

Handout For ....

# Emerging Church

## The Power of Paradox Preaching to the Postmodern Mind

By Dr. Bob Whitesel

**Seminar overview.** Why do paradox, contradiction and pessimism foster vibrant spiritual lives in postmodern churches? Dr. Bob Whitesel trades the roots of storytelling from the New Testament to today's postmodern churches, describing how for today's young people discipleship is better caught than taught.

**The research base.** I surveyed dozens of organic congregations that are reaching young people. From this group I selected 12 to include in my fourth book for Abingdon Press titled *Inside the Organic Church: Learning from 12 Emerging Congregations* (2006). Some of these churches are small, some are struggling, some might be called mega-churches, but all had transferable lessons that other churches can use to reach people under 35.

**Research results.** Subsequently, *Inside the Organic Church* lists 36 ideas that almost any church can utilize to reach younger generations. I also add to the Gibbs/Bolger list of identifying marks, 12 more distinguishing characteristics.

### New Testament Preaching Mirrored Today.

The Bridge, Phoenix AZ

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Solomon's Porch, Minneapolis, MN

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the sol café, Edmonton, AB

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The Tribe of LA, Los Angeles, CA

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### Storytelling in the Bible and Today

Church of the Apostles, Seattle, WA

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Freeway, Baton Rouge, LA

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### Contradiction Leads to Understanding.

Vintage Faith, Santa Cruz, CA

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Mars Hill, Grandville, MI

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### Pessimism and a Future of Hope.

Bluer, Minneapolis, MN

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One Place, Phoenix, AZ

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Scum of the Earth, Denver, CO

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St. Thomas' Church, Sheffield, UK

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