

Church on the Edge  
*Missionary Apologetics*

mission oriented doctrine

**“All Christian  
doctrine arises  
from Christian  
experience”**

mission oriented doctrine

**“the earliest doctrinal statements were thus missionary apologetics, not intellectual systems of theological speculation”.**



Gravitational  
Pull Of  
Christendom  
shaped culture

Double wrapped  
with structures  
and mindsets

**What resources will give enough velocity to break  
the gravitational pull of the current paradigm?**


**Missional**

**Partnership**

**Space**

**Intentionality**

**Church on the  
edge**



How do we journey  
in mission with  
young people?

What might  
Donovan's new  
place look like?

**Looking for  
answers  
through praxis**

How do we  
collapse the gap  
between church  
and mission?

What can youth  
work & emerging  
church learn from  
each other?

What might  
a missional approach  
look like?

How do we grow  
church from  
scratch?

What does Tacking  
look like in reality?

# The Imaginary lid

mission oriented doctrine

**Christianity both answers  
our questions and  
questions our answers**



# What is Church?

- Church is Mystery (Eph 5 v 31 and 32)
- Described analogically e.g. body, vine, etc
- Images suggest '*attitude and a course of action*'
- John 10 v10

# What is Mission?

- New place
- Kingdom Centred
- Process and Outcome
- Ontological Imperative

# Two sides of the same coin

- Church
  - Church is Mystery (Eph 5 v 31 and 32)
  - Described analogically e.g. body, vine, etc
  - Images suggest *'attitude and a course of action'*
  - John 10 v10
- Mission
  - New place
  - Kingdom Centred
  - Process and Outcome
  - Ontological Imperative

