

**GOD
SPACE**

VISION STATEMENT

Guiding God's People Into Outward-Focused Living

An Assessment To Consider: In the 20th Century, the church was busy trying to figure out how to get our neighbors to come to church. In the 21st Century, we need to figure out how to get our churches to go to their neighborhoods. The game plan of "come and see" needs a "go and be" overhaul if the church is going to live out its mandate to engage the culture with good deeds and good news. As George Barna put it, *"We can't be effective if we continue to cling to the old strategies, and the old assumptions. We cannot be effective if we behave in a manner only relevant to the past."*

Some Questions To Ponder: How do we add more "away games" to a church schedule dominated by "home games"? How do we turn inwardly-focused Christians into outwardly-focused Christ followers? How do we engage a culture that is increasingly saying "no thanks" to our traditional "God Spaces"?

A Vision For The Future: Imagine what could happen if God's people were equipped to create "God Space" in their Monday through Saturday world. God Space is where: *God's invisible Kingdom can be seen and felt as we pray, notice, serve, listen, wonder, and share our God stories. God's love is demonstrated in practical, doable, and authentic ways. Safe space is created for cynics, skeptics, and spiritually curious people to raise their questions, share their doubts, and voice their concerns. Seeds of faith are planted, watered, and nurtured.* As a result Christianity becomes credible, relevant, plausible and believable and God's Kingdom advances one heart at a time, one touch at a time, one conversation at a time, one "a-ha" at a time.

A Plan For The Present: There is a natural gravitational pull which causes faith communities to be inwardly focused. Just ask a group of people to form a circle and watch what mysteriously happens; circles always form with everyone facing inward. Without on-going intentionality, even outwardly-focused faith communities will eventually turn back inward. It takes an outward-focused game plan (see below) energized by God's Holy Spirit to turn inwardly-focused Christians into outwardly-focused Christ-followers.

1. Diagnostic tools to help faith communities assess where they are at in the outward focused journey.
2. A catalyst to create synergy and cast an outward-focused vision for the leaders of a faith community.
3. A coach to inspire the desire and a trainer to impart the skills needed for outward focused living.
4. Practical, doable resources to help faith communities grow in their confidence and competence.
5. Faith adventure challenges to help faith communities move from information to transformation.
6. Ministry philosophy to help faith communities as they turn outward.
7. Wholistic measuring tools to help faith communities stay on track in the outward focused journey.
8. Creative ideas to help faith communities sustain their passion for outward focused living.
9. Bible studies, sermon series, and quotes from reflective practitioners to help grow the outward-focused mindset.
10. A mentor to handle frequently asked questions and work through the challenges faith communities often encounter along the way as they turn outward.

A Challenge To Respond To: *"If your faith community is more interested in being the church than having church, Doug Pollock could be your new best friend. As a trainer, Doug offers practical steps that help everyone find it easier to have spiritual conversations. As a consultant, Doug is an invaluable resource as you build a strategic plan for impacting your community. If you've not utilized him before, you need to talk to him today!"* (Pastor Ed Rowell)

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