

PHILIPPIANS 1:21

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# NO LONGER I

16 JULY | 9:30AM

ARDELLE PARK + FB LIVE



**For to me, to live is  
Christ and to die is  
gain**

PHILIPPIANS 1:21

# i. A life completely transformed - from Saul to Paul

ACTS 9:1-19

1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest

2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"



# i. A life completely transformed - from Saul to Paul

ACTS 9:1-19

5 “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

6 “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.

8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.



## i. A life completely transformed - from Saul to Paul

ACTS 9:1-19

9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.

11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.

12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."



## i. A life completely transformed - from Saul to Paul

ACTS 9:1-19

13 “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem.

14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.



# i. A life completely transformed - from Saul to Paul

ACTS 9:1-19

16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.



## i. A life completely transformed - from Saul to Paul

- a) God has the power to open our spiritual eyes - to see Jesus Christ
- b) God has the power to completely change a person's life and its trajectory for His holy purpose (Acts 9:13-15)
- c) Filled with the Holy Spirit and baptized
- d) A call over his life and did not delay (Acts 9:19-20)
- e) Increase of power as he faithfully submitted to His will (Acts 9:22)





## i. A life completely transformed - from Saul to Paul

GALATIANS 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Paul identifies himself as a servant of Jesus Christ - 'douloi' (slaves). Recognising His rule and dominion over his life**

PHILIPPIANS 1:1 (NLT)

we are called God's holy people ie.  
A people belonging to Him



ii. The joy found in Christ that leads to the joy of serving Him (in all circumstances)

## a) Everything a loss in comparison to knowing Christ

PHILIPPIANS 3:8-10

8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.



ii. *The joy found in Christ that leads to the joy of serving Him (in all circumstances)*

### **a) Everything a loss in comparison to knowing Christ**

PHILIPPIANS 3:8-10

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death

**A life poured out as offering for the sake of Jesus Christ leads to true joy and contentment - Christ is more than enough**



ii. The joy found in Christ that leads to the joy of serving Him (in all circumstances)

**a) Everything a loss in comparison to knowing Christ**

LUKE 6:45 (NLT)

What you say flows from what is in your heart.



ii. The joy found in Christ that leads to the joy of serving Him (in all circumstances)

**b) What people see as suffering, Paul saw as opportunity for Him to preach and for God to show up**



PHILIPPIANS 1:12-16

12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.

13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

14 And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident



ii. *The joy found in Christ that leads to the joy of serving Him (in all circumstances)*

**b) What people see as suffering, Paul saw as opportunity for Him to preach and for God to show up**



PHILIPPIANS 1:12-16

in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

16 The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.



ii. *The joy found in Christ that leads to the joy of serving Him (in all circumstances)*

**b) What people see as suffering, Paul saw as opportunity for Him to preach and for God to show up**



ACTS 16:25-34

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.



ii. *The joy found in Christ that leads to the joy of serving Him (in all circumstances)*

**b) What people see as suffering, Paul saw as opportunity for Him to preach and for God to show up**



ACTS 16:25-34

27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.

28 But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.





ii. *The joy found in Christ that leads to the joy of serving Him (in all circumstances)*

**b) What people see as suffering, Paul saw as opportunity for Him to preach and for God to show up**



ACTS 16:25-34

30 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

33 At that hour of the night the jailer took



ii. *The joy found in Christ that leads to the joy of serving Him (in all circumstances)*

**b) What people see as suffering, Paul saw as opportunity for Him to preach and for God to show up**



ACTS 16:25-34

them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized.

34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

**The gospel cannot be contained!**



### iii. *The call to imitate Christ (Philippians 2)*

#### **a) The church to be united as ONE**

v1 - Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ

#### **b) Being like-minded with Christ**

v2 - then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

**The heart and mind of Christ -  
Matthew 18:11-14**



## iii. The call to imitate Christ (Philippians 2)

### c) The attitude and life modeled by Christ (v5-8)

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!)



