

WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING THE CHURCH ON?

Inspire

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Planting and building churches for over 25 years has helped me observe a lot of practices and models. I've discovered it is not just a matter of planting and building, but how we plant and build. Paul said in 1Corinthians 3:10 that each one of us should be careful how he builds. Because let's face it we can build on many things and in many ways.

WHAT THINGS?

We can build on **MAN** meaning the charisma, personality and gifting of an individual person and though God uses this and flows through it we still need to be careful not to build on it. In fact Paul challenged the Corinthians for chasing after people and their ministries. He called them immature and worldly. *"You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, 'I follow Paul,' and another, 'I follow Apollos,' are you not mere men?"* 1Corinthians 3:3-4

We can build on **METHOD**, meaning style and type of ministry or church. Not putting any method or style down as all are great and unique, though some things aren't always transferrable but are often reserved for a person, a place and a season. You've just got to ask: Is this a principle or is it a method?

We can build on the **MUSIC**, the show or performance, or other up front talents and gifts we may have. But these things have a life span—they are wood and hay, great to attract, encourage and entertain and we need to use them but not build on them as they won't build anything that has eternal value.

We can build on the **MOVEMENT** we are in. Building in certain movements that are popular and progressive will certainly give you a brand and boost. The first church I built grew to 700. The second church I planted under the same name grew from 200 to 400 in two years and the third church went from 100 to 200 in one year, all with the same brand name, all in the same city. You might say that's great, but our conversion rate dropped from about 65% to about 40% of our members finding Christ in the context of our church. We had simply started gathering unsatisfied believers and though a number of those that transferred were a real blessing to who

we were and where we were going, there were many that just got on that next best show in town, expecting a bunch of things to happen for them that we were not!

We can build on a certain kind of **MINISTRY** that we specifically do well and which is great like the prophetic ministry or counselling ministry, or a care ministry that we do in Newcastle, but we should be careful not to build on it making it who we are! Yes, use it in the building of the church and in the reaching and impacting the community, but be careful that it is not the building material, ministry and serving is a great building block but not the specific type of ministry and serving—for example, William Booth said to his son Bramwell: *"Don't let the welfare work overtake the salvation work of the Salvation Army."*

We can build on a **MESSAGE** or revelation. We have been given the faith message that came out in the strong 70's and 80's. It is a great message and it sure built me up when I first started the ministry. We all tend to preach a little more what we feel strong about and have good revelation on, but we must be careful not to build just on that specific message alone. We must also be careful to preach and build into people from the whole counsel of God. As an expert builder of the local church, Paul said: *"For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God."* Acts 20:27.

We can build our church on the **MIRACULOUS**, you might think well that's what we should build it on! No, we should have the miraculous flowing through our church as God works through us and in us. This will encourage and inspire the church in so many ways. But to build your church on miracles, like it's on tap and flowing all the time is unrealistic, creating a mystical and super spiritual kind of people. A people that start pretending more is happening than really is, or worse, they start making it happen in their own strength. We saw it in the 70's and 80's with people falling over which was a very real manifestation. It genuinely happened to me about two or three times. But let's be honest for a moment and admit we all got a bit sick of playing Jehovah fall over—whether being pushed over or doing a courteous drop to make the preacher feel good. Again the master builder said to the Colossian Church: *"Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes*

into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind." Colossians 2:18. You could also see this in the mid 90's when there was a move of the spirit. It came with many unusual manifestations which excited some and scared others. It was no doubt a move of the spirit despite its excesses. Some people built their whole church and ministries on it—like Brownsville and Toronto, as well as a number of Australian churches. It's interesting to know that some of them shrank as quickly as they grew when this move of God began to dissipate. Some of them no longer exist. Some churches saw it for what it was—a move of God that was here to refresh, renew and release us into the harvest more empowered by the Holy Spirit, so they embraced it letting it flow through their congregations to build the move of the spirit into their church, not to build their church on it! But others turned the river, the blessing in on themselves and made it everything, creating the river to become a swamp. This is why Paul the master builder said: *"That each one of us should be careful how we build"*.

HOW THEN SHALL WE BUILD?

1. **The Foundation must be Jesus!**
1CORINTHIANS 3:11

This has a number of meanings I believe:

A) That each of our people build personal relationship with Jesus. That we as leaders encourage our people to personally seek after Him. Like we see in Luke 10:42—*"But a few things are needed, or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."* or in Matthew 16:16-18: *"Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'" Jesus replied: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."* Peter's revelation of who Jesus is, builds the local church and builds it so strong that even the gates of hell doesn't hold it back. May each of our people know Jesus in a personal way. May their revelation of Him cause them to be unstoppable in their lifestyle expression of faith and may our peoples prayer be like Pauls in Philippians 3:10 [For my determined

purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in the same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death [in hope] (AMP). Wow! Imagine a church full of people like that!