# Our old metaphor

Young  
People

Youth Club

Church



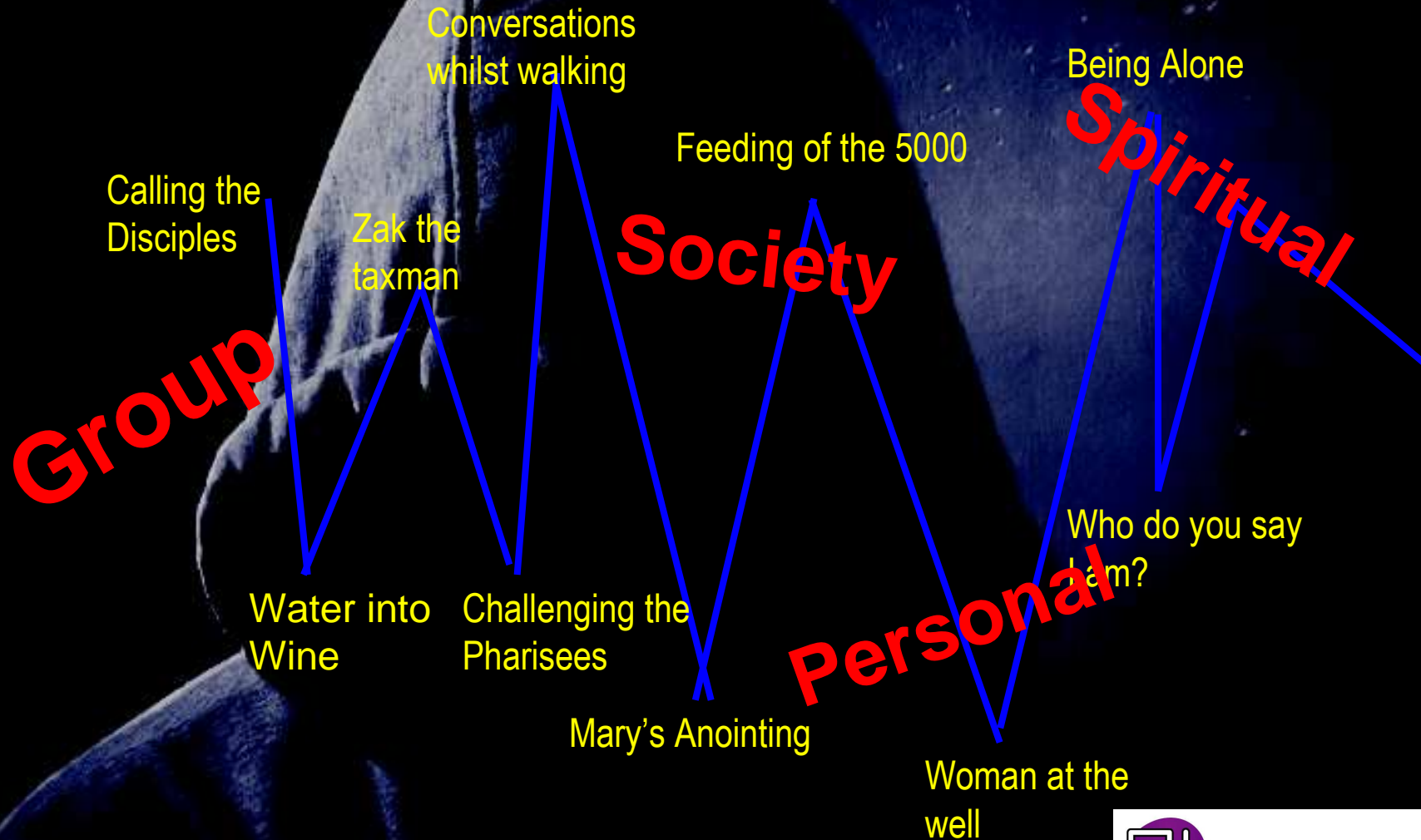
# A new metaphor



# The city on the hill



# Jesus and Tacking



# Tacking into the Wind

- **Personal Development** - The growth of the individual, becoming more Christ-like and fully human. Being okay with questions and doubts, accepting different viewpoints and people.
- **Group Development** - The growth of the group, becoming friends and community, developing openness and acceptance to other, and staying part of the group even though you may disagree.
- **Societal Development** - Being prepared to challenge the accepted, working towards a more equal and fair society.
- **Spiritual Development** - developing an awareness of Christ in others and the world around you.





