

Summit Two Digest



King Road MB Church
ReFocusing Digest

October 23-24, 2009

Summit One: Where have we been?
Summit Two: Where are we going?
Summit Three: How will we get there?

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. 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 October 23-24 we completed Summit Two.

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 feedback 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.

Summit Two: What We Did – A Summary

On Friday evening we took time to review and discuss the results received from the discussion groups. With Summit One results digested, we moved on to begin to answer the second big question of the process, **“Where are we going?”** This began by spending time reflecting on who God has given us to reach – our Mission Focus.

On Saturday morning we readdressed our values. If we were going to be obedient to God in loving and reaching those He has given us, how would our values need to shift? We identified our “preferred values” and then discussed the impact this would have on our behaviour if we engaged them. Finally, we reflected on what our church would look like if we were simply obedient to reaching the people God has given us with the values He has called us to. Our first glimpse of vision emerged.

Part 1: Reviewing Summit One:

As you are aware, we were all invited to discuss the Summit One Digest. Each discussion group gave a report. The discussion in these groups confirmed and enlarged upon the discoveries made at Summit One and the process we are following. Our facilitator noted that there were additional Milestones (people and events) added to the Journey Wall but other than a discussion on the order of our actual values our conclusions and points of surrender were affirmed.

Part 2: Our Mission Focus:

We moved on to identify whom God is calling us to reach (our mission focus). To this end we examined information on our community (Abbotsford) and our church. As we did, the following observations were made.

Comments on our Community (Abbotsford) Profile¹:

- The relative age of our population is young
- We have an amazing number of different ethnic groups – 58 altogether
- There are communities within the community – ethnic segregation is prevalent
- We have the same problems as growing cities – gangs and crime

When asked, “Are there particular people groups that have particular needs or openness?” we responded by saying:

- Mexican farm workers – many are lonely and want to learn English

¹ See Appendix A

- Mainland Chinese students who are curious about matters of faith
- Youth at risk – because of drugs, sexual exploitation and crime, their felt soul needs are great.
- People with mental illness and addictions
- Immigrants from South America and around the world. We understand immigrants (“Find an immigrant group and you have an opportunity”)
- Young families yearning for community and family
- Lone (single) parents – especially fathers who feel lost and alone when it comes to parenting
- Friends and co-workers with whom we have built relationships

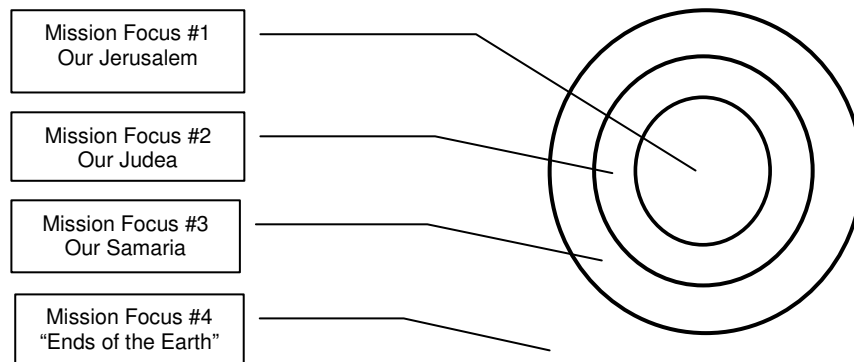
In light of our awareness of these people groups, our facilitator encouraged us not to feel “less than”. We are a good church with wonderful connections into our community and a treasury of gifts to offer. We understand immigration and have a special perspective when it comes to understanding and meeting the needs of people. We have a great contribution to make to the community and the Kingdom!

Comments on our Church Profile²:

- It is true that we give a good Sunday morning welcome but are not as open to welcoming new people into our lives
- We seem to have a number of “Religious Alumni” – people who’ve grown up in the church but are no longer in church
- We are concerned that in the last year although we received 30 new members, only four were by baptism
- We predominantly attract church believers – this concerns us
- We are younger than we thought! The median age is below 40!

