



**CHRISTIAN LEADERS CONFERENCE 2014**

## **DAILY SCHEDULE (Jan 9-10)**

9am-10am (Registration/Breakfast or tea)

10:00am-10:30am Worship

10:30am-11:30am Session 1

11:30am-11:45am TEA BREAK

11:45am-12:45pm Session 2

12:45pm-01:30pm LUNCH

01:30pm-02:00pm Worship/Pray in the Spirit

02:00pm-03:00pm Session 3

03:00pm-03:15pm TEA BREAK

03:15pm-04:15pm Session 4 (Group Discussion Session)

04:15pm-05:00pm Wrap-Up/Prayer & Ministry Time

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## Introduction

We held our very first annual Christian Ministers Conference in 2008. Our goal was to share spiritual and practical topics relevant to those in Christian Leadership and Ministry. Each year we pick a theme and try to address that in as much depth as possible so that those who participate in the Conference can take back insights, revelation as well as practical learning that will be of value to them in their ministry.

From 2013, we decided to expand and started holding the Christian Leaders Conferences in five locations across India. This will make the conferences accessible to people in those specific regions (North, South, East, West, Central).

A blueprint is a guide for making something. It is a design or pattern that can be followed. When we sit down to build something, we normally draw up a blueprint and then follow the design carefully. A blueprint helps you determine what to do. This years' theme is "The House of God" where the goal is to discover God's blueprint for local churches and local communities of believers. We also desire to share practical ways to build local churches according to God's blueprint.

Our goal is not to present one set of "methods" and "techniques", but rather discover what God wants the local church to be. Each one of us will have to make our own journey with God as we develop our local congregations according to God's blueprint. Each one of us will have to discover our own expression of this blueprint in our local communities. Since God is a creative God, He has many ways and many expressions of His blueprint.

The one common denominator is that we are all pursuing the same blueprint for each local church. The blueprint describes God's design. It is God's original intent. It highlights main characteristics. It describes the features. It points to the focus areas. When we follow His blueprint we know we are moving in the right direction and will eventually arrive at the right destination for our local churches.

Blessings!  
Ashish Raichur

## SECTION ONE : ORIGINS AND PURPOSE

## **1. The Church – Its Spiritual And Natural Dimensions**

Matthew 16:15-19

The Church is God's idea. Denominations are man-made

The Meaning of the word 'Church'

Church Gr. "ekklesia" ek = out of, klesis = a calling, to call

- was used among the Greeks of a body of citizens gathered to discuss the affairs of the state.
- as a "gathering" of Israel, summoned for any definite purpose.

In its literal sense the word 'Church' simply refers to a gathering together of those who have been called out, for a definite purpose.

- Called
- Called out
- Called out to gather together – not go out as individuals
- Called out to gather together for a definite purpose

### **The Spiritual Dimensions Of The Church – The Body Of Christ**

1. The Church is Christ's Body Colossians 1:18, 24 Ephesians 1:22, 23

2. The Church is eternal, because Christ, the Head is eternal.

3. The Church is the instrument to execute Christ's purposes.

The Body executes what the head commands. Both here in this present age and in the millennium Daniel 7:18

4. The Church is the complete representation of Christ Ephesians 1:23

The Church is the completeness of Christ

Christ fills every member with Himself

Colossians 1:19

5. Every believer is a member of Christ's Body – the eternal Church

1 Corinthians 12:27

6. Part of the Church is in heaven and part of it is on earth Ephesians 3:14,15

## **The Natural Dimensions Of The Church - The Local Church**

1 Timothy 3:14-15

1. The local church is called “the household of God”

The term “household of God” or “household of faith” is used for both the local church and the eternal Church

Ephesians 2:19 Galatians 6:10

2. The local church is called “the church of the living God”

3. The local church is the physical expression of the Spiritual Body of Christ in a certain geographical area.

4. The local church in a certain area is made up of members of the eternal Church.

5. The local church in a certain area is Christ’s instrument in that area to execute Christ’s purposes.

6. The local church in a certain area is Christ’s complete representation of Himself in that area.

7. The local church in a certain place is the family of God in that place

Family is about relationships

Mutual love, care and concern, support

People in different stages of growth and maturity.

