

Each Person Must Have a Personal Epiphany

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January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany. The Book of Common Prayer calls Epiphany “The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.” Central to the Epiphany Celebration is the Magi’s visit to the baby Jesus. These were “pagan” spiritual leaders who responded to a prophetic word and sign and travelled hundreds of miles to find Jesus the Messiah and worship Him.



The Christmas and Epiphany seasons commemorate God’s mercy in reaching out to demonstrate His love to a lost and broken world. Not only is the love of God expressed through Jesus Christ, but each person must have a personal epiphany – a revelation/encounter with the living Christ – just like the Magi!

Jesus is the hope of the world. One of the Church’s central mandates is to present Him to those who have not met Him yet; to hold forth the person of Jesus Christ, as the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

William Temple, the beloved pre-WW II Archbishop of Canterbury, stated, “The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.”

Temple’s definition of sharing this Good News has been embraced widely in the Body of Christ – “To evangelize is so to present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, that people shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept Him as their Saviour, and serve Him as their King in the fellowship of His Church.”

This all sounds lofty and grand... BUT are we doing this?

An honest assessment of this within mainline denominations (including Anglicans) would conclude this is NOT happening in our churches. As Churches have declined, we have embraced a survival mindset, caring for our own needs. Again Temple states, “The Church that lives unto itself, dies by itself!”

How does this change? The process is simple. This has been followed by church, business, and other enterprises – look at where things are thriving and see what may be gleaned!

There are many places in the Anglican Family and beyond, where the Church is thriving. We can learn from others and modify the ministry models as needed to apply in our context.

This also means an adjustment in theological perspective. The Western Church has largely embraced a Gospel of Affirmation – I’m OK, you’re OK! Let’s not mess with other’s belief systems.

The Biblical, historic Faith in contrast, might be characterized as the Gospel of Transformation – people are rescued from darkness, sin, and despair to the Kingdom of light and love.

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1: 13-14)



So... to explore working models of ministry will cause us to make adjustments in many dimensions. However, the result will be a close walk with God and fruitfulness – seeing broken people healed, marriages restored, people living into their calling and destiny.

No wonder they call this “Good News!!”