



## **Vinegrowers taking root!**

We launched Vinegrowers in January this year. It's been quite a ride. Here's some of what's happening.

### **Trellis and Vine Regional Workshops**

60 churches from Sydney, Canberra and Adelaide have brought leadership teams to 7 workshops with about 350 participants - ministry staff and lay leaders. Anglican, Presbyterian, Baptist, Christian Reformed and Independent churches have been involved.

The flow of the workshop is:

- Imagination - the vision of disciple-making
- Evaluation - assessing your trellis and vine
- Innovation - identifying what needs to change
- Implementation- steps in building a disciple-making culture

### **Church-based Workshops**

I have conducted workshops in various churches on various topics such as:

- Catching the vision of disciple-making
- Discipling through one-to-one Bible reading
- Discipling your children
- Coaching: the X- factor in ministry training
- Equipping small group leaders as disciple-makers
- Vintage: disciple-making for seniors

### **Church training consultancies**

In 3 churches I am working with the pastoral team over the whole year to implement the changes needed to see the vinegrower ideas take root (pun intended).

### **Feedback from the workshops**

See over...

## Feedback from the workshops

These are some of the issues and questions arising from the workshops. Stay tuned for answers.

### Vine questions

- Is the Bible really teaching that every disciple is a disciple-maker? Is this a right vision of the Christian life?
- Is disciple-making an individual or corporate activity?
- Is our doctrine of gifts enabling or disabling disciple-makers?
- How can we equip parents to be discipling their children?
- Why do we have such low expectations that our members will be leading others to follow Christ?
- Is disciple-making only about one-to-one ministry? How can we build a network of personal discipling relationships? Why is there so little one-to-one discipling happening in most churches?
- How can we train small group leaders as disciple-makers instead of group facilitators? Is this realistic?
- Could some leaders be inspired and equipped to use their homes to plant Bible reading groups for neighbours and friends?

### Trellis questions

- Is it really possible to change a church from a program to a disciple-making culture? What are the first steps in implementing this change? Top down or bottom up?
- What does church look like with a disciple-making culture? What's the difference? With a disciple-making vision what will our Sunday gatherings look like?
- What are the basic structures for building a church that is making disciples and planting new ministries? How can we simplify the trellis? How can we build an efficient trellis structure that minimizes organizational effort and maximizes people ministering to people?
- How can the disciple-making vision help us overcome the barriers to gospel growth?
- Does the disciple-making vision imply we should multiply small churches rather than build bigger churches?
- To what extent should the ministry be centralized around staff versus decentralized around lay leadership? With centralized ministry how do we avoid members becoming consumers rather than servants?
- In creating our structures how do we account for the different gifts and capacities of pastors? How does a pastor build a team that complements his gifts and capacities?
- Do we need specialist ministry trainers to work alongside the preaching pastor?