

## Unconventional Innovation

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What is innovation? The act of doing something or introducing something new

In *Experiencing God*, Blackaby says to *find where God's at work and get involved there.*

Scripture verses (from The Message):

- Is. 43:19 God himself says, "I'm about to do something brand new."
- Eph. 5:1 "Watch what God does and then you do it."
- Jer. 33:3 I will tell you things that you would never figure out on your own.

Big Thought #1:

*Innovation comes from God moments.*

- Being led by the Spirit
- Not what you can dream up, thinking up new, edgy ways of doing thing.
- Finding out what God is doing and *joining* him in it

You can't copy what's happened in other churches if it's not what God is doing in you.

Blackaby: "God's activity is far greater than anything we could aspire to do for him."

The main thing is to be pure and praying. (Stacy Spencer)

Big Thought #2

*There is no shortcut to innovation: you cannot bypass prayer.*

Sometimes we think prayer is like riding a bike without training wheels—once we get the hang of it, Dad can let go. In the birth of a ministry we are wholly dependent, desperate, depending on the Lord. Then after a few years our dependency lessens.

We should be learning from our overseas partners. It's laughable for us to send people over to train them when they have a lot to offer.

Don't underestimate the power of touch. *Experiential Worship* talks about how important it is to touch people in worship. There is something very powerful about the sense of touch.

Some people don't get any other touch in the week.

Also, the Holy Spirit can help you remember people's names. This shows love, especially with homeless people.

Big Thought #3:

*We can't take credit for innovative ideas.*

Noah did something totally unprecedented when he built the ark.

- God came to him with the idea. Why? Because Noah walked with God.
- Prerequisites: upright, man of integrity, obedience.
- He didn't have to think it up. He just was listening, walking with God, and obedient.

Big Thought #4:

*Listen to the Spirit through technology.*

God can reach people through Facebook, Twitter, Tokbox, the online community. E.g. on Facebook status, when somebody says "having a lousy day," we can ask what's going on, offer to help, read between the lines. Use it to intentionally befriend non-Christians.

An effective ministry focuses on:

1. Obedience--God's love language is obedience, a way to show him love.
  2. Going where God is going to move, rather than going to a place where you want.
- Luke 10: Jesus sent out the disciples to find the "person of peace" and stay with them.