

The Impact Incubator



*with
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Module 13 Video 3

Introducing...

Face To Face Community Building

- There are literally hundreds of ways to build community around your mission mantra and your Big “T” Truth.
- Communities can be any size, virtual or in person, long term or short term.
- The thing that connects each person to the community is their hunger for transformation in the area of you Big “T” Truth.

Short Term Mission Works

- For what: Generally requires you to leave your local community to serve (but not always).
- Pros: New experiences, reaching people you don't have contact with in day to day life, and the opportunity to meet urgent needs.
- Cons: Distance makes it hard to develop long term connections, but partnering with a local org can help. Be careful not to trample people or minimize their experiences.
- Resources/Tips: Do your research on the org you're partnering with and read up on the wrong reasons to do these trips. (When Helping Hurts is a great place to start)

Long Term Mission Works

- For what: Long term mission work is traditionally seen as missionary work to remote locations around the world, but a new breed of Christians are also moving into urban and rural communities solely for the purpose of loving our neighbors.
- Pros: Being embedded in a community for the long haul opens the door for deeper connections.
- Cons: Similar to short term missions. The goal is to integrate into the local community rather than overwriting it. Fundraising is also a large part of the work for most missionaries.
- Resources/Tips: Be careful not to trample people or minimize their experiences.

Local Organization Work

- For what: Volunteer or paid work in your community. This could be building homes with Habitat, coaching little league, mentoring at MOPS, or taking a part time job cooking at your local shelter. The key to this type of service is that it's regular and local.
 - Pros: Builds connections within your own community that sometimes spill into daily life.
 - Cons: Can be hard to be consistent and we can lose sight of their connection to our calling and become part of the 'to do' list.
 - Resources/Tips: Use your discernment for these activities. Not everything that comes your way is right for you. Recognize seasons.
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Cause Based Work

- For what: Advocacy, awareness, and activism based on a specific topic, cause, or person group.
- Pros: Joining or creating a group of people passionate about one topic helps you find like minded people and can reduce feelings of isolation. Plus-Strength in numbers helps elevate the cause.
- Cons: too many like minded people shouting and not listening can create silos and decrease our ability to see how connected our issue is with the rest of the world. Can lead to group think and elitism. Never stop listening to all sides.
- Resources/Tips: Look at the criticisms of a cause you want to join and evaluate them based on discernment and wisdom, not emotion or fear.

B-Corp Entrepreneurship

- For what: This type of community building centers around a for-profit company who generates revenue through products and/or services and then channels funds into doing good.
- Pros: When done well, this model is more self-sufficient than those with traditional fundraising plans.
- Cons: The company has to be careful not to exploit the people they're serving in order to move products. There is also criticism around disrupting local markets and not actually solving the core problem.
- Resources/Tips: see article in post for more discussion

Traditional Church/Ministry

- For what: Connecting with an established ministry program in your community gives you instant access to people, resources, and a support team.
- Pros: Most orgs have a clear mission and goals and you can throw your resources behind it. There can be less start up and isolation.
- Cons: The larger the org, the more slowly it usually moves. Joining an org means you might be taking on the org's history (good and bad)
- Resources/Tips: Do your research on the org by talking to insiders and outsiders (not the ones recruiting you).

Helping Professions

- For what: Being a Jesus centered coach, counselor, medical provider, social worker, or teacher can bring peace and healing to unexpected places.
 - Pros: People are literally coming to you for help and you can speak love and wisdom over them in unexpected ways.
 - Cons: Not every position will encourage (or allow) you to have faith conversations in the workplace. God may still call you there, but def be discerning about how best to proceed.
 - Resources/Tips: There are high rates of burn out in many of these professions so be sure to read the Boundaries book and practice good self care!
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