

The DNA & Mission of Your Church

Discovery Questionnaire

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Introduction

Your local church, with its own unique design, is God’s gift to your community, the nation and the nations.

This questionnaire is designed as a tool for brainstorming and creative thinking about the DNA and changing role of mission in your local church.

In order to get the most out of this process, I recommend the following:

- ▶ **DO** be **selective** about the questions you choose. Not every question covered in this workbook will be relevant to your unique situation. In addition, some questions may best be handled by leadership only.
- ▶ **DO** ensure that the **senior leader and members of the church leadership team** are an integral part of the process of developing a mission focus for the church.

- ▶ **DO** use the tools contained in this workbook with **groups and mission teams**. In this case, I encourage you to complete the questions individually but follow this through by having a group leader develop a composite picture of the group's answers on a whiteboard or similar.
- ▶ **DO** see these questions as a **starting-point only**. The **real work** in developing a mission strategy will lie ahead of you: in much prayer, vision-casting, goal-setting, planning and frequent review.

A. The Unique DNA of Your Local Church

KEY CONCEPT:



Your local church has stewardship of unique strengths, gifts, vision and leadership.

God gives these unique gifts, not only for strengthening the church, but also so that your church can impact its community, nation and the world.

Every church has a unique set of strengths, resources, calling and gifts. For example, a church can have unique gifts of training, releasing finance, evangelism, prayer or creative ministries.

Describing your DNA (the 'Distinctive Nature of Your Anointing') answers the question, "What specific gift do we as a church have to offer? What describes our calling? Our leadership? What are our unique gifts, both natural and spiritual?"

Here are some potential areas of giftedness to get you started:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral | <input type="checkbox"/> Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Prophetic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Men | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship |

- Evangelism
- Cultural
- Justice
- Mercy
- Leadership
- Faith

An important note:

The answers to many of these questions will **CHANGE OVER TIME**, according to the vision and direction given through your leadership. For example, the present culture, or flavour, of your church may differ from that of your long-term vision. The purpose of this exercise is not to 'box you in,' but to identify a launching pad for your mission as a church.

1. VISION

What are the **vision and/or mission statements** of your church?

2. CORE VALUES

What are the **core values** of your church? If these are not already defined, consider what values are most important to the leadership and how these are reflected in the life of the church.

3. UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

In what ways are you, as a church, unique? What are your points of difference from other churches?

How would you describe the unique CHARACTERISTICS of your church to an outsider?

4. CULTURE

How would you describe the culture of your church to an outsider?

4.1. 'We are a ' _____ ' - flavoured Church. (Use descriptive words: e.g., vibrant, conservative, relevant, etc.)

4.2 We would especially appeal to ' _____ ' people (e.g., international, families, youth, conservative, business etc.) Name several.

5. ORIGINAL MATERIAL

In what areas are you producing original material as a church? Has any of this been successfully used outside of your local church?

6. MINISTRY STRENGTHS

Name your ministry strengths – in what areas of church life, community life or mission are you particularly flourishing?

How would you describe the main ministry functions or flavour of your church? Name them. For example, training, worship, prophetic, youth, missions, community, evangelistic, etc.

7. RESOURCES

What are the notable resources amongst your people as a church?

Include financial, practical skills / helps ministries.

8. CALLING

What is your sense of calling as a local church from God? Are there any significant prophetic words or scriptures that have been held from the foundation of the church or in the years since? What are the dreams of your leadership?

