizes a church faster than gifts from an outside agency for a church building and the salary of the pastor. It also creates interdenominational and inter-religious rivalries.

The Power of One: The church needs to shift from having a competitive culture to having a collaborative one. If an ekklesia plants just one other ekklesia in a year, now there are two. The next year, two will become four and so on. Thus in one generation, over one thousand organic ekklesias are planted. By the end of ten years, the first ekklesia has planted only nine new ekklesias—not an impossible goal. But for this to happen, intentional training, empowering and monitoring is essential. Yonggi Cho, the leader of the largest congregation in the world in Seoul, South Korea, would rather miss the Sunday service than the midweek meeting with his Cell leaders, because that is where the growth and multiplication are.

Whatever it takes, Yahweh wants to see people from the four corners of the earth standing before His Throne and worshipping Him. Nothing more and nothing less. If you are not doing anything about it then for Heaven's sake, get out of the way because you are only occupying space.

Every ekklesia needs to set ekklesia planting goals because setting goals means committing to do something. If you do not take even that basic step, you will send uncertain trumpet sounds and the battle will be lost even before it began (1 Cor. 14:8). Every disciple represents a thousand disciples and every little ekklesia can multiply and reproduce thousands of ekklesias (Isa. 60:21,22). Every day we should hear the good news that a multiplying ekklesia has been planted in the market place, in a government office, school, college, hospital, business, police station, bank, airport, stock market or beauty parlour—wherever humans happen to be (Acts 16:5).

To finish the task, we change from abstract theology to applied theology, from Bible study to Bible application, from oratory skills to discipling skills and from concepts to best practices.

The Power of Agreement: “If two of you agree as touching anything, My Father will do it.” All power in heaven and on earth is made available to mini but mighty duos when they are in agreement about fulfilling Yahweh's agenda. The most powerful combo for decimating evil

and transforming social, political, economic and all other equations, is going out two by two, just as Yeshua sent them to the Judean villages. The early ekklesia was a huge success because they were of one accord (Matt. 18:18-20; Luke 10:1; Acts 5:12).

When the Holy Spirit leads organic ekklesias, no formal training is necessary. After his conversion, Paul did not go to Jerusalem for instructions (John 14:26; Gal. 1:15-18). However, it is best if facilitators meet frequently for cross pollination (Heb. 10:24,25). Apostolic coverage is an added advantage and helps avoid glitches. This cutting edge strategy is simple and costs nothing. A new convert should not head for the pew as the conversion must be “apostolic,” to go and multiply and be a blessing to others.

The Ekklesia is the Authentic Government: Nebuchadnezzar, the great Gentile emperor, found out the hard way that the Most High Yahweh rules in the affairs of men (Dan.4:17; 30-37). Yahweh ruled Israel through prophets until Saul became king and wrecked the system (1Sam. 8:7). Yahweh is the owner and the ekklesia is His government. She must equip His people to reign on earth (Rev. 5:10; 20:6; 22:5). She must abandon her policy of non-interference in human affairs and redefine global politics and economics. If she does not, the Dragon is happily doing it anyway.

Even though the ekklesia is not of the world, she is very much in the world and her mandate is to install and run the legitimate geopolitical Government of Yahweh (Isa. 9:6; John 17:16; 1John 5:18,19). She must set the ground rules and police the last mile to see that “His will is done on earth as it is in heaven.” The Scripture is the only barometer for measuring the kingdom values of governance and the ekklesia is the sole repository of truth, justice and life with dignity. She must learn to act as the authentic government and become involved in every important human affair, be it social, political, justice, economic, ecology or any other (Isa. 59:14-16).

This is not advocating Emperor Constantine’s state/church merger model, where the clergy became the magistrates and birthed the Catholic Church. It also does not mean having an evangelical President with the Bible in one hand and a nuke bomb in the other. Like the prophets of the OT, the ekklesia must speak prophetically and boldly to rulers, “Thus says the Lord”.

The secular government enforces the “rule of law” which is not the same as the “rule of justice.” The law can be manipulated in favour of the rich—they rarely get convicted. The OT laws were replaced with a higher order of love. The ekklesia is pitted against the fruit of the flesh. Bribery, corruption, exploitation, inequality and injustice must be replaced with the fruit of the Spirit, “love, joy, peace, equality and dignity.” Godless politics has led us deep into communal chaos and violence. We, as the keeper of law, must usher in righteous governance by replacing private plunder with public good.

An attitude change is required for fellow pilgrims of other faiths who are looking for the heavenly city. (Heb.12:22,23)

The Generic Christian: Billions of dollars have been invested in traditional churches to convert generic Christians into fruitful Christians, but the return has been just peanuts. The Sunday morning service does not save sinners, discipling does. Churches need to be converted into discipling hubs because discipling is the core job description of every Christian, and we should be clocking the highest level of return on investment, operational efficiency and productivity. A Spirit driven Christian must fly like an eagle and unleash the ekklesia all over the place, conquering towns and cities and nations for Yeshua.

The test of a man's conversion is whether he has enough Christianity to convey the message of the kingdom to other people. If he hasn't, something is wrong. (Samuel Shoemaker)

Instead of prayer walking and annexing territories for Christ, the church is suffering from an overdose of religiosity and lives in a fantasyland. Its people are sleepwalking in a perilous minefield.

Notice outside the Church Pharmacy: "Inconvenience regretted. Disposing of all old stock of outdated, generic lay-Christians and replacing them with more potent varieties of Royal Priests, Ambassadors, Apostles and Prophets."

There is no such thing as a generic Christian (layman). Ethical pharmaceutical companies check the effectiveness of every pill, while fly-by-night companies manufacture drugs without testing them, thereby jeopardizing the lives of sick people. Similarly, the quality and potency of every Christian must be checked, otherwise the lives of sin sick people will be in jeopardy.

Caution: All drugs have a limited shelf life. Similarly, a generic Christian has a limited pew-life after which, like the out-of-date drug, he must be buried six feet underground.

While it is biblical for the apostles and prophets to receive double honour (1Tim. 5:17), we must debunk the claim that only professional ministers and fulltime, salaried missionaries, can evangelize Planet Earth. If business women like Lydia, Priscilla and Phoebe could take the gospel to Europe, and other merchants and craftsmen of the earlier centuries could take the gospel to the ends of the earth without any cost to the church, then there no reason why tentmakers cannot do it today. All we have to do is to wake up the slumbering foolish virgin (the church) and top her up with oil (the Holy Spirit), trim her lamp (become a light unto the Gentiles) and prepare for the coming of the Groom (Matt. 25:1-13). With the traditional churches imploding from within and hitting rock bottom, Yahweh is doing a new thing. The little ekklesias are already dictating and scripting a dramatic, global paradigm shift in the way the ekklesia ought to be. It is time to change.

Inheriting Planet Earth is the Agenda: Yahweh chose Israel to rule the nations (Exo. 19:5,6). The Joshua generation defeated thirty-one kings of Canaan. These kings were also priests of particular demon gods who actually ruled the city (Joshua chap 12). Joshua allotted land to each *Oikos* (family). They were to crush the enemy, plunder, possess and enforce righteous governance by imposing Yahweh's laws, and rule as priests and kings. The elders of households functioned as priests and sacrificed animals at home on festivals like the Passover. Yeshua shed His own blood and restored royal and priestly functions to the believers who are to reign on earth by demolishing demon gods like the princes of Tyrus, Persia and Greece who control the city through human agents. Yeshua declared, "I will build my ekklesia" in Caesarea Philippi, the most idolatrous city to which foreign ambassadors brought their own gods. We also need to go to the idolatrous parts of our cities and build His ekklesia there (Rev. 5:10; Eph. 6: 12; Dan. 10:13,20; Eze. 28; Matt. 16:13-19; 1Tim. 2:8; Rom. 16:20).

Joshua Vs. Moses Generation: While in Egypt, Israel had become idolatrous with slave mentality. They were spiritually, mentally and culturally grasshoppers. They would have never understood the concept of "kingdom of priests to the nations" and had to be destroyed in the wilderness. The Joshua generation, on the contrary, was raring to go and take possession of the Promised Land.

The Indian church today consists mostly of low caste Dalits. Having suffered oppression and slavery, it is incapable of understanding the "Royal Priesthood." Their children, however, are

celebrating liberation and heading out into the world as doctors, engineers, professionals, business managers and entrepreneurs. They are ready to take on the world but they need Joshuas to synergize them.

Ekklesias need to be planted (Christ incarnate in His Body) in the form of healthy, outreaching gatherings of believers, so that there is an ekklesia within practical (can go to) and cultural (would go to) distance of every person, in every class and kind of society. (Bob Waymire)

Nebuchadnezzar / Grasshopper Syndrome: The church has rejected the heavenly Manna and lusted for the leeks, onions, melons and garlic (Num. 11:5). They are stuck in the wilderness of the church compound and refuse to go and possess their Canaan (inheritance). The entire church generation suffering from grasshopper syndrome and their leaders afflicted with Nebuchadnezzar syndrome, “I have built this place with my great might for my own glory”, are likely to be lost in the church cemetery instead of the battle field, unless we find Joshuas and Calebs. The church has lost her destiny as the inheritor of the kingdom. If only a fraction of the millions of global Christians realized that they are Royal Priests, chosen from the foundation of the earth to rebuild desolate cities into Gardens of Eden by sharing the whole wisdom of Yahweh from house to house, Yeshua will then come and drink of the new wine and we will inherit the Gentiles and possess the earth (Dan. 4:30; Luke 22:18; Isa. 11:9; 54:3).

The modern church simply made bad choices and got fatally infected with the virus of false doctrines. It is time for a decent funeral and make a fresh start based on Yahweh’s agenda.

A Clergy Free Church: The NT model of clergy-free, building-free and sermon-free churches will free up billions of dollars, empower millions for the priesthood of all believers and make world evangelism a practical reality. It will tear down unbiblical structures and reinvent the church. Nominals will fall by the wayside but the remnant will thrive. The Chinese ekklesia was persecuted till she had no more structure left and had to go underground. The consequent exponential growth produced the purest and largest ekklesia in the world, although this is now threatened by denominational megabucks from the West and S. Korea.

Royalty Functions: The priestly function of offering Gentiles as a living sacrifice leads to numerical growth (Romans 15:16; Psalm 51:17), while the royalty function leads to world conquest, “Thy kingdom come and thy will be done on earth.” The Devil arrogantly said, “All these kingdoms belong to me and I give them to whomsoever I like” (Luke 4:5). Yeshua did not bother to tell him that He had authorized His ekklesia to dismember the demonic kingdom (Matt.16:18,19).

Because we have jurisdictional authority to decree and declare, the Devil can have only as much power and space on earth as we allow (Luke 10:19; 1John 5:18-21). (Beverly Pegues)

Yeshua the King’s strategy for ushering His kingdom on earth is to plunder the possessions (people) of the enemy (strongman) (Matt.12:28, 29) using a multi-pronged attack:

- 1.Enforcing abstract theology into practical outcomes for the lost people on the street.
- 2.A direct door to door home delivery system of salvation.
- 3.A supply line (disciples) to reach wherever the consumer happens to be (Mark Chap.5; 3:14).

4. Changing a purely sacramental and devotional religion into providing salvific and mercy ministries to the needy. Now every believer is a Royal Priest.

Access to salvation is a fundamental right of every citizen. The present church structure denies that right. The church needs to build an infrastructure that provides a door-to-door delivery system to ensure that this right is a reality and not an elusive myth.

“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ” is the agenda of the ekklesia (Rev. 11:15).

The Platform Ministry: A growing ministry is to take foreigners for a ride by eulogizing them on a platform. The organizer gathers an impressive crowd. Handicapped by language, the honoured guests do not know that the audience is hired. The audience goes back with the impression that the project is foreign funded and money changed hands without them getting their share of the pie.

The Road Map: Yeshua came to restore the kingdom of Yahweh on Planet Earth. But the kingdom cannot come without planting ekklesias, and the ekklesias cannot be planted without making disciples, and disciples cannot be made unless we go and seek and save the lost (Acts 1:6; Matt. 16:18; 28:19; Luke 19:10).

A frog in the well is worthless, but in the garden he protects the harvest by devouring all the harmful bugs and insects.

