

As I conclude my involvement in YFC/ Incedo leadership, I want to highlight some key concerns. In my generous moments I think these are "growing pains".

MEMBERSHIP I believe we need to set the bar higher in regard to our commitment to membership. We don't need more members, we need more members who really can be counted on to fulfill a strong level of commitment to each other. The days of

- missing 'return by' dates
- not replying to leadership requests
- lazy accounting
- failing to read and action updates
- not attending mission events
- selective responses to member needs and prayer requests

....really do need to be over. These were often the hallmarks of YFC organisational life and revealed a basic lack of respect for each other. They will defeat our progress to missional community. The call from the MLT for more "gathering together" in 2010 is vital, but will not be enough. There needs to be a significant attitude change that proves itself in action. (2 Corinthians 8: 10 - 15)

LEADERSHIP Too much leadership time and energy is spent on managing (issues that simply shouldn't happen). This is the easiest way to kill off leadership. That way, their primary responsibility - exploring God's big picture and Incedo's place in it - gets second best (Romans 12:8)

GROWTH Rather than trying to get new members, we should, I believe, be proactive in projects and events that create wide open doors for people who want to journey with us. The 'Roadshow' interviews show there is a whole subculture of people who want to grapple with the big questions; are still interested in Jesus; and believe in serving. We need more of these people on our adventure. Each new one will be a gift from God to be treasured for all they bring to us (Ephesians 2.18). Whether we are doing this locally will be evidenced at events like Surge.

JESUS As we continue to work out how and where we fit in Gods story, we will constantly encounter issues and challenges. We will all have our own pet projects and theories. This is good. It is reflected, in part, in our members forums. But ultimately we will be known by what/who we follow. The challenge is to let Jesus be more than an a flag, to be the centre. Beyond any theology, politics, and projects: "He must increase".

Critics of the change process bemoaned the fact that we took Christ out of our name. It was a pointless criticism. The only question is where he is in our hearts.

I want to finish by thanking the many many people who have patiently shared in my leadership journey, and to express my confidence in the MLT and Board charged with leading Incedo. They are the right people.

Gus
Board Chair.