Mission Focus:

After reviewing the above information we were able to tackle our “mission focus” based on Acts 1:8. We identified our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and “ends of the earth.”



² See Appendix B

Group #1 – People we are currently reaching (Our Jerusalem)

- o South American immigrants like us; church members; mostly blue collar
- o Some Mexican workers
- o Some Youth
- o Believers who have retired here
- o Believers who have moved to our community
- o Some immigrants (other than South America)
- o Some workplace contacts

Group #2 – People we could reach if we became intentional (Our Judea)

- o Friends
- o Neighbours
- o Co-workers
- o Family members
- o Young Adults (religious alumni)
- o Recreational connections
- o Paraguayan immigrants who no longer go to church
- o Community Children (TREK)
- o Lone (single) parents
- o People suffering from addictions and mental illness
- o International Students

Group #3 – People we will not find it easy to reach (Our Samaria)

- o Indo Canadians
- o Secularized Canadians
- o Homeless People

Group #4 – People physically removed from us (Our “Ends of the Earth”)

- o Russia and the former Eastern Bloc
- o Latin America - Peru (church planting), Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico
- o Africa – Chad, Nigeria
- o Other - Papua New Guinea, Austria, Thailand

We took some time to brainstorm ways we might more effectively reach the people of our Judea. We surfaced the following ideas.

Reaching our Judea – the people in Group #2

- o Follow through with our “TREK” connections
- o Invite our co-workers, neighbours to appropriate programs where their needs can be met
- o Make our Fall Extravaganza more widely known – personal invitation and advertising
- o Have potlucks and connecting points for newcomers - so the welcome moves from Sunday morning to other times
- o Network and form strategic partnerships with other organizations and churches
- o Support individual efforts in personal connections and relationships
- o Take ownership of some things that are happening in our church – don’t just leave it for someone else
- o Re-focus our care groups – to reach out, care and minister

Part 3: Our Preferred Values:

On Saturday morning we began wrestling with our values. “What values would we need to have (what kind of people would we need to be) if we were truly to connect with our community as a church and reach people for His kingdom in a way that pleased Him? The following were identified as our preferred values (i.e. values we aspire to). **They are not in any particular order of importance or preference.**

- Dependence on God - We value God as our source, joyfully celebrating who He is in our worship and prayerfully depending on Him in all things because without Him we can do nothing.
- Biblical Teaching - We value sound doctrine, the teaching and application of God’s Word to our lives because without His direction and grace we are truly lost.
- Christ as Centre – We value Christ as our centre because without surrender and obedience to Him we cannot have true fellowship with God or each other.
- Missionary Vision - We value a bold, enthusiastic vision of reaching all people with the love of Christ at home and among the nations. We will send, serve and go to whomever He has called us. Playing it safe is not attractive to us.
- Loving Relationships - We value loving and enjoying people just as Jesus did. Life transformation takes place through compassionate relationships. Therefore everything we do we will do relationally.
- Sacrificial Service - We value serving others like Jesus served us. This means we are willing to serve God and others regardless of the personal cost.
- Disciple Making - We value discipleship that results in passionate lovers of Christ empowered for ministry - lives that are transformed by God’s Holy Spirit.
- Relevance - We value our faith expressed in a meaningful way so that all can understand. They will know we are Christians by our love and social responsibility.
- Empowered Leadership - We value faithful servant leaders who shepherd and protect us. Our leaders provide direction and foster unity.

The following are also values we hold. Although important, they did not receive the same attention of those above. However, if you feel they better express what we need to embrace, say so when we discuss this Digest!

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| ○ Generosity | ○ Authenticity |
| ○ People focussed | ○ Integrity |
| ○ Confident / Joyful | ○ Respectful |
| ○ Teamwork | ○ Patience |
| ○ Faithful | ○ Humility |

Some observations from the Summit participants regarding how living out our new values will impact our behaviour.