The global kingdom of Yahweh is the composite sum total of all the little kingdoms possessed and reigned over by each individual Christian. Yeshua cannot be the King (with a capital K) of kings unless there are kings (with a small k). There is no such thing as a Christian without a kingdom (king+domain). It is fatally flawed policies and practices that have deprived Christians of their inheritance (Acts 11:26; Rev. 5:10; 19:16).

Revival is not for churching the unchurched and increasing membership and money, but for unchurching the churching and sending them out to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

Yeshua does not go to church on Sundays. Every day He goes with those who nibble at the demonic kingdom, confirming the word with signs. We must go as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation and make every knee bow and every tongue confess that Yeshua is Lord (Mark 16:20; Phil. 2:10,11).

Yeshua’s task of saving sinners did not finish with His full and final sacrifice on the cross. Even today, He is interceding nonstop for sinners (Hebrew 7:25). The kingdom of Yahweh cometh not with observation (sitting in the church) but with violence (spiritual warfare) and the violent (intercessors) take it by force (Matt 11:12). With the right strategy, sinners should be breaking down the doors to enter the kingdom (Luke 16:16).

The institutional church (IC) and the NT ekklesia are based on two completely different paradigms. While the IC focuses on maintenance, the NT model has an expansionist agenda.

The Ekklesia Has a Geo-Political Agenda: The Muslim agenda to rule the world is biblical. “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” and then explode the Islamic demographic bomb. The Hindu agenda is to rule the world through yoga and idolatry. The Communist agenda is to rule through the barrel of a gun. The Buddhists’ agenda is to rule through the occult and meditation. Even Gays have an agenda to rule by legally criminalizing the Bible and the church. All are noisily claiming victories but in reality they are suffering from severe attrition and declining fast.

Islam since the 9/11 attack on the US Trade Center; Hinduism since the resurgence of Neo-Buddhism after the Independence of India; Buddhism since the Communist take over of China; Communism since the Tienanmen Square massacre and the fall of the Berlin wall, resulting in the dismemberment of Russia and the Gays since the HIV pandemic; are all going through alarming ideological and demographic erosion all over the world.

Sadly Christians, the earth inheritors, are unaware that the ekklesia is the only legal authority that must provide godly governance on earth. *Yahweh does not want the heathen to rule over His people* (Joel 2:17; Dan. 2:44). The ekklesia must break and consume and possess all the kingdoms of this world and set up the eternal kingdom. Then comes the end, when Yeshua delivers the kingdom to the Father, who will hand it back to us, the saints of the Most High (Matt. 16:18; Isa. 9:6; 1 Cor. 15:24; Dan. 2:44; 7:18, 27).

Yahweh started His ministry by planting a garden and has given us the ministry to possess the earth and to make it into a garden flowing with milk and honey (Gen. 2:8; Isa. 61:11; Joel 3:18).

Number Crunching: Impressive numbers of missionaries on the field, big budgets, large number of graduates graduating from Bible schools or broadcasting to thousands, do not necessarily result in a significant change in the religious landscape. Thailand, for example, has all these but little harvest. In fact it has become the sin capital of the world. Numbers only add to arrogance and pride. Indirect methods of evangelism such as schools, hospitals, acts of mercy, literature distribution, in general, do not work. Most missions function with an institutional mindset and are badly managed. The productivity of pastors and individual missionaries is abysmal. Their report card should include the number of souls saved, baptized, flocked, equipped and then sent out to replicate themselves.

Many agencies passionately offer tools and wares such as literature, films, discipleship manuals, electronic Bibles etc. They are so gung-ho about their products as the only solution to world evangelism that they cannot see the total picture beyond their noses. However, we must realize that these resources are just tools. They are not the total solution and can never replace one on one discipling. Many come to teach discipleship courses but back home they cannot even fill their own living rooms.

Five quality believers will chase a hundred and they will chase ten thousand enemies. On the other hand, only two enemies will put ten thousand nominals to flight (Lev. 26:8; Deut. 32:30; Isa. 30:17). If you want money, power and glory, then go for a mega church but if you want quality performers, then focus on equipping small number of competent and committed world changers.

Yeshua's ministry was local, "To the lost sheep of Israel." But He commissioned His disciples to go global and find the other sheep who are not of this fold (Math. 15:24; John 10:16; Rom. 15:20).

The Genius of Yeshua: The genius of Yeshua's strategy was to invest Himself primarily in "team building" of world changers who would "***do greater works than Him***" (John 14:12). He left to us the "greater work" of discipling the nations, flocking them in homes to be mentored and sent out as fishers of men. Initially he helped them to catch plenty of small fish, but later on He upgraded the tactics and helped them to catch 153 big fish. Nicodemus, the Centurion, the Ethiopian treasurer, Lydia, Phoebe and the governor of Cyprus were all big fish with the capacity to carry the movement forward. It is time the missions changed their priority from catching little fishes to catching great big fishes (Matt. 12:30; John 10:16; 17:18,20; 21:11; Gal. 2:2).

It is easy to evaluate yourself. If you are good soil, then you should be bringing forth thirty, sixty and even a hundredfold fruit. No point in sowing good seed on bad soil (Matt. 13:1-23).

Astonishingly, Yeshua asked His disciples to launch out into the deep when catching the small fish, but for the big fish he simply asked them to let down their net while they were in shallow water. It requires a huge attitude change on our part. Catching big fish is actually easier provided we have the right tools and techniques (Luke 5:4; John 21:6).

On the Day of Pentecost, the birthday of the ekklesia, under the power of the Holy Spirit, 3,000 families were added to the ekklesia. Later on, unnumbered multitudes were gathered. Finding, discipling, flocking and mentoring multi-ethnic, multi-generational, Gentile-centric teams are “greater works” that Yeshua promised (John 14:12).

Training someone without the objective of him training someone else who further replicates himself immediately, is a waste of time. (Jay R. Caven)

Yeshua sent out thirty-five teams of volunteers to the Judean villages with clear instructions and crisp “do’s and don’ts” for making disciples and planting ekklesias (Luke 10:1-9). We need to repent for not equipping volunteers to do greater exploits—just like we do with our biological children to do better than us. Paul never came back empty handed after preaching, but only after birthing ekklesias and leaving them in the hands of the sons and daughters of the soil.

Most of the things we do as a church are irrelevant as they are not related to His command, “I have set you to be light to the Gentiles for their salvation to the ends of the earth” (Isa. 49:6).

Membership of a church does not make anyone even remotely eligible for a free ticket to heaven. A “believer”, believes in Yahweh’s promises that he can expel demons and heal the sick (Mark 16:17,18). But a healing ministry alone will not help because it focuses on the body and not the soul. Yahweh is glorified only when acts of mercy are converted into lasting fruit. Good works, without discipling them into the kingdom, are futile. He will say, “I don’t know you” (Math. 7:22,23). Moses and Aaron were punished with death because they failed to glorify Yahweh, even as they provided water to the thirsty Israel at Meribah. (Deut. 32:48-52)

People of other faiths also do acts of mercy. Therefore when we do good works, they must be done with a message and a method that people can understand and imitate and with a clear invitation to repent and receive new life. (Galen Currah)

Bypass Surgery: Yahweh bypassed the religious elite of the day to announce the birth of Yeshua. Instead, He spoke to the Magi, the Gentile astrologers. The Jews had been waiting for the Messiah to be born in Bethlehem for a millennium, but completely missed the event because they were busy with the temple activities. Even the visit of the Gentile priests caused no flutter among them.

For exponential growth invest in pagan priests.

Heathen priests exert an enormous influence. Saint Patrick (AD 500) went from one sun worshipping Druid priest to the next until the whole of Ireland was converted in his own lifetime. Porgeirr Porkelsson, a Norse pagan priest followed Christ and Iceland converted as a nation on a single historic day in 1000 AD.

Christians who are not bringing heathen brethren as an offering unto the Lord out of all nations, to make them priests and ministers, so that all flesh can come and worship Him; are worshipping a different god (Isa. 66:20,21;23; 60:1-7).

The William Carey Model: William Carey was a scholar and came (AD 1792) from a reading culture. His simplistic thinking was to put the printed Bible in the hands of the people, who would then automatically be converted. However, the vast majority were illiterate, a great mismatch. A few high caste Brahmins, the only literate people, promptly converted to Christianity in order to get plum jobs as head clerks, teachers in colleges and schools and top administrators in the British government. Once the British left India, their conversion stopped and now Bengal is one of the most resistant and least evangelized states. The ekklesia planting movement never took off because it was not based on character and obedience, but on the wisdom of the flesh which is the graveyard of all our modern seminaries and missionary methods because it is divorced from the realities of the harvest field.

Evangelists, pastors, teachers and moneybags build church buildings with dead bricks but apostles and prophets build the edifice with living stones, with Yeshua as the cornerstone.

Joseph, Esther, Nehemiah, Daniel and others went as young slaves to very hostile, idolatrous countries where they served powerful Gentile Emperors. They faced jealousy, imprisonment, sex scandal and violence. Their names were changed, asked to eat polluted meat and drink alcohol, married off to pagans, lived with occultists and sorcerers and forced to worship idols. But through integrity, righteous living, defiant prayer, fasting and effective use of both spiritual and secular gifts, without compromising, they rose to the top and boldly modelled godly governance in extreme heathen situations. We can never be a blessing inside the church. For that to happen, each one of us needs to find his/her own Babylon.

Blessing is never for selfishly appropriating it for oneself. In the Scriptures it is nearly always associated with fruitfulness and multiplication, “Be fruitful and multiply...”

We are not sure what the clergy make, but we do know for sure that the disciples make disciples. It is the disciples who turned the Gentile world upside down. In the NT, the word “disciple” comes three hundred times, “believer” nine times and “pastor” merely once (Eph. 4:11).

The Print Culture is a Stronghold: There is a massive disconnect between the four billion non-literates of the two-thirds world and the literate, cerebral Christians. The print culture does not necessarily translate into witnessing Christians. Bible lovers do not always love the lost people. Most new converts experience and testify about Christ before they read about Him; “But this I know, that I was blind and now I see” (John 9:25). Yahweh does not speak only from the pulpit but in a myriad of other ways (Heb.:1,2). Knowledge from books and electronic media can be acquired in isolation. Non-literates require relational dynamics to hear the gospel through stories, songs and dialogue, a completely different paradigm. Written literature is worthless for them. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Yahweh” (Rom.10:17).

The best way to communicate the gospel is through storytelling, illustrated picture books and audio-video etc. Yeshua was a master storyteller and taught nothing without parables (Matt.13:34). If it worked for Yeshua then surely it can work for anyone. House groups are the best place for converting someone into an effective “Oral Bible.” All the major religions like Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam spread through storytellers. As billions will remain illiterate into the foreseeable future, it is the storytellers who will change the story of this world.

Cosmetic Curriculum: Hundreds of Bible schools train thousands of pastors through structured curricula. These pastors have little impact in terms of the penetration of the Gospel among the higher castes, Muslims and Buddhists who primarily communicate through stories and poems. Disregarding the popular story culture has been a disaster.

The Bible is Yahweh's storybook. On the road to Emmaus, Yeshua narrated from Moses through all the Prophets and the eyes of His two followers were opened. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter told the story from the prophet Joel to the spiritual Son of David and three thousand were baptized. Stephen told the story from Abraham to Solomon's Temple; this resulted in persecution and the rapid spread of Christianity. Paul told his own story everywhere; he read heathen poems in Athens and turned the world upside down.

Comparative religion, missiology and all the other academic add-ons have only a cosmetic effect as they deal with concepts and not with praxis. We will accelerate the spread of the gospel if we produce effective storytellers so that the billions of non-literates worldwide will hear within their own culture, context and language. This might be too traumatic for the people embedded in the print culture, as it requires a complete paradigm shift in the way we equip leaders. Yeshua did not send scholars to give lectures but disciples as His witnesses to go and inherit the ends of the earth.

The Whole Bible is the Book of Acts: The Bible is not a book of academic theology or philosophy, but it is primarily a book of action. It starts with the creative acts of Yahweh and ends with the creation of the new earth and heaven. The Ten Commandments, the ceremonial laws, the bath of purification, the sacrifices, all the feasts and the ministry of the prophets were prophetic acts. Many of these will continue even in the new dispensation when everyone goes to Jerusalem to worship the King and celebrate the festival of Booths and offer sacrifices (Heb. 8:5; Zech. 14:16,17).

