

Externally Focused Ministries

Innovation³ Conference, Dallas, TX Jan 27-28, 2009

For additional resources from Innovation³ visit learnings.leadnet.org

Laurie Beshore, Mariners Church, Irvine, CA (www.marinerschurch.org)

The DNA of a Church in Service

Mariners Church found itself with a surplus of \$10,000. *Giving it away transformed our church.*

Our Poor & Needy ministry developed better understanding of the needs of our community and led to 2 transitions:

- 1) We sponsored events that created more ownership of the projects.
- 2) We found the gaps in the community and started to meet them.

We fell in love with the kids in the neighborhood as we tried to help them. We took a survey and found out the 3 main concerns of their parents: They wanted help to keep their kids in school, keep them out of gangs, and help with learning English. We told them upfront that we were a church so we would also be offering Bible studies.

The ministry today has been extended to homeless, orphans, military kids, and more. It's the largest ministry of the church. Our budget represents 25% of the church budget, plus we raised 3.5 million additional and utilized almost 7,000 volunteers.

What are the things that define us?

1. We are always encouraging our volunteers to take the next step. We start with an event for them to take the first step, and God starts to work in their heart. After this we write them a thank you letter and invite them to take the next step.
2. We believe there is no skill, program or resource that has the impact of a *relationship*. Nothing matters more than just showing up and caring for a person.
3. Relationships are always a 2-way street. Significant life changes happen for the ones who help others.

Chip Sweney, Perimeter Church, Duluth, GA (www.perimeter.org)

Churches Partnering Together for Kingdom Impact in Atlanta

Unite! is a movement birthed out of a desire to see the community of Atlanta transformed.

How could we at Perimeter transform all of Atlanta? It had to be about churches working together. There's no one church large or influential enough to influence the whole community. We wanted to partner with existing churches as well as plant new ones.

Today there are over 120 churches in the Atlanta area with the vision, "Churches serving together for community transformation."

It is multi-denominational and multi-cultural. It's been a powerful, beautiful thing to come together with those who are different than us. We bring different visions, passions and gifts when we unite.

What would city transformation look like?

- Education—raise the graduation percent to 95%.
- Poverty—reduce by 50% the number of families living in poverty.
- Work with business community, government and non-profits.
- Sex trafficking—joining hands with the mayor to fight it.

We took the Leadership Community model and built relationships with churches in Atlanta. 12 churches meeting twice a year to plan, brainstorm and dream together.

If you want to transform the city, you have to influence the infrastructure.

Ian Vickers, Christ Community Church, Omaha, NE (www.christcommunityomaha.org)

A Collaborative Model with Non-Christians to Reach the City

The big idea: Collaborating with non-Christians to meet the needs of the city and the world

Mother Teresa said, "What I do, you cannot do; what you do, I cannot do. But if we can do small things with great love together, we can do something wonderful."

Collaboration is interaction among two or more individuals that encompass a variety of actions.

Four characteristics of collaboration are trust, mutual compassion, consistency and hope.

- Egos have to be put aside. It's not about who gets the credit.
- Compassion involves commitment toward others without any thought of return.
- Consistency—following through on what you promise
- Hope—because God is here, there is hope for the city.

We met with leaders in our city to collaborate with the public schools.

First we started with a relationship with the superintendent. We came alongside to support the teachers, showing acts of kindness throughout the year.

Global collaboration led to care for delivering moms, and building a hospital in Mali, Africa, and sending rice to villages. Students from the public schools came on board to help, involving the teachers we had reached with the teacher program.

Collaboration opens doors—even in Beijing China. God is doing amazing things there.

They gave us the whole third floor of Olympic stadium to start a community center. And they want to start 9 more.

On the home front, we gave out \$20,000 and told people to go out and multiply it.

We handed out money at church! 90 days later they brought back \$270,000.