Entrepreneurial Leadership in Christian Ministry

The term "entrepreneur" has become a fashionable term, at least in the West, popularized through various tv shows that seek to entertain audiences with an often rather unrealistic portrayal of what an entrepreneur is. The brash and competitive nature of some of those participating in such shows might lead the Christian to wonder whether a Christian could be an entrepreneur and function with integrity in such a world. However, looking back through the history of the church and even into the Old Testament we can see how many Christian and Old Testament leaders have in fact often been entrepreneurial leaders, spotting opportunities, being