Evangelism is an abused word. To some it means tract and film distribution, to others just sharing the gospel. Yeshua, Peter, Paul and Philip's evangelistic efforts resulted in thousands of baptisms.

Yeshua was evaluated by John the Baptist. He validated His claim to Christhood not through mere words but by His acts: "Go and 'show' John that the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the dead are raised and the gospel is being preached." He was crucified not just for His utterances but also for His acts of challenging the religious leaders and turning over the money tables. He capped it with his prophecy of the destruction of the Jewish Temple building and the declaration that His house was open to all nations (Matt. 11:2-6; Mark 11:17).

Yeshua's primary method of training the twelve was team building "that they might be with Him" (Mark 3:14; Luke 6:15). They saw Him healing, delivering, teaching, demolishing opposition and baptizing. Our evangelistic efforts should result in Satan fall like lightning, being hit by a bolt out of the blue (Luke 10:17-19).

Yeshua is our model evangelist. His mission was to win the lost, build up the believers, equip labourers, multiply disciples and model the kingdom. We need to evaluate all our preaching formulas, evangelistic methods and training techniques against that of Yeshua's so that the world may believe (Luke 4:43;10:1;John13:34,35;17:21). (Ngul K.Pao)

We are not here to populate a distant heaven but that "Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done 'on earth' as it is in heaven." Yeshua was crucified not only for His words but also for His acts, which if all written down would fill the earth (John 21:25). Like our Master, we also

need to validate our faith through acts that incarnate the holistic reign of Yahweh on Planet Earth (Matt. 6:10; 16:27; 1Cor. 2:4,5).

We should stop plucking the soul out of the Body and spiritualizing it. To justify our calling, we should be busy writing our own Chapter 29 of the Book of Holistic Acts.

What in the world are we preaching? Yeshua came preaching “the good news of the kingdom of Yahveh” (Luke 4:43). This expression comes 122 times in the synoptic gospels, 90 times from the lips of Yeshua. He taught us kingdom prayer (Matt. 6:10). He asked us to seek the kingdom first. His last act on the cross was to take a sinner into the kingdom (Matt. 6:33; Luke 23:43). All His parables relate to the kingdom. He taught about the kingdom to His disciples for forty days after His resurrection. Did they get it? No. They asked Him, “When will you restore the earthly kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:3,6) However, as soon as the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, they got it. Sadly, most churches have yet to get it and when they get it, they will not only speak in tongues but will also baptize 3000 people into the kingdom.

Yeshua Was Himself a Mobile Seminary: Whereas we train eloquent orators for the pulpit, Yeshua trained his disciples to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the ordinary men and women on the street. He conducted roadside and in-house seminars all day and every day. Yeshua asserted, “Today, tomorrow and the day after, I will conduct healing and deliverance ministry on the street.” Yeshua said, “I will build my church.” At the end of His ministry, He left behind a church of transformed lives without buildings or rituals. We need to model that church (Luke 13:32,33; Math 4:23-25).

Yeshua, the Tree of life, was accredited on the basis of miracles, signs and wonders (Acts 2:22). Seminaries, the Tree of knowledge, are accredited on the basis of academics. The vast majority of the ekklesias are planted after power encounter, spiritual warfare, dreams and visions and not after intellectual discourse or anointed sermons.

His disciples preached the kingdom through healing the sick, delivering the demonized and made disciples. Paul preached through signs and miracles from Jerusalem to Illyricum (Acts 5:12-16; Rom. 15:19)

Paul says, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). He further says, “Things you have *learned* from me, *received*, *heard* and *saw* in me, **do**” (Phil 4:9). “**Doing**” is entirely missing from our theological paradigm whose aim is to train scholars. The theologians need to learn the skills to become extraordinary fishers of men. We need to “**perform** the word” (Jer. 1:12); “**do** the word” (Deut 30:14); “the Lord working with them and affirming the word with signs and wonders” (Mark 16:20). David prayed, “Teach me to **do** your will” (Ps 143:10). Evangelization and discipling are two sides of the same coin. It is having the fish in the bag that makes you a fisher of men—not just sharing the gospel.

2000 years after Yeshua’s warning that the harvest is ready, the labour crunch continues to be a scandal of global magnitude. Training theologians, who are irrelevant to the needs of the men and women on the street, is a cruel joke on the lost people.

Every Christian needs to acquire spiritual warfare skills needed for possessing his/her eternal inheritance: Based on Acts 26:17,18

1. *Open the eyes of the heathen*
2. *Turn them from darkness to light*
3. *From the power of Satan to Yahweh*
4. *That they may receive forgiveness of sins and*
5. *An inheritance among the saints (Acts 26:17,18).*

For maximum effectiveness, any training should be very practical and interactive with times of sharing tools, resources and case studies, and making culture specific Church Planting Movement plans. Presentations should include “best practices” in evangelism, boldness upgrading, contextualization, overcoming “stuckages” (where missionaries get stuck and cannot move to the next level), the use of volunteers, security and developing saturation strategies. (Craig Harris)

Joshua went out to possess the land of Canaan and chided Israel, “How long are you going to wait to possess the remaining Yahweh given land?” The church needs to be sharply rebuked for not possessing the land that the Lord has given her (Josh. 18:3; 11:23).

Do not try to change the world by yourself. Share talents with a person of peace who will multiply it and then rule over ten cities.

Yeshua is outcome oriented and He will reward you according to your performance (John 9:4; Matt. 16:27). His style was to “do first” and then teach afterwards (Acts 1:1). This is very different from the banal platitudes doled out to us today from every platform. Organic ekklesias rather than seminaries are to be the hub for training disciples (2 Cor. 6:16). Yeshua Himself was the message, the school and the curriculum, the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2).

Potato Power: The potato is the most popular vegetable and is found equally on the plates of the rich and poor of all nations. It is versatile, with the ability to meld and gel to create a huge variety of yummy dishes to please every palate, from chips to spuds and even vodka. Apart from minerals, it is full of calories that provide power (energy). No wonder the United Nations chose 2008 as the “Year of the Potato.” Likewise, the pew potato (layman) has all the ingredients and the potential to reach every segment of humanity. Sadly it has been allowed to rot and made fit for the garbage can.

The Opium of Morning Devotion: Within the comfort of their own home, many Christians faithfully pray, study the scriptures, listen to divine music and read motivational daily lessons from their favourite booklets. By the time their devotion time is over they are spiritually doped. The Devil then sends them a strong delusion about their self-righteousness. They are now ready to hang their spirituality behind at home and go out for their daily business with zero spiritual impact on the world outside.

Christ, on the other hand, climbed a hilltop at the crack of dawn from where He could see and pray for the city. He resonated with the Father, agonizing in prayer for the world, for His disciples that they might be one, for the lack of labourers in the harvest field and other burning issues related to the kingdom. By sunrise, He was ready to go into the world to empower His disciples, demolish the gates of Hell and extend and expand the Kingdom. A devotion which includes an early morning prayer walk, is a powerful time for resonating with the Father’s will, armouring yourself with spiritual weapons, then exercising your legal authority of imposing the kingdom agenda on Planet Earth. A devotion should not be open ended, but purpose driven and goal oriented so that by the end of the day you should be able to see how far you have extended the boundaries of the kingdom (Matt.6:9-11; Mark 1:35-39; Luke 13:33-35; 1John 5:14,15).

A cavalier and casual attitude towards the lost serves no purpose other than that of the Adversary. Learning kingdomization principles, best practices and discipling skills should occupy a healthy space in every believer’s daily agenda.

Crusades are a Stronghold: Mega crusades are mega disasters as the mega-stars cater mostly to Christians who go for their own healing and deliverance instead of conducting mini

healing and deliverance ministries in their own neighbourhood. When they do not receive their healing, they wait for the next crusade. In spite of astronomical claims, crusades have a minimal impact on church growth because they make no disciples and therefore have little lasting fruit. Today, there is more healing and deliverance conducted by the first generation of new converts in villages every day than by all the *mass-merizers* put together, who do not model the kingdom with their lifestyles. Much more could be done if the megabucks wasted on jamborees could reach the feet of the apostles out in the harvest fields (Rom.10:13-15).

Critical Pathway: Discipling is not a one-time event but a rapid systematic process like a nuclear reaction. Yeshua went to the fig tree looking for fruit “out of season” (Mark 11:13). He said that the harvest no longer has to wait another four months, but is ready now (John 4:35).

Paul trained Timothy to be instant. The gospel spread from Jerusalem to Judea, to Samaria and beyond at an incredible speed. The old paradigm of waiting for fruit in due season is no longer applicable (2Tim. 2:2; 4:2). Paul carpet-bombed the land with the gospel from Jerusalem to Illyricum, including Damascus, Arabia, Syria, Asia Minor, Greece, Macedonia and Rome in just fourteen years’ of ministry. (Rom.15:19,20).

Today, the old paradigm of institutionalized churches baptizing on Easter Day and planting a few churches here and there is gone. Asia, Africa and South America are baptizing every day and planting ekklesias by the thousands.

There are several reasons for the dramatic changes:

1. A change of paradigm that the impossible is now possible.
2. Unity among ekklesias pursuing a common vision rather than their own agendas.
3. United and strategic prayer, prayer walking and concerts, along with dreams and visions.
4. Empowering of indigenous leaders from the two-thirds world.
5. Non-formal training.
6. Goal setting.
7. Completion thinking.
8. Greater openness among other faiths.
9. Persecution.
10. The power of information and technology.

Yahweh is doing some amazing things around the world today—very different and more significant than what we have seen in the past. What was impossible just a few years ago (or at least seemed impossible) we now talk of as very possible. (Steve Steele)

Paul, a theological scholar and a Pharisee, only became an effective missionary after he had learned discipling skills from Barnabas for a whole year in Antioch. He went to Cyprus, visited a synagogue at Paphos and established a Jewish ekklesia. He then went straight to catch the biggest fish in town, fought a spiritual battle, blinded the eyes of Elymas the sorcerer and opened the eyes of Governor Sergius, made him a disciple and changed Cyprus forever (Acts 13:6-12; Prov. 25:5).

Like our Master, the greatest complement we can be paid is to be called “a friend of sinners.” We are called to shun sin but not sinners. How else can you change the world? (Matt. 11:19)

Paul’s Consistent Missionary Method

1. Paul always went to the synagogues first to extract the Jews and planted a Jewish church. They knew the scriptures but did not know that the Messiah had come (Acts 13:5; 17:1,10; 18:4, 19).

2. Then he would go to the Gentiles and power preached, through healing, deliverance and spiritual warfare with the local strongholds like Diana of Ephesus, the python spirit of Philippi, and so on. The Messianic Jews then mentored the Gentiles.
3. He would share the whole wisdom of Yahweh from house to house and publicly. Suffer persecution and leave (Acts 9:15,16;13:42-50; 20:20,27; 14:3; 2 Cor. 12:12).
4. He stayed in a strategic place and nurture multiple generations of disciples and then leave. Then his disciples went and proclaimed the gospel everywhere. (Acts 18:6-11; 19:8-10,22).
5. Later he would revisit them or send apostolic teams or write letters and appoint local elders (Acts 20:17; 14:23; Titus 1:5-9; 2Tim. 2:2; 1Thess. 1:8;).

The Nimrod Syndrome: The fascination with bricks and mortar is not new. Nimrod built a tower to keep people from being “scattered over the face of the earth,” in direct rebellion to Yahweh’s command to “be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth.” The modern day church buildings are a replica of Nimrod model, complete with confusion of communication between them. Yahweh wants us to scatter, not be confined in one place. Unlike the modern day, upward academic migration into oblivion, Paul’s cutting edge strategy focused on downward scattering to keep the growing edge growing. The harvest is at the growing edge, so neglecting it is a poor evangelistic strategy.

The urgent task before the ekklesia is to make every Christian a disciple maker, and every disciple an ekklesia planter, and every Christian home a house ekklesia. (Alex Abraham)

Modern people live in an age of moral erosion, pollution, job related stress, terrorism and double standards, with a disposable income to finance this lifestyle. They cannot be saved in the traditional church because they live out their busy lives in malls and multiplexes, far removed from the church orbit. To be relevant, the church needs to constantly relocate herself to where the harvest is.