9. PEOPLE

Take some time to think about the people who make up your church. Are there significant:

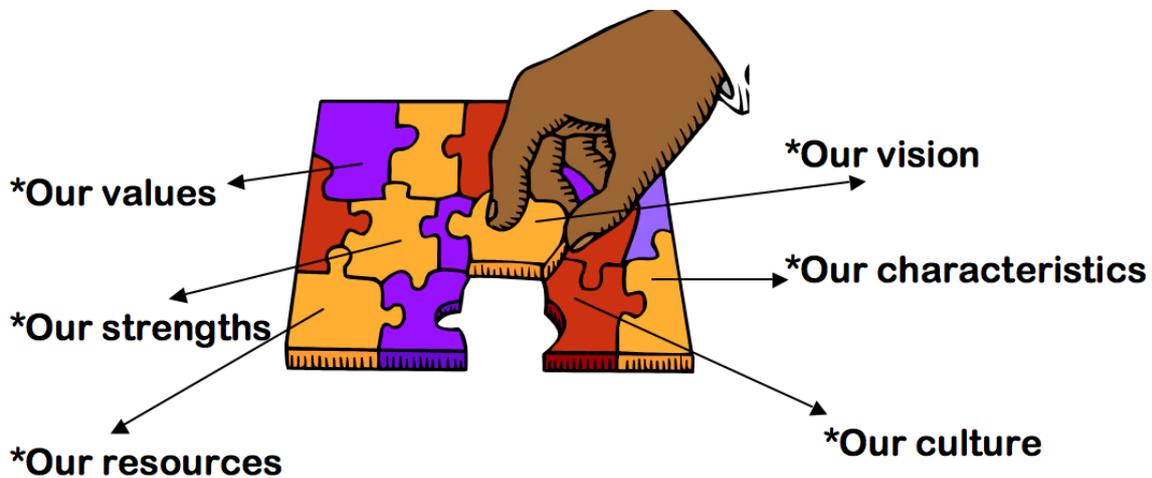
9.1 Cultures & Nationalities:

9.2 Generational Groups:

9.3 Skills and callings:

Now, review your findings. Find a creative way to display a summary of your composite DNA giftedness, for example, PowerPoint or poster.

PUTTING THE PICTURE TOGETHER:



B. The Mission of Your Local Church

In order to identify the mission of your church, it can be helpful to designate the focus of your mission by region. There is a Biblical precedent for this. Jesus told His apostles, the core leadership of the first local church in Jerusalem, that they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.

Your own unique “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth,” or regional area of influence, will depend on your location, gifts and calling.

Firstly, it may be helpful to define what these regions mean to you personally as a church. Do you want to define them by geography, or by some other means? For example, one common way of defining the regional influence of a church is:

- Our ‘Jerusalem’: Our own community or city
- Our ‘Judea’: People of like culture in our city or nation
- Our ‘Samaria’: People of different sub-cultures or nationalities within our own city and nation

- Our 'Ends of the earth': Other nations

Our 'Jerusalem' is defined as:

Our 'Judea' is defined as:

Our 'Samaria' is defined as:

Our 'ends of the earth' are defined as:

Current Ministry Involvement in Our Places Of Regional Influence

Now list what areas of ministry you are currently (or historically) involved with in each area of influence:

1. OUR JERUSALEM

Ministries in which we are reaching out to our 'Jerusalem' are:

2. OUR JUDEA

Ministries in which we are reaching out to our 'Judea' are:

3. OUR SAMARIA

Ministries in which we are reaching out to our 'Samaria' are:

4. OUR ENDS OF THE EARTH

Ministries in which we are reaching out to our 'Ends Of The Earth' are:

Our International Mission

1. STRATEGIC GROUPING

It may be helpful to review and consolidate your current international commitments by grouping them according to region (allowing for strategic planning and focus into a region) or by ministry focus (e.g., literature, evangelistic, training, children's ministry, etc.).

1.1 By similar ministry focus:

Ministry Focus: _____

International Projects & ministries:

Ministry Focus: _____

International Projects & ministries:

1.2 By region:

Region: _____

International projects & ministries:

Region: _____

International projects & ministries:

1.3 Inside-Out Mission Commitments:

An 'Inside-Out' strategy is when the mission strategy grows out of the vision, leadership, gifts and resources of the local church. For example, the mission commitment is initiated by the leadership, through sending a missionary or team from the church, through a prayer focus, or by using the unique giftedness of the church to serve on the field.

