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What Does The Lord Require Of You?

By Pastor Elisha Satvinder, Hon. Secretary NECF

We all have expectations of God. However, what is more important is God's expectation of us.

Micah 6:8 tells us clearly: *"He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?"* (NASB)

The Lord wants us to do what is right and just to others (JUSTICE); love being kind to others (SHOW MERCY); and live humbly before God in obedience (HUMILITY). These three characteristics when practised by all of us can and will turn the tide against corruption, poverty, racism, gender inequality and greed. It will bring reconciliation and redistribution of wealth in our society. It will make the world a better place- something that we all yearn, pray for and desire.

The book of Micah tells us that Israel had neglected justice. The powerful were oppressing the powerless (2:1-2, 8-9; 3:1-3, 9-10). The working people were being exploited (3:10). The courts were corrupt (3:11). God calls them out. God expects all His children to value and practice justice. Why? God loves justice (Psalms 11:7, 33:5, 99: 4). He is a God of justice (Psalm 50:6; Isaiah 30: 18). Justice is close to His heart.

But you have neglected the more important matters of the law - justice, mercy and faithfulness. (Matthew 23:23)

If we say we seek God, then we must also seek justice. We must re-examine how we treat the oppressed and the poor. God identifies with the poor, the widow and the refugee. He stands with them. Jesus made this very clear:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matthew 25:25-26)

Justice is about equal treatment of all persons regardless of race, gender or social class. We are all made in the image of God. No one should dominate the other. Justice is about looking out for those who can't look out for themselves - widows, orphans and refugees. Justice is about radical giving and generosity. Jesus commands us: *"Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none"* (Luke 3:11).

God also expects us to love mercy. The word "mercy" (Heb. hesed) expresses more than emotions and feelings. It involves action on behalf of someone who is in need. It describes a love, loyalty and faithfulness that inspires merciful and compassionate behavior towards another person. This word is closely related to God's covenant with His people. God's covenant expresses His faithfulness, mercy, compassion and amazing grace

“

Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.

”



to us. In the same way, loving mercy goes deeper than social expectations and our changing emotions and opinions on what is deserved or not deserved. It is a committed love that is demonstrated through both words and actions.

This is not always easy! We see so much human need everywhere. It floods into our screens from social media. It is easy for our hearts to harden and our minds to judge. It is easy for us to say, “These people are manipulative. They are taking advantage of our care, etc.” It is then we need to hear God say once again, *“What do I require of you? Live justly, love mercy, walk with Me.”*

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and loving-kindness and truth go before Your face.” (Psalm 89:14) (NKJV)

Both justice and mercy are foundational to God’s character. When we love mercy, we engage in intentional actions that bring God’s kingdom to people, assuring them of God’s lovingkindness.

Finally, the source of loving mercy and acting justly must be anchored in our humble walk with God. Without this at its core, the two former traits become mere religiosity. To walk humbly with God is our call. It is a consistent, habitual relationship with God. It is

a lifestyle of moving away from egocentric behavior and bringing ourselves under God’s leading. We turn away from the need to be better than others and move towards simple acceptance of the gifts that God has given us.

We can bow before God during times of prayer, sit before Him when reading His Word and stand before Him at formal worship services. We can get excited about God in certain seasons of life. But all this falls short of walking with God. To walk with God means being aware of God always. It is being with God in common everyday things, everywhere – not just on Sunday, not just in church.

The prophet Micah asks a crucial question in the midst of injustice and violence in society: **“What does God expect of you?”** “You” refers to you and me. This is a personal question that requires a personal response.

The answer is clear: ***Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.***

We want our nation to turn around and our world to be a better place? Let us embrace Micah 6:8 each day, in everything that we do.

Three Mindset Shifts To Raise Generations

By Pastor Tan Seow How

This article first appeared in Asia Evangelical Alliance (AEA)'s e-Newsletter December 2020 issue on <https://asiaevangelicals.org>. It is reproduced here with permission from AEA.