For where your house is, there shall your ekklesia also be. Every child of Yahweh can have an ekklesia in his house. (Molong Nacua)

Love is a Bilateral Covenant and not just a Doctrine: All denominations are based on certain divisive doctrines, but the Christian faith is based on the person of Yeshua. He is the doctrine, “If you continue in My word, you shall know the truth and the truth will make you free” (John 8:31,32). The early ekklesia was a runaway success because they were of “one accord” (Acts 1:14; 2:1,46).

To finish the task of world evangelism, Yeshua sanctified His disciples with the truth and released them (John 17:15-20).

There are nineteen commands of Yeshua. The “love commands” He gave us are all kingdom expanders. Love the Father (Matt.22:37); love your neighbour (Mark 12:31); love your enemy (Matt 5:44) and love each other (John 13:34,35). To love only the Father is religiosity; to love only your neighbour is socializing. If you do not love your wife then your prayers will be hindered (1Peter 3:7). If you do not love your enemy then you cannot be perfect. The “one another’s” are mentioned over fifty times, and the house ekklesia is the best place for practicing them (Rom. 12:10; 13:8).

Love is a bilateral covenant. There is no point in singing “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so” and conveniently forgetting that the Yeshua also tells you, “If you love Me then you will keep My commandments-Go and make disciples, baptize, equip and send” (John 14:21,23,24; 15:10,12; Matt. 28:19).

The Fractured Mandate: After forty days of mountain top experience, Moses came down with the mandate written on stone tablets. The tablets were broken because Israel was already

worshipping another god. Yahweh had to rewrite the mandate but first there was a painful cleansing. Three thousand were killed by the Levites (Exo. 32:28). Now Yahweh is writing His mandate on the hearts of the people. But first the church must repent. The mandate is no longer Law but Love (Heb. 9:10, 11).

Embedded in this love mandate is obedience. “He who loves me keeps my commandments” (John 14:15). All these “love” commandments are fulfilled in obeying the Great Commission, to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, equipping them (making them obedient) and sending them (as the Father has sent me so I send you) (Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8; John 20:21).

Yale and Harvard started as seminaries who taught students to have treasure in heaven. Today they are the top business schools. Their graduates influence global politics and economics to have treasure on earth which thieves steal and moth corrupt (Luke 12:31-34).

Yahweh is pouring out His Spirit on all flesh—men, women and children. He is now using ordinary men and women in small house ekklesias, short-term training courses and temporary networks of missions to catch the greatest harvest of all time.

The Golden Command to love Yahweh and our neighbours can only be fulfilled through the Great Commission (Luke 10:27). Authority and function must pass on to reformed sinners.

The corporatization of our churches will embarrass even industry, which, because it is based on competition, gloats over success at the expense of others. It is founded on the world’s oldest motive—profit at any cost. The corporate culture of “winner takes all” must give way to a relational model of caring and sharing. (Basant Pawar/Richard Howell)

Praise and Worship as a Stronghold: Bishop Gregory of Rome, a disciplined man, did not like the Spirit-led, messy, organic ekklesias. In the 5th century, he organized worship through the “Order of Worship” consisting of a chant (now praise), followed by scripture lessons, a small sermon, announcements and dismissal (the Catholic Mass). This unscriptural Gregorian “Order of Worship”, is faithfully followed by all regardless of their doctrines.

In an organized church, the pastor is an event manager. Spirit-led, spontaneous worship is out, and the man-made Gregorian Order of Worship is in. Meanwhile in an organic ekklesia, the discipling of seekers is the authentic praise and worship.

In a Jewish *Bet Midrash* (house of study), popularly known as *pilpeliya* (hot pepper), people sit facing each other with the open Torah and literally yell at each other. In the Open ekklesia of the New Testament (1 Cor. 14:24-26), every one, including a non-believer speaks freely and frankly. The result is that he falls prostrate and repents, “Yahweh is truly amongst you,” thus adding new believers daily. The sacrifices of Yahweh are a broken spirit and a contrite heart (Acts 2:46,47; Psalm 51:17).

In the OT, the Jews offered animals as a sacrifice for the expiation of their sins. The Jerusalem Temple was called a “House of Slaughter (sacrifice)” (2Chron. 7:12). How could Yahweh smell the acrid stench of burning fat and flesh and call it sweet smelling aroma? Simply because a soul that sinned had been saved from real hellfire and brimstone. Now as Royal Priests we offer Gentiles as offerings, slain by the sword of the Spirit (1Peter 2:9; Rom. 12:1; 15:16; Heb. 4:12). Ekklesia is now the altar where sinners are sanctified to be acceptable as sweet smelling offerings to the Father (1 Cor.14: 24,25; Isa 66:20; Mal.1:11).

Entry into the Temple precinct without a sacrifice was prohibited to Jews during the three feasts (Exo. 23:14-16). The first time the word “worship” occurs in the Scriptures is when Abraham went to offer Isaac as *korban* (sacrifice) (Genesis 22:5).

Sacrifice (Latin: sacer facere) means to “to make sacred”. In Judaism and other religions, the sacrificer was redeemed by making a sacrifice but the victim perished. Now in Christ both we, the sacrificers and the repentant souls we offer as sacrifice are made sacred and redeemed. Yeshua himself was the sacrificer and the ultimate sacrifice.

Worship without making disciples is a travesty of His command and what we do in His name in the church is a farce.

Most Christians give lip service on Sundays and call it worship. The other six days of the week, body, mind and spirit are devoted to the worship of Mammon. Yeshua wants a daily offering of both your body and mind, outside the church, as a reasonable sacrifice (Heb.13:13,15; Rom. 12:1,2). In Athens, Paul’s spirit was stirred by the rampant idolatry he saw. He disputed with the Jews in the synagogue on the Sabbath and daily with the Gentiles in the market place. Yahweh does not need Sunday only Christians but 24x7 marketplace Christians (Acts 17:16,17).

Any human strategy can be short circuited through fasting, prayer, sackcloth and ashes and the effective use of gifts.

The time and location has now shifted from the Jerusalem Temple to, “From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, incense (prayer) and pure offering (sanctified sinners) will be offered in Gentile homes” (Mal 1:11). “Yahweh heals the broken in heart and binds up their wounds.” The highest form of worship is not electric powered decibels inside the sacred buildings but Holy Spirit powered salvation of souls in the “ekklesia without walls” (Rev.5:9-10; Rom. 15:16; Psalm 147:3; 51:17; Luke 19:10; 15:7,10; Dan. 12:3; James 5:20).

Offering sacrifices is central to worship. Cain, Abel, Abraham and their descendents offered them (Gen. 22:5; 2 Chron. 7:12; Deut. 16:16). Now the ekklesia is the altar where Jews (Isa 66:20,21), Gentiles (Rom. 15:16; Isa. 56:6-8), Muslims (Isa. 60:6,7) and even eunuchs (Isa 56:3-5) should be offered until Yahweh’s agenda, “All flesh shall come and worship Me” is fulfilled (Isa. 43:9; 52:10; 66:23).

The Ekklesia Must Pastor The Whole City: It is not necessary to go to church to connect with Yahweh, especially when your city is going to Hell. Discipling is connecting with people intellectually, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Why die like a worm inside a cocoon when you can stretch out and fly like a butterfly, cross-pollinating fruits and flowers and converting the desolate city into a fruitful garden? A pastor must shepherd his flock throughout the week to see that they are restoring their fallen city into *Yerushalayim*, the city of peace (Isa. 60:14, 21).

The traditional church is undergoing a planned obsolescence. It is being replaced by new wine in new wineskins.

Redemption is not just for individuals but the whole of creation is travailing for the sons of Yahweh. Sadly, many do not even know that they are sons of Yahweh and are too busy to worry about the open rape of creation. Good intentions, visions and dreams are not enough. We must own our dreams and chase after them. Faith is not just a personal thing but is for sharing and thereby changing others’ faithscape. Inner reality without outward expression is worthless. “For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks” (1 Pet. 3:15; Luke 6:45; John 1:12; Rom. 1:8; 8:19; 10:9,10).

Christianity is not about going to church but going to each house in the village and saying, “Peace to this house” (Luke 10:5).

Are You a Failed Pastor? If you are biologically mature, then you have all the chemistry to start a family. Similarly, if you are spiritually mature, you have all the gifts to start a “Shalom

Bayit” or “House of Peace” and to offer peace offerings (Luke 10:6). If this is not happening, something is seriously wrong with your spiritual DNA. It would be better to change your mentors because the concept that you are a pastor, ordained to convert the secular into sacred, and accountable for the souls of the neighbours, workmates and fellow pilgrims that constitute your parish, has never been conveyed to you. You have failed to feed and shepherd them into the kingdom. They have no pastor other than you. You need to fix your chemistry with them and convert sceptics into your disciples (Gal. 6:4-6; Eze.3:18-21).

The central point of worship in the OT was not the singing of endless songs with stringed musical instruments, but the offering of four-footed animals as a sacrifice. No one was allowed to come empty handed to the Temple (Deut 16:16).

The system has not changed much. Now you are a Royal Priest, made so by the blood of the Lamb, not by being ritualistically “ordained” (Rev. 5:9,10). Your business is to offer not four-footed animals, but two legged Gentiles (Rom. 15:16). Converting a “House of Prayer” into a “House of *Zebach* (sacrifice)” (Mark 11:17; 2Chron. 7:12; Mal. 1:11) is the core strategy given to every disciple by the Master himself (Luke 10:5-9). The more sacrifices you offer, the more fruit will abound in your account (Phil 4:17).

The fruit-laden Gentile Samaritan woman did not sing any choruses. Fruitless, noisy churches have never heard “Be still and know that I am Yahweh. I will be exalted among the Gentiles” (Ps. 46:10).

Calling a Royal Priest, a “Layman” is as much an outrageous act as calling him “Reverend,” a sacrilege of the worst kind.

The Tragedy: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego’s “priesthood to the nations” had publicly challenged the might of the powerful Gentile king, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, by defying his golden idol in the presence of his princes, governors, captains, judges and the rulers of the provinces. A visibly shaken and humbled Nebuchadnezzar issued a royal decree to people, nations and tongues that they should worship Yahweh of the Jews and became the greatest evangelist of the Old Testament (Dan. 3:29).

Many Diaspora merchants and craftsmen who were present on the Day of Pentecost went and evangelized the greater part of the East travelling as far as Persia (Iran), India and China via the Silk Roads (Acts 2:5-11). Arbela and Edessa in northern Mesopotamia, Urfa in Turkey, Baghdad in Iraq and Cananore in India were all trading cities that provided a strategic springboard for the spread of Christianity. By AD 225 there were twenty bishoprics throughout the lands of the Magi. While Eastern Persia remained Buddhist, central Persia became Zoroastrian and the Western Jewish Persia converted to Christ until a merchant woman named Khadija married Mohammed, the founder of Islam, in the 7th century CE and changed the religious and political canvas. After the church’s insistence on using Syriac, a Semitic language like Aramaic, rather than using the local language, and its orthodoxy, ritualism, intolerance and ruthless exploitation, the draconian Islamic *Sharia* (law) came as a relief. The sons of Ishmael (Muslims) then overran the Bible lands including Jerusalem (AD 638) and decimated the followers of Isa Bin Maryam (Christians) for a millennium (Habak.1:5-11).

The Messianic traders planted more ekklesias in history than the missionaries, who merely went and strengthened them.

9/11/2001 Boomerangs: The fundamentalists greatly rejoiced at the demolition of the World Trade Centre. Since then, the media has highlighted only violence and negatives. But in reality, the Bible lands are on the boil because the Egyptians, Iraqis, Iranians, Afghans,

Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Sudanese, Saudis, Kurds, Turks and Ethiopians are turning to Christ in numbers unimaginable, the majority since 9/11. Mongolia alone grew from five Christians to 50,000 first generation Christians in just one decade. There is a mushrooming of house ekklesias because of radio, satellite TV and Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion of Christ*, which is seen as anti-Semitic. However, it is the work of the Holy Spirit, as people are seeing dreams and visions of Isa Al Masih and coming to Christ in large numbers. (Joel C. Rosenberg)

Soon Gog and Magog will attack Israel for the apocalyptic war. Before that happens we must raise up the tabernacle of the greater son of David in the Bible lands which are currently in the possession of the Jehadi sons of Ishmael (Isa. 60:6,7; Amos 9:12).

