

Summit One



King Road MB Church ReFocusing Digest

September 25 - 26, 2009

**A spiritual discovery process begins with
an assessment of how God has been at work in the past.**

**In this Leadership Summit we reflected on our Journey
and surfaced the actual values
that govern our current behaviour.**

**Once we gained a perspective on our past and present,
we identified the points of surrender that will be necessary
if God is to have His way with us in the future.**

Overview: The ReFocusing Journey

As you are aware, we are involved in a process of “ReFocusing”. Last year our Leaders working with feedback from the congregation came to the realization that we needed to have a clear sense of what God wanted us to be and do as a church family. Without this we could easily fall into debating and even arguing about program and ministry direction. It was felt that we needed a process in which we could discover as an entire church family God’s call for us and surrender to it afresh.

So, how do you create a process where the whole church really has a chance to give input? Answer: By doing it in stages.¹ Three big events mark the journey we are on - Three Summits. These promise to be times of solid discussion, sharing and discovery. At each summit we will endeavour to answer one question.

- **Summit One: "Where have we been?"** We need to remember and reflect on the past so that we can see what God might be saying to us about our future.
- **Summit Two: "Where are we going?"** We need to have a clear sense of direction that we collectively agree is God’s direction for us.
- **Summit Three: "How will we get there?"** We need to have a basic ministry model that we agree to and then decide what needs to be done and when.

On September 25 - 26 we completed Summit One.

You might ask, “What about people who cannot attend these summits? How will they contribute to the plans that are being made? Following Summits One and Two there will be “Discussion Groups” where everyone is invited to interact and sharpen the work done at the Summits. This digest will serve as the basis for discussion.

We encourage you to be a part. You can affirm the discoveries, disagree with the discoveries or add to the discoveries. The input of all is welcome and necessary. The feed back from the Discussion Groups will be incorporated into the refining work that we will do. You can be sure – there is no agenda in place.

Your participation is critical and will make a difference.

¹ See Appendix 1 (pg. 8) Overview

Summit One: What We Did

We began Friday evening by writing our history as honestly as possible. We built a journey wall. We included the joyful times, and painful circumstances. It was an effort to understand, not to fix blame or explain why. On Saturday morning we identified the actual core values that have guided us. We spent some time reflecting on what God's priorities for us might be and concluded by taking time to identify our personal and congregational issues of surrender.

What follows is a digest of people's observations, discoveries and responses. This is what we thought was said. We invite you to reflect and offer your perspective as well. As you continue to read this summary ask yourself, "Is this accurate and reflective of us as a church? If it is, we must take these factors into consideration as we seek God's will in setting our course for the future.

Part 1: Our Journey Wall²

Things we were glad to see:

- Care Groups
- TREK
- Missions and DMI
- Leadership Development
- Separation of English and German Services

Things we found most painful:

- Changing of pastors
- Exodus of people due to recent pastoral transitions
- The year without a youth pastor
- Losing of youth to other churches due to cultural and language issues
- Not impacting our local community - we have grown by immigration, transfers and our own families, not by conversions from the community

Observations, Connections and Patterns:

- We have a long history of foreign missions
- We have had the blessing of positive, gracious leadership throughout our history – both paid pastors and lay ministers
- Language and culture has been a point of tension for us through the years
- Difficult times have allowed us to learn deeper lessons so that the second time through we are more aware of God's leading

² See Appendix 2 (pg 9) for a look at "Our Wall".

- AJ Konrad’s stability and leadership serves as a lesson as we move into the future. His wisdom and willingness to trust God put us at ease. His words, “Keep the main thing the main thing!” and “Let’s just try it!” encourage us to take ourselves less seriously and God more seriously.
- Former pastors often stay – even AJ Klassen - allowing for ongoing healing.
- We have struggled throughout our history to define our local mission (the immigrant factor). If we removed the additions of transfers and immigrants what would our growth curve look like?
- Some might feel that our German and English congregations are slowly drifting apart
- Prayer has marked our journey. There has been a commitment to pray
- We have placed a high value on unity

How have we responded?

- Sometimes we discuss it!... Although discussion doesn’t always lead to action
- Sometimes we leave. Some of us leave physically and some of us leave emotionally – we stop caring.
- Sometimes we pray
- Sometimes we learn
- Sometimes we are stubborn
- Sometimes we eat 😊 and celebrate!

