

A Missional Re-imagining of the Church – 21st century urban context

- You can't have an activist God, and not an activist church.
- It engages us to see; feel; and hear what is happening in the world

Re-Align our Churches

- Instead of integration, there is assimilation
- Language
- Liturgies
- Race
- Tribalism, Ethnicity and Culture
- Vulnerability

Radical Transformation

- The challenge is not so much about the institutionalization, but the lack of relevance.
- Radical – Who has access to your facilities?
- Radical – who are the marginalized?
- Gentrification of the city

Radical Transformation

- Leslie Newbigin: “the particular mission community is always involved in the discipline of becoming culturally bilingual, learning the language of faith and how to translate its story into the language of its context, so that others may be drawn to become followers of Jesus.”

Response:

- Our part within the Mission Dei cannot be describe as a participants within the Blueprint of God. God is not a dictator.
- To re-imagine a missional church now, it must unsettle those who consciously choose to cling to the past and who does not discern our responsibility towards change.

Changing Landscapes into a Confluence

- The imagery of rivers meeting together into a powerful downstream where its banks becomes a place of healing; where the water meets the people.
- It is a place of renewal and restoration; a place where the power of the Missio Dei can accomplish the impossible

So let us Re-imagine radicalness or Re-positioning of
the church in the present age:

- Protest

- Xenophobia or Afro-phobia, and migrants
- Issues of injustices – public demonstrations!
- Violence; Drugs abuse and human
- Senseless killings and Raping of Children (more than 20 in 2017)
- Youth seeking for a relevant God and participant church

On reflection, the questions that need to be asked

- What progress has taken place in the lives of people with every transitional change in our new dispensation?
- The church must decide to be present in the city – but are they dynamic and effective.
- Are the church involve in public policy-making that shapes the identity of relevance? When was last was the church represented at a portfolio committee meeting?
- One paradox question: do our words reach our works?

Suggestions for improving Urban Mission

- Responsible discipleship.
- Urban context must be taken with utmost seriousness.
- Christ centered witness.
- Speak out against economic injustices.
- Young practitioners must be prepare to swim against the tide, even against popular theological.
- Not to be afraid to partner with NPO's and FBO's.

Praxis and call to discipleship

- The activity of our care is to reconcile humanity to God and towards our eschatological hope within Christ.
- To revitalize, energize, and to enthuse people with their passion in our changing landscapes.

Our calling is to work together with all humanity to shape this different future.

- Logos (character of the message)
- Ethos (character of the messenger)
- we live in an age pregnant with hope
- Our calling is to work together with all humanity to shape this different future.