Beyond Church
Doing Life
Being Christ

EBF Mission Conference

EBF Mission Conference Webinars
1900 – 2030
CEST
19th May
2nd June
16th June

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Three Webinars

- Beyond Church
- Doing Life
- Being Christ

- Share what God has been teaching and we have been learning
- Share stories but draw out underlying principles and theology
- Consider if/how they apply to your context & learn from each other
To Work Together to Share God’s Love with Every New Community

The New Housing Hub
A Story - 17th January 2008

Baptist Minister’s Prayer Group

A request to pray for a new housing area

A call from God to move and minister there

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A Call to BE the Church BEYOND the CHURCH

To be the Body of Christ in the neighbourhood with those who wouldn’t go to a church
7 Underlying Principles

there are no missional structures, only missional people. Stefan Paas
7 Underlying Principles

BLESS
UNCONDITIONALLY

MAKE
FRIENDS

LIVE
INCARNATIONALLY

LAY
DOWN
OUR LIVES

LAY DOWN
AGENDA

KEEP ON
GOING
Bless Unconditionally

What is Church?

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at Wichelstowe

Called to Bless

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i. Blessing is fundamental to who God is – Gen 1:26, 27, 28

ii. God’s relationship with us is one of blessing – Gen 12:1-3

iii. Blessed for a Purpose – Gal 3:14

iv. Blessing in Practice
   - Unconditional 1 John 4:19
   - Includes a Spiritual Blessing Ephesians 1:3
   - A Big Vision…worked out in small ways
   - Within the context to which God has called us
The LORD had said to Abram, ‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ‘I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and in you all families of the earth shall be blessed.’

Genesis 12:1-3
God of Blessing

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Genesis 12:1-3
Bless Unconditionally

Unconditional Gift
Welcome Baskets and Visits
Unconditional Gift
‘Don’t talk about me’
We Love because he first loved us
1 John 4:19
Bless Unconditionally

Pamper Night
Unconditionally blessing local women
Washing feet
Showing Jesus’ love and servanthood
Bless Unconditionally

Writing words of peace and blessing on neighbourhood Facebook pages

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A call to bless...
‘All things in common’ Acts 2:44
Beyond the Church
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Genesis 12:1-3
Breakout Groups

- Introduce yourself and your area/context (neighbourhood/town/network)
- What has excited or challenged you about blessing unconditionally?
- What does unconditional blessing look like in your context?
  - A Gift?
  - An Event?
  - An Action?
- Is God saying anything to you/us?
- Pray that we might be part of blessing all the people on earth in Jesus’ name. Pray blessing upon your area/context and the people you are called to love.
7 Underlying Principles

BLESS UNCONDITIONALLY
LIVE INCARNATIONALLY
MAKE FRIENDS
LAY DOWN OUR LIVES
LAY DOWN AGENDA
KEEP ON GOING

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‘The Word Became Flesh and made his dwelling among us’
John 1:14
Jesus came lived with people – had the same experience
‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you’
Gen 12:1
Importance of ‘Living with’ not ‘Doing to’
Do not try to call them back to where they were, and do not try to call them to where you are, as beautiful as that place might seem to you. You must have the courage to go with them to a place that neither you nor they have ever been before. Vincent Donovan
In order to become truly "incarnational", we must be reshaped by our context.
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The Events of the Neighbourhood
Does it make a Difference?

Church leadership and community development in the Urban Village

A case study of East Wichel, Swindon in Wiltshire

Summary of dissertation submitted for the MA Applied Social Research (Built Environment) at the University of the West of England, Bristol, November 2012, Angela Parfitt.
LIVE INCARNATIONALLY

The Church leader’s residence within the community enables her to engage with community as a resident and community builder, and working in partnership with stakeholders allows understanding of the community’s needs from a range of perspectives.
Divine intervention?

Concluded that the greatest impact on growing positive community was the ‘church’
Breakout Groups

- What has excited or challenged you about living incarnationally?
- What does living incarnationally look like in your context? What are the difficulties of being part of your neighbourhood/town/network that God has called you to love?
- Is God saying anything to you/us?
- Thank God for sending Jesus to live alongside us on earth. Pray that we might have strength and wisdom to share life with people beyond the church encountering God together.
A Call to DO LIFE alongside people beyond the church

To live life and be friends with those beyond the church and to join in with what God is already doing through his Holy Spirit
A Call to BE CHRIST to those beyond the church

To embody God’s love, to continue Christ’s ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit in actions and words