

# \***Missional Listening**

Nick Brotherwood & Ryan Sim

- \* Isn't it obvious what we need to do?
- \* Shouldn't we just be bold & get on with it?



\* **Why listen?**

# \* What do we mean by “listening”?

- \* 360 degree listening-to God & to culture
- \* Includes observing
- \* Seeing what is going on
- \* Not just on the surface but deeper
- \* Asking questions and listening to the answers
- \* Asking more questions
- \* Doing research
- \* Following hunches



# \* We need to listen because...

- \* We've never been here before
- \* Some of us grew up in very different times (generational issues), very different places (rural-urban-suburban)
- \* Some of us think we know it all



- \* We need a humble attitude before God
- \* A continual attitude of listening
- \* not a one-off approach



# \* But how?

- \* Our attitude-Knowing that we don't know all that there is to know!
- \* A Jehosophat moment? "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."  
2 Chron. 20.12
- \* A deep conviction that God knows what he is doing



**\* What are we listening for?**

- \* Through the Christian community: because-
  - \* “It seemed good to us and the Holy Spirit”
  - \* the multi-generational-ethnic-cultural Christian community can help guard us from our generational biases, preferences and blind spots

**\* How might God guide us?**



\* **Through scripture**-a continuing engagement-particular passages eg. Isa 42.16

\* "I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;  
I will turn the darkness into light before them  
and make the rough places smooth.  
These are the things I will do;  
I will not forsake them."

\* **How might God guide us?**

- \* Through prayer-personal, communal, prayer supporters
- \* Through others-iron sharpening iron
- \* Visions, dreams,
- \* Through our long term commitments

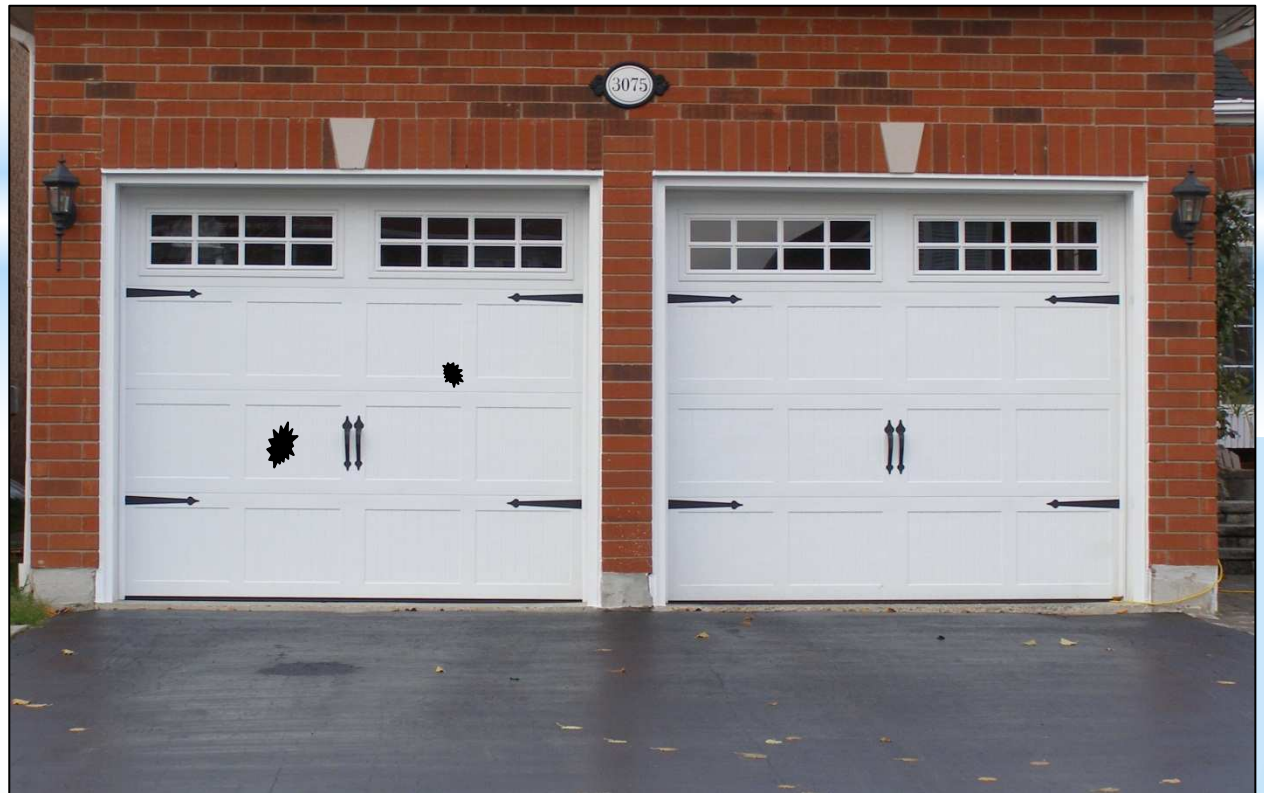
**\* How might God guide us?**

- \* What needs exist in our community?
- \* What good news will they recognize first?
- \* What is life like here?
- \* Where is shalom (not) found?
- \* Where is the kingdom of God emerging?
- \* Where is God at work already?



