

## The 3-fold Paradigm Shift

3 Paradigm Shifts: Moving FROM... TO

- FROM internal focus TO external focus
- FROM church focus TO kingdom focus
- FROM program focus TO people focus

What follows is a stripped down statement based on the work that the Centre Street leadership has done in plotting the 3-fold paradigm shift. Executive Pastor Kervin Raugust has graciously permitted sharing these things in the hope that it will stimulate others in their move 'back to the basics' of following Jesus, or, as some put it, from 'going to church' to 'being the church'. This is not CSC's final draft, nor does it contain the 'buckets' that they use to group the material. This 3-fold shift in paradigm, I believe, has a profound resonance with pastors and other leaders who want to 'get back to basics.' We are in this together. This is passed on to you with the hope that leaders will help each follower of Jesus to make his or her faith live. This is the first example I have seen of an EMCC congregation attempting to articulate the 3-fold paradigm shift. I pray it is the first of many!

*By 2020 we want to be a church with the following characteristics*

1. *We will move from the church taking responsibility for causing individual spiritual growth to happen to helping people take responsibility for their own growth through practicing spiritual habits.*
2. *We will move from the church carrying the responsibility for the "discipling" of children to equipping parents to disciple their children.*
3. *We will move from measuring the spiritual health of our church by the number of people attending church to the number of people experiencing God in the community through the sharing of good news and the doing of good deeds.*
4. *We will move from talking about small groups as a program of the church to talking about small groups as communities that create belonging, spiritual growth and mission.*
5. *We will move our groups from the idea that discipleship is something the church does collectively to calling individuals to personally disciple others, one at a time.*
6. *We will move from only building relationships with those inside the church to building more relationships with those outside the church.*
7. *We will move from a classroom based approach to spiritual development to experiential learning pathways.*
8. *We will move from groups being formed on the basis of "study" to groups being formed on the basis of opportunity to be "missional".*
9. *We will move from celebrating the ministries of the church to celebrating the stories of people doing the work of ministry.*
10. *We will move from sporadically calling our people to give generously to regularly reminding our people to live a lifestyle of generosity.*
11. *We will move from being a church that increasingly needs more people resources internally to a church that increasingly releases people to serve outside the church.*
12. *We will steadily move from using our resources for "non-missional ministries" to increasingly using more of our resources for externally focused causes in our community, our nation and our world.*
13. *We will help our people to move from living life as the world calls us to live to helping our people live their lives with a Biblical world view.*
14. *We will move from being a "strategic planning" church to being more of a church that follows God as He builds His church "organically".*

Let me add a further comment. If we are to make the 3-fold shift, this means truly embracing the 'priesthood of all believers', that is, every follower of Jesus has full and direct access to Jesus, because, 'discipleship' is about relationship – relationship with Jesus and relationship to others on the journey. No one stands in between me as a follower of Jesus and Jesus, Who is leading me.

### **The 7-Fold 'Following Jesus' Statement**

At the end of the day, I, as a follower of Jesus must own my responsibility for my journey with My Master: 'I am a follower of Jesus. Irrespective of what anyone else may do or say, I own MY journey in following Jesus. I am responsible. I also value being part of a community on mission, in which WE are helping each

other and others on the Way. Yet, I am ultimately responsible for my own journey.'

Our EMCC national team has been the crucible for the development of guiding statements that empower the follower of Jesus. Here is the 7-fold way of Following Jesus.

### Following Jesus

1. I have begun to follow Jesus, and am **depending on the Spirit** of Jesus in my journey.
2. I am **being sent** by Jesus to bless others and invite them to follow Him.
3. I am learning to be like Jesus in my **attitudes, behaviours, character**.
4. I am learning to **love God** and to **love others**.
5. I am learning the **teachings** of Jesus.
6. I am **helping someone** and someone is **helping me** to be a growing follower of Jesus.
7. I am participating in a **community** of followers of Jesus **on mission** to the world.

The seven statements are stated in the first person, 'I'. It is about ME following Jesus, Not about what somebody else tells me to do or does for me. The 7-fold Statement is about the ongoing journey. No one has arrived! And everyone can start, or restart. It is a journey. And He is still leading, and I must follow.

It is the responsibility of parents to raise and teach their children, and it is the responsibility of a follower of Jesus to invite and help others to begin that journey too. As parents we appreciate the support of school and church but we must not let either supplant us as parents. As a follower of Jesus I appreciate the support of the community of Christ, the Church, but I cannot let the Church supplant my following after Jesus. And I cannot let the Church supplant my responsibility and my privilege of inviting others to begin that journey with Jesus. There is no 'program' that is as powerful and as attractive as Christ in me and Christ in us the hope of glory. The Kingdom (the rule) of Christ becomes tangible when we simply bless (serve) others for His sake – humbly bringing good into His world. We know that God is already at work in the lives of others and so we simply join Him 'out there.' Jesus is sending me to bringing blessing into the lives of others for His sake.

The Church, the community of followers of Jesus, as the Bride of Christ, has the joy of pointing away from herself and to Jesus – 'Follow Him!' We can do and say a thing in a way that either disempowers or empowers. What we do corporately as the Church must always convey the message to a follower of Jesus, 'You can do it. We are just all on the same journey and we are offering a little help along the way. You follow Him, and we will, too.'

We can make the 3-fold paradigm shift as His Community as we follow hard after Him. It's good to know Him, to serve Him, to follow Him.

**Pastor Phil**

His Mission – Our Mission

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