- B) That through the ascension gifts that Jesus has downloaded into the church, mentioned here in Ephesians. *"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers."* Ephesians 4:11. Jesus gave these gifts to the church not to do the work alone and be paid for it. He gave them for this reason—to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:12). That is how the church grows ascension gifted people, equipping the body to do various works of ministry. Like it says in Ephesians 4:16: *"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."* Bringing those gifts into our churches and having them build into our people with their variety of gifts will enlarge the church—so bring in the evangelist, the prophets, the apostles and let them equip God's people for service. Another great verse that speaks of this truth is in Ephesians—it says that God's household is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. (Ephesians 2:20—21).
- C) Another thing I believe it's saying is that Jesus needs to be the central theme of our message and church. Like Paul said in

1Corinthians 2:1-2 *"When I came to you brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."* Because we can easily be side-tracked onto so many other themes, for example Paul was constantly pulling the church into line that had gone off track, for example, the Colossians church was going off the track in about four different areas and Paul was pulling them back to Jesus.

- They were getting into philosophy, *"...empty deceit, the traditions of men and worldly principles rather than to Christ."* (Colossians 2:8)
- They were getting into legalism, which Paul referred to as following shadows. *"Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a new moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ."* (Colossians 2:16-17)
- They were getting into mysticism. *"Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow."* (Colossians 2:18-19).
- They were getting into being exclusive. Like the exclusive brethren, *"Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"* *These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed*

worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence". (Colossians 2:21-23). See how Paul keeps pulling them back to Jesus. In fact in verse 6 and 7 he really drives home that we must stick with Jesus and all that he is and is about. *"So then just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing the thankfulness."* (Colossians 2:6-7)

- D) The other thing I can see it saying is—build on the commands and instruction of Jesus. The three main ones He gave were:
- Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind (Luke 10:27)
 - Love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34)
 - Love lost people by going into the world and reaching them. (Matthew 28:19-20)

2. Build according to the task and purpose that God has assigned!

Verse 5. *"What after all is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his TASK."*

Verse 8. *"The man who plants and the man who waters have one PURPOSE and each will be rewarded according to his own labour."* (1Corinthians 3:5-8).

What purpose has God put in your heart? What task has he assigned to you? The outworking of that will build the local church. Don't just copy another man's work, or go with the latest trend. What is God saying to you? Discover it and build according to it.

Kevin Wilcock
Team Leader @ Life & Ozreach



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Follow Kev on Facebook and Twitter



Real Life Stories From Life Church

Every City Needs a Soul

What great news of our venue right in the heart of the city, an amazing venue that will allow us to minister into the lives of our cities highly marginalized. It was once said by a historical world leader that "The poor will always be with you." Never a truer statement has been said as we would love our problems to disappear or to move to another part of our region. Its really how we as a community care for and help our needy and marginalized that determines the kind of city we are.

Newcastle has a soul, thanks to organizations like the Westpac Bank and their recent provision of a building to Soul Cafe along with other companies who have shown consistent generosity like Eilbeck Cranes, Port Waratah Coal Services, Break-Through, AVE, Bibina

Growers Best, Life church, Doito, Daracon, Bloomfield, and many other business's and individuals that give financially and volunteer practically at our Soul Cafe. Not to forget the number of business's that support the many worthy causes that are across our city, helping by working at lifting humanity. I was meeting with a certain manager who told me that it seems Soul Cafe just serves meals to the needy. I was appreciative of his honesty as I've no doubt that's what some people would think, who look at Soul Cafe from the outside or from a distance.

The Meal Is Simply The Medium

The meal is simply the medium that allows us to engage in people's lives to help lift them to a greater lifestyle level, to lift them to a recovery group like AA or some other rehabilitation program, to lift them to a place of having

accommodation or even having more suitable accommodation, to lift them to some form of retraining, and into employment. We want to help by offering some various forms of support systems that better their state of living. That's what has always made Soul Cafe a great hot spot for services like Centrelink, Legal Aid, a mobile Dr surgery, Reaching Homes, CRC and Homes for Good, two great prisoner release programs and numerous other support groups within our city that work with the marginalized. This is a place where lives are transformed. All this began with a meal!