4  
Exploring  
Community

3  
Connected  
Community

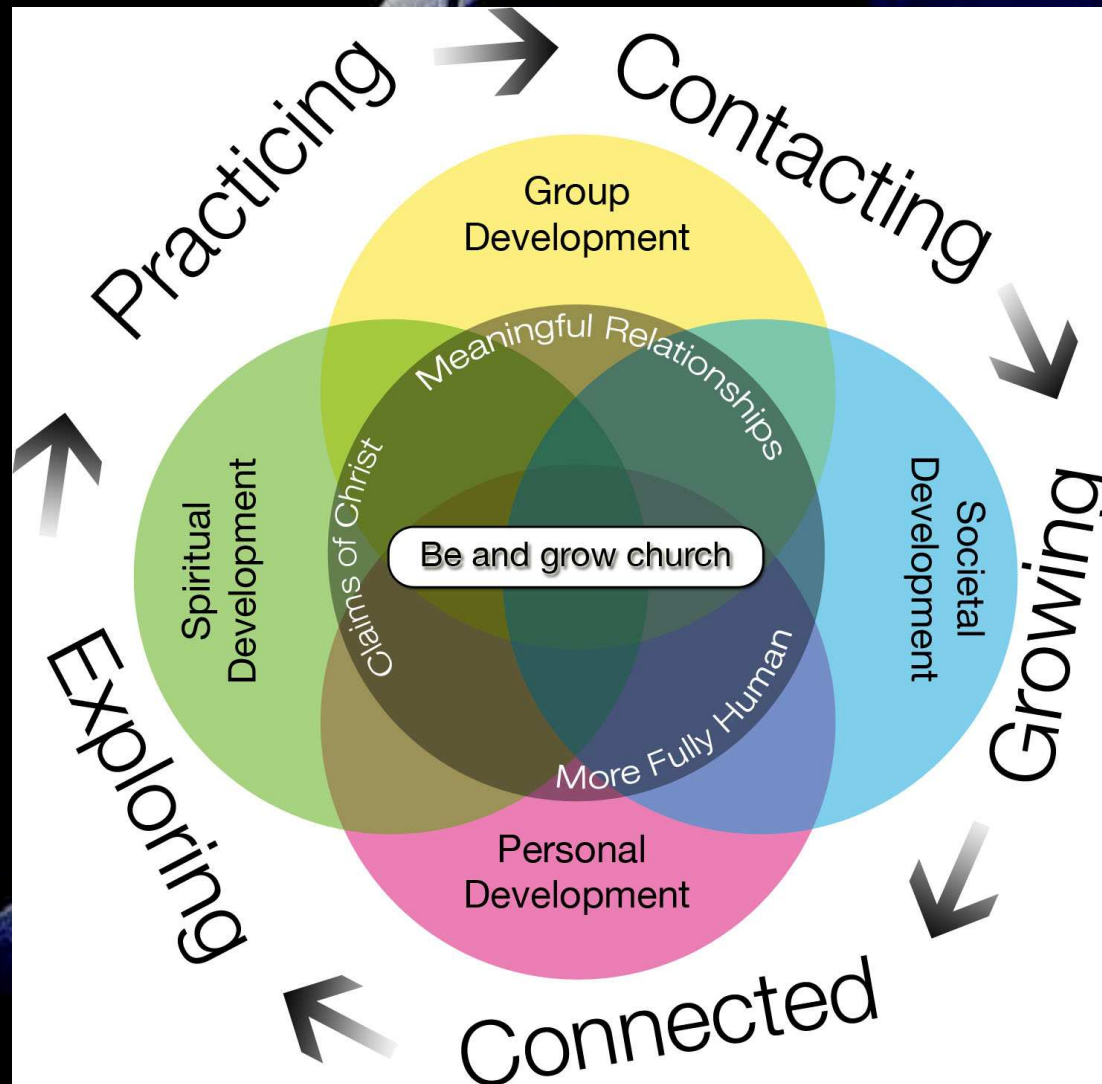
5  
Practicing  
Community

2  
Growing  
Community

1  
Contacting  
Community

Be and grow  
church

# Drawing the strands together



# Finding a new language

Engaging in mission intentionally to be an expression of and grow church, changes the paradigm.

It **STOPS** being a question of when does this become church with all the **LIMITS** that places, and starts with the question what is God doing? With all the possibilities that embraces....

## SKATE AND BIKE PILGRIMAGE 2007

Circle where you are in YOUR understanding of what flow is?

If you are clueless about what you think flow is, *highlight 1* if you get it and think you understand what flow really is all about *highlight 9*. If you somewhere in between, maybe because you talked about with Richard or Carol or together *highlight* the number that best describes your understanding at the moment?



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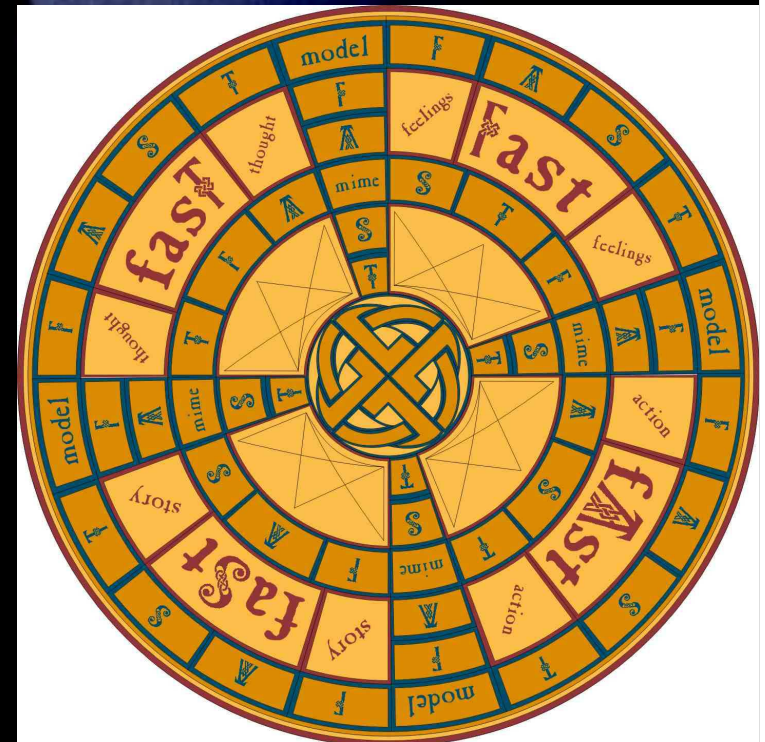
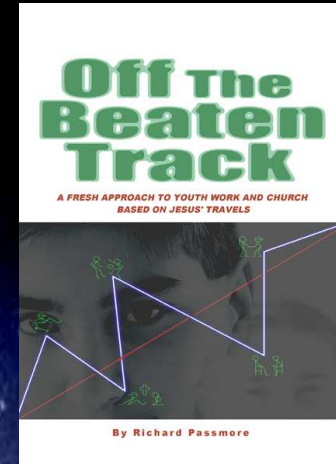
# Learning from the culture