According to the Quran, no one can be a perfect Muslim (surrendered) without acknowledging the divinity of Isa Al Masih. However, the established church is the biggest obstacle to their doing this. Identifying with it can be both futile and fatal. Abraham offered a ram for Isaac. It is now time for the multitude of rams of Kedar and Nebaioth, the sons of Ishmael, to be offered on the holy altar, to glorify His house of glory (Isa. 60:6,7). We need culture sensitive "People of the Book" who can disciple them, using their sacred texts as bridges. (Abul/Asgar Ali)

Our Jewish Inheritance: Yeshua was a Jew. He only had the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and fulfilled all the Ten Commandments of the Torah. Yeshua had come to fulfil the Covenant, not to destroy it (Matt. 5:17,18). He wept over Jerusalem and said that He would not return until the Jews say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of *Adonai*" (Luke 13:34,35). Yahweh said that the Jews are the apple of His eye (Zech. 2:8). Notwithstanding that, the Jews suffered the worst persecution in history. We can blame them for being responsible for the murder of Yeshua and bringing a curse upon themselves, "Let His blood be upon us and upon our children" (Matt. 27:25), but that is neither helpful nor Christian.

Sadly, the Christians were silent during the worst holocausts, inquisitions and pogroms, and at times they actively killed the Jews through the Crusades and in other horrible ways. Today the Jews are a house divided. The Reform Jews focus on Yahweh, the Orthodox on the Torah and the Conservatives on Israel. Most Zionists are secular. Whatever the shade of their faith, they are all united on possessing *Aretz Yisrael*, the land of Israel. Paul said the Gospel is for the salvation of the Jews first, and that all Israel will be saved. All the early churches were Jewish and it was only later the *Goyim* (Gentiles) were added. Paul says that the destiny of the wild Gentile church is inextricably tied up with the Jews as we are grafted onto the cultivated Jewish olive tree and draw life-giving sap from her roots. Today there are about 20,000 Messianic Jews in Israel and probably half a million worldwide (Rom. 1:16; 11:17, 26).

The Feasts of the Lord were ordained by the Lord. They were not just for the Jews but have their fulfilment in the church:

1. The Feast of Passover was given to Israel but it depicts the Messiah's death on Calvary for the sins of the world. Clearly, its provision goes beyond Israel.
2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was given to Israel but it depicts the fact that the Lord's body would not decay in the grave. Again, a crucial Church doctrine.
3. The Feast of First Fruits was given to Israel. It depicts the Lord's triumphal resurrection. It is because He lives that believers also live.
4. The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) was given to Israel but it depicts the birth of the Church through the New Covenant. Believing Jews and believing Gentiles become one in the Messiah.

5. The Abrahamic covenant (Gen 12:1-3) was made with the father of the Jewish nation but it is the source and wellspring of every blessing the church possesses.

6. The Davidic covenant (2Sam 7:8-16) was made with Israel's king, but it is the basis of the Messiah's return as the Son of David to take his rightful throne as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

7. The New Covenant was made with Israel (Jer. 31:31; Matt. 26:28), but the Church has entered into its provision for salvation.

8. The Lord's Table was initiated with the elements of the Jewish Passover, with Jewish disciples, but it is an ordinance of the Church.

9. The command to evangelize the world was given to the eleven Jewish disciples (Matt. 28:16-20), but it is commonly known as "The Great Commission of the Church."

10. The Church is built upon the foundation of Jewish apostles and prophets. Yeshua, a Jew, is the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20).

(Marvin J Rosenthal - The Feasts of the Lord, published by Nelson)

There are seven mandatory feasts ordained by the Lord. The four Spring feasts have already been fulfilled in Yeshua.

1. *Passover* was fulfilled when Yeshua was offered as the Pascal Lamb. The Communion service is only a memorial.

2. During the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*, the Jewish family has to remove every trace of leaven, a sign of corruption from the house. The church needs to do the same.

3. *The Feast of Firstfruits* reminds us that unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it cannot multiply (John 12:24).

4. *Shavuot*: Pentecost (fifty), is the name given by the Christians. The Jews call it *Hag Ha Katsir*, "The Feast of Reaping and Gathering the harvest" based on Exo. 23:16. On that day Yahweh gave the Torah (Law) to Israel on Mount Sinai and Yeshua gave the Holy Spirit to the ekklesia to "reap and gather the harvest". The Book of Ruth is read extensively on that day as her life was related to gleaning the harvest. It is a day when people like Ruth, a despised Moabite, should be saying to us, "Your people will be my people and your God will be my God." Pentecost should be celebrated with dip-tizing people by the thousands. (Ruth 1:16)

The three Feasts yet to be fulfilled are:

5. *The Feast of Trumpets* depicts the second coming of Yeshua when the church will be raptured in the twinkling of an eye and the wicked will be judged (1 Cor. 15:52).

6. *The Day of the Atonement* comes 15 days after the *shofar* is blown, a period of grace for repentance before the Book of Life is closed forever (Zech. 12:9,10; Rom. 11:25,256; Matt. 25:31-34).

7. During *The Feast of Tabernacles*, the Jews erect temporary booths and live in them for a week reminding them of their stay in the wilderness. The Messiah will one day tabernacle among men, wiping away their tears and ushering in the new Kingdom. This Feast will be celebrated throughout eternity, as all flesh will go to Jerusalem to worship the King (Rev. 21:3-7; Zec. 14:16-18; Isa. 66:23).

It is time to junk the unbiblical man-made Christmas, Good Friday and Easter and restore the original Yahweh ordained "My Feasts" and their deeper significance in the church calendar (Lev. 23:2).

The scriptural symbol of ultimate peace, tranquillity, security and abundance of fruitfulness is a man sitting with his neighbour under his own vine and fig tree (Micah 4:4; Zech. 3:10).

The age old disconnect between the sons of Isaac and Ishmael cannot be solved by keeping the communal pot boiling as the present rulers are doing. Messianic Jews and their bloodline cousins, the Messianic Arabs, must come to each other's homes and eat *Challah*, the double braided bread offered at the temple, symbolic of the intertwining of Jews and Gentiles. World evangelism will not happen without factoring in the redemption of the Jews. (Rom. 10:19;11:11; Acts 20:20,27). The Gentile church must provoke the Jews to jealousy and pray for Jerusalem's shalom to bring back *Mashiach Ben Dawid* to sit on His Father's throne (Ps.122; Act 2:30).

Christianity is a corporate manifesto and is not just a personal, feel good program. Israel had a strong sense of ethnic identity and peoplehood. It is not, I/Thou but We/Thou. (David H. Stern)

Organizational Strongholds: Missions build structures believing they will last forever. But once they lose their first love for Yeshua and survival becomes their aim, He chooses others to finish the task. Institutions have to find resources for salaries, pensions, housing, education, medical care, travel, death relief etc. "To our shame, the US churches give only two cents out of every dollar for overseas missions, which is less than what they gave during the Great Depression" (Gene Edward Veith).

Institutions also require an electoral process for electing their officials, where money, muscle, booze and other sins abound. Today, the Lord is using volunteers and short-term networks to finish the task. Election by handpicked ballot is scriptural, cheap, time saving and effective (Acts 1:26).

Three Levels of Leadership-- Then and Now:

1. The Priests: Only the descendents of Aaron could be temple priests, authorized to offer sacrifices. In the NT times it was the Apostles. Today, it is the top leaders who have the big picture and provide strategic leadership. They bring international thinking and resources on the table. On their vision and drive depends the entire movement. Flawed vision at this level can corrode the whole system. The best of them Envision, Empower and have an Exit plan.

2. The Ministers: The Levites were ministers who did everything except sacrificing. Timothy, Titus, Priscilla and Lydia constituted this tier in the NT. They are the growth drivers. Their passion and ability for capacity building of the grassroots level workers to implement the apex leader's vision is critical to success. Frustration, incompetencies and poor connectivity with the top leader can fizzle out the momentum.

3. The Ordinary People: The ordinary Jews were called to be priests to the nations (Exo. 19:6) but instead confined their activities to their own communities. Today, they are the church members. This is where the rubber meets the road. They are the fruit bearers. They interact directly with the Gentile world and expand the kingdom. Muzzling them can muffle the movement.

The qualifications for Elders in the NT include:

- 1.Character traits
- 2.Hospitality
- 3.Managing their family well otherwise how can they manage the household of Yahweh?
- 4.Sound doctrine which does not mean being a biblical scholar but the ability to convict people of other faiths who contradict.
- 5.Being fruitful (Tit.1:5-9; 1Tim.3:4,5)

Champion Kingdom expanders do not necessarily fit into our definition of saints. A person of peace may come consuming tobacco and alcohol, with two wives or five husbands with a non-christian name, strange dress code, food habit and culture.

The Veil Must be Removed: After the destruction of the Temple the Jews continue to celebrate the Passover. The lamb has been replaced by three loaves of *matzah* (flat bread), representing the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Only the middle *matzah* (the Son) is broken and one half is shared and eaten while the other half is hidden away to be searched by the family and eaten later. This hidden half is called the *Afikomen* (Greek *Epikomen*) meaning, “I came”, referring to Yeshua’s disappearance and return after three days in the grave. The death of the Lamb on the cross tore the veil in the temple. The Jews do not know the significance of the *Afikomen*. We need to share the Passover meal with the Jews and remove the veil from the middle *matzah*-- Yeshua Messiah, the bread of life.

The scepter has departed because the church has miserably failed to leverage the powerful symbolisms in the Feasts of the Lord. As it recovers these things it will deliver quality services (salvation) to the lost (2Cor.2:10,11).

The real strongholds are in the mind (2 Cor. 10:3-5). They can be demolished through the Word, binding and loosing, through the blood of the Lamb, the power of the Holy Spirit, miracles and your own testimony. Without being born again you cannot even see the kingdom, much less enter it (Rev.12:11; John 3:3,5).

There is so much noise in the church that it is impossible to hear Yahweh. Our minds are so occupied with the program that our transcendental part has little chance of connecting with Yahweh.

Sitting in the church, till death do us part, does not remove the veil. One true indicator of the removal of the veil is an abundance of fruitfulness (John 15:8). After his blindness was removed, Paul instantly became fruitful (Acts 9:9-22). The Jews read the scriptures but their blinders remained and they missed the Messiah (2Cor 3:13-15). The Ethiopian read, but his eyes were opened only through Philip. Idolatry is in the heart of man (Eze. 14:3-5; 2 Cor. 4:3,4). Putting anything above Yahweh is idolatry. This includes eulogizing a Christian leader, church building, a denomination, even worship of the Bible (bibliolatry), or music; the family or job can become an idol. After their empowerment on the Pentecost, the disciples burst forth among the people authenticating the gospel through words, deeds and life-style.

The house ekklesia is not putting a steeple on your house or even shifting from the pew to the sofa. It is about being the ekklesia— a relational community of Yahweh’s people on mission to reach the world. (Felicity Dale)

Discover His Methodology: Yeshua began his ministry by discipling (John 1:37-39). He disciplined throughout His ministry on earth, and even after His resurrection he disciplined a couple of guys on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13,27). This should send strong vibrations to His ekklesia that making disciples was at the heart of Yeshua’s ministry. He advocated a simple strategy of going two by two, finding a person of peace, eating with him, binding the strongman, preaching through power encounters and planting a reproducible ekklesia in his house (Luke 10:1-9; Matt. 12:29).

Thousands of books have been written on the life and work of Yeshua but hardly any on the methodology of our Master strategist. He focused on the few for the salvation of the multitudes. The church needs to do the same to reach the multitudes in the valley of decision (Joel 3:14). Sadly, the church herself has become a valley of dry bones whereas it was designed to be an empowerment institute (Matt.9:36; 10:2).

There is an urgent need to rescue the pew squatters suffering from low image and tell them that our Lord can draw a perfectly straight line even with crooked people like us.

The Pope Recants: On the 7th of February 2007, Pope Benedict announced that Priscilla and Aquila type of house ekklesias are authentic ekklesias because Paul sends greetings to them (1Cor. 16:19). The Pope further stated that all the activities of the church, including baptism and the Eucharist, could be served there without the presence of a priest.

While the institutionalized churches are recording zero growth, the decentralized house ekklesias dominate the evangelical landscape the world over. They have grown from 70 million apostles in 1970 to 700 million strong apostolics with a vision for reaching the rest of the planet in their own generation.