Love
Kevin





OzReach

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www.ozreach.org

We are simply a kingdom of God based ministry that wants to provide fellowship, connection and influence for ministers, leaders of ministries and business owners and managers. Anyone wanting to know more about connecting to Ozreach as a group of churches, contact: **Kevin Wilcock**
on: 0407 467 798 Email: info@lifechurch.org.au

FRIENDS IN MINISTRY—HOBART

with Kevin Wilcock

Friday 28th October 2011 at 10:30am to 12noon

This event will be held at

“The Raincheck Lounge”

392 Elizabeth Street, Hobart North.

Text Kevin on 0407 467 798 for more details or to confirm your attendance.

Those that want to stay for lunch after would be welcome.

New Connections

HONOUR 3 CHURCH—Tuggerah

Hi guys, my name is Brad Exley and I am the pastor and co-founder of ‘Honour 3 Church’ in Tuggerah. Together with my wife Jannie, we feel so blessed and humbled by what God is doing in His church.

We have been going now for just on five weeks and the Holy Spirit never ceases to amaze. We have twenty five beautiful people who are jumping out of their skin to help and serve week in/week out and it encourages and motivates myself and Jannie so much as pastors.

God is in the process of restoring honour and grace to His churches and we, as a body of

believers united in spirit, yearn to be recipients of what heaven has in store for us. We are excited about Honour 3 Church, excited about the kingdom of God being advanced in this region of Tuggerah and excited about our friendship and association with Ozreach Australia.

God bless,
Ps Brad.

Email: bradexl@gmail.com

CHURCH 33—Bonny Hills

My Name is Dennis Van De Velde and I am from Bonny Hill, Church 33. Here is a little about us: Church 33 is built around organic life. Organic life



is the flow, the heart of what takes place in any given meeting. Church was never designed to live around a meeting, it is however designed to live around people. This is why we label the meeting ‘Church 33’. The real church is what happens throughout the week and on every other day. The Bible says, “That where two or more are gathered in Jesus’ Name, there He is in the midst of them.” This is a church that is real, authentic, wonderful, a church that is raw and a church that is organic.

Bless you
Dennis

Email:

minidnt@gmail.com



Ministering—Howard Hadley

Hi Kevin,

The Ministry of Howard Hadley was literally a God appointment for me. I had been asked to organize the State conference. The Full Gospel Business Men from around the state had been seeking God for six months about where to have the conference! I was asked to organize it. When I got off the phone I prayed and said: “God I can do it if you heal me. I physically can’t do it!”

About a week later He lead me to Life Church and told me to go in for prayer. Brother Howard Hadley was praying for people and I joined the healing line. I told Howard I had a thyroid problem and through the Holy Spirit Howard said: “Yes, and you have had two back

injuries”, and he touched the spots that had been injured—one between the shoulder blades and the other on my lower spine. These were severe injuries. He prayed three separate times and each time God gave him more insight into my life as he released the power of the Holy Spirit.

That night the Holy Spirit was pulsing and surging through my body. God healed me and instructed me about the coming conference. God said to ask Howard to be one of the speakers. I hadn’t heard him preach! I did ask him and he accepted after checking with the Lord.

Howards ministry to the 70 delegates and chapter leaders from all over the state was awesome! His preaching was relevant, entertaining, powerful and most importantly anointed. Many people received

healings for persistent long term chronic conditions.

The great thing about watching Howard minister was that he ministered the love of Christ to the people. He was patient and kind even after praying for almost three hours. Different ones got the release they needed. He is persistent and tenacious in the prayer time.

Howard Hadley is a champion who with so much to give—gives his all!

May God bless you Howard.

Peter Arena

Full Gospel Chapter President

Newcastle/Port Stephens.

Howard’s Email: hadleyclan@bigpond.com.au



Billy Kennedy

INCARNATE



21st to 22nd October



Nikki Correia

Building local missional churches

49-51 Hunter St, Newcastle

Enter at Watt St, Entrance



Kevin Wilcock



Rick Proser

PHILIPPINES OUTREACH

7th to 15th February 2012.

From 7th to 15th February, Kevin is leading a team of 12 to conduct a four day outreach to two different communities as well as a Ministers and Leaders seminar on “Moving in the Supernatural” at Bulacan and then heading off to Baroki for a three day retreat.

If you would like to be apart of this team, or want to know more details phone Kevin on 0407 467 798 or email him at info@lifechurch.org.au

KEVIN’S TRAVEL 2011

OCTOBER

21-22 Conference

28-29 Hobart

29-30 Campbelltown

NOVEMBER

13 Mittagong

27 Nowra

DECEMBER

3 Tuggerah

11 Shellharbour

GlobeReach some of the works we support overseas

PHILIPPINES - Alvin Bautista

Childs Faith Foundation Inc.