### iii. *The call to imitate Christ (Philippians 2)*

#### **d) The Conduct yourselves worthy of the gospel**

PHILLIPIANS 1:27

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel



# National Church Development – Four Stages

## Stage 4 - Send - extending

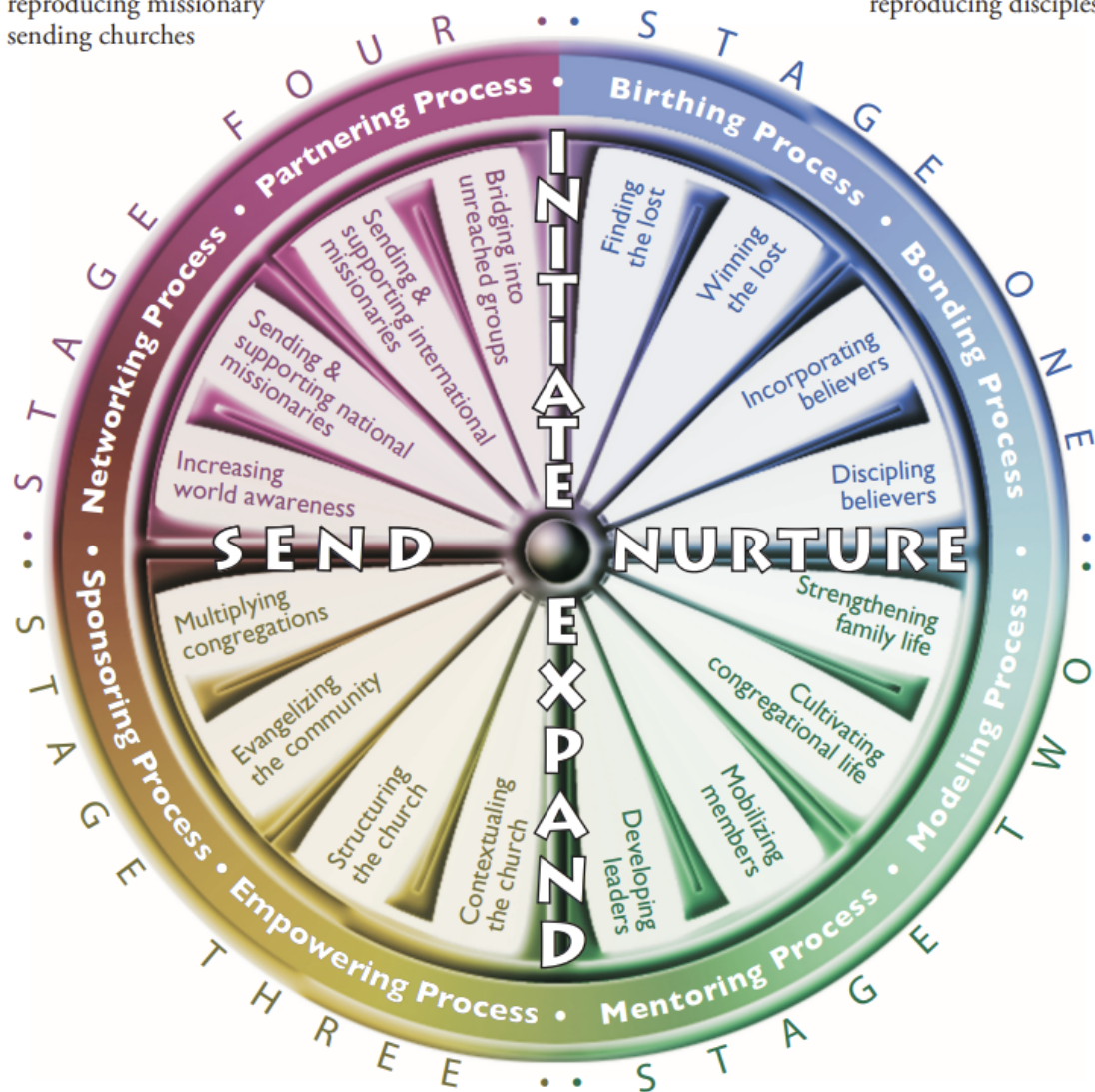
Goal: to make responsible, reproducing missionary sending churches

## Stage 1 - Intitiate - evangelizing

Goal: to make responsible, reproducing disciples

# KINGDOM EXPANSION =

# Initiate - Nurture - Expand - Send (Matthew 28:19-20)



## Stage 3 - Expand - multiplying

Goal: to make responsible, reproducing congregations

## Stage 2 - Nurture - strengthening

Goal: to make responsible, reproducing leaders

## *iv. Paul the Church Planter*

### **a) Preaching and Nurturing others in the faith**

PHILLIPIANS 1:23-26

23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

26 so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me



# v. Thanks and recognition of their gifts - the importance of partnership

PHILLIPIANS 4:10-19

10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.





v. Thanks and recognition of their gifts -  
the importance of partnership

PHILLIPIANS 4:10-19

13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;

16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.



v. Thanks and recognition of their gifts -  
the importance of partnership

PHILLIPIANS 4:10-19

17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.

18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ



*vi. Conclusion*

**Forget what is behind  
and strain toward  
what is ahead. Press  
on toward the goal to  
win the prize**





# Pray with us

For “whoever calls on  
the name of the Lord  
shall be saved.”

ROMANS 10:13



# Connect with us!



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