

## 5. Embrace The Strategy – Planning

- Proverbs 21:22, NIV – “(22) *A wise man attacks the city of the mighty and pulls down the stronghold in which they trust.*”
- Romans 12:21, NIV – “*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*”

## 6. Embrace The Work – Action

- Micah 6:9, NIV – “*Listen! The LORD is calling to the city ...*”

## FIRST STEPS TO BRIDGE BUILDING

### 1. God’s: Will

- Deuteronomy 28:15, 38, NIV – “(15) ... *if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees ...* (38) *You will sow much seed in the field but you will harvest little, because locusts will devour it.*”

### 2. Our: Ability

- Matthew 5:13-16, NIV – (13) *You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.* (14) *You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. (16) In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*
- The Key to Building Bridges = “Doing good with what you do good (well/best)”

### 3. Community’s: Needs

- Matthew 15:32, NIV – (32) *Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. ...”*

### 4. Divine: Opportunity

- Ephesians 2:10, NIV – (10) *For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

# A HEART FOR THE HARVEST

## Part 4 – How To Build Bridges

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Can you imagine your community being genuinely thankful for your church?
2. Can you imagine your community leaders valuing your church’s participation in your community, and even asking for it?
3. Can you imagine people talking about “how good it is” to have your church in the area, because of the tangible witness your church has offered them of God’s love?
4. Can you imagine many of your church’s members actively engaged in using their gifts and talents and abilities to serve and impact their community to a degree that they never thought possible?
5. Can you imagine your community changing because of the impact of your church’s involvement?
6. Can you imagine people in your city who were formerly cynical and hostile towards Christianity, actually praising God for your church and the positive contributions its members have made in Jesus’ name?
7. Can you imagine the spiritual harvest that would naturally follow if all of this were true?

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## REVIEW

- “Because until you learn how to build bridges, the wheat will never be healed”
- Part 1 – An Apostolic Centre
- Part 2 – Principles For Harvesting
- Part 3 – Building Effective Bridges By Doing Good

## WHY WE NEED GOOD BRIDGES

- Good bridges help a church:
  1. Get in touch with the community around them
  2. Become relevant to the community around them
  3. Influence and impact the community around them
- Good bridges:
  1. Establish credibility in a skeptical and hostile world.
  2. Draw people, rather than repel them.
  3. Offer living proof rather than just hollow proclamation.
  4. Bring opportunities to transform communities.

## THE BALANCE: BIBLICALLY SOUND AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT

### 1. Biblically sound ... yet culturally relevant

- 2 Timothy 3:16, NIV – “(16) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, (17) so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

### 2. Culturally relevant ... yet biblically sound.

- 1 Corinthians 9:22, NIV – “(22) ... I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”

### 3. We Must Live The Christian Life So That It Can Be Seen

- Matthew 5:16, NIV – (16) In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
- Mature Christian says, “If our Christianity is real, let’s live it”
- Skeptical world says, “If your Christianity is real, let’s see it”

## PEOPLE NEED TO SEE!

- The church is “A community of people who stand firm in the truth over time against raging currents of opposition, and who present living proof of a loving God to a watching world.” – Robert Lewis
- 1 John 1:1-2, NIV – (1) What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life – (2) and the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us.
- A spiritual bridge always involves a physical reality and a visual connection

## STEPS TO BRIDGE BUILDING

- 1 Corinthians 15:46, NIV – “The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.”

### 1. Embrace The People – Compassion

- Matthew 9:36, NIV – (36) When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them ...”
- Proverbs 29:8, NIV – “Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger.”

### 2. Embrace The Reality – Vision

- Proverbs 11:11, NIV – “Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted ...”

### 3. Embrace The Need – Passion

- Psalm 45:1, NIV – “My heart is stirred ...”

### 4. Embrace The Belief – Faith

- Ecclesiastes 7:19, NIV – “Wisdom makes one wise man more powerful than ten rulers in a city.”