The Catholics call house ekklesias as Basic Christian Communities (BCC) or Small Christian Communities (SCC) and have produced several excellent resource materials for training. Earlier, Pope Paul called it the true and concrete expression of communion and the church. It has the potential to start a new church culture in the community. They think it is the most effective way of “being ekklesia” and the surest way of shifting the paradigm from a “church over there” to “the ekklesia in the neighbourhood.” The Protestants could learn a few lessons from them.

The Catholics consider the house ekklesia as “The New Way of Being Ekklesia” and the way forward for the Third Millennium.

Deconstruct the Church: The Great Commission empowers every believer to go and make disciples and to baptize them. Yeshua was baptized in the Jordan, Paul in a home, Lydia in the river Gangates, the Ethiopian eunuch in a roadside pond, the Philippian jailor in the prison tank and thousands were baptized in pools in Jerusalem. No one was baptized in a church baptistery and never by a professional priest.

Jewish boys and girls were sent to different *Madrassas* (schools), prospective couples hardly met until *shidduch* (betrothal), men and women were separated by *mechitza* (partition) in the synagogue, and the Pharisees closed their eyes on the street to avoid eye contact with women. Therefore for men to handle a wet woman in baptism would be considered adulterous. Naturally women baptized women. If women can be baptized with the Holy Spirit, there is no earthly reason why they cannot dunk each other in water. According to His promise, Yahweh is pouring out His Spirit on all flesh, including women (Joel 2:23; 28,29).

When ordinary housewives start baptizing each other in significant numbers, then you can be sure that a mass movement is on and the latter rains are not far away. Like Priscilla and Phoebe, women must fulfil their Yahweh-given creative role and apostolic ministry, to disciple, baptize, plant ekklesias and transform lives, because they will not be saved by the righteousness of their husbands.

Nowhere in the Scriptures does it say that the priest served Holy Communion or conducted weddings or buried the dead. Jewish *Kahen* (priests) were forbidden to come near the dead. For this reason even today, they are prohibited from entering the medical profession (Matt. 10:8; Lev. 21:1). In order to see a true priesthood of all believers, we need to deconstruct all the unbiblical traditions and give all believers back their fundamental right to minister. Ministry must involve the whole Body for the perfecting of the saints and for the edification of the Body (Eph. 4:12).

The Saturation Principle: Yeshua preached and practiced the saturation principle. He went to every village and town of Galilee and the gospel spilled over into Syria, Decapolis, Judea

and Trans-Jordan. He sent seventy disciples in teams of two to carry out a saturation blitz in “every place.” His parables illustrate the saturation principle. A little yeast can permeate and transform the whole dough (Matt. 4:23-25; 13:31-33; Luke 10:1,2). The disciples went to the Temple and broke bread from house to house, and the Lord added to their numbers “every day” (Acts 2:46,47). “Every knee and every tongue” has to confess the Lordship of Yeshua (Rom. 14:11). Paul asked Titus to appoint elders in “every city” (Titus 1:5). The ekklesias must “grow in numbers daily” (Acts 16:5). Yahweh’s vision for “every tongue” and “every tribe” can only be fulfilled through the Saturation principle. (Joshua Pillai)

House ekklesias are an attempt to get back to the form and function of apostolic Christianity. They are part of tight networks for health and growth, like a spider’s web of interlocking strands. (Rad Zdero)

House ekklesias are a living room revolution for empowering every believer. This is critical to the effectiveness of the saturation principle for finishing the job of discipling the nations. *The Great Commission is not an abstract teaching but the Action Plan of our personal and corporate daily existence.* It is time for a shift from being church to the saved, to reaching out to people of perverted principles and values and a warped worldview. Unlike Cain, we must become keepers of our brothers.

With seven million more churches to go worldwide, the Saturation Principle is Yahweh’s strategy for discipling all nations. (Jim Montgomery)

Patrick of Ireland converted every Druid priest in Ireland and baptized 120,000 people. The Irish missionaries then went everywhere and changed the world. John Knox prayed, “Give me Scotland or I die.” Queen Mary was more afraid of his prayers than of all the armies of England. In the Philippines, they are trying to plant an ekklesia in every *barangay* (village). George Muller told the captain of the fog found ship to speed up. The captain replied that it was impossible as visibility was zero. George prayed and the fog cleared instantly. It was the captain who was fog (problem) bound while George was focussed on Yahweh.

The church has everything she needs for the final push: global instability, a committed Christian workforce, and an abundance of resources including frustrated men and women and angry youth who want to do something better than just sit in the pews. All the church needs to do is to plug them into the Power Point.

The current world turmoil is nothing but the birth pangs of a new world. Yahweh is poised to give to His Son the nations as an inheritance and the ends of the earth for a possession. The day when people from every nation, tongue and tribe gather at the foot of His throne cannot be far away. (Ngwiza Mnkandla)

How Many is too Many in a House Ekklesia: The Holy Spirit empowers everyone, including seekers, to participate. Hence it is crucial to keep the numbers to a manageable minimum. Scripturally, where two or three families gather together, an authentic ekklesia exists because she has all the power in heaven and earth (Matt. 18:18-20). The primary function of the ekklesia is to worship Yahweh by discipling unbelievers who will say, “Truly Yahweh is among you.” There are no permanent members. Everyone is out making disciples (1Cor. 14:24-26). Ten righteous people could have saved the sin-saturated cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:22,32). When Yahweh and the Lamb tabernacle with men (Rev. 21:3), every worshipper will have ten men from different nations hanging on to his *kanaph* (sleeve) saying, “Truly Yahweh is with you” (Zech. 8:23). Every believer should carry at

least ten sanctified sinners into the kingdom. You cannot get married alone and you certainly cannot go to heaven alone either.

It is not stability or even sustainability but flexibility and fruitfulness that are the benchmarks of a successful ekklesia.

Faith Goals: The time has come to open up all sectors of giftings within the ekklesia. The more hierarchical bureaucracy we have, the more entrepreneurial talent will be trapped in worthless activities. Rules are designed to protect the institution and not necessarily to fulfil the vision. Every ekklesia must leave footprints that lead to where Christ has not been named and change their destiny. Unfortunately most churches do not leave any footprints beyond the parking lot. The church and missions must realize the strategic role of the local leaders. It is not the missionaries but the competence and commitment of the local leaders that expands the kingdom. We are not called just to be security guards but also soldiers who march out and expand the kingdom.

Sending missionaries who are committed to laptop ministry and attending innumerable meetings, is not the answer. We are in the final assault era and need innumerable ekklesia planters.

If purely human intelligence is used, then there will be little growth or at best inorganic growth driven by an organizational mindset. It will die out with the demise of the charismatic leader. The human mind is finite which is why men try to limit the infinite Yahweh in a church building. But if we pray both with the Spirit and with our mind (strategy based on facts), then faith goals can be accomplished—way beyond what we can think or imagine (1 Cor. 14:15; 2Tim.1:7). A true ekklesia should be cracking the whip and shunting the rulers of darkness out of the territories illegally occupied by them. It should not go hiding in rabbit burrows of committees, meetings, conferences and conventions.

Every Christian's performance needs to be put under the scanner. It is a matter of collective shame to pay hypocritical homage to Yeshua every Sunday while doing nothing during the week for those who are heading for a Christless eternity.

Vision: Recently at a leaders' seminar, the attendees were asked to write down their vision. One needed a bigger and better building while another needed a vehicle to bring his flock to church. Yet another needed money to build a boundary wall to keep the Gentiles out. None had even heard of the Great Commission or had any burden for the lost. With these kinds of visionaries, the church can kiss good-bye to Yahweh's vision of gathering all tongues and tribes (Isa. 43:9; 52:10). We never pray for the sun to rise in the morning because we know for sure that it will. We need not pray for a harvest because it is ready. But we do need to pray for labourers to precipitate a domino effect. We need to put on sackcloth and ashes for keeping all our human assets locked up, instead of maximizing their ministries.

The ekklesia has the largest talent and material resource pool in the world but the pipelines are choked with traditional sludge and gunk. We need to unclog the supply lines so that the valuable resources can freely flow into every Gentile home.

Yahweh told the prophet Habakkuk to write down the vision on tablets and run with it for the entire world to see (Hab. 2:1-3). The vision statement said, "The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14). Habakkuk's commitment to this vision statement was, "Though the fig tree does not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, though the labour of olives may fail, and the fields yield no food, though the

flock may be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord of my salvation” (Hab. 3:17,18).

The family ekklesia is not a new concept. It is as old as the Mosaic Law when Yahweh commanded Israel to teach the kids while having fun and games with them (Deut. 6:1-9).

There is an umbilical connection between your vision and your commitment to its outcome, “Where there is no vision, people perish” (Prov. 29:18). Vision casting and capacity building are the primary functions of the ekklesia. Every believer must articulate his Yahweh given vision and make a dying declaration, “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21).

The Shift: Shifting from a sacred building to a house does not necessarily produce a house ekklesia. It is only a change of venue. The house ekklesia does not necessarily meet in a house. It could be anytime, anywhere. However, the house is the most convenient place. Paul shared the whole counsel of Yahweh from house to house (Acts 20:20,27).

If the ekklesia plays her cards right, she will cruise to the finish line with a cloud of witnesses from all tongues and tribes, to an applauding angelic audience. But as it is now, she is trotting around to show off her gizmos and gimmicks to captive audiences (Luke 15:7,10; 1Cor. 9:26; 2Tim 4:7; Heb. 12:1,2)

The NT ekklesia is of a completely different paradigm where apostolic teaching through dialogue, table fellowship, prayer, miracles, material sharing, and discipling take place in a completely informal manner. Here the minister is a facilitator, a catalyst, a vision caster, an encourager and a networker. The essential difference is that the Body runs the show, not an individual.

The minister as a father figure says, “It is time for me to shut up and listen and time for you to speak and share your dreams, visions and insights, set goals and implement initiatives.” (Luis Bush)

Yahweh is not a long-bearded dictator giving ad hoc judgments. He loves dialogue and encourages healthy debate, “Come now and let us reason together” (Isa. 1:18; Job 13:3,15).

“Visible” and “audible” churches are serious growth inhibitors as they are not conducive to discipling and downright dangerous in many countries. A visible church with a big Cross and an audible E-church with loud music and hallelujahs attract persecution. Lots of singing also eats up discipling time. *Diligently preserving cultural complexion through contextualization and indigenization substantially reduces persecution and leapfrogs the movement.* The leadership must not be with the big brother but with the “Brethren,” (delphus=womb), which does not mean brothers but “fraternity,” a community of men and women. By the end of the meeting, the ekklesia should have grown in quality and quantity (Acts 2:42-47; 6:7; 16:5; 1Cor. 14:24-32).

The Sunday service is the biggest time waster. Most leaders arrogantly presume that only their teaching can mature the members instead of facilitating the team to disciple the seekers.

Reaching “Ta Ethne” is the Goal: Yeshua commanded us to make disciples of “Panta ta Ethne” (All Ethnic groups/ People groups/ Castes). All the pieces of the mosaic that make up every nation/state are to be discipled. (Donald McGavran)

In a farmhouse enclosure, chickens, ducks, rabbits, sheep and cows multiply, each according to its own kind (Genesis 1:21-25). It is extremely important to empower ethnic group leaders and release them to work among their own kind. Otherwise fracture zones will appear, as happened between the Hebrew and Greek factions of the Jerusalem ekklesia, even under the

apostolic leadership of Peter and John. Premature integration will nearly always result in stagnation and attrition.

Everyone is proud of his or her own roots. The failure of the dominant communities to recognize and respect ethno-linguistic realities has been one of the greatest church growth decelerators.

The early fracture of Hebrew and Greek churches resulted in a large number of priests joining the movement and precipitating its hyper-acceleration (Acts 6:1-7). Yeshua told His disciples initially to go only to the lost sheep of Israel (Matt. 10:5). Later, when they were mature, He sent them to the Gentiles, but even there they had to find a local “Person of Peace” (Luke 10:1-9). While not advocating caste discrimination, it is important to plant ethno-linguistic ekklesias and allow them to grow and multiply along these lines. Early pressure to integrate, disintegrates the movement. Foreign missionaries in Assam integrated Boros, Assamese, Adivasis and others to save themselves from learning different languages. This killed the momentum among all these groups, while neighbouring Nagas and Mizos reached an almost 100% conversion rate. The global ekklesia must finish the task of reaching all the 24,000 people groups of the world, including the 4,685 people groups of India.