- Practicing of the presence of God
- The mysticism of story
- New biblical insight

# Links

- [www.sundaypapers.org.uk](http://www.sundaypapers.org.uk)
- [www.fyt.org.uk](http://www.fyt.org.uk)





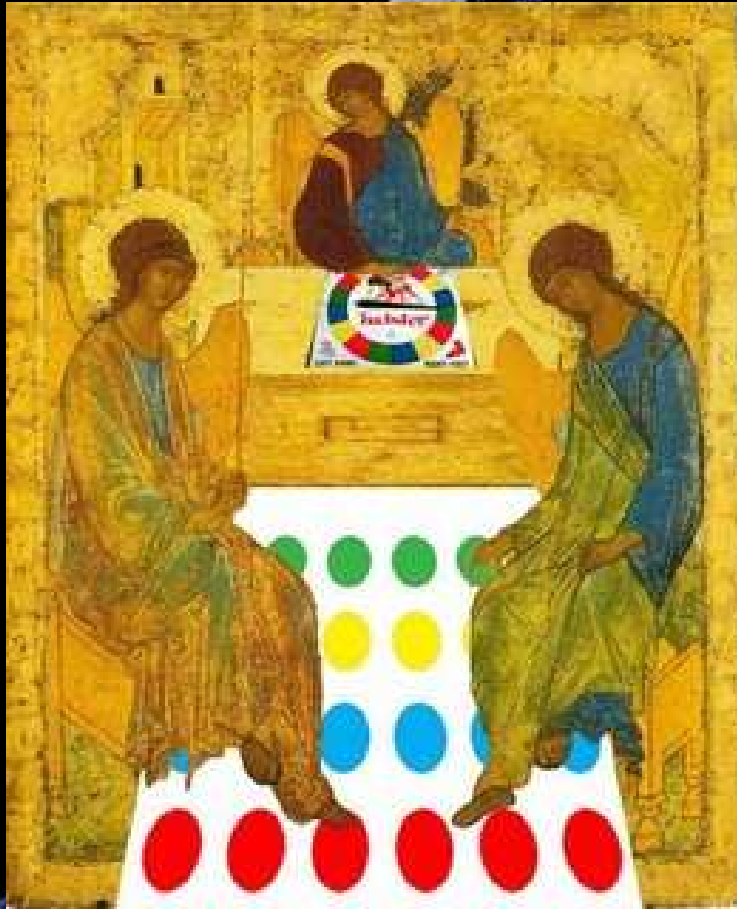
**Frontier Youth Trust**  
MISSION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK





**Frontier Youth Trust**  
MISSION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

# Church on the way



- The Go-between God
- The thin places
- Practicing of the presence of God
- The mysticism of story
- PM Resistant missiology