For lessons from our journey see “Our Journey: King Road MB Church” Appendix 2 pg 9

Part 2: Our Current Actual Core Values:

We worked in clusters and expressed the following core values as those that define us today – based on our journey wall and our behaviour. These are not necessarily the values we want – they are the values we feel we evidence. As a result of comments made, we have combined the identified value of financial security under Tradition/Heritage as it grows out of our immigrant experience. Having lived through hard times as a people, it is important to us that we work hard, save our money and control our environments as much as possible. Do the following values capture our discussion and do they explain our behaviour?

- Tradition/Heritage - We value our Mennonite culture and traditions. Hard work, thriftiness and order are important to us. This spirit can allow us to prosper but it can also result in a self sufficiency that keeps us from risking for God.
- Overseas Missions - We have a concern for those of other nations and give generously and go personally to see them reached with the gospel of Christ

- Personal Comfort - We value ministry, church governance and worship that falls within our comfort zones and does not threaten our traditions or chosen lifestyles.
- Bible Teaching - We value sound doctrine presented relevantly to direct our lives and values.
- Congregational Governance - We value our “vote”. It allows us to have “our say” and gives us a sense of control.
- Prayer - We depend on God for ourselves and others. We express our dependency through prayer.
- Leadership - We value our leaders (Pastors and Lay Leaders) and depend on them to use their gifts to guide and mobilize us for kingdom work.
- Serving - We value personal sacrifice to do God’s work because God’s work is more important than our pleasure. Without our willingness and discipline to be faithful to what He asks we cannot expect His blessing.
- Generosity - We value a generous spirit and sacrificial giving to do God’s work. “Where our treasure is there our hearts will also be.”
- Caring - We value a caring, supportive community where we enjoy our God, minister to each other and have fun with all ages. Food and hospitality, the marks of our heritage are also the marks of the Kingdom of God.

After a discussion of our current actual values, Summit participants went on a brief twenty minute retreat and reflected on what God might be saying to us. The following is a summary.

When asked what God would **affirm us** for we responded with events and things calling for rejoicing and celebration. This is what we believe Jesus would say.

- “I love you more than you can imagine!” Most of us find it difficult to live deeply in his love. Psalm 103 – “God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love...” was cited to remind us.
- “I enjoy it when all ages are together! You do this well and it is an image of My Kingdom!”
- “I affirm and celebrate your hard work and perseverance!”
- “I am thankful you value my words, my teaching and my gospel!”
- “I love your culture – use it in a creative way to bring in my Kingdom!”
- “I am grateful to see the care you have for each other... by this will all men know that you are my disciples in that you love one another!”
- “I feel a little bit of heaven here. You are ministering cross culturally – every tribe and nation!”
- “You are going into the entire world as I commanded you! I am pleased!”

When asked what God would **nudge/challenge us** on we responded. This is what we thought Jesus would say.

- “Stop acting out of fear! I love you! You can risk going forward with me!”
- “Pioneer with me. Give up your illusion of control and financial security. After all, I am in control!”
- “Change is going to be thrust upon you. Why not surrender to me now (be proactive).
- “Don’t depend so much on your finances and traditions but depend on Me. PRAY!”
- “Remain in me” John 15
- “Let go!” – a parenting analogy was given. When raising children, you want to do what is best for them but eventually you need to let go and there is freedom in that. We need to let go of what we can’t control.
- “I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don’t tolerate evil people... You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first. You have fallen from your first love! Turn back to me again and work as you did at first....” Rev. 2:2-5
- “Worship me more – in spirit and in truth! (John 4:23) It’s not your traditions – which mountain you are at – it’s me! Your lives are put in perspective when you worship me!”
- “I have set a great feast. Where are the lame, the poor, the broken among you? Where are the marginalized? You have great feasts among yourselves but where are the others I died for?”
- “Whoever wants to save his life, will lose it – but who ever gives his life for my sake and the gospel will find it.” Luke 9:24 - Following Jesus is risky but worth it!
- “Focus a little more on family and how faith is nurtured in your families. Have the boldness to be authentic with your children. Have the courage to talk about the things of the heart. ‘Where are you with God? How can I pray for you?’ ”
- “Have the courage to be authentic with others. So many people are longing for genuine relationship with Me. There is a lot of pressure on you to look good. Don’t fake it. Just be authentic about your own brokenness and need of grace.”

