

### PP1 Mission momentum.

I was reading a book about church and mission and the future recently and it talked about momentum. It spoke about momentum as being a combination of a number of things. And it was all tied together quite nicely. You need people moving in a direction constantly is what it said, that is momentum from a church perspective.

So I got to thinking and further reading about mission and momentum. And I had to think outside my usual patterns. Although I went back to something from years ago as I thought about it.

Here is what I came up with.

### PP2 $P = MV^2$

PP3 P = Momentum

M = Mass

V = velocity

Now I am no mathematician, it isn't my thing. I am quite mathematically challenged in fact. But I do remember this formula from my cycling coaching days. I just can't remember why it was important. I think I have mentioned it before in a sermon here.

So momentum is made up of mass and velocity.

Ok, let's apply that to our church and its mission.

1. PP4 Mass.

PP5 Mass equals people. You gotta have people in a church, you gotta have people to mission. We have to have people to mission to. I don't mean that we can't do mission if we don't have more people, I mean we have a mass of people, called a congregation, that can be involved in mission. More of us actually, the more people we have involved in mission the more mission we can achieve. Seems logical. .

### PP6 But mass does not equal momentum.

PP7 Judges 7:1-8<sup>JDG 7:1</sup> Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. <sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, <sup>3</sup> announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.' " So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

JDG 7:4 But the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

JDG 7:5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink." <sup>6</sup> Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

JDG 7:7 The LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place." <sup>8</sup> So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley.

The momentum was in doing things in God's way, not the big army.

PP8 It is about quality and quantity. A critical mass of people who aren't interested in mission, will not get mission achieved. It's like a crowd of people at a football game who aren't interested. They won't watch, they won't get involved.

a. PP9 Quality – People interested and prepared to mission

b. PP10 Quantity – Enough people to do the job.

Now before we leave the mass part of the equation, lets look at a few things.

i. Pp11 Size

If something is big, it takes longer to get going. Longer to turn, longer to pick up speed. Look at a train. Big engine, takes a lot of power to get moving away from the station, but once it is moving it cruises. An oil tanker is another example. Takes ages to get going and heaps of space to turn around. The same with mission, sometimes the bigger the mission the slower to achieve results. But one thing I learned from cycling.

ii. PP12 Aerodynamics.

Aerodynamics help. A smooth vehicle travels through the air with less resistance. A lower body position on a bicycle makes it easier. I have (somewhere in a box at home) My old aero bars. Handle bars that I rest my elbows on so I am lower and there is less wind resistance. It works. I also had a disk wheel to cut down drag, I have an aero designed front wheel. And yes it all makes a difference. Actually if you have seen my present bike, it is a recumbent. It is insanely aerodynamic. When I was racing, my full aero equipment would make about 1-1.30 minutes difference over an hour. The difference between 38 kph and 40 kph – enough to make a difference at the

end of a race. Some races the difference in winning and 10<sup>th</sup> place was as little as 10 seconds.

What this is about for us is using available resources. I didn't need to make and design a new wheel, I went and bought it!

This is about good stewardship. Making the best with what is available.

The second part of the equation is Pp13 Velocity.

2. Velocity – The dictionary states that velocity is : PP14 “ Speed of motion in a particular direction.”

speed with direction. Cool concept.

The book of Acts shows velocity.

Look at it.

Pp15 Acts 2:46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Pp16 Acts 4: <sup>4</sup> But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

Pp17 Acts 5: <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

Pp18 AC 9:31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

Pp19 Acts 16: <sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

PP20 Acts 19:20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

## **Pp21 Velocity that developed a mass.**

Velocity implies a couple of things.

a. **PP22 Velocity Implies change or movement.**

Throughout Acts- things changed. In fact the biggest change was probably seen in the apostles themselves, including Paul. Huge personal change that facilitated a corporate change.

b. **PP23 Velocity Implies a direction,** remember the dictionary definition. : “ Speed of motion in a particular direction.” Mission is about a direction. That direction is presenting the Jesus message to people to turn their direction. So they will travel with us on our direction. That is towards God.

Look at Hebrews

**PP24 HEB 12:1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**PP25 We are to do this mission thing as if we think we can win!!!!**

That is one thing I don't think we believe. That we can win, that we can do it. That we can make a difference. We are too small, we don't have the skills, we are too busy.

No, No, No.

**PP26 EPH 1:3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Every Spiritual blessing – all that we need. Available to us. If we can't win it is because we aren't trying. Because God has given us all we need. Sorry to be blunt, but there it is. We may think we need other people, other skills, other gifts, but that is not what scripture tells us.

And how dare we think other than what scripture tells us. How dare we question the almighty God.

Velocity has another couple of things attached to it.

- i. **PP27 Speed** –Remember the movie the matrix with those fabulous slow motion clips. The matrix – dodging bullets – what did Neo say “they seemed like they were floating.” Speed is only relevant to what is around it. Traveling in two cars at 100 kph and looking out the window – it looks stationary. But standing on a footpath when a car goes past at 100kph it is incredibly fast. We need to get up to speed. Like in Acts. Things happened all the time and momentum built we need to
- ii. The other thing is. **PP28 Energy**- It takes energy to travel at a velocity. If we are fuelled by our own desires to be successful or grow as a church we will peter out, it will be too much effort. If we are fuelled by faith, then fuelled by God Himself – the Holy Spirit – the energy and drive some from a different source.

### 3. Conclusions

- a. To be a missional church will require as much involvement as possible. Critical Mass but not huge numbers but huge participation rate from us!  
**PP29 Critical mass is us!**
- b. Missions require us to **PP30 Be ready and willing to move**. (Notice it is velocity squared,  $P = MV^2$  **twice as much velocity as mass**.) In other words – be willing to be somewhere else quickly!!!
- c. Momentum requires us to be **PP31 A community with a cause**.
- d. This is all about our **PP32 involvement**. Momentum is up to us, we are the ingredients.

**PP33** ISA<sup>43:18</sup> “Forget the former things;

do not dwell on the past.

ISA<sup>43:19</sup> See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the desert

and streams in the wasteland.

**That’s where we are at – God is doing a new thing here.**

**Now it springs up!!!!!! Love those words!!!! – do you not perceive it. Oh yeh.**