The Child's Faith Foundation Inc, began its inception as I saw the needs of the children in the poor urban areas of Tupda, Caloocan City; a garbage dump prior to when I lived there for five years. They were helpless, deprived of education and have no hope because of the poverty within their families.

In 1991, as a Sunday School Teacher I started to organize a children's gathering telling Bible stories, playing fun games and having a simple snack which makes these young children enjoy their day with values and education that I believe are needed in their formative years.

The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way they should go so that when they become old they will not depart from it." That boosted me to continue to reach out to these underprivileged children.

With prayers and help from two of my friends from Australia; Ken and Maisie Gibson who have big hearts for the children, we started to have an early childhood care and development program. As we moved on our first year we were productive because we were able to tap into their families and they were invited to attend meetings and seminars to become partners in the development of their children.

Sometime in the year 2000 we were able to find a place where we could extend our assistance to these helpless children and with prayers and many advisers we soon found a place in Graceville San Jose Bulacan. In the year 2003 we then registered with SEC and were given a certificate from DSWD.



We see CFFI as a centre as we wanted to be able to encourage and strengthen the concept of the family as well as the community spirit. It is also a meeting place for adult education, a meeting place to discuss community issues, a place of refuge for the hurting and somewhere people can come just to share the cares and worries of the day. It is a place to meet the communities spiritual needs. We also intend for the centre be used as a place of worship, which will function as a church.

While our major focus is on children's education, we have always seen the family structure as one of the most important factors in the development of children. Therefore our heart is for the

development of the family. Contact with the children is always an introduction to the family. This has caused this agency to already be reaching out to the following areas;

- A) Disadvantaged families and children
- B) Out of school youth
- C) Elderly people
- D) Depressed/displaced individuals, groups and families
- E) Depressed communities.

We also conduct a spiritual services like Leadership seminars for Pastors and Leaders of different churches, kids camps for the children and a yearly youth camp through the help of resource people from our friends in Australia.

Presently we are now giving educational assistance to families from different places Tupda, Graceville, Patulo, Pqabahay, Harmony Hills one and two, Deca Homes and two in Bagong Silang. We believe as we continue to reach them holistically, we will help to create responsible families that will create good communities towards a growing country.

Thank you for all the supports and prayers. To God be all the Glory

Alvin Bautista
acbautista_24@yahoo.com

BALI - Michael & Bianca Zietsch

We have had a couple of months of really seeing Papa's blessings and also going through some hard trials and challenges but can see that Papa is always faithful and will be with us till the end.

As our M friends celebrate their month of fasting and also our H friends continually dedicating their lives to making offerings to appease their gods we are so struck by how awesome Papa is. It is so great to see how diligent they are in their worship but also sad at how confused many of them are and still searching for answers. Isn't it freeing that Papa loves us no matter what we do and he has a space in heaven for those that just believe in his Son? We are so blessed to know that receiving his love is a free gift and not attained by human effort. It's so great that you are partnering with us and we are so grateful for you all.

Ibu Ketut

I'd like to introduce Ibu Ketut. Ibu is married to Pak Putu and they have one cute lil boy, Sandi. Her and her family live in a kos (one room place) next door to our old place in Babakan. Ibu is currently working in the card project and the transformation in her and her

families life has been extraordinary. She explained to us last week that before meeting us and being involved with the card project



she felt like she was in a hole and couldn't get out. She was weighed down with religious responsibilities and also didn't see a hope for the future. She has plans to start a small business raising cows and has already purchased a pig for her very poor extended family. Her relationship with her husband has also dramatically improved and he is excited about their future together. She says that she has never felt so close to Papa. People around her assume that she has money now as they often ask her why she seems to calm and happy inside, she tells them its because she has Papa in her heart now and he listens to her.

Its really amazing being able to invest kingdom values into her and she is so excited when she

learns more about Papa and our mate. She says she has never felt so free in her life and we can see that chains have been broken off her life.

Please continue to pray for Bu Ketat and her family that although opposition will come Papa has the best future set out for her.

Zietschy's Tale

Our life here has been a bit of a mess with some disappointments but also seeing Papa work good out of bad situations. Next month we have a new worker doing an internship with us and its really got us thinking about how to equip and help our workers to see Papa's vision and see it outworked. As always I feel unprepared and under-qualified to lead like the examples of many of you in my life, but I find strength from Our Mates example of a servant hearted leader, and who He chose to follow him (fishermen, tax collectors and prostitutes). Please pray for us that Papa would give us wisdom, the ability to lead people from outside our own culture and understanding that goes far beyond what is in front of us.

Blessings, Mike
Email: zietsch@swissmail.org