## \* The Big Question(s)

- \* Observing
- \* Interpreting
- \* Evaluating



- \* Read
- \* Social Media
- \* Say “Yes” to every invitation



**\* Be Aware of Culture**

- \* Pray!
- \* Read
  - \* Scripture
  - \* Relevant Books
  - \* Local Media
  - \* Tourism & Other Information
  - \* Web Sites
- \* Observe
  - \* Watch
  - \* Listen



\* **On the Move**

- \* What do you see, hear, smell, feel?
- \* Signs of care or neglect
- \* Signs of permanence or transience
- \* Signs of community or isolation
- \* Signs of faith
- \* Signs of poverty or affluence
- \* Signs of safety or danger
- \* Signs of beauty or despair

## \* Some Things to Notice

**Addictive amenities**







**NO TRESPASSING  
NO SOLICITING**





- \* Ask a short, simple question as many times as possible
  - \* What brings you to Yonge & Bloor today?
  - \* Tell me a few things that would improve your quality of life.

\* Lots of Data



\* **Surveys**

- \* Community Leaders & Potential Partners
- \* Christians in Community
- \* Regular People



\* **Interviews**

- \* What demographic shifts are underway?
- \* What kind of problems exist in this community?
- \* What divisions are there in the community?
- \* How is Christianity perceived in the community?
- \* What is your dream for this community?
- \* How could a church assist?
- \* May I put you on our email list?
- \* Who else can you connect me with?

**\* Community Leaders**

- \* Who are the different types of people living in your building/neighbourhood?
- \* Do people who live in this building interact with one another? If so where?
- \* What is the content and duration of any conversations people have in the building?
- \* Do your neighbours talk about, or visibly live according to their faith or spirituality? If so, how?
- \* What is your prayer for those living in your building?
- \* What do you think is on the mind of your typical neighbour?
- \* How can we help you love your neighbour?
- \* Who else can you connect me with?

## \* **Questions for Christians**

- \* Tell me about the average weekday in your life.
- \* Tell me about the average Saturday or Sunday in your life.
- \* What bothers you/keeps you awake about your life today?
- \* How have you seen the neighbourhood change?
- \* What do you love about living here?
- \* What is your dream for this neighbourhood?
- \* How could we help you realize that dream?
- \* May I put you on our email list?
- \* Where do you meet with people from the area?
- \* Who else can you connect me with?

## \* **A Neighbourhood Interview**



- \* Formulate a Question
  - \* Focus on Needs
  - \* Outside the Church Walls
- \* Ask the Question of those you know
- \* Ask who else would know



## \* Chain Sampling

- \* Diocese or Denomination
- \* Municipality
- \* Realtor
- \* Statistics Canada
- \* Web Sites
- \* Custom Study

## \* **Demographic Data**

- \* Look for trends
  - \* In your walking/driving
  - \* In your surveys
  - \* In demographics
  - \* In your asset map
- \* Involve Community

**\* Interpreting**

- \* People
  - \* Supporters
  - \* Potential Team
  - \* Potential Participants
- \* Organizations
- \* “Third Places”
- \* Physical Places & Assets



## \* **Asset Mapping**

- \* Compare trends/values
  - \* and the gospel
  - \* and existing forms of church



\* **Evaluating**

- \* Serve a real need for unchurched people
- \* Have potential to gather community
  - \* Bi-Weekly or more frequent
- \* Have potential to make disciples
  - \* Through conversation and community
- \* Are sustainable and reproducible



\* **Evaluating**

\* Community Opportunity Scan -

<http://www.diaconalministries.com/community/>

\* Serving God's World -

[ottawa.anglican.ca/Outreach/Serving\\_God's\\_World\\_Workbook\\_2011.pdf](http://ottawa.anglican.ca/Outreach/Serving_God's_World_Workbook_2011.pdf)

\* Fresh Expressions Canada – [www.freshexpressions.ca](http://www.freshexpressions.ca)

\* Ryan's Blog: [www.ryanbrsim.com](http://www.ryanbrsim.com)

\* **Resources**



\* Questions?



**\* Teams - Pick up sheets here:**

- \* Urban: Great Hall
- \* Suburban/Exurban: Foyer (just outside Cody Hall)
- \* Rural: Back of Cody Hall

\* Find a space to work together for 20 minutes

**\* Without a Team:**

- \* Stay in the Room

**\* Exercise**