### **Why Should You Be Part Of A Local Church?**

- It is within a local church that you and I live out in daily life our membership in Christ’s spiritual Body – the Church.
- Bodily parts don’t float around, but stay together.

Isaiah 65:8

New wine is found in the cluster – God’s anointing is released among a community of people.

## 2. The Purpose Of The Local Church – Its Mission, Message, Methods

### Mission

Matthew 28:18-20

In the Great Commission the Lord Jesus instructed His disciples to make disciples of all nations. He told them that they would be empowered by the Holy Spirit. However, he did not give them the exact methodology other than to go preach and teach.

In the book of Acts, we see the end result of evangelization, i.e. the establishing of local churches.

The local church is God's strategy for world evangelization and discipleship. The primary mission of the local church is world evangelization and discipleship.

### Message

1. The Gospel

2. The Whole Counsel of God / Sound doctrine

Acts 20:20,27    1 Timothy 4:6,13,16    5:17    2 Timothy 3:16,17    Titus 2:7,10

3. Guarding Against Every Wind of Doctrine

Ephesians 4:14    1 Timothy 1:3, 6:3    2 Timothy 4:1-3    Romans 16:17  
2 John 1:9,10

### Methods

1. Pure    2 Corinthians 2:17    4:1,2    6:3,4    8:16-24    Before God and man

2. Not offensive, yet without compromise    1 Corinthians 10: 31-33

3. In demonstration of the Spirit and Power    1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 4:20    Romans 15:18,19

4. Spirit Directed    Acts 8:29,    11:12    16:6-10

5. Strategic

- Purposeful
- Timely



- Adaptable
- Well planned
- Well executed

6. Relevant (Contemporary) I Corinthians 9

- Be relevant without compromising the message
- Use methods and means that help people understand and apply the message
- Be sensitive to the culture without being controlled by the culture. God is greater than the culture.

### 3. The Structure And Function Of The Local Church

#### The Evolution Of Local Church Structure And Government

There is no clearly written structure (model/pattern) for the local church in the NT. Instead we see a pattern evolving and maturing over time.

First local church – The church at Jerusalem

- A citywide church
- Begins with the 12 apostles of the Lamb
- Peter the initial leader
- James takes over leadership

#### Emergence Of Deacons

Acts 6:1-8

Deacon Gr. “diakonos” = helper, servant, attendant, one who carries out the orders of another. These are primarily elders attending to business matters of the local church.

Requirements for deacons:

- Honest report
- Full of the Holy Spirit
- Full of wisdom
- Take responsibility for the business of the church

Philippians 1:1

1 Timothy 3:8-13 Detailed requirements for deacons in the local church

Romans 16:1-2 Phebe was a servant (Gr. “diakonos”) of the local church at Cenchrea.

Women can be deacons.

Acts 8 – Persecution in the church at Jerusalem

Acts 8 – Philip a deacon was used by God to preach the gospel with signs and wonders and to plant a local church in Samaria.

Acts 9:31,32 – Churches were raised up in other regions Judea, Samaria, Galilee, Lydda.

Acts 11:19-27 – A local church is raised up at Antioch. There were two cities of this name, one situated in Pisidia in Asia Minor (see Acts 13:14); the other, referred to here, was situated on the Orontes River, and was long, the capital of Syria.

All of the above show us that local churches can be planted without an apostle or prophet.

Just because God uses you to start one or more local churches does not make you an apostle.

The Holy Spirit uses ordinary saints and deacons to start local churches.

## **Emergence Of Elders**

Acts 15:1,2,22

We see the emergence of Elders (Gr. "presbuteros") in the church at Jerusalem along with the apostles.

