

MARKS OF A MOVEMENT

*What the Church Today Can Learn
From the Wesleyan Revival*

WINFIELD BEVINS

FOREWORD BY GEORGE HUNTER III AFTERWORD BY ALAN HIRSCH



A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

ZONDERVAN REFLECTIVE

Marks of a Movement

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APPENDIX A

THE DISCIPLESHIP BAND MEETING



A discipleship band is a group of 3–5 people who read together, pray together and meet together to become the love of God for one another and the world.

TAKEN FROM *DISCIPLESHIP BANDS: A PRACTICAL FIELD GUIDE*. VISIT DISCIPLESHIPBANDS.COM FOR MORE.

The Opening (after some banter and small talk)

ONE VOICE: AWAKE O SLEEPER AND RISE FROM THE DEAD.

ALL OTHERS: AND CHRIST WILL SHINE ON YOU.

(ADAPTED FROM *EPHESIANS 4:14*)

**PRAYER (READ IN UNISON OR BY
ONE MEMBER OF THE BAND)**

Heavenly Father, we pray that out of your glorious riches you would strengthen us with power through your Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. And we pray that we, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

(ADAPTED FROM EPHESIANS 3:16–19)

The Five Questions

1. HOW IS IT WITH YOUR SOUL?

This is the locator question. Where are you? How are you doing on the inside? Downcast? Joy-filled? Weary? Well?

2. WHAT ARE YOUR STRUGGLES AND SUCCESSES?

Peel back a layer of life and talk about circumstances, difficulties, challenges, successes, satisfying growth and such.

3. ANY SIN TO CONFESS?

This takes courage. Just put it out there. No questions asked. Allow someone from the band to say to you: “In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.” Then receive it.

4. ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KEEP SECRET?

The answer can be no, yes, or yes and . . . Again, no condemnation. This question will take the band to the next level.

5. HOW MIGHT THE HOLY SPIRIT BE SPEAKING AND MOVING IN YOUR LIFE?

Risk sharing a possibility of what God might be doing. Invite the band to share their discernment from what they are hearing, too. After each person shares, someone else in the band offers prayer for them. When all have shared and been prayed for, the meeting is ready to close.

Some bands are ready for all five questions. Others may want to start with #1 and #5 or perhaps #1, #2, and #5.

The Closing

(Read in unison or by one member of the band)

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

(EPHESIANS 3:20–21)

TIME + TRUST = TRANSFORMATION

APPENDIX B

CHARACTERISTICS OF MOVEMENTS



Characteristics of a Renewal Movement

FROM *SIGNS OF THE SPIRIT: HOW GOD RESHAPES*

THE CHURCH BY HOWARD SNYDER

1. Thirst for renewal
2. Stress on the work of the Spirit
3. An institutional/charismatic tension
4. A concern for being a countercultural community
5. Nontraditional or non-ordained leadership
6. Ministry to the poor
7. Energy and dynamism

Six Characteristics of a Movement

FROM *MOVEMENTS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD: FIVE KEYS*
TO *SPREADING THE GOSPEL* BY STEVE ADDISON

1. White-hot faith
2. Commitment to a cause
3. Contagious relationships
4. Rapid mobilization
5. Adaptive methods
6. Pioneering or apostolic leadership

Common Characteristics of Church Planting Movements

FROM *CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENTS: HOW GOD IS*
REDEEMING A LOST WORLD BY DAVID GARRISON

1. Extraordinary prayer
2. Abundant evangelism
3. Intentional planting of reproducing churches
4. The authority of God's Word
5. Local leadership
6. Lay leadership
7. House churches
8. Churches planting churches
9. Rapid reproduction
10. Healthy churches

10 Characteristics of Movemental Christianity

FROM *1,000 CHURCHES: HOW PAST MOVEMENTS DID IT—AND HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN, TOO* BY ED STETZER AND DANIEL IM

1. Prayer
2. Intentionality of multiplication
3. Sacrifice
4. Reproducibility
5. Theological integrity
6. Incarnational ministry
7. Empowerment of God's people
8. Charitability in appreciating other models
9. Scalability
10. Holistic overall approach

Roland Allen's Spontaneous Expansion of the Church

1. Begin with the teachings of Jesus
2. Give priority to evangelism
3. Follow a Pauline approach
4. Start indigenous (i.e., contextualized) churches
5. Trust in the work of the Spirit (and teach new believers to do the same)
6. Avoid devolution
7. Develop leaders from the new churches
8. Involve voluntary clergy and non-professional missionaries

FROM *ROLAND ALLEN: PIONEER OF SPONTANEOUS*

EXPANSION BY J. D. PAYNE

APPENDIX C

MARKS OF A MOVEMENT ASSESSMENT TOOL



BY DR. ED LOVE, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH
MULTIPLICATION, THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

Throughout this book, Winfield Bevins has presented six marks of a movement from the Wesleyan revival of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These marks are not theoretical ideals from days gone by—they are applicable for ministry today.