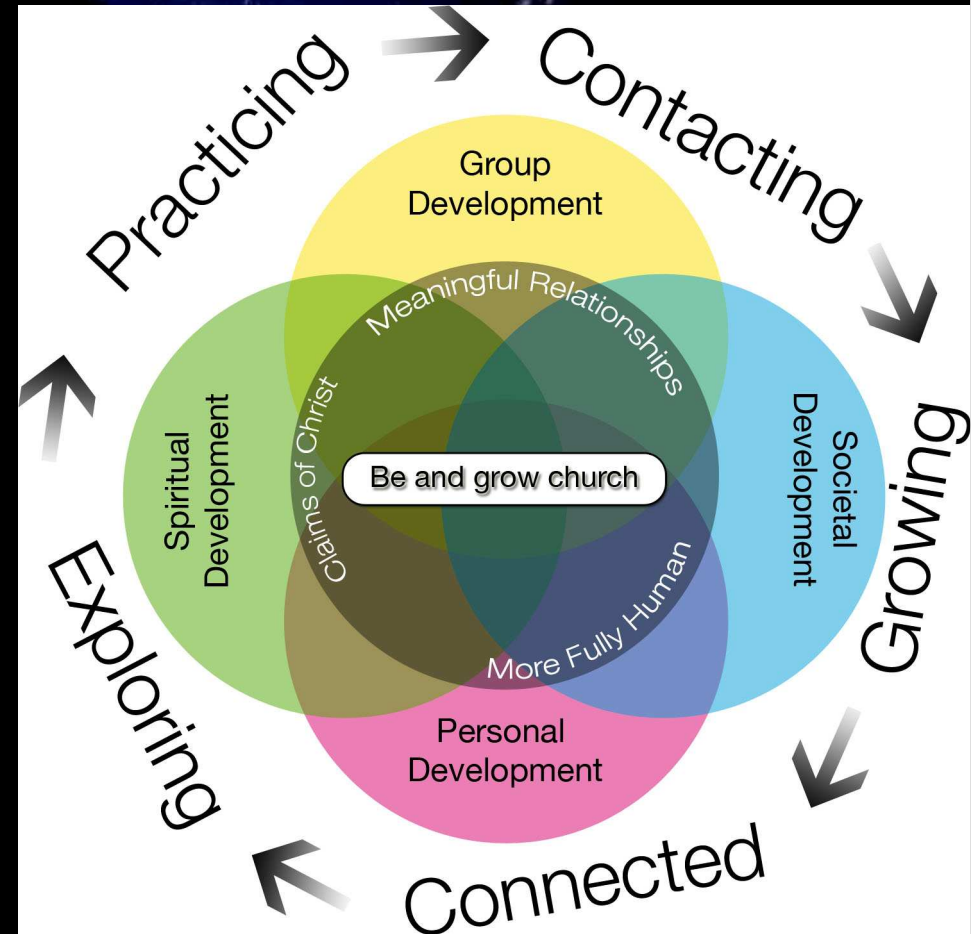
# Church on the way

- Can you identify a time when God may have been present by another name?
- What does it mean to engage in mission from a powerless position?



# Church on the way

BE  
&  
GROW



# Contacting community

*Ideas on this stage in practice settings (see stages 1-3)*

## Detached Work

Cold contact

Offering to walk away if yp  
don't want you around

## Youth Club

Developing the drop in

Using physical barriers to  
enable yp to enable  
secure contacts eg  
Tuck shop

## Toddler Group

Establishing the group

Developing the ownership of  
the group through  
purchase of equipment etc

Regular----- Contact----- and -----presence  
Basic -----relationship----- building

# Growing Community

*Ideas on this stage in practice settings (see stages 4-7)*

## Detached Work

Area Work and group stages

## Youth Club

Beginning activities day  
Trips

## Toddler Group

Social meetings outside of group

Continuing-----relationship----- building

Start meeting -----as leaders ready -----to receive groups

Use metaphor of journey in activities, trips etc Introduce Story of Brendan if appropriate

Responding to needs and interests

Working with existing groups freeing leaders to build on these

Responding to needs and interests, eg healthy eating course

Look for Flow (eg skaters) and introduce concept

Develop a residential to provoke Flow/raise issues of Spiritual awareness

Discuss flow moments with the parents

# Connected Community

*Ideas on this stage in practice settings (see stages 7-8)*

## Detached Work

Exploration -

Develop Rite of Passage residential provoking Flow and concluding with activity that gives yp space to continue exploration on return (see below)

Develop a----- symbol to give to those who -----want to continue

Use -----the -----image/metaphor

## Youth Club

## Toddler Group

Develop Social meetings outside of group

Similar but adults so Rite of Passage experience questionable

# Exploring Community

*Ideas on this stage in practice settings (see stages 7-9)*

## Detached Work

Meeting on a Sunday to connect into the historic flow/help the yp identify that it is Christian but in Youth Clubs and Toddler Group you may be able to meet as part of this session

Eat together, meet regularly, experiment, call it church / church on the edge?

Find the right parables to tell, but retell in a modern way and do not interpret them for the group

Be creative

## Youth Club

## Toddler Group



# Practicing Community

*Ideas on this stage in practice settings (see stages 7-9)*

**Detached Work**

**Youth Club**

**Toddler Group**

Evaluate with the group where you are and if you want to continue.

Ask them who else do they think flows and how can they bring them into the group is it by invitation or do they need to revisit the residential stage

Visit other expressions of church and evaluate

Base church role play

# Helpful Blogs

- [www.sundaypapers.org.uk](http://www.sundaypapers.org.uk)
- [www.jonnybaker.blogs.com](http://www.jonnybaker.blogs.com)
- [www.markjberry.blogs.com](http://www.markjberry.blogs.com)
- [www.sanctus1.co.uk](http://www.sanctus1.co.uk)
- [www.tallskinnykiwi.typepad.com](http://www.tallskinnykiwi.typepad.com)
- [www.moot-blog.blogspot.com/](http://www.moot-blog.blogspot.com/)