The Elders along with the apostles were involved in the teaching and doctrine of the local church.

Acts 14:21-23

Ordain (Gr. "cheirotoneo") means to elect to office, or to vote, by stretching out or elevating the hand, so the word simply means "to elect, appoint, or designate to any office." The word here refers simply to an "election" or "appointment" of the elders.

Elders (Gr. "presbuteros"). The Gr. "presbus" means elderly; older, a senior, elder of age. In this initial context it had to do with age and maturity as a person, rather than a level of spiritual maturity.

Acts 20:17 Elders

Acts 20:28 Overseers (Gr. "episkopos") also translated Bishop.

To feed (Gr. "poimaino") means to tend as a shepherd. Get the word pastor (Ephesians 4:11 Gr. "poimen").

The NT uses the term bishop, elders, and presbyters, overseers interchangeably.

Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Peter 5:1-4

Later, this role had to do with three important things:

- Spiritual maturity – set a godly example of the Christian life
- Spiritual oversight – guard the sheep
- Spiritual ministry – labour in word and doctrine

People in the five-fold office were also referred to as elders, but not every elder is in a five-fold office.

## **Emergence Of Pastors**

As the NT church matures, we see pastors emerging out of the Elders who were solely responsible for the local church.

Timothy is appointed as "pastor" of the local church at Ephesus

1 Timothy 1:3

1 Timothy 5:1,17,19 : Timothy is given leadership over the elders.

Revelation Chs.2 and 3 : The Lord Jesus addresses His messages to the angel or messenger (singular) of each local church. This implies that there was one individual responsible for these local churches.

Revelation 2:1 To the angel at the church at Ephesus.

So the local church at Ephesus moved from having Elders to having a single angel (messenger) in a place of leadership and responsibility of that local church.

It was the angel of each local church that was held in the right hand of Jesus (Revelation 1:16,20).

The primary authority in a local church is the pastor who is responsible both to feed and guide the local church. The Lord Jesus will hold the pastor responsible for all that happens in the local church.

So in a local church, Pastors, Elders, Deacons and other five-fold ministries co-exist and function together.

### **Emergence Of Ministry Teams**

The Antioch Church

Acts 11:25,26 Barnabas and Paul teach the Word at the newly planted church

Acts 13:1 In about 2 years we see a team of prophets and teachers at the local church (5 people: Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, Saul)

Acts 13:2-4 Barnabas and Paul are called out/sent out from this church to evangelize and plant new churches

Acts 14:25-28 Paul and Barnabas return to the Antioch church at their ministry time.

Acts 15:32,35 Judas & Silas (Prophets), Paul & Barnabas (apostles Acts 14:14)

### **Five-Fold Ministers And Team Ministry**

Important lessons from the Antioch Church:

- The local church is the place where ministries are to be birthed, equipped and released.
- All ministries, five-fold ministries and others, need to be rooted in a local church for spiritual refreshing and accountability. (Isaiah 65:8)
- All ministries, pastors, elders, deacons, other five-fold ministries and other believers ministries co-exist and function together in a local-church, complementing, supporting and enriching the local body, without competing with each other.
- Some people's calling and ministry will require them to go out to the world or to the Body of Christ at large, whereas others may be called to minister within their local church body.

## Different Forms Of Church Structure

### The Clerical System

- Main line traditional denominations, e.g. Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, etc.
- The clergy and laity are a race apart. Most of the work is done by the clergy
- The local parish clergy are in total control by the hierarchical structure
- Local parish clergy get moved across parishes
- Threefold order: Bishops, priests, deacons

### The Elders System

- Led by a group of Elders
- Cooperative leadership. Difficult to cast a single vision
- Moderate success

### Independent Local churches

- Led by individual Pastors with pastoral teams
- Danger of totalitarianism/dictatorial leadership
- Failure in succession in some cases