Part 3: Our Surrender Points and Conclusions

Toward the end of the Summit we asked ourselves what we would need to release if God were to have His way at King Road MB Church. We talked about our points of surrender and we identified the following. If God is to have his way with us we will need to release:

- Our own perspectives – We need to be willing to see through other’s eyes and understand them

- Our fear of friction – we can't be people pleasers
 - Our false sense of security – the need to always know the plan.
 - Our need for control.
 - Our hurts – the offences of the past. When we hold on to the things of the past it makes us bitter. We must forgive.
 - Our fear of what other people will think
 - Our rights
 - Our need for recognition – we do what we do for Jesus
 - Our fear of losing our culture.
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Conclusion

As we closed, there was a very real sense that God is with us. There is room for great optimism. We have been through challenges but God has been shaping us. If we let him have his way, the future is indeed bright. It was suggested that the titles of our next chapter might be “Freedom!”, “Under New Management”, “We’re Marching”, “Revival” and “Exponential Growth”! It is a future we look forward to discovering and living out! We will begin that discovery in Summit 2 as we answer the question, “Where Are We Going?”

Next Steps:

- Attend a “Discussion Group”!
 - These will happen in care groups, Wednesday German Bible study, Women’s meetings, etc.
 - Sunday morning discussion groups in the gym
 - Sunday, October 4, 9:30 a.m. in English; 11:00 a.m. in German
- Join in Prayer for the Process!
 - Prayer Time in Don’s office during both Sunday morning services
- Leadership Summit 2 – “Where Are We Going?” October 23-24

