

## **How to Make a Local Ministry an International Strategy**

Many fruitful local ministries have the opportunity to grow significantly beyond their current scope. But how do you recognise whether that's the wisest course of action? Can you grow too far - or too fast? What are the pitfalls to watch out for? And what are the key building blocks you need to put in place to ensure you fulfil the mission to which you are called? Each situation is unique, but this workshop aims to highlight strategic issues common to all which need to be considered during the life cycle of a ministry. It will also be an opportunity to share current challenges faced and draw on the wisdom and experience of fellow attendees in tackling them.

**Ian Roberts** officially joined the Christianity Explored (CE) team in 2009 as Director of Resources, taking on his current role as Chief Executive in 2011. CE provides Biblically rooted evangelistic materials with courses attended by over 100,000 people annually in more than 80 countries. Prior to this, Ian was closely involved with CE over a period of ten years through his role as Director of Administration at All Souls', Langham Place, a Church which has birthed many independent ministries. Ian is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales and spent 15 years in the commercial world in a variety of management roles. He studied Economics at Bristol University and Evangelism at Trinity College, Bristol. He serves on the College Council of Oak Hill College, an evangelical seminary in London. Ian is married to Rachel and they have four children.

### **I. Personal Backgrounds**

### **II. Triggers for expansion beyond the local**

A. Demand from others

B. Personal conviction / passion

C. Experience of similar models

D. Spotting a ministry gap

E. Natural evolution

F. Others?

### III. Personal Guiding Principles

A. Para Church serves local Church

B. The key role - discernment of God's strategy (Proverbs 16:9 v 16:3)

C. Respect business models but don't worship them!

D. Live life to the full, but always be prepared for death

E. Know your boundaries – partnerships are key

F. Welcome spin-off projects

G. Don't be surprised by the spiritual battle

H. Step changes often trump incremental ones

I. Local ownership and expression is crucial

IV. Building blocks

A. Quality

B. Networks

C. Finance

D. Sphere of influence / reputation

E. Location

F. Structures

G. Vision

H. Flexibility / adaptability

I. Others?