List international projects and ministries supported by your church (if any) that originated from within your church:

Consider ways in which you can increase the variety, quality and quantity of the resources that your local church is committing to these projects over a period of time. Does one or more field or ministry stand out above the rest as being a strategic focus for your church?

How can you increase the profile of this ministry in your church? For example, you could do research, develop a prayer focus, highlight the ministries in your small groups, send long or short-term missionaries or teams, develop a closer relationship, form a strategic partnership, increase support, pastor's visit etc.

1.4 Outside-In Mission Commitments:

An 'Outside-In' strategy is when the local church looks outside of itself to find a mission venture to support. For example, your church begins financially supporting a mission organisation, project, or missionary that has no prior connection to your church.

List international projects and ministries supported by your church that did not originate from within the church:

For each one, discuss reasons for continuing with these projects.

Consider ways in which you can add value to these projects. For example, you could develop a prayer focus, send long or short-term missionaries or teams, find ways to develop a closer relationship, partner, increase support, pastor's visit etc.

2. APPLYING THE DNA PRINCIPLE

Review the unique ministry strengths and resources of your church that you have identified in the DNA study:

Our unique ministry strengths:

Our unique resources:

Which of these are not currently being used in your international ministry? Brainstorm ways in which your unique gifts and resources can be used to bless the mission field overseas:

2.1 In current projects:

2.2 In possible future projects:

3. THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Before we leave this section, brainstorm the following questions and see what comes to mind:

3.1 What current missions trends are taking place globally? Is there potential for us to link in with or take advantage of these?

3.2 Where is God moving? Can we 'catch the wave' of what He is doing?

C. Additional Questions to Help Senior Leaders

1. LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT

1.1 What prophecies, dreams and visions have I received concerning mission and the global impact of our church and myself personally? Or, what desires and hopes do I have for the global impact of our church?

1.2 What personal mission involvement do I envisage?

1.3 What overseas travel, if any, do I see myself doing?

1.4 What area of ministry or church life am I passionate about? Would I be interested in imparting this to leaders (Indigenous leaders or missionaries) on the field?

1.5 Am I to be the spokesperson for the international mission of this church? If not, is there someone else on the leadership team to whom I can delegate this role, who is recognised as a leader of the entire church?

2. MISSION & THE DNA OF OUR LOCAL CHURCH

2.1 Does our present mission direction line up with the vision, mission and values of our church?

2.2 Is our present missions emphasis true to the DNA of our church?

2.3 What mission endeavours have worked for us in the past and in particular, have 'fed back' into the life of the church?

3. STRUCTURE & TRANSITION

3.1 How would I describe our present mission structure in the church?

3.2 What are the strengths of our current mission structure? What are the weaknesses of our current mission structure?

3.3 Who makes decisions concerning the use of resources in the church for mission?

3.4 What restructuring needs to take place in the church for our mission vision to be fulfilled? If restructuring is needed, how can we encourage ownership amongst church members to change or the implementation of a new vision?

3.5 What changes need to take place in order for the entire church to be impacted by and involved in the mission vision?

3.6 How slowly or quickly can we bring effective change if it is needed?

About Helen Calder



Helen Calder is on the ministry team at David McCracken Ministries.

Helen and her husband, Malcolm, ministered throughout New Zealand and Australia for 10 years in Malcolm's former capacity as National Director of Asian Outreach from 1995 to 2004.

Helen was on staff at The Winepress Church from 2004 to 2010, where she has also led and trained church members in prayer and prophetic ministry.

As a prophetic teacher, Helen’s passion is for spiritual renewal that leads to evangelism. “My desire is for Christians and churches to be ignited to love Jesus, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to be supernaturally equipped to impact their communities and beyond.”

Helen and her husband Malcolm have two young adult children, Steve and Amy. They make their home in Melbourne, Australia, and attend The Winepress Church.

Enliven Blog—Prophetic Teaching by Helen Calder

For teaching and resources on the topics of prophetic ministry, spiritual renewal, spiritual gifts and prayer:

www.enlivenpublishing.com/blog

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