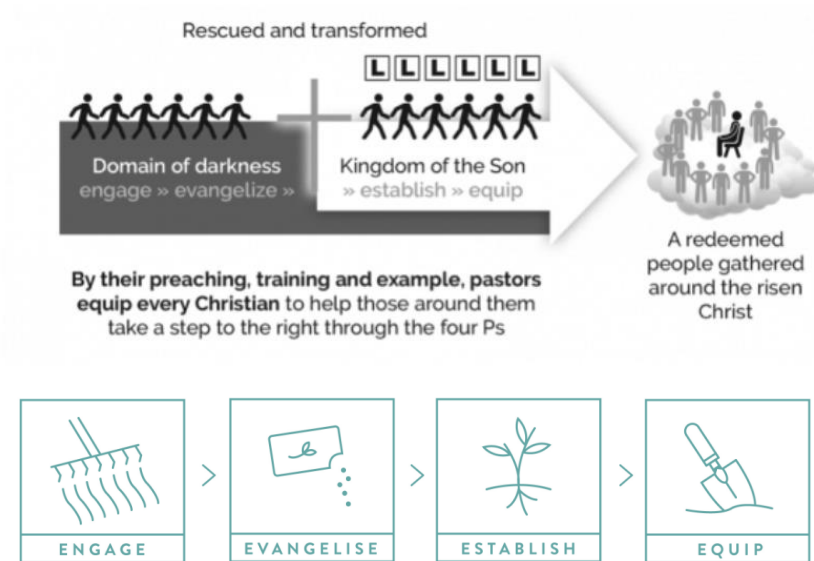




**The Vine Project**  
**Tony Payne & Col Marshall**

**Phase 4: Innovate and Implement**

Summary: to present a picture of a genuine transformative learning community



Phase 1: clarification of core values (what do I believe)

Phase 2: application of convictions to personal culture (where are those things in evidence)

Phase 3: evaluation of current ministry culture (where are we as a church)

Phase 4: implementation of proposed changes (what are we going to do)

Focus Area 1: Make Sundays a Flagship

Focus Area 2: Design Pathways That Move to the Right

Focus Area 3: Plan for Growth

Focus Area 4: Create a New Language

**Focus Area 3: Plan for Growth**

This brief section deals with the question, 'what if it actually works?!'

The principle: 'the more that you and your congregation dream of that level of growth, pray for that level of growth, organize yourself around that level of growth, and plan for that level of growth, the more likely you are to see it happen' p298

Why is that?

If your aspiration and godly expectation is for growth it will change the way you plan, and thus what you actually do. You will build structures and pathways and various trellises to facilitate and drive the growth that you aspire to.

Order: GOAL-PLANS & INITIATIVES-RESOURCES-EQUIPPING & TRAINING- DECISIONS

‘The goal you set shapes the way you plan and what you end up actually doing’

If you plan to grow and the building you're currently in can't accommodate the numbers there are only four options available to you

1. Plant one or more congregations at a new location
2. Plant one or more congregations at another time in your own building
3. Extend the size of your building (or move to a bigger building)
4. Give up on your goal of doubling in seven years

‘One of the culture changes that many churches need is a revolution in their level of gospel ambition’.

### **Five Spiritual Dangers in Being Ambitious**

1. We might begin to lust for the glory and reputation that accrues to the minister of a large and growing church
2. We might be tempted to build a feel-good, people pleasing ministry in order to attract crowds
3. We might start to treat people like objects, and lose the compassionate inefficiency that leaves the 99 in order to seek after the one
4. We might start exaggerating or fudging the facts to protect our credibility (by making out that goals have been achieved when they haven't)
5. We might fall into the unprincipled pragmatism that follows any ministry method that 'gets results'

But not having gospel ambition can mean we retreat into a loveless inward-looking smallness that has no compassion on the lost multitudes all around us.

### **Discussion and Plans**

1. Where are the greatest needs and potential for engagement and evangelism in your local community or context? Which groups of people do you think you could most effectively connect with and reach?

Throw around some stretching but achievable numbers for your congregation in some of these areas:	
the number of non-Christian people converted in the next five years	
the number of Sunday attenders at church in the next five years	
the number of congregations in your network	
the number of small clusters of learners (i.e. small groups)	

3. What would be the implications of these sorts of numbers for:

	Implications
Your physical property and resources?	
The possibility of planting new fellowships or churches to reach your goals?	

4. With these larger longer-term growth goals in mind, look back over your priorities and plans for improving Sunday and for your ministry pathways:

a. What would you change or prioritize differently? Does that change the mix?

Strategy	Impact of growth goals on plans at each stage of the pathway
Engaging	
Evangelizing	
Establishing	
Equipping	

c. What's missing?

- Having looked back through your other plans, come back to the rough numbers you were throwing around in question 2, settle on some numbers that you want to pray about, that you think are stretching but doable, and that serve to finalize and drive your plans and actions in the other areas.

Number of non-Christian people converted in the next five years	
Number of Sunday attendees at church in the next five years	
Number of congregations in your network	
Number of small clusters of learners (i.e. small groups)	

- Now go back again through all your plans and actions in Focus Areas 1 and 2, and finalize the priorities and actions you're going to put into effect.

**Priorities:**

**Actions:**

What	Who	By when	Resources needed/cost	Notes