The following assessment tool was designed to help movement-minded leaders discover what ministry components are aligned with movement-centered thinking and what may need more attention. For better accuracy and team dialogue, consider involving other ministry leaders, board members, or key influencers by having each complete this assessment and compare the results.

Throughout the assessment, you will find a summary of each mark, followed by five evaluative questions. On a scale from 1–5 (five being the strongest value), circle the number representing your current context. Calculate the total for each mark at the bottom of the page. After you complete all six categories, calculate the overall total (out of 150 points) on the final page.

At the end of the assessment, a series of reflective coaching questions is available to help you clarify your next steps, both individually and organizationally.

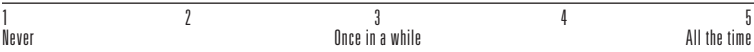
6 Marks of a Movement

1. Changed lives
2. Contagious faith
3. The Holy Spirit
4. Disciple-making
5. Apostolic impulse
6. Organic multiplication

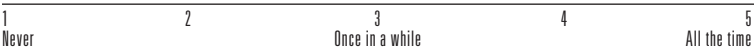
CHANGED LIVES

The life of John Wesley reminds us of the essential fact that movements are built on Christ, not people. When we look at the pages of church history, we see that multiplication movements happened through leaders who had a life-changing encounter with the living Christ. History is made by men and women of faith who have met the living God and cannot help but tell everyone they meet about the Good News of Jesus.

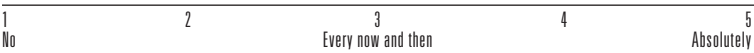
How often are people in your church invited into a life-transforming experience with Jesus Christ?



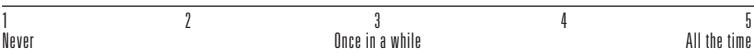
Is it common for people in your church to publicly share about having a life-transforming encounter with Jesus Christ?



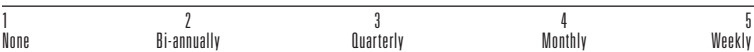
Does the preaching and teaching ministry of your church help people understand the fullness of salvation through Christ alone?



When the leaders cast the vision for your church's ministry, do they place an emphasis on helping people far from God encounter Jesus Christ in a life-altering way?



How many opportunities, outside of weekend worship gatherings, does your ministry create for people to encounter Jesus Christ in a meaningful way?



Changed Lives Score _____/25

CONTAGIOUS FAITH

As a result of Wesley’s decision to begin using lay ministers in the Wesleyan revival, people today have an open door to share in ministry in most churches. Lay leadership is one of the most common features of rapidly expanding church planting movements around the world. If we want to see a rapid multiplication movement today, it must be built on a model that empowers and releases all people for ministry and evangelism.

Does your church offer frequent training opportunities in evangelism?

1	2	3	4	5
Never		Once a year		Consistently

Does your church offer a spiritual gifts assessment or ministry mobilization course?

1	2	3	4	5
Never		Annually		Monthly

Does your church provide a clear pathway to get involved in the church’s mission?

1	2	3	4	5
Not Really		Being developed		It’s highly visible

Does your church provide or promote a basic church planting orientation course?

1	2	3	4	5
Annually		Quarterly		Monthly

Does your church have a reproducible format for training and networking future church planters?

1	2	3	4	5
No		Sort of		Yes

Contagious Faith Score _____/25

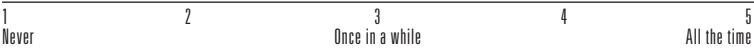
SPIRIT-EMPOWERED

The early church came alive and grew exponentially after the Holy Spirit came and while the first Jesus followers gathered together in prayer (see Acts 1:8). In the same way the church came to life on the day of Pentecost, the Wesleyan revival was founded upon the guiding influence of the Holy Spirit. As we look at other similar movements throughout history and even today, we find the Spirit’s empowering work at the very core. It is impossible to understand multiplication movements without understanding the important role of the Spirit in the lives of the catalytic leaders.

