

Becoming a Movement Again

Rethinking Church

**Some things don't make sense when you rethink church
(e.g. going to church)**

You are the church!

The church is wherever you are.

2 Corinthians 5:20

So we are ambassadors for Christ.

We are part of a much large movement of rethinking church.

Back to the Source

Jesus commissioned his followers to make disciples...

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations

... and they did!

Over time the tight focus on making disciples was lost, and many other activities gained priority.

The Wesleyan movement of the 18th century was an attempt to rediscover the vitality of original Christianity. It was an attempt to return to the source.

Class Meetings were the key (i.e. small discipleship groups)

George Whitefield

My Brother Wesley acted wisely – the souls that were awakened under his ministry he joined in class, and thus preserved the fruits of his labor. This I neglected, and my people are a rope of sand.

Methodist Class Meetings and Anglican Religious Societies

Anglican Religious Societies hoped that Christian service would be the outcome of their quest for spiritual growth.

Wesley viewed Christian service as the context in which spiritual growth developed.

Focus on standing with people and doing so in Christian community.

Methodism was a movement of hopeless people (of people Jesus missed the most).

Becoming a Movement Again

There is a difference between being a Christian movement and a Christian self-help group.

The love of Christ urges us on to be a movement; To be his ambassadors; to reconcile the world to God (2 Cor. 5:14-21)

Worship

The place to celebrate what God is doing in the movement.

Missional Communities (small groups that share life together)

The place where the movement is fueled