ReFocusing Overview

PREPARING



ASSESSING



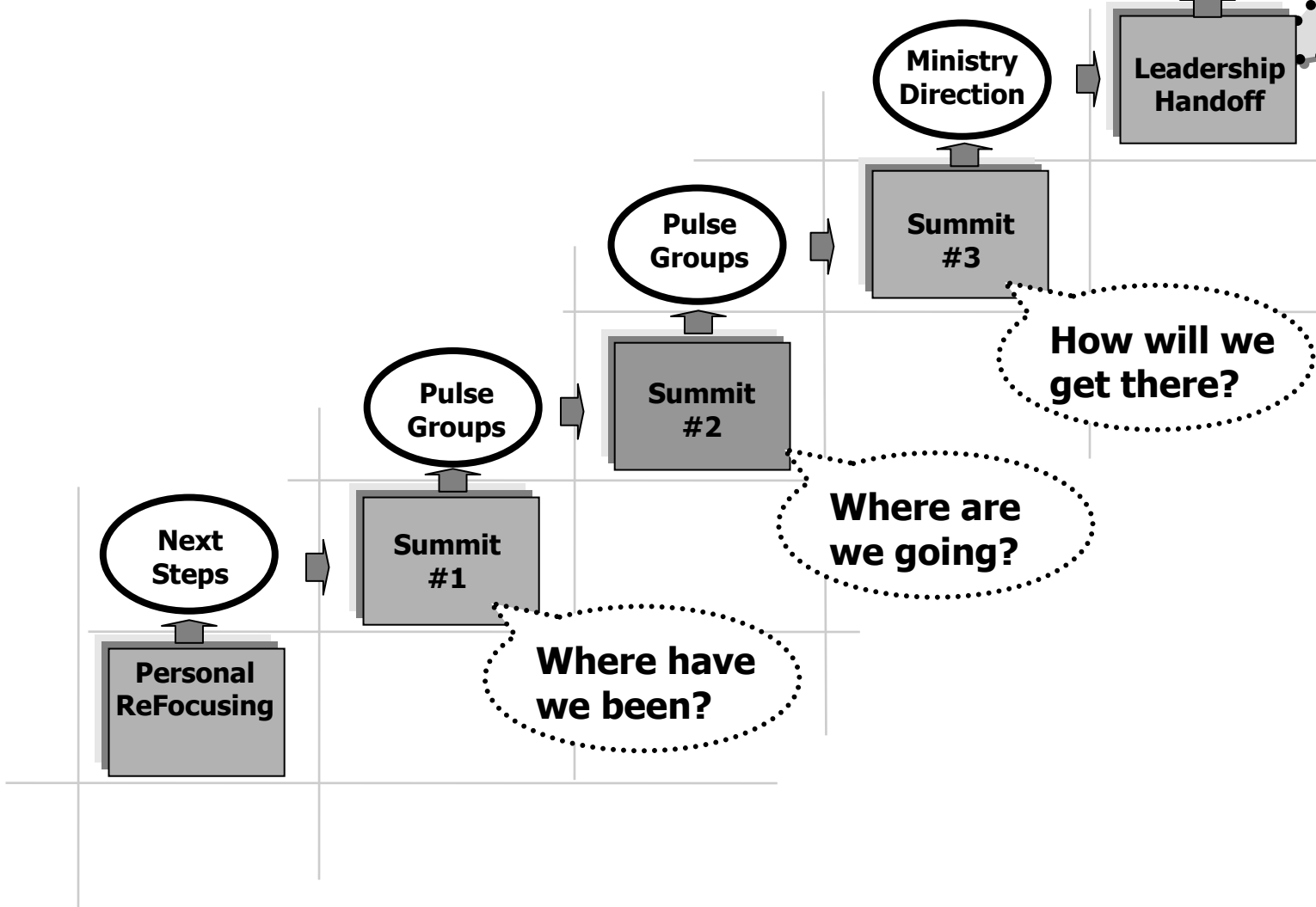
DISCOVERING



IMPLEMENTING

Implement

"Next Chapter"



Appendix 2

Our Journey: King Road MB Church

The Early Years		Turbulence		Stability		Redefining		Crossroads	
1965-1978		1979-1986		1987-1994		1995-2002		2003-2009	
South Abbotsford Split 1964-65 (6xs)	Twenty Seven Baptised – One Service	Youth Ministry in the 80's	Vote to Remove AJ Klassen (4xs)	Music	DMI	Staff Transitions 1995 to Present	Young English Speaking Senior Pastor	TREK	40 th Anniversary
Founding of King Rd MB 1965	Accepted into Conference	Mission Trips 1979-Present	Hiring Associate Staff	Immigration (3xs)	25 th Anniversary	Leonard Klassen	Adam Kruger	Immigrants - Influx of Paraguayans	Harry Heidebrecht Example of Outreach
Need for German Service	Joining MB Conference	Disunity at Membership Meetings	Mass Exodus Younger Gen (2xs)	Care Groups Begin	Family Camps	Frank Peters	Adam Kruger	Ministry Assistants	Pastoral Candidate Rejected (2xs)
Financial Security 1966-Present	Jacob Franz Heart Attack	English/German Message Same Service	AJ Klassen Staying	AJ Konrad Stability	Mission Trips	Al Enns	We Are Not Impacting the Community	Multi Cultural Groups – Chin., Ger., Russ., Span.	Children's Ministry
South American Culture		Bilingual messages in one service (2xs)		Greater Emphasis on Bible Study Small Groups		3 Goals – Outreach Families, Leadership Dev	Andrew Dyck	Loss of Lay Pastors	Pastoral Team
Sending Missionaries – Cowie, Wiens Binder, DMI Teams		Language Issues (2xs)		Two Services – Separate Languages (7xs)		Choir Died		Pastors Resigning Mid Term	Don Petker
People From Different Backgrounds		Language Transition		Celebrating Communion in Separate Languages		Drums Introduced		Youth Pastors Changing	Leadership Development
German/English Differences		Building New Sanctuary (7xs)		Peter Loewen (DMI) (3xs)		Women's Retreats		Edgar coming into Youth	

Yellow – Events, circumstances and people Pink – Painful events, circumstances and people

Lessons About God

- He brings blessing thru trial
- He blesses us thru people
- He provides 5xs
- He unifies us
- He is teaching us to pray
- He has given us good leaders
- He is faithful 4xs
- He stretches/challenges us
- He loves King Road
- He never leaves us
- He hears our prayers
- He uses us in spite of us
- He works all things together for good
- He doesn't just speak German
- He is faithful in the midst of change
- He has a unique calling for this our church
- He never abandons us
- He provides key leaders
- He enjoys diversity He empowers and uses our efforts
- He is patient
- He gives us second opportunities
- He is present
- He provides leadership 3xs
- He allows trials
- He gives unity
- He builds the church
- He never changes

Lessons About Us

- We value language and culture
- We have learned the importance of prayer
- We are committed to our church
- We struggle with change 2xs
- We are very traditional
- We are willing to try
- We depend on God
- We persevere 2xs
- We change slowly 2xs
- We grow thru adversity
- We are frail
- We are dependant
- We are willing to compromise
- Foreign missions is important to us
- We are quietly confident in the face of difficulty
- We are dependent on good leadership for mobilization and motivation
- Our culture influences our ministry
- We are willing to try new things
- We are resilient
- We are a praying people 2xs
- Conflict is inevitable but not fatal
- We value Godly leadership
- We find surrender is difficult
- We are stubbornly committed
- We need to maintain a focus on God not ourselves
- We must refocus
- We are not hopeless
- We want control
- We are self conscious – we need to be freer
- We support our pastors
- We have had stability over time 2xs
- We wait on God – it is to our benefit