

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Emerging, Organic Church

12 Stories & 36 Strategies To Reach Postmodern Hearts and Minds

By Dr. Bob Whitesel

Seminar overview. The church is changing. Are you ready for the future? If you want to know where the church is heading but can't travel the globe to find out, let author, professor, church consultant and futurist Dr. Bob Whitesel be your travel guide into the future of the church. Bob traveled across No. America and England to investigate 12 wildly different, but unusually effective churches that are reaching today's postmodern minds. Drumming circles, creative arts, iconography, multi-cultural ministry, internet discipleship, small groups and organic leadership are just a few of the 36 unique strategies that will be investigated.

Rationale for this seminar: Today, many creative and improvisational churches are emerging. Christian leaders often wonder if these churches will last & if they can be outreach models for other churches.

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. In many ways this book is a hitchhiker's guide to the emerging, organic church of tomorrow.

Questions that might arise, but which I will be investigating in depth in later seminars:

1. Is it heretical?
2. What preaching skills are needed?
3. Is this church better than its predecessors?
4. What is a tribal community of small groups?
5. What are the most radical examples?

St. Thomas' Church, Sheffield UK. How did it become England's largest Anglican church, filled with young people under 30?

Lesson 1: _____

Lesson 2: _____

Lesson 3: _____

the sole café, Edmonton AB. Planting a church by purchasing an Internet Café?

Lesson 4: _____

Lesson 5: _____

Lesson 6: _____

Mars Hill, Grandville, MI. How small groups can make a mega-church manageable.

Lesson 7: _____

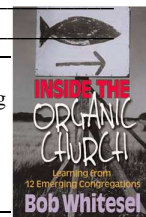
Lesson 8: _____

Lesson 9: _____

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The Bridge, Phoenix & Tempe, AZ. Building bridges to the poor is their focus, not their worship gatherings in bars and nightclubs.

Lesson 10: _____

Lesson 11: _____

Lesson 12: _____

Vintage Faith Church, Santa Cruz CA.

Sacred spaces, multiple generations and artists of all mediums create a growing church among a libertine culture in coastal California.

Lesson 13: _____

Lesson 14: _____

Lesson 15: _____

Freeway, Baton Rouge, LA. Sifting postmodern TV, literature, urban legends and films helps this church preach effectively to postmodern minds.

Lesson 16: _____

Lesson 17: _____

Lesson 18: _____

Church of the Apostles, Seattle, WA. Fusing Ancient-Future elements, stories and symbols helps this church build their outreach upon proclamation and presence evangelism.

Lesson 19: _____

Lesson 20: _____

Lesson 21: _____

One Place, Phoenix, AZ. Interactive stations do the preaching when this organic church is without a preacher for over a year. Plus, the church grows during this time too!

Lesson 22: _____

Lesson 23: _____

Lesson 24: _____

Scum of the Earth Church, Denver, CO.

Meeting the needs of disenfranchised urbanites, Goths and artists builds a healthy church akin to the church in *1 Corinthians 4:11-13*.

Lesson 25: _____

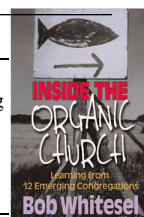
Lesson 26: _____

Lesson 27: _____

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Bluer, Minneapolis, MN. How a marginalized boomer Vineyard church transformed into an low-maintenance, artistic, flexible congregation.

Lesson 28: _____

Lesson 29: _____

Lesson 30: _____

Tribe of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA. Drumming circles, organic preaching and missional immersion grow a church that may be the model for multi-ethnic churches in the future.

Lesson 31: _____

Lesson 32: _____

Lesson 33: _____

Solomon's Porch, Minneapolis, MN. Learn to "improv" and release your innovation "gene" while discovering the important difference between effectiveness and efficiency from this innovative and influential organic church.

Lesson 34: _____

Lesson 35: _____

Lesson 36: _____

Additional information in the book:

CHAPTER: The Prelude:

Major Conclusions from My Travels.
Postmodern Patterns and Organic Reactions:
16 Patterns
16 Reactions

CHAPTER: The Finale:

Discover the 4 Melodies of the Organic Church:
1. The Melody of Orthodoxy
2. The Melody of Authenticity
3. The Melody of Engagement: Social and Spiritual
4. The Melody of Missional Church Growth (What is a missional church? And, why is it so important for the future of the church in North America?)

CHAPTER: Nurturing an Organic Congregation: The Leadership Collage

3 Stages (Seasons) for Growing an Organic Church:
1. Studying a Culture.
2. The Ensemble Experience.
3. The Leadership Collage: How to create your own localized ministry and avoid being a synthetic clone.

Plus, each chapter includes:

- Complete contact information for each organic church.
- Lists of primary leaders in each church.
- Interviews with leaders in each church.
- Synergies that most organic churches share.
- A narrative of the author's encounters with each congregation.
- Extensive footnotes for your own hitchhiking journey.

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