How robust is your church’s prayer culture?



How often does your church emphasize the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the church?



Does your church have a consistent prayer/intercessory team in place?



How often does your church provide specific teaching/training on the role of the Holy Spirit?



Does the Spirit’s presence permeate the leadership culture and serving teams?



Spirit Empowered Score _____/25

DISCIPLESHIP SYSTEMS

In terms of Christian movements, the genius of Wesley was that he realized the importance of creating disciple-making systems. He organized people into three interlocking discipleship groups: societies, class meetings, and bands. Societies were larger gatherings of 50–70 people, providing worship and teaching (much like a new church). It was the smaller, more intentional class meetings (10–12 people) where deep discipleship happened. The bands (three to five people) were distinguished by high accountability.

What percentage of your church’s weekend worship attendance are engaged in smaller groups for care, accountability, spiritual growth, and missional outreach?

1	2	3	4	5
0%	25%	50%	75%	100%

How would you describe the discipleship fervency throughout your church?

1	2	3	4	5
Low		Average		Very Strong

How does your church communicate lifestyle and spiritual growth expectations?

1	2	3	4	5
We don’t		Verbally, when asked		Written down and regularly explained

Do your church’s small group leaders view themselves as spiritual guides/disciple-makers?

1	2	3	4	5
Not really		Unknown		Absolutely

How would you describe the spiritual accountability environment in your church?

1	2	3	4	5
Nonexistent		Weak		Very strong

Discipleship Systems Score _____/25

APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP

One cannot understand the Wesleyan revival without recognizing the apostolic nature of the movement. John Wesley was an apostolic leader who assimilated great men and women around him, allowing those individuals to become champions of the revival. Wesley was a strong leader with a God-given talent to recognize the best in people and develop leadership qualities in others.

Is the leadership in your church committed to discipling and developing future ministry leaders?

1 2 3 4 5
Not so much Somewhat Absolutely

Does the leadership in your church sense a burden to develop, empower, and send leaders (church starters) into other communities with the message of Jesus?

1 2 3 4 5
Not really Somewhat Obsessed

Does the pastoral leadership in your church have apprentices (potentially a future church planter)?

1 2 3 4 5
Not Yet Undefined Well-defined

How often does your church provide training or small group curriculum focused on developing future preachers, teachers, and communicators of biblical truth?

1 2 3 4 5
Annual event Quarterly rallies Weekly meetings

Does your church have an intentional means of evaluating the faithfulness and fruitfulness of your emerging leaders?

1 2 3 4 5
Nothing in place Through conversations Clearly defined process

Apostolic Leadership Score _____/25

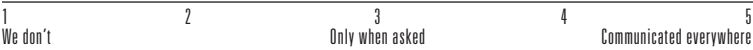
6. ORGANIC MULTIPLICATION

The Wesleyan revival spread rapidly throughout the British Isles and North America. Methodism was a multiplication movement which reproduced everything: disciples, leaders, small groups, societies, and new churches. To keep up with the growth, the movement's leaders planted hundreds of new societies around the world. Societies were essentially faith communities planted in new geographic centers. These societies would quickly reproduce themselves by planting other societies in neighboring areas and surrounding towns to reach even more people with the message of Jesus.

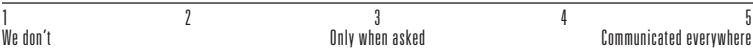
How would you describe your church's desire to reproduce itself?



How does your church communicate the expectation for leaders to reproduce themselves?



How does your church communicate the expectation that it will reproduce itself (as in planting a new expression of the church in another populace or people group)?



Does your church measure and celebrate how many believers and leaders you are sending out to serve as pioneers of new faith communities?



Does your church clearly understand your vision for rapid kingdom expansion through church multiplication?



Identifying Your Next Steps

1. Changed Lives	/25
2. Contagious Faith	/25
3. Spirit-Empowered	/25
4. Discipleship Systems	/25
5. Apostolic Leadership	/25
6. Organic Multiplication	/25
Total	/150

Reflective Coaching Questions:

What 2–3 things can you celebrate in regard to the assessment?

How would you characterize the obstacles you are facing at this time?

What component will take you and your church more than a year to advance?

Who could you and your church learn from as you implement movement-minded changes?

What philosophical, theological, or practical questions are you wrestling with?

What are five practical things you could do in the next 45 days to begin implementing a movement-minded church culture?

If funding was not an obstacle, how would you address the issues facing your church planting movement?