Movement Catalysts: Old & New Paradigms[[1]](#footnote-1)

We realize some of these are oversimplified but you should be able to understand the basic differences and apply them to your situation to either make drastic change or work harder to fully embrace the new paradigm. These are not in any particular order and some of them overlap.  
  
As you read through these, ask God to show you how He wants to change your head, heart and hands to better conform to the new things He is doing in the world today.

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| --- | --- |
| OLD | NEW |
| **Faithful people** doing the best they can; working hard and learning from mistakes while relying on God to do what only He can do. | **Faithful people** doing the best they can; working hard and learning from mistakes while relying on God to do what only He can do. (Yes – these two are the same!) |
| God is only concerned about our **faithfulness, not our fruit.** | God desires **both faithfulness and fruitfulness.** |
| Focus on **“What can I do?”:** applying one’s gifts in the UPG context. | Focus on **“What must be done?”:** what will it take to catalyze a movement? |
| **Knowledge-based discipleship:** focus on teaching right doctrine to new converts. | **Obedience-based discipleship:** focus on everyone obeying each bit of biblical truth as it is discovered. |
| **Mobilize using a mirror:** Emphasis on mobilizing resources (persons and material) from the missionary’s home country or culture. | **Mobilize using a yardstick:** Emphasis is on mobilizing resources closest to the UPG that can most effectively impact the UPG or city. |
| Encouragement to **mobilize resources from the global body of Christ** | **The resources are in the Harvest!** Initial catalyzation by current believers relies on many lost people becoming reproducing disciplemakers. |
| As attempts were made to find ways to establish a Christian worker (missionary) presence, it was assumed that **complex (and expensive) platforms** would need to be established and maintained. | **Just enough:** Different countries have different requirements. Outsiders should use the simplest “necessary platform” that is feasible. Protecting a platform becomes far less important than accomplishing the work. |
| **The outsider will win** the lost Persons of Peace (PoPs) who spark a movement. | **The outsider will partner** with insiders and/or near-culture leaders who find PoPs and catalyze a movement. |
| **The highly trained professional outsider** needs to train new believers to minister like the outsider. | **A new insider is more effective** at evangelism and church planting than a highly trained outsider. |
| Erect a **scaffolding** of permanent material: recruiting foreigners for teams, establishing and maintaining platforms, constantly looking for and relying on outside resources. | At the start we aim to **build indigenous** groups becoming churches: locally led and funded, rapidly reproducing. Platforms are “**bamboo**,” easy to dismantle and always temporary, while the building inside is strong and stable. |
| When the role of the outside catalyst was being developed it was important to try lots of new things to find out what would work. **Innovation** was encouraged for its own sake in order to discover what might work. | Although we are still discovering some innovative ideas and methods, we now have **a number of proven principles and practices** that we seek to implement under God’s guidance. We raise the “sails” of multiplication but the Spirit still decides when and how to move. |
| Hopeful of starting some **beachhead churches.** | Aiming for **multiplying movements of churches.** |
| **Prescriptive contextualization:** we figure out what a contextual church should look like in the UPG context and aim for that. | **Outsiders deculturalize,** to minimize stumbling blocks; **insiders contextualize** as they discover God’s truth in Scripture. |
| **Convert**, then disciple | **Disciple lost people** to commitment |
| **Winning individuals** to faith | **Winning oikos’** (families and friends) to faith |
| Best way to get the gospel to all focus people is through **mass media.** | The best way to get the gospel to all focus people is to equip, empower, and provide accountability to **local believers.** |
| **Study the context:** Contextualization was a primary consideration in *how* to get the gospel to a people. | **Discovery Bible Study**: The Scripture is the primary consideration in *how* to get the gospel to a people. |
| **Security:** Emphasis on lessening risk. Often led to fear and paralysis. | **Boldness:** Emphasis on life of NT believers which included persecution and led to boldness. |
| **Resistance to gospel:** Assumed unreached would be resistant | **Response to gospel:** Many unreached people are very responsive to the gospel – especially from believers from the same culture and background. |
| **“Hard Places”** are hard to reach. | **The “hard places” often yield the greatest fruit.** |
| **Doing many new things:** Emphasis on trying lots of new things to find things that work | **Focus on what works**: Stop doing “good” things and focus only on *high value* things that work. |
| **All ministry of equal value** | **Prioritization of high value items** |
| **Planting a church:** How to begin an individual church, or starting new churches one by one | **Church Planting Movements**: multiple streams of rapidly reproducing churches |
| **I am always learning new things and open to change to do better** | **I am always learning new things and open to change to do better.** |
| **….?** | **….?** |

**Please fill out this** [**form**](https://forms.gle/zhE2mAN3hAL7z4Ng6)to add any paradigm changes from your Outside Catalyst Training Discussion that you do not see listed above.

1. Some of these are from a document by Bill and Susan Smith, who helped develop the modern Movement Catalyst role. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)