### Post-modern movements that led to network of churches

- Vineyard
- New Life Churches
- Danger of the Shepherding/Covering concept

### The Apostolic Networks

- Network of churches relating to an apostle
- Danger of becoming man-focused
- Danger of authoritarianism
- Emphasis on "covenant-relationships" (other than what we already have in Christ) leads to cultic tendencies

### House Churches

- Dissatisfaction with large churches (or) inability to meet in large settings
- Has benefits of close relationships
- Lack of accountability and support
- Inability to accomplish in a larger context

## **Reformation In Church Structure**

Luke 5:37,38

The church has seen 3 major restoration moves of God:

- Reformation of theology starting with Martin Luther. This changed our knowledge of God.
- Reformation of spirituality starting in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. This changed our experience of God.
- Reformation of structure. Since the last 30+ years. This changed how we ministered to one another and the world

Ephesians 4:11-12

Christ's intent is that every believer does the work of the ministry. The old order (wineskin) of clergy-laity could not allow for this to happen. In the reformation of church structure we are witnessing a new way of doing church, where every believer can be involved in doing the work of the ministry.

The wineskins of our churches should stand ready to grow and expand as we receive the great outpouring of God's Spirit and extend His Kingdom.

## **Independent, Denomination, Affiliation, Apostolic Networks**

We must learn to respect and work with

## 4. Stages of Growth And Development

### Case Study : The Jerusalem Church

- Born during the feast of Pentecost.
- Started in a powerful way, grew very quickly through signs and wonders Acts 2:43; 3:4-8, 33;
- Focus on small groups meeting in houses Acts 2:46,47
- Everything in the church, was initially handled by the apostles – even though there were thousands in the local church Acts 2:44,45; 36,37
- Deacons were appointed later on to handle food administration. These deacons also were strong in the Spirit and were involved in ministry. Acts 6:1-8
- Multiplication came about because of persecution about 8 years after the launch of the Jerusalem church Acts 8:1; 9:32-42; 10:5-6; 11:19;
- The apostles remained in Jerusalem although other believers and the deacons dispersed.
- Some of the expansion was directly orchestrated by the Holy Spirit Acts 10:5-6
- After several years the Jerusalem church had Elders Acts 11:30
- Prophetic ministry teams were sent from the Jerusalem church to minister at other locations Acts 11:27 15:22

#### Strengths:

- Seemed to cope well with rapid growth initially. Used the concept of small group meetings effectively.
- Maintained a good balance between mighty manifestations and strong teaching to establish believers.
- Established a strong sense of community.
- Resolved internal conflicts well.
- Apostles remained in Jerusalem to keep the primary base strong.
- Apostles and Elders resolved doctrinal issues well.

#### Weaknesses:

- Slow to raise up second and third lines of leadership. Too focused on key leadership (apostles)
- Needed to be more strategic and proactive without being only reactive.
- Did not see beyond Jerusalem immediately. Slow to move toward world evangelization. Strong local church without a global perspective.
- Apostles fail to provide strong leadership to outreach churches

### Case Study : The Antioch Church

- Acts 11:19 Started by believers who were scattered out of Jerusalem due to persecution
- Established through supernatural demonstrations Acts 11:21
- Received the leader (Barnabas) sent from Jerusalem to strengthen them (Acts 11:22-24, Acts 4:36-37). Barnabas became the first “pastor” of the church in Antioch.
- Welcomed another leader (Paul) brought in by Barnabas to strengthen them.
- New believers were disciplined through teaching.
- Identified with Christ. Believers were first called Christian in Antioch.
- Received the prophetic ministry (Agabus from Jerusalem). Acts 11:27-29. They allowed other ministries to come into the church and impart into the life of the church. Acts 15:32,34
- Involved in social work – sent relief to Jerusalem church. Acts 11:29-30
- Saw the emergence of many leaders and the development of ministry team (Acts 13:1-3). Barnabas was an ex-Levitical priest, Saul was highly educated in Judaism (Acts 22:3, Philippians 3:5-6, Manaen was brought up in the courts of king Herod, Lucius was from Cyrene – north of Libya)
- Leaders were in fellowship with one another and ministered to the Lord.
- Involved in missions – sent out apostolic teams to pioneer new churches. They released some of their Senior Leaders into apostolic ministry.
- Became an apostolic mission base for apostles and prophets and missionary teams. Acts 14:26-28, Acts 15:35-38
- Churches planted by the apostles (Paul, Barnabas and Silas) came directly under the apostolic oversight of the apostles.

