



THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
Mission and Discipleship Committee

"Going for Growth"

Shalom
UPCSA
Ministers!

Defending the Bean Field...

2Samuel 23:11-12

Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them. But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field.

He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory.



The Seed Miracle...



Mark 4:26-29

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

For the presentation Theo and his son, Caleb, made packets for each minister. Each contained 2 seeds and some Cotton Wool. Theo indicated that these were each minister's "Lentil field" and "seed miracle" and he challenged each minister to plant and grow the beans as a reflective exercise.





“What is your Bean Field?”

“What will your seed miracle be?”

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GOING FOR GROWTH

Sowing, Growing, Reaping - A decade of Growth



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- **Sowing**: is about planting new congregations
- **Growing**: is about strengthening “stuck” congregations
- **Reaping**: is about a renewed focus on personal evangelism.

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Where are we?

- Project adopted by GA and launched at ExComm 2022.
- Some Presbyteries already visited (by invitation).
- Conveners of Committees challenged with transformational initiatives. This will be followed up in coming months.
- A self-evaluation tool for congregations will be ready to launch soon!
- A special project for training and equipping Interim Moderators will be brought to General Assembly.
- We are working on grass-roots congregational awareness tools. (There is already an overview with video links on our website.)
- We are busy with an incremental survey of congregations.
- We already have some cool resources: www.upcsa-mad.org.za
 - Articles about Missional Church
 - The newly contextualised Mission Shaped Introduction course
 - The Order of Lay Ministries to equip leaders
 - The Pioneering Incubator Model that can be used by any Presbytery
 - A sample Memorandum for Shared Ministry.
 - A Summary of Callahan's "Small Strong Congregations"
 - And a pile of other resources!
- What's in the pipeline?
 - A brochure entitled "What do we do if we can't afford a minister?"
 - A tool to classify congregations and to decide on "twin", "merge", "close".
 - Procedural guidelines for planting new congregations.

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What can you and your Session do?

- Raise the Spiritual Temperature! Pray, Fast and Dream!
Repent of the things that have distracted and divided...
- Look at the Going for Growth web-page and take your elders through the material and videos there.
- Look for the seed-miracles!
What is God already doing? Can you celebrate it?
- What is your bean-field? Where can you SOW, GROW or REAP?
“Small Strong Congregations” is helpful here...
- Think about the four areas of Ministry:
 - Pastor and Teacher: What are the Discipleship needs?
 - Prophet: what are the comfort zones and “holy cows” you need to challenge?
 - Apostle: (Pioneer) Where is there new ground to break?
 - Evangelist: Where can people be reached?
- Consider using the Mission Shaped Introduction Materials.
- Consider using the Congregational Self-Evaluation Tool when it comes out.
- Use “Going for Growth” as an over-arching theme in your planning.
- Share your questions, learnings and wins with the MAD Committee...

In Conclusion:

- * Congregations often get caught in the building vs pastor debate. Do we build/fix our buildings and then get a shepherd? Or the other way around?
- * My experience in 28 years of ministry and being Interim Moderator for numerous congregations is plain and simple:

SHEPHERDS MATTER!

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38)

www.upcsa-mad.org.za

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"Going for Growth"

Thank you for
the privilege
of being with
you.

God bless You!