Intergenerational leadership will not happen without raising up next generations. At Heart of God Church (HOGC) Singapore, it is our crusade to champion young people. For the past two decades, the average age of our congregation has remained the same, 22 years old with over 80% of members serving at church. Now we are running towards a new vision: lowering the average age to 21 years old. Yes, it is not easy, but God calls us to raise generations. Let us not just think local or global but think generational. Christianity is just one generation away from extinction. So, should we not win every generation in our nation for Christ?

Here are three practical mindset shifts that are crucial to raise generations:

1. Youth are leaders today, not just tomorrow

Many people enthusiastically agree that youth are leaders for tomorrow, but how about today? In order to champion young people, we need to let them lead right now. We have to let our teenagers lead and serve God. If we wait, the world will get them. The world will give them a vision that is not building the Kingdom of God.

There is a boy named Wei Ze who came to HOGC when he was 10 years old. He wanted to play drums at church, but he was too small and could not reach the pedals. Did our church wait for him to grow up? No. We gave him another option instead: to play the bass guitar. After 11 years, he is now one of the church's main bassists. He also became the youngest worship team leader and a pastoral leader of 50 people. So, let us not wait until tomorrow. If we do not get the youth today, we will lose them. Their lack in experiences can be made up with training, mentoring and inspiring exposures.

When we give chances for youth to lead today, we can see how their ingenious minds work in amazing ways. There is a group of youth at HOGC who broadcasted their small group meetings through Instagram live during the Covid-19 pandemic and a remarkable number of 2,500 unique viewers came to watch. What a creative idea that came from the youth leaders! Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." So, why wait? Youth are leaders today.

2. This is our home

Traditionally, how the unchurched approach church is through these 3 steps: believe - become - belong. The unchurched have to believe before they become



Christian and only then they can be the church member. For the young generation, it is the other way around. The 3 steps for them are belong - believe - become. First, they need the sense of belonging before believing in Christ and gradually become disciples. That is why building a church that feels like a home for young people is very important.

There is a young boy named Jessel who grew up in a family with financial struggles. He always felt inferior and insecure. One day, a church member brought him to HOGC and Jessel decided to give his life to Jesus. Since then, he spent most of the time at church because he felt at home. He did not have to go back to an empty house or to eat dinner alone. His best friends are at church and they also serve together. Jessel felt loved, believed in and equipped at church. He really loves his spiritual home and gives his best to build it, from talents to tithes.

Building a young and strong church is not just about Sunday services or stage performances. It is not just about revivals or youth conferences. It is about building a home where young people feel loved and secured.

3. Generations are reinforcements not replacements

"Those from among you shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations..." - Isaiah 58:12a

When we talk about generations, a lot of people may only think of succession: an older leader retiring and a younger leader takes over. Generations are not successions. Successions are too slow and too late. Generations are about having many layers of leaders at the same time. Generations are reinforcements, not replacements.

At HOGC, we have raised multiple layers of leaders over 6 generations by starting a new youth group every few years. After a youth group's members grew up and became older, we went back down to reach out to younger generation. We brought the previous generation back with us to lead the next generation. In the ministries, when the previous generation were still in the frontline serving, the younger generation would come along to serve as reinforcement. This is how we raise up multiple layers of leaders at the same time.

With this, I encourage all of you, AEA members, to go and grow your churches younger and stronger. God bless you!

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Becoming the Kind of Person God Can Use to Launch Movements - Part 1

By C. Anderson

This article first appeared in Mission Frontiers' e-Newsletter Jan-Feb 2021 issue on <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/>. It is reproduced here with permission from Mission Frontiers.

We long for more than we see today. Though incredible things are happening and many new movements are being started across the globe, we hunger for more. We look at the world, or our current ministry, and feel a holy dissatisfaction with the status quo. This longing, even discontentment comes from the Father's heart. It is there because God has more for us. Millions remain unreached and we are called to impact them in greater ways than we have yet seen.

Whether you are an existing movement leader who has already seen many generations, or someone just beginning to catalyse movements, with our eyes on the ripe harvest, we must always look for more. How do we become the kind of people who God can trust with those greater fruits?

As Disciple Making Movement (DMM) practitioners we often focus on skills and strategy. This has merit. It is necessary. What is just as important, however, is focusing on becoming the kind of people God can use greatly. Some would argue that this is even more vital than having the right giftings, methodology or approach.