The ekklesia is not a melting pot but a stew pot where potatoes come out as potatoes and carrots as carrots. Gravy (the Holy Spirit) is the only thing that glues them together (Gal. 3:28).

The 153 Big Fish: Yeshua helped Peter and his fishing company to catch 153 “great” fish (John 21:11). The Jews believed that there were 153 nations in the world and by implication they all have to be caught. These nations have multiplied now into 24,000 People Groups (PGs) of which thousands remain unreached and unengaged. Reaching involves intentionally equipping indigenous leaders to carry the movement forward. Traditional methods of evangelism do not work, as most of them are non-literates. Any cross-cultural missionaries need to find out knowledge, skills, attitude and other deficiencies for capacity building and then hand over the baton to the local players. Make sure that like Peter, you catch a big fish with a gold coin in its mouth, and baptize his wallet for your personal support (Matt. 17:27).

We must pray to Yahweh to take to heaven all the Reverends who compel us to come to church instead of letting us go fishing.

The simplest strategy for any ekklesia is to adopt and resource a People Group (PG). Only through PG thinking can all the tribes and tongues of the world be reached in our generation. (Ted Olsen)

The Parking Lot Ekklesia: The effectiveness of an ekklesia can be judged on the quality of fellowship in the parking lot. “Hi and Bye: See you next week,” needs to be converted into caring and sharing over a picnic lunch, where newcomers can be discipled. “Power lunches,” whether in the parking lot or in the office, are powerful tools for discipling.

The roadmap to world evangelism does not include event oriented crusades, revival meetings, tele-evangelism or the traditional church, but meanders via spontaneously multiplying organic ekklesias. There are one billion non-Christians worldwide who have no contact whatsoever with Christians, but the sad paradox is that there are also one billion Christians who have no contact with non-Christians. This needs to change.

Every Christian is a change agent, transforming his/her community and city. For a sizzling finish, go armed with the best tackle and hook and catch the biggest fish in town.

Research: Seventy million new souls are added every year to the population worldwide. Twenty million of these are born into Christian families. Four thousand foreign missions

baptize only four million non-Christians worldwide; leaving a deficit of 46 millions. In India 50,000 new babies are added every day but only 5,000 get baptized daily. We are accountable for all the millions that perish. Unless the church restructures its operation to baptize additional one million daily, we will never even reach parity. An even higher trajectory will have to be conceptualized to catch up with the backlog of four billion non-Christians worldwide. Every believer needs to disciple and baptize to produce a domino effect to save the perishing world (Eze. 3:17-21).

Diagnostic tools for growth drivers and inhibitors are necessary. Assumptions go wrong and so do hunches. For precision and clarity in cobbling together an effective strategy, information must be accurate, accessible and actionable. (Dwight Marable)

Sequential Ekklesia Growth Drivers for Hyper-Acceleration:

1. Vision for completion with measurable goals.
2. Prayer walking and annexing the strongman's territories as your eternal inheritance (1Tim. 2:8; Matt. 12:29; Acts 26:18).
3. Going 2 by 2, catching big fish, planting interactive, replicating ekklesias in the house of peace (Luke 10:1-9; 1 Cor. 14:26).
4. Apostolic teaching, passionate prayer, miracles, sharing and caring and breaking bread from house to house (Acts 2:42-47).
5. Plurality of leadership with obedience rather than knowledge based discipleship. Networking with others (Eph. 4:11-13).
6. Priesthood of all believers including women till there be no more laymen left in the ekklesia (Acts 2:17,18; 1Pet. 2:9).
7. Culture of research, innovation and finding breakthrough strategies. Reward those who mobilize for multiplication.
8. Adopt "Saturation Principle" with daily offering of Gentiles as a sacrifice. (Rom. 15:16; 1Cor. 14:24,25)
9. Ethno-linguistic cultural approach with accountability to multiple generations of disciples (Acts 16:3-5; 2Tim. 2:2).
10. Evaluation: disciples made, ekklesias planted, territories annexed and communities restored (John 15:8; Acts 16:5).

Nothing changes until we change. The biggest change required are attitude issues on our part that change our paradigm, followed by actions that change the course of history.

Research essentially consists of identifying movers and shakers who are not plagued by a traditional mindset (harvest force), defining the domain and profiling the people (harvest field), locating strongholds (spiritual mapping) and prioritizing key result areas (goals). A strategy should be designed to systematically nibble away at the demonic kingdom.

Research shows us the big picture and how many pieces of the jigsaw puzzle are still missing. Without this strategic information, no intelligent decisions about priorities, future direction and initiatives can be made. In fact, without information we cannot even pray intelligently. We need to know what Yahweh wants us to pray about—praying for the nations, for the labourers required and the status of the harvest field etc. (Matt. 28:19; 9: 37,38). Monitoring tells us whether we are achieving the objective of making disciples of "all nations."

In today's digitized world it should not be difficult to have accurate information streaming in and then immediately outsourced to all the stakeholders. In that way we can monitor daily the progress made on the unfinished task.

There is nothing that jogs a church from a frog in the well worldview faster than a dynamic database and city/area mapping of the regions where Christ has not yet been named.

Paul says, “I am a wise master-builder.” An architect has detailed blueprints of an edifice even before groundbreaking. The ekklesia needs master-builders who see the big picture and understand the step-by-step action plan (1Cor. 3:10). We need effective leaders who do not hanker after influence and affluence, the pulpit or the limelight but are behind the scene, silent managers of the creative change process to finish the church’s task of discipling the nations. Collecting baseline data is not for the purpose of flaunting one’s achievements but for defining the task that remains.

The church should have spies everywhere to catch a whiff of what is brewing in the satanic cauldron, read the smoke signals and take appropriate preventive action (2 Cor. 2:11).

Moses sent spies to find out the communal demography, geographical landscape, agrarian practices, fruit production and other details of Canaan. Joshua sent spies to bring a “written survey” report of the unoccupied territories (Num. Chap. 13; Josh. 18:3-9). Simultaneously Yahweh was tracking, city by city and nation by nation, the land and the people yet to be possessed. He told Joshua that he was suffering from burnout and should hand over the baton to the younger generation “as there is much land and people yet to be possessed” (Josh. 13:1; Chaps 13-19).

Every ekklesia should be a knowledge-bank providing the latest information on any turbulence, tragedies and triumphs in the city and reporting on the new people and the land possessed.

The quality of information depends entirely on the quality of data reporting at the grassroots. This data is necessary for creating an informed strategy and for measuring performance (Acts 14:26,27). The ekklesia needs to go all out to possess new territories until no more land and nations are left to be possessed (Psalm 2:8). Yahweh will give us little by little until we are capable of inheriting all the land (Exo. 23:29,30).

Paul commended the Thessalonians for their impact in sounding forth the gospel in Macedonia, Achaia and beyond. The gospel came not only in words but also in power. This proclamation of the good news is like the year of Jubilee when the trumpets were blown throughout Israel to proclaim liberty from slavery, release from debt and restoration of inheritance. Yeshua came to proclaim liberty to the captives and restore their eternal inheritance (1 Thess. 1:5-9; Lev. 25:8-10; Luke 4:18).

The “**Great Commission (GC)**” requires research to expose and depose any strongholds (Matt. 16:18,19; 12:29).

The “**Geographical GC**” requires researching all the places where and why Christ is not yet named so we can send appropriate witnesses there (Acts 1:8; Rom. 15:19-23; 2Cor.10:16).

The “**People Groups GC**” (Matt. 28:19) requires researching which nations, tongues and tribes need discipling.

Finally the “**Inheritance GC**” (Acts 26:18). We need to research, fight the good fight and occupy our inheritance, which the Chief Shepherd will give us with the crown of glory, which fadeth not (1Peter 5:4). The Father has chosen an inheritance for every child (Psalm 47: 3,4). He gave ten cities to the servant who multiplied his talents. We need to encourage all Christians to acquire Yahweh-assigned inheritance and multiply it (Luke 19:13,17).

Vision without mission is hallucination. Spreading her wings into every fabric of human society should be high on the Church’s radar. (Jun Vencer)

There is a need for “doing the math” to quantify the magnitude of the status of lostness within the church’s geographical boundaries. With organized Christianity rapidly advancing towards extinction, such quantification will give a deeper perspective on the growing lostness and help in making effective strategies. (Jim Slack)

The old denominations were not designed for growth and multiplication but for maintaining the status quo. The world has moved on since then and their structures have ossified. (John Robb)

Spiritual History of the City: A young man asked Mother Teresa what he should do with his life to make a difference. She told him, “Find your own Calcutta.” From Calcutta to California, fathers who went looking for gold, leaving behind fatherless families, inhabit most cities. These fathers committed innumerable sins, bringing curses on the city. Every city must research its own tortured spiritual history based on generational iniquities, and agonize and take action like Nehemiah, Daniel and Paul (Luke 11:50,51; Neh. 1:5; Dan. 9:16; Acts 17:16,17). We must break curses and rewrite redemptive history by changing from abandonment to a City of Refuge, oppression to justice, sickness to healing, occult/rebellion to the prophetic, apathy to creativity, prosperity/covetousness to resting in Yahweh’s provision, fatherlessness to the Father’s heart and finally from death to life. (Steve Trujillo quoted by Rich Hagler)

The Firstfruits: The Bible begins with the word “*Firstfruits*”. The Hebrew word, *Reshiyth* means, “In the beginning but more specifically the Firstfruits”. Yahweh gave Adam a choice to eat the Fruit of life and forever submit to His will. Adam chose the alternative and ate the Fruit of knowledge to do his own thing. The spirit of Elohim left Adam and he spiritually died instantly. Everyone born since then is spiritually dead (Ps. 51:5). It is Yeshua the second Adam who came and submitted totally to the will of His Father, “I do as I see the Father do and speak what the Father speaks” (John 14:8-12). Through victory over death, Christ became the Firstfruits, a life giving Spirit. Unless you are born again in Him, you are a dead duck, even if you are kicking around (John 3:3,5). “The fear of the Lord is the firstfruits (beginning) of wisdom. Every new believer who fully submits, is the Firstfruits (plural) because he/she is only a sample of the harvest that must follow. (Lev. 23:10-14; Rom. 8:2,10,23; 1 Cor. 15:20,23; Prov. 1:7).(Paul Ma)

The Kingdom Indicators (Based on Isa. 32:9-18): Yeshua preached about the Kingdom more than any other topic. It begins with women (the Bride) shedding her fancy clothes and putting on sackcloth and repenting (vv. 9-14). The result is the outpouring of the Spirit (v. 15) with the restoration of the Paradise. The signs of the kingdom include ecological changes with the desolate wilderness changing into a ***fruitful Garden*** (v.16), ***justice*** being available to all (v. 16) and ***righteousness*** prevailing i.e. right relationship with Yahweh, with each other and with the nature (v. 17). ***Security*** will replace insecurity and finally ***peace*** will prevail instead of violence (v.18). The only time the true kingdom of Yahweh existed on earth was in the Garden of Eden before its fall. It will be finally restored again. Then the Tree of Life will grow on either side of the sparkling river of life issuing from the Throne of Yahweh, bearing fruit every month, and its leaves will be for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:1-3). Our perception of the Kingdom must include the relational dynamic that existed in the Garden of Eden (Delight).

The history of the earth begins and ends in a garden. Yahweh has commissioned us to multiply and fill the earth with gardens.

Apostolic Gardens: Yahweh commanded Adam to “tend the garden and guard it.” Adam failed to guard it and lost the land lease for just one piece of fruit. Yahweh is not looking

forward to cities full of ugly concrete church buildings but beautiful garden cities fit for His visit. “Every place that the sole of your foot treads belongs to you.” Yahweh is not going to give it to you; He has already done so. Possessing, tending, guarding and restoring the land into paradise is your job. Despising your birthright like Esau for a bowl of mush will ruin you and your garden (Josh.1:3;1Tim.2:8; Rom.16:20; Gen. 2:15; 25:29-34).

