A Personal Ministry Chart

Introduction

It is easy to think we are doing much more than we really are doing! The aim of this chart is to help you to analyse what you are doing – with whom and what are the most valuable tools – books, conversation starters, DVDs etc. – you are using. What is working and what is not working. Do some things work in one context and not in another?

1. **Ploughing stage**: where do you meet people?

The aim is to begin to identify "fruitful practices" and the most valuable tools/programmes. Look at the relationships you have with friends, neighbours, colleagues and family and identify where and how these friendships developed. Where are you making friends – neighbours, work, shops, golf course, youth club, on an internet chat room – other places?

In the "church context" –a formal Christian environment – look for relational and generational links. A husband would reach out to his wife and his children and then to his extended family.

So in column 1 enter the various platforms/projects/activities that help you begin to make friends with unbelievers. Over the months you may wish to chart some progress that individuals may have made:

Met John on a train back from work

→ Gave him ……. (An evangelistic book)

→ Seemed to be interested

→ Met him several times to chat

← Haven't seen him for two months

Conclusion: Should have got his e-mail!

2. Sowing stage

In column 2 write down the names of those you are now sharing the Gospel with. What did you share with them? Hopefully you will begin to see some patterns emerging in terms of fruitful contacts and fruitful approaches as well as useful materials. Conversely you will see what doesn't work.

'Sowing' means people/individuals "hearing the word". At this point you are in fairly regular contact with them – perhaps you are friends. There is a deepening relationship involving some time commitment/hospitality etc.

3. Watering stage

Your friend moved from the ploughing stage to the sowing stage when he/she became a "hearer" of the Gospel. In moving from column 2 (sowing) to the watering stage your friend can be considered "a seeker". Seekers have moved from passively listening/watching/reading what you have given them to a more active search. They are now asking for more. They ask for more Christian materials and more time with you and others like you. They should be invited to a "seekers" Bible Study group.

In terms of analysis, you should be able to see how your friends moved from column 1 to column 3. You should see what has been most effective in this process. Did you pray more for any particular aspect as they moved from 1 to `3? How much was that an important factor? What other factors were involved – a vision of Jesus?

Watering is best done in a variety of activities and contexts not just a weekly or periodic evangelistic Bible study. The aim at this stage is that they become believers in the Lord Jesus the Messiah.

4. Reaping

Now your friend has come to faith in the Lord Jesus and is incorporated into the fellowship usually through baptism. This is true of the house church as well as the more formal church.

Month by month write down the names of those who have been incorporated into the fellowship. What triggered this major step? Do you see any pattern beginning to emerge or any tool – i.e. DVD testimonies – that was especially helpful?

5. Keeping the disciple in the local church fellowship

There is a degree in spiritual maturity between a disciple and the new believers. You need both a vision and a method to make disciples.

The 'keeping column' has been divided in two – the "committed" and "the core".

The **committed** are those disciples who are showing the fruit of the Spirit in their lives (including behavioural change) and the continual desire to know more. They are discovering and slowly using their spiritual gifts.

The **core** are disciples with a vision. These disciples have leadership potential and are using their gifts in building up the Fellowship – i.e. they are also ploughing, sowing, watering, reaping and discipling according to their spiritual gifts in the local Fellowship. What tools are especially useful in helping the committed to move into the core group?

Conclusion

This ministry analysis is an analysis of what you are doing, but it should also help you to 'morph' what you are doing so that you become more effective. Where are you investing your time? Where could your time effectively invested?

This tool could equally be used by a team or in a house group context.

Remember to write down names in each column and beside each day one of the symbols

⟵ Regressing

⟶ Moving forwards

〓 Staying the same

Finally, this is just tool. It isn't an accountability tool. It is an analytical/catalytical tool. There is no fail or pass. It should help you with your intentionality month by month as you complete the chart and think of what you should focus on in the coming month. It will also allow you to do some reverse engineering. Who is in column 5? How did they get from column 4 to 5? What is working in this process? You can then go back and look at the previous transition 3 to 4, 2 to 3 etc. what are you learning? How can it be done better? If you have a pileup in column 3 – i.e. lots of seekers but no reaping (no believers) what can you do?

All this sounds very mechanical and the whole process needs to be immersed in prayer – seeking the face of the Lord of the Harvest. He is the one who will help you and make you effective in every good work.

A Ministry Analysis Chart

MONTH: YEAR: 201

1. PLOUGHING	2. SOWING	3. WATERING	4. REAPING	5. KEEPING IN THE LOCAL FELLOW SHIP	
	Hearer →	Seeker →	Believer →	Disciple →	
CONTEXT	CROWD	COMMUNITY	CONGREGATION	COMMITTED	CORE
	TOTAL =	TOTAL =	TOTAL =	TOTAL =	TOTAL =