Most likely you've seen it happen. Someone with charisma, gifting and much potential crashes and burns

as the movement begins to expand rapidly. They become proud, or their marriage suffers, or they begin to control things. Perhaps even worse, we see things like a moral failure in the lives of those whom God has powerfully used. Public failures in the lives of significant spiritual leaders are devastating to many.

What does it take? Who do we need to be for God to trust us with supernatural, extraordinary growth and kingdom fruit? Many things could be included. This list is not complete or exhaustive, yet these are some of the top things life and experience has taught me.

I see these twelve characteristics in the lives of the New Testament apostles and modern-day movement leaders God is powerfully using. These are things I aspire to continue to grow in as I pursue the launching or development of a Disciple Making Movement. In this first part, I will touch on the first six. After each one are discussion questions you can talk about with your spouse or team. Or, perhaps you'd like to journal about them.

1. They have an ever-growing relationship with God and an extraordinary prayer life.

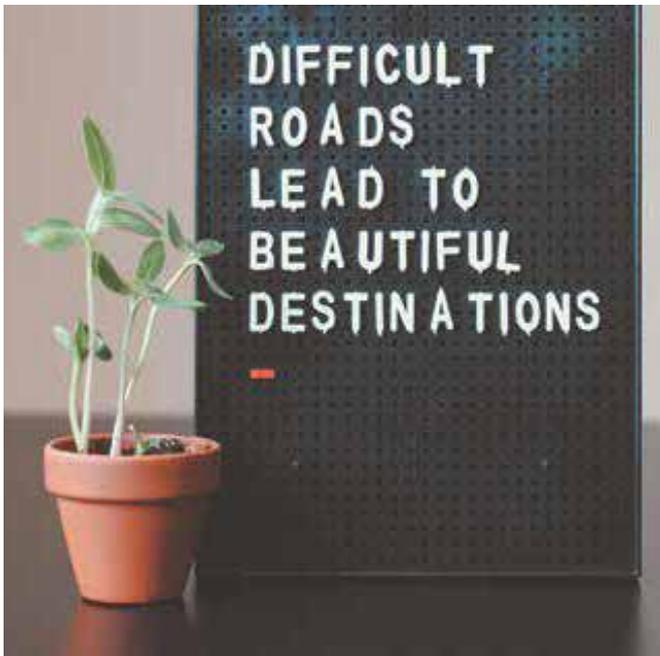
In the first chapters of Acts, the church in Jerusalem is beginning to multiply rapidly. The Holy Spirit was moving. Compassion needs were growing. In this rapid growth environment, the apostles needed to stay focused on two things; the ministry of the Word and prayer. (Acts 6:3-4) They could not afford to allow the busy-ness and pressures of growing ministry to take them away from devoting themselves to these two top priorities.

Extraordinary prayer has been well documented as a characteristic of every move of God in history. Leaders who desire to see God work in their regions prioritize prayer. They spend much time with Jesus, alone, as well as in corporate prayer. Those close to them find them often on their knees, regularly pulling away from the crowds to be alone with their Master.

We cannot afford to allow our relationship with God to grow stagnant as we give ourselves to the needs of the movement. Instead, we must maintain strong boundaries that protect our times alone with God where we receive His wisdom, guidance, and strength and where we simply enjoy our love relationship with Him.

Questions for Assessment and Discussion:

- In what ways has your love relationship with Jesus grown sweeter this year?
- Do you enjoy taking time away to be with the Lord and how often do you do this?
- How have you grown as an intercessor this past year?



2. They are bold and faithful in witness.

Numerous issues prevent us from living a life of faithful witness. Weariness, busy-ness, lack of confidence and fear of man top my list. Perhaps the greatest contributor to our failure in regular witness is a lack of a sense of urgency. Movement leaders deeply feel a sense of urgency to bring people to Christ. Their hearts are broken with the compelling needs of the lost around them. They are theologically convinced that apart from hearing about Christ the unreached are eternally lost. This moves them to step outside their weariness, busy-ness, or fears to lovingly share the message of redemption with those they meet.

