

Releasing "all by itself" Growth

Growth Forces



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These principles operate under "ideal" conditions. How many of you have "ideal conditions" in your ministry?

Understanding the growth forces helps you to be a better "farmer" of your ministry "field".

Our Thanks To:

- Christian Schwarz and Christoph Schalk for their research and development of Natural Church Development (NCD)
 - Overview of the NCD Research and Process online

Growth Forces: As Easy As ABC !

- You have seen them in ministry.
- You have used them, even as a child.
- A human being would find it virtually impossible not to use them.



Growth Forces

Growth Forces are simply the life principles upon which God's creation operates.

Frederic Vester – Identified six biotic principles to achieve optimum biological life.

"the maximum capacity of organisms to grow and reproduce under ideal conditions."

Insight

The secret in beginning to understand growth forces is recognizing where they are already operating!

The Six Growth Forces

- Interdependence
- Multiplication
- Energy transformation
- Sustainability
- Symbiosis
- Fruitfulness

I Corinthians 12:4-7

4 God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. 5 God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. 6 God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. 7 Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.

Interdependence

Individual units are connected to each other in a larger system.

Changes in one will affect others in the church and community.

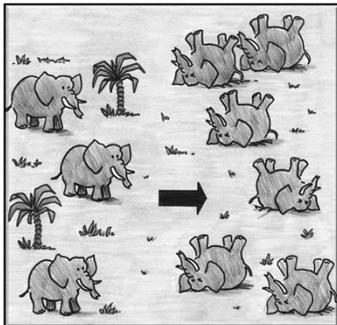


Interdependence

What are the **short** and **long-term** effects of this action?

“connecting”

Long Term Effects



Multiplication



Healthy organisms do not grow endlessly but reproduce themselves.

Multiplication

- True fruit of apple tree is not an apple, but another tree.
- True fruit of small group is not a new Christian, but a new group.
- True fruit of a church is not a new group, but a new church.

Multiplication

How does this contribute to **multiplication**, not just **addition**?

“reproducing”

The Power of Multiplication

Would you choose the addition to your account of \$10,000 per day for 31 days or A penny doubled/multiplied on day one and the balance doubled each day for 31 days?

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| • \$70,000 – 7 days | • \$1.28 – 7 days |
| • \$140,000 – 14 days | • \$163.84 - 14 days |
| • \$210,000 – 21 days | • \$20,971 – 21 days |
| • \$280,000 – 28 days | • \$2,684,354 – 28 days |
| • \$310,000 – 31 days | • \$21,474,836 – 31 days |

Energy Transformation

Momentum or energy already flowing, whether positive, potential or negative, can be redirected to accomplish God's purposes.



Genesis 1:28
Matthew 28:19,20

Genesis 1:28-Be fruitful and multiply

Matthew 28:19,20-The Great Commission

Energy Transformation

- Paul - Acts 17: Paul's mission development strategy
- Persecution - Acts 8: Through suffering, the church grows
- Crucifixion of Jesus: Through ultimate sacrifice, life is restored to all

Energy Transformation

How can we utilize *positive* and *negative* resources to fulfill *God's purpose*?

"leveraging"

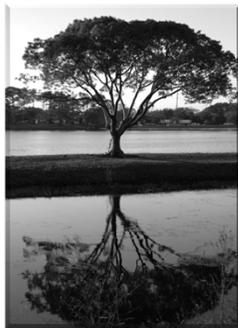
I Corinthians 3:6
II Timothy 2:2

I Corinthians 3:6 Paul planted, Apollos watered

II Timothy 2:2 What you have heard from me, entrust to faithful people

Sustainability

Resources used should increase the capacity for on-going growth and development, as well as serve multiple purposes.



Sustainability

How do these actions contribute to future ministry cycles?

"recycling"

Sustainability

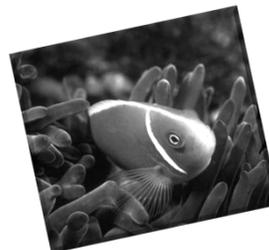


EXAMPLE

Raising up apprentice leaders.

(No one serves alone. Each one, teach one.)

Symbiosis



Different ministries can cultivate cooperative relationships so the mutual benefit is greater than operating separately.

Symbiosis

- Cooperation
- Mutual benefit
- Greater results

Fruitfulness

Each ministry needs to produce discernible results in line with its intended purpose.



Acts 13:2 Setting apart Barnabas and Saul (together they were better)

Acts 15:36-40 Dynamic Duo breaks up but they don't go it alone.

Fruitfulness

Every good tree bears good fruit; you will know them by their fruits (*Matthew 7*)

Measuring results (*John 15*)

- Removing
- Pruning
- Cultivating

Symbiosis

How can we work **together** to enhance ministry effectiveness?

“cooperating/teamwork”

Matthew 7:17-20-Every good tree bears good fruit

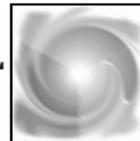
John 15:1-4-Cutting off the unfruitful, pruning for greater production

Fruitfulness

How can we maximize the *fruitfulness* of this ministry?

“evaluating”

Activity



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Growth Forces

1. Interdependence = connecting
2. Multiplication = reproducing
3. Energy transformation = harnessing
4. Sustainability = recycling
5. Symbiosis = cooperating
6. Fruitfulness = evaluating

- Form yourselves into small groups of 3 to 5. Make sure there is a DEM in your group.
- Take out your six month plan and evaluate the activities on it using the six biotic principles. How could you improve your plan by applying the growth forces.
- Help each other strengthen the six month plans by applying the principles.

Think Naturally



Where do you see Growth Forces operating in your life and ministry?

The Eight Quality Characteristics

- **Empowering** leadership
- **Gift-based** ministry
- **Passionate** spirituality
- **Effective** structures
- **Inspiring** worship service
- **Holistic** evangelism
- **Need-oriented** evangelism
- **Loving** relationships

The adjective is the key!

"Life-Giving" Adjectives

- Life giving leadership
- Life giving ministry
- Life giving spirituality
- Life giving structures
- Life giving worship
- Life giving small groups
- Life giving evangelism
- Life giving relationships



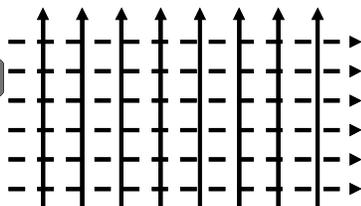
To Learn More

- Read NCD Summary on website
- Talk with your DEM
- E-mail Helen with your questions and observations.

The Quality Characteristics & The Growth Forces

Growth Forces

How the quality characteristics are developed.



Quality Characteristics

What a church needs to develop.

Example: Leadership according to **growth forces** is called **empowering leadership**.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *Natural Church Development* by Christian Schwarz
- *Color your World with NCD* by Christian Schwarz

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