### Stages

The local church should not stagnate, else it will become a breeding ground for disease and mosquitoes.

There are several stages of growth and development that a local church normally goes through, if it continues to progress into higher realms. The following is adapted from the book “Apostolic Strategies”, by Dr. Jonathan David:

1. Pioneering Stage : establish commitment to a territory
2. Administrative Stage : establish well defined systems and processes.
3. Pastoral Team Stage / Team Ministry / Senior Pastor Stage : Establish a leadership team. The founding pastor moves into a Senior Pastor role.
4. Equipping Stage/Building Stage / Trainer Stage : Focus on equipping the saints. Emphasis on supernatural ministry. Release of the prophetic.
5. Apostolic Function Stage: Establish an apostolic mindset. Outward focused rather than a focus on internal care. All other processes in place to continue to equip the saints.



## Leading A Congregation And Leadership Transitions

## 5. What Makes A Strong Local Church

Characteristics of a strong local church:

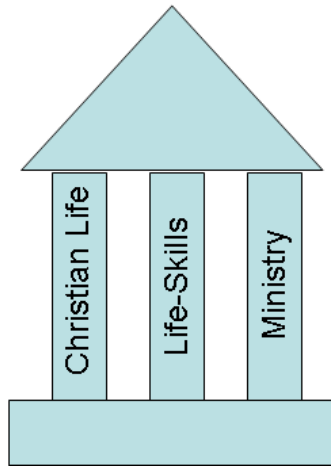
### 1. A strong leadership with a God-given vision

Zechariah 13:7 Isaiah 9:16

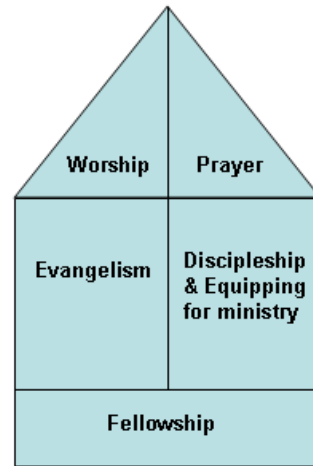
### 2. A balanced emphasis on the Word and Spirit

- Evangelism Acts 2:46,47 5:12-16
- Discipleship Acts 11:20-26
  - A disciple is one who has been trained to be Christ-like in character, conduct and service.
- Prayer & Worship Isaiah 56:7 Matthew 21:13
  - Through prayer and worship we change the spiritual atmosphere over our city
  - Prayer and worship creates an atmosphere for spiritual ministry as we gather together
  - God speaks in the midst of a worshipping and praying congregation
- Living the family life (Fellowship) 1 Timothy 3:14,15
- Equipping of the saints for ministry Ephesians 4:11, 1 Peter 4:10,11
  - Every member fully equipped, activated and released to fulfill their calling
  - Believers discover and exercise their gifts for the edifying of the body
  - Impacting society and government
  - Sending ministers out and reproducing itself

### Balanced Teaching



### Balanced Church



3. A church where people are flowing together 1 Corinthians 1:10
4. A church that is fulfilling its mission by equipping and releasing people into their God-appointed function Ephesians 4:11,12
5. A church that is relevant to the world it is in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
6. A church that is raising up leaders Galatians 2:9
7. A church that is able to establish continuity

## SECTION TWO : GOD'S BLUEPRINT