These leaders notice the people around them. The first thing they assess is whether or not someone nearby needs the message of the gospel. They are constantly looking for new opportunities to share Christ on a personal level as well as through training others to share the good news.

Questions for Assessment and Discussion:

- When was the last time you shared your testimony?
- How frequently do you tell stories from the Bible with people around you?
- What prevents you from sharing boldly and faithfully?

3. They are willing to face persecution from enemies.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus promised persecution. He said, “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me...” (Matt. 5:11 NIV)

Movement leaders and catalysts understand that their life is not their own and that persecution is normal. They have understood and accepted Jesus’ command to take up their cross and follow Him. Though we do not seek persecution, we must expect it.

These leaders present the gospel in a way people can clearly understand. Using cultural bridges, they make the message of Jesus easy to understand. At the same time, they are willing to call for both repentance and shifting of allegiance. As many repent and believe, attacks from those who oppose the faith grow. This is to be expected. It is what we see as we study the growth of the New Testament Church and the lives of the apostles. In the book of Acts, there is a clear correlation between demonstrations of the kingdom (signs and wonders) and an increase in opposition. God worked, people were saved, the enemy reacted.

How can we expect less?

Leaders who seek to be free of hardship and difficulties should not pursue the launching of Kingdom Movements. As you begin to see growth, both the enemy and other “forces” will react. Persecution, whether overt or behind the scenes, is sure to come.

Questions for Assessment and Discussion:

- In what ways have you encountered resistance from people or communities because of your message?
- How do you respond to persecution?
- What have you done to prepare yourself and those you are training for persecution?

4. They are willing to be misunderstood by friends.

Jesus promised persecution. He loved those around Him and was deeply concerned for their well-being. That did not stop Him from being willing to go against the status quo of what was expected and acceptable to others—even those in positions of religious power. Six times in the gospels He used the phrase “he who has ears to hear.”

Our Lord knew that some would listen and be utterly transformed by His words. Others would reject them. This did not disturb Jesus. Yet so often it deeply troubles our hearts when people reject our words, message or approach.

Movement leaders and catalysts are willing to pay the price of being misunderstood by other Christian leaders, colleagues, friends and even leaders they

respect. To launch a movement, you must be willing to say no to many things. It involves a high level of focus on obedience to Christ's commands. This doesn't make you popular.

As we challenge and train people to become disciple-makers, some will feel threatened. Others will attack your theology. Guilt, fear, and jealousy can rear their ugly heads. What you start to empower ordinary believers to baptize, serve the Lord's Supper and start groups of disciples that morph into churches that start churches, many will ask you where you got the authority to do such things. They asked the same of Jesus and the early apostles.

Don't let their questions or negative responses discourage you. Choose to respond in the opposite spirit. Speak well of them and their work. Refuse to take offense. Be willing to be misunderstood by many Christians to reach those no one else will reach.

Questions for Assessment and Discussion:

- How important are your image and reputation?
- In what ways have you chosen to surrender this to the Lordship of Christ?
- If fear of man is a struggle in your life, what will you do to fight against this tendency?
- Have you experienced rejection or misunderstanding with others because you applied DMM principles? If so, how did you handle this?

5. They are able to innovate, evaluate and change.

Those who pioneer new movements in unreached places are willing to step out of the norm and experiment with new ways of doing things. While also highly valuing proven fruitful practices, they are willing to try new approaches especially when not seeing the results they had hoped for. Creative ideas excite them and they are willing to take risks on both people and methods as long as they are in line with Scripture and basic DMM principles like reproducibility.

When things work well, they accelerate those processes. They are not afraid of failure but learn from mistakes and fail forward. Prayerful times away for evaluation with their team and closest disciples are a regular part of their planning.

They do not get too attached to any particular strategy or method and are more loyal to seeing fruit and kingdom results than to a particular way of doing things. This does not mean they are short-sighted and seek immediate results at the cost of long-term impact, however.

Instead of getting stuck in a rut, these leaders are continually seeking to improve the fruitfulness of their efforts and constantly look for new ways to see even greater multiplication.

Questions for Assessment and Discussion:

- Describe a time you have been afraid of failure. How did it impact you?