- Instead of making people fit our moulds we will become more discerning
- Instead of relying on ourselves we will depend on God
- Instead of resting in comfort we will be willing to take risks for God
- Instead of fearing loss we will move forward in faith
- Instead of focusing inwardly we will focus outwardly

- Instead of sitting in the bleachers we will get on the field
- Instead of waiting for leaders step into leadership
- Instead of judging we will be accepting
- Instead of holding on to control we will trust / empower others
- Instead of our own ways we will embrace God's way

After considering the behavioural shifts, we discussed the answers to the following questions. Our answers are listed.

1. *What price will our church pay if we don't make these shifts?*
 - Stagnation
 - Decline
 - Becoming irrelevant and isolated
 - Becoming unattractive
 - We will carry the heavy burden of maintaining and simply trying to keep people happy
 - We will burn out our leadership
2. *Who else will pay a price? What will they pay?*
 - Our families, friends and neighbours – the price of their souls
3. *What are the benefits of not changing?*
 - Short term comfort and ease
 - Familiarity

Part 4: Discovering Vision

With the values identified, we moved on to take our first look at vision. What could our church look like in three to five years if we lived out our Biblical purpose to reach our mission focus with our preferred values?

Summit Participants drew what they thought our church would look like on large sheets of paper. Various creative ways were used to portray the future God has for us and it was evident that **there were a number of common themes**. They were as follows:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personal ministry ○ Food; fellowship; openness ○ Creative outreach ○ Prayer ○ God's Word ○ Care Groups ministering ○ Sports Ministries ○ Baptism / Discipling / Conversions ○ Commitment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Houses being built; practical needs being met ○ Using the gifts that we have ○ Inspiring worship ○ Cross cultural ministry ○ Social concern ○ Intergenerational church ○ Family orientation ○ Sending out ministry teams and people |
|--|--|

We listened and noted what the summit was articulating. Following the summit this draft statement was written to bring together the ideas and concepts the summit participants identified. Does it capture our thoughts?

Draft Vision Statement:

We envision a growing church of caring, adventurous Christ followers, who are enjoying a deepening relationship with God and reaching their friends, neighbours and world for Him.

Specifically...

- o We see prayerful dependence on God underlying everything we do.
- o We see celebrative worship services that communicate God's forgiveness and truth. They are relevant to life. People are coming to Christ and being baptized into the church regularly.
- o We see the people of our church building relationships in our community. (e.g. co-workers, friends, family, etc.) These friendships will be lived out through the week as we meet needs, engage in community service, offer hospitality and introduce people to Jesus. We see bridging and harvest activities designed to help us bring these friends to Christ.
- o We see intentional discipleship, one on one and in groups where people are led to Christ then taught, mentored and equipped to live out their God given call.
- o We see small groups of various kinds passionately ministering and caring for people. These groups are safe places where no one stands alone but rather experiences intimate community. We see each of these groups reaching out to the community and serving God in their unique settings.
- o We see reaching out and engaging people who are often marginalized e.g. newcomers to Canada, people suffering with poor mental health, youth at risk, lone parent families to name a few.
- o We see an environment where we reach beyond ourselves and think "outside the box" to maximize our redemptive potential. This may include partnering with other organizations and churches to reach as many people as we can.

What is Next?

Attend a "Discussion Group"! They are scheduled to happen in care groups, Wednesday German Bible study, women's meetings, etc. There will again be two Sunday morning discussion groups in the gym:

Sunday, November 1, 9:30 a.m. in English; 11:00 a.m. in German

Keep Praying! Please pray for the ReFocusing Journey! Remember that someone is available in Don's office during Sunday services to pray with you.

Leadership Summit 3 is scheduled for November 20-21, 2009.