The command, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” is not just for biological reproduction but is Yahweh’s Great Commission for filling the earth with the Garden of Eden as our model and mandate. It requires subduing the earth and having dominion over it by guarding your domain from the plunderer, binding the strongman, planting fruitful gardens in the houses of peace and offering the heathen as a sweet smelling sacrifice pleasing to Yahweh. This will translate into community restoration with generational and land curses being broken, and result in a life of abundance of everything we need. But the village only qualifies to be an apostolic garden when it starts sending emissaries to plant other gardens. When all these gardens merge, the whole earth will be transformed into the Garden of Eden, with restoration of relationships between creatures and their Creator. Yahweh will then visit us during the cool of the day (Luke 10:5-9; Matt. 12:29; Eph. 6:12; Isa. 11:6-10; 32: 15-18; Eze. 36:35; Amos 9:13-15; Gen. 1:28; 3:8).

The best way to love the Lord is to keep subduing the earth and keep filling it with multiplying fruitful apostolic gardens. And the best way to love your neighbours is to send them, home grown fresh fruits and vegetables packaged in the gospel.

The First Convention: In the first ever Jerusalem convention, all the megastars, Peter, Paul, James and the Elders, met to discuss the Gentile issue without any blitz or glitz. The ordinary people played a pivotal role in the dialogue. There was no inequality, stratification or social asymmetry. Judaizers, the circumcision party insisted on imposing traditions. Peter took an unequivocal stand that he was an apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 15:7). Paul reported and declared, at least three times, on the great things Yahweh was doing among the Gentiles (15:3,4,12). Every single verse in the 15th chapter of Acts is about the Gentiles. After heated dissension and disputing, the Hebraic leaders made a suicidal decision to hand over the baton to the Gentiles. The underpinning of the ekklesia with a Gentile focus soon resulted in a huge harvest of souls. The Gentile aroma spread to the despised Samaritans, Ethiopian eunuch, merchants, jailers, sailors, powerful military officers, proconsuls, governors, kings, philosophers and just about into every fabric of humanity.

The gathering clearly emphasized that our love for the lost must transcend all other agendas. Ordinary people must be top graded and elevated to pivotal positions. All men and women are equal in their value as believers. Free interaction and creative reasoning are the foundations of a healthy ekklesia. In our gatherings, we need to invite those who report on what great things Yahweh is doing among the Gentiles and not just motivational speakers.

Transitioning: Firstly, get envisioned with Yahweh’s agenda and then He can do business with you.

Secondly, collect maps and basic demographic data of the harvest field. This information includes People Groups, their culture and worldview, economics etc.

Thirdly, find out what religious, cultural, social, economic, mental and spiritual strongholds are present.

Fourthly, conduct an honest SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of the available Harvest Force. Do not choose leaders on the basis of the letters and titles attached to their names. The best predictors of future success are not titles but past accomplishments.

Finally, draw out a blueprint of the action plan and set up a monitoring system to track progress.

Pastor, programs, activities and schedule-centered churches produce shallow and immature Christians. Christ-centered, organic ekklesias produce inheritors of the earth.

Start with whatever resources you have. Moses had only a stick, a stammer and a criminal record to take with him, but he got the vision at the burning bush, and went and rescued his people from bondage in Egypt. David had only a few pebbles and a sling. He used his best shot for the enemy, became a king and a man after Yahweh's own heart. The Samaritan woman had only a bad reputation to flaunt but a few minutes with Yeshua changed everything and she became a fountain of living water that brought the whole village to His feet. The demon infested man from Gadara wanted to go with Yeshua for advanced theological training. Instead Yeshua sent him to disciple the ten cities of Decapolis. His testimony consisted of demonized pigs rushing into the lake. The cripple who was healed at the Beautiful gate ballet-danced all over the Temple courtyard to the applause of the devotees.

“Does the house ekklesia work?” is the wrong question. “Is it Biblical?” is the million dollar question. You can do what you wanna do in the “church as we know it” but don’t call it Biblical, ‘coz there ain’t no verses that support it. (Garry Goodel)

The NT mentions *Oikos* (household) fourteen times. Lydia, Cornelius and others had *Oikos* ekklesias. *Oikos* is more than a family. It is our personal sphere of influence, which includes family, friends, professional, and non-professional associates from the neighbourhood, work and recreational activities. This web of relationships is to be the primary target of a believer's personal evangelistic outreach. (Jeff Reed)

Family is at the heart of Yahweh. The ekklesia is His Oikos. He has given every husband and father, the highest accolade of being a priest to his household. Outsourcing it to the professional clergy is unbiblical and amounts to being an infidel. (Sean Steckbeck)

Every Christian should be piloting and navigating his own *Oikos* and not just be a passenger. Our *Oikos* is our eternal inheritance and we are accountable for the blood of every single soul (Eze. 3:18). Boaz was a kinsman-redeemer to Ruth. *Oikos* evangelism was at the heart of Yeshua's strategy for reaching the ends of the earth. He defined his disciples as His brothers, sisters and mothers, who do the will of the Father. He visited and healed Peter's sick mother-in-law. We need to be kinsmen-redeemers to our families and friends who are not in faith, not with silver and gold but with the precious blood of the Lamb (Matt. 12:48-50).

The Seven “Kingdom Expanders” (Acts 2:37-47)

1. Repentance and Baptism.
2. The Great Commission apostolic teaching
3. Table Fellowship and Breaking of bread from house to house.
4. Kingdom Prayers
5. Signs and wonders
6. Generous giving to the apostles
7. Making multigenerational disciples

The church owns the greatest reservoir of untapped gifts and talents in the world, all buried underground. Dig anywhere and you will find pearls, nuggets and treasures of great value.

They are likely to remain buried unless zealously found and polished into kingdom expanders of great value (Matt. 13:45,46)

The Old Testament begins with sin in the first family who brought the curse. The OT ends with the threat of more curses if there is disintegration in the family relationship. Therefore, any sustainable revival in the church must begin in the family. Elijah incarnated as John the Baptist to restore the family as the centre of gravity (Mal 4:6; Luke 1:17). Today, more than ever, we need to go from house to house, removing the veil of darkness and compelling them to become a light unto the Gentiles (Luke 14:23).

Every Christian home should be a refuge for the lost and an altar for offering Gentiles as a sweet smelling sacrifice pleasing to Yahweh (Phil. 4:18; Eph. 5:2; 1Pet.2:5).

The Israelites carried their tabernacle with them wherever they went and offered sacrifices in it. Yeshua came to fix the fallen tabernacle of David so that the Gentiles may seek Him. He has now put His tabernacle right inside every believer's heart. Now every follower of Christ is a walking and talking mobile tabernacle and an altar for offering Gentiles as sacrifice and an epicentre of community restoration (Acts 15:16,17; 2 Cor. 6:16; 2Pet. 3:9).

Everyone should have a valid (real, meaningful, clear) opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel and those who respond should be flocked into fellowships of local expressions of the Body so they can be taught to obey. (Roy Wingerd)

Solomon built the Temple, obtained horses and chariots from Egypt and married idolatrous princesses against Yahweh's express command (Deut 17:16,17). He did all these to enlarge his kingdom and make it powerful. It was a great idea but not God idea. So even with all his wealth, power and wisdom, he lost the empire. While our dyslexic forefather Moses, a refugee with no wealth or power or oratory skills, built a tent house for Yahweh and liquidated the mighty Egyptian empire through great acts of faith.

Yeshua built no buildings nor did He establish any church traditions. He came to plant the kingdom of Yahweh in human hearts, "The kingdom of Yahweh is within you." He healed corporeally and spiritually. The black Ethiopian eunuch could not meet Yahweh in Solomon's Temple because he was unfit for regeneration. So Yahweh Himself met him on the road through Philip who served at the tables. The eunuch then went and regenerated Ethiopia. (Deut. 23:1; Isa 56:3-7; Math. 19:12).

The Legacy: Yeshua was busy all day with His ministry of healing the sick, delivering the demonized, debating the defiant and feeding the hungry. But He never lost sight of His primary objective of leaving a legacy of world changers. Like our Master, the primary objective of our existence is to leave behind a rich legacy of disciples, fishers of men, shepherds who seek and save the lost and fivefold elders who equip saints for the edification of the Body and practice kingdom economics and forever change the spiritual landscape.

The greatest day in a pastor's life is when, like his Master, he gladly says to his flock, "Shalom Aleikhem (Peace); Go, as the Father has sent me, so I send you" (John 20:21).

However, do not take off like a bull in a china shop. There is no room for loose cannons. Christianity is a corporate manifesto and requires flying in formation for direction and synergy. Before rocking the boat, talk to objective listeners because in the multitude of counsellors, there is safety (Prov. 11:14). However avoid those who live in the natural. They will kill your vision. William Carey's vision for India was nearly killed by a senior pastor in England who told him that if God wanted India saved, He will take care of it. The way forward is to prayerfully prepare a biblical blueprint based on the Master's vision, detailing

implementation and monitoring mechanisms, mobilization of kingdom resources and a time schedule for the systematic execution and completion of the Great Commission manifesto.

Most Christians have only experienced religion but not Christ. So they try to manufacture spirituality through ornate buildings, funky music, feigned worship and glitzy programs.

Get the Horse Buggy Ready: Yeshua tabernacled with men in the NT times. He will again appear in Body and the law shall go forth from Zion. Redeemed pilgrims from all nations, tongues and tribes will go to Jerusalem from one moon to the next and from one Sabbath to another to worship The King. There will be no high-teck elevator to heaven. They will come, singing and rejoicing on horses, mules, camels and ox carts. Children will play with snakes, bears and lions who will eat straw. Old people will go romping as their youth will be renewed like the eagle. Disabled will also go as there will be no more blind, deaf, dumb or lame people. There will be no pollution as petroleum would have been exhausted and we will have carbon free pure air to breathe. Organically grown food and sparkling fresh water will be available in plenty as we will go from one Garden of Delight to the next. We will be fed with abundance of milk, butter, bread, honey and fresh fruits. You will be living in tabernacles covered with palm branches. There will be no sea, so you can travel through the shortest route and go fishing in Engedi as the Dead sea will be full of fish. This tourist Utopia will be available for free only to those who have planted their own apostolic gardens so that they can offer the same services to other pilgrims. (Isa. 2:3;66:20-23;11:6-9; 35:5-10;51:3,11;7:22;Rev.21:1,4;Eze. 47:10)

Many of us have grown in the “Church-as-we-know-it” (CAWKI) and it may come as a resounding shock to know that the “Church-as-God-wants-it” (CAGWI) not only looks different but also thinks, acts and performs differently. (Wolfgang Simson)

The church is in crisis and needs to deploy all available hands on board, not leaving everything to the busy captain. Communication must have a seat at the grown-ups’ table for a reality check to see how the outside world perceives the church and to shape effective strategies. Missiologists, management gurus, performance oriented corporate fraternity, government officers, soldiers, professionals, city planners, environmentalists, agriculturists, horticulturists, gardeners and a spectrum of hard-nosed, pragmatic entrepreneurs, all interested in the mission of Yahweh and drawn from the network of ekklesias, will completely unshackle the gridlocked, religious thought process. They will release hidden synergies unimagined by the church, but enough to cause a Big Bang, which will throw the church into splinters but in the process, create new heavens and a new earth (Isa. 65:17; Rev. 21:1).

Yeshua, the King of kings and Lord of lords came to seek and to save the lost people; therefore His ekklesia exists to do the same. Nothing more and nothing less.

Every stonewalled Christian has the option to choose between relevance and irrelevance. The illegitimate love affair with the pulpit and pew has lasted too long and it is time to say adieu. The shallowness of a weekly handshake with the Sunday Orator must change to a deeper relationship with each other and with the neighbour. Worship must change from the security and comfort of the temple to the insecurity and the threat of openness of the Garden of Gethsemane - and confront the moment of truth. The change will not come cheap. The choice is to stay in staleness and stagnate or walk out the walk of freedom, and become fruitful (Mark 12:31; John 13:34,35).

Yeshua arose from the dead in the springtime from a garden tomb when the trees shed old leaves and burst forth with new life to bring forth new fruit. We need to do the same.

The church today does not need just ordinary members but a green army with the anointing of Jeremiah: “You will go wherever I send you and speak whatever I command you to speak... See, I have this day set you over the nations and kingdoms, to uproot, tear down and to overthrow them, then rebuild and plant again” (Jer. 1:7-10).

In that day, says the Lord, I will build my tabernacle (ekklesia). They will possess the nations, rebuild waste cities, plant gardens and eat the fruit thereof. (Amos 9:11-15)

“Be fruitful and fill the earth with multiplying apostolic gardens” is not a desirable option but a fundamental requirement of every ekklesia and indeed of every Christian.

Shalom and again Shalom.