- How often do you take time away to evaluate your disciple-making efforts in light of the fruit you are seeing? What could you do to encourage innovation and creativity in yourself or your team?

6. They are willing to stop doing unfruitful activities and focus on a few high impact things.

Resisting the temptation to do everything, the kinds of leaders who see much fruit are willing to focus on a few key things they feel deeply called to do. This means they become skilled at saying no to other activities that are not in line with their God-given vision. They resist the temptation to pursue every dream or idea they or others have. Though visionary, they are careful to guard their time and priorities.

They choose the most impactful, essential disciple-making activities over many other good activities they could be involved in.

Questions for Assessment and Discussion:

- Are there any methods or strategies you feel particularly loyal to? If they failed to produce fruit, would you be willing to change? Why or why not?
- Which of your activities is producing the most fruit and multiplication? Which is draining but doesn't yield much fruit?
- What boundaries have you set in place to guard your time? Are you able to give adequate time for top priorities like prayer, leadership mentoring, disciple-making and meeting lost people?



In the next issue, we will look at further characteristics. Which of the six mentioned above do you find most challenging? Take steps to address these areas by first taking them to God in prayer. Then take action steps of how you will work on these areas in the coming month. Share those with your team or coach.

C. Anderson served in Asia with YWAM Frontier Missions for 27 years. She trains and coaches both international and indigenous church planters towards the launching of Disciple Making Movements.



Multi Language Launches of 40-Day Fast and Prayer 2021

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

Four language launches were conducted on 4-6 August 2021 respectively via online platforms to kick-start the 40-Day Fast and Prayer 2021. This year we witnessed another good attendance with approximate total of 5,000 participants joining us on the exact days of our language launches.

Up to 18 Aug 2021, we have more than 22,000 participants and viewers who accessed our Facebook and Youtube channels for the said events, with approximately 17,000 English speaking and 5,000 Chinese speaking audiences.

Chinese Launch

8pm, Wed, 4 Aug 2021

The Chinese launch was hosted with the technical support from Agape Community Church Seremban and the worship team from New Life Restoration Church.

The event received good comments from churches as the flow was congruent with the theme. Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng's message was reinstated by the Chinese Commission members through their prayer sessions over the people of God, the Church, the nation, the overcomers and the coming of God's Kingdom. The night was attended by 500 zoomers and about 700 participants from both the Facebook and Youtube channels.

Tamil Launch

8pm, Thu, 5 Aug 2021

The Tamil launch was conducted via zoom with more than 400 participants, and we have received good reports from different quarters. There were more senior pastors, pastors, and Tamil churches from various states taking part in the launch as compared with physical meetings in the past.

There is an increase interest for Tamil Pastors fellowships to organize more prayer events within their groups during the 40-Day Fast and Prayer 2021. With the facility of audio Tamil devotions, we believe more would benefit.

English Launch

8pm, Fri, 6 Aug 2021

The English launch was broadcasted via Youtube and Facebook channels, and it was indeed encouraging to see more than 2,600 participants accessing to Youtube and about 300 participants accessing to Facebook page on that night worshipping and praying together with us.

Many were impressed and blessed by the worship session led by the World Harvest Church and further strengthened by the words given by Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng to find strength and help in God, and to recognize His sovereignty and the assurance of His Second Coming as the King.

Bahasa Malaysia Launch

8pm, Fri, 6 Aug 2021

The BM launch was conducted mainly through zoom with around 400 people participating in the said event. The amazing thing was that we have believers in the Pitas District Area (in Kudat, Sabah) who managed to connect to our zoom meeting in their plantation area, and this was something truly miraculous for them. Praise God for His wonderful work!

In conjunction with the closure for 40-Day Fast and Prayer 2021, Malaysia Day Celebration with the theme of “I will wait for You” will be conducted on these dates in different languages as shown below. Any future updates and information of these events could be accessed and obtained from our website and facebook pages.

Language	English	Chinese	Bahasa Malaysia	Tamil
Date	15 Sept	15 Sept	14 Sept	14 Sept
Day	Wed	Wed	Tue	Tue
Time	8pm	10.30pm	8pm	8pm



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<https://www.facebook.com/necfmalaysia>



 YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/necfmalaysia>