



Pastor's Page

“Baby Talk”

I was recently talking with a mature lady about all the new babies at church and what a blessing they are. “Oh yes” she said “and it’s all down to you!” (I can assure you, none of it is down to me!)

Nick Cuthbert in his book ‘Church on the Edge’ compares pregnancy with Christian mission. He identifies the following marks of a ‘pregnant’ church

A Nurturing Preparation. A woman who is about to have a baby will be thinking how best to look after the new arrival. Her baby and its welfare will be completely absorbing her thoughts. She will be thinking of clothing, feeding, growth and the rest. If there is no place of any sort prepared for the new baby, there is probably no baby expected.

If a church is expecting to see people come to Christ, they will be making changes ‘at home’ that demonstrate that expectation. If no changes are being made, probably the baby talk is only baby talk.

A sense of expectation There is within the expectant home a sense of excitement and anticipation of the new arrival. An expectant church has a sense of anticipation about it; you get disappointed when it doesn’t happen.

A profound discomfort. I’m told that to be pregnant and have a baby kicking inside is pretty uncomfortable at times. Having newcomers to church can be pretty uncomfortable and at times inconvenient, but it’s all part and parcel of a church that welcomes new people.

A feeling of readiness among individuals The home (or nursery) isn’t the only thing that needs to be ready. The expectant Father and mother will have been to classes to prepare for the birth as well as for being parents. A pregnant church will have prepared its members to tell their stories. Lead people to Christ follow them up and be equipped for mission.

A centre of conversation With pregnant women there is a lot of baby talk around, and why not? It’s the most exciting thing in the world. In a mission -based church people are talking babies. They are talking about people coming to faith. They are will concerned about sharing their faith, encouraging each other and passing on stories of people coming to know Jesus.

A preparedness for pain and hard work Everyone knows giving birth is hugely painful but it is worth it. A mission church is one that is prepared for hard work, disappointments and pain and perseverance because it knows that the joy of giving birth to new Christians is worth it.

God wants a pregnant church, ready to birth new believers as he graciously gives the increase.

Are we as a church showing tell-tale signs of new life?

27th April 2008