APPENDIX A

ABBOTSFORD Community Profile

(prepared for King Road MB Church, ReFocusing Summit #2, October 23-24, 2009)

The vast majority of people who attend King Road live in Abbotsford, specifically central and west Abbotsford, north of the freeway. This report attempts to reflect some of the realities facing Abbotsford, as supported by both data/facts³ and general observations.

The People

- Abbotsford residents are young (median age 36.6) – family-oriented community; Abbotsford/Mission has the 3rd highest proportion of children under 15 in Canada
- Married people accounted for 56% of adult population; 28% never married/single; 10% are separated/divorced; 6% widowed
- Abbotsford is culturally diverse (58 different ethnic groups); 42% of Abbotsford's immigrant population is from South Asian descent
- Approximately 40% identify themselves as Protestant; 10% as Christian; 10% as Catholic; 13% as Sikh; and 23% as no religious affiliation
- Housing is becoming increasingly multi-family, and still is more affordable than communities closer to Vancouver
- The largest employers are in the fields of manufacturing, retail trade, and construction; the majority of Abbotsford residents live and work in the city

The Needs

- People in Abbotsford face financial and time pressures
- Issues facing the community are crime, gangs, violence, drugs (addictions), homelessness
- Unemployment rate is 8.8% at the present⁴
- Ongoing growth pains as Abbotsford continues to grow into a large/urban city from its small/rural roots

Trends

- Abbotsford is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada (126% increase in population between 1981 and 2006); though the rate of growth is expected to moderate, the current population of 130,000 is expected to be in the range of 175-200,000 in 20 years
- Abbotsford is not expected to “age” nearly as much as other communities (high birth rate); Abbotsford School District is one of the few to experience an increase in students this past year

The Barriers

- There are a lot of churches in the community of Abbotsford and the area is often referred to as “the Bible-belt”. What does this mean for people who are not a part of a church?
- Belief in God appears to be quite high, but many who profess this belief do not attend church

Opportunities

People are expressing a desire to be welcomed and accepted. Common trends in Canada are that people are very open to spirituality. What would it look like for King Road to model genuine community to those around us? How might we address the needs of our community? Based on the anticipated growth of Abbotsford, there appears to be incredible opportunity to impact our community.

³ www.abbotsford.ca and www.statcan.gc.ca/ have numerous reports on which these findings are based

⁴ <http://srv129.services.gc.ca/eiregions/eng/abbt.aspx?rates=1>

APPENDIX B

KING ROAD MB CHURCH Congregational Profile

(prepared for King Road MB Church, ReFocusing Summit #2, October 23-24, 2009)

The task of attempting to succinctly profile King Road MB Church is not easy, but what follows is an attempt that is based on both discussions among church leadership and some analysis of statistical data (see below).

King Road MB Church is...

- Younger than may appear at first glance (we have slightly more people on our lists that are below the age of 40 than who are above the age of 40)
- Larger than may appear at first glance (630 members, almost 900 members and adherents), even though Sunday morning attendance does not reflect these numbers (less than 300 in each service)
- Culturally diverse and multi-lingual, though not necessarily a true reflection of our Abbotsford community
- Often stereotyped in the community, perhaps as “German” or “traditional” or “not the place to be”
- Full of self-employed members (more blue collar than white collar, though it is blue collar with an entrepreneurial focus)
- Growing in the number of young adults who are attending post-secondary education
- Quite welcoming on a Sunday morning though this doesn't always translate into our welcoming people into our lives
- Growing by immigration and transfer from other churches (only 4 of the last 30 members who have joined King Road were through baptism)
- Financially stable
- Made up of many volunteers willing to serve, though with many committees

Statistical Report...

Membership in October 2009 630

Demographic information – members and adherents (total: 894 persons):

a) 0-10.....	126
b) 11-20.....	122
c) 21-30.....	142
d) 31-40.....	77
e) 41-50.....	96
f) 51-60.....	80
g) 61-70.....	88
h) 71-80.....	90
i) 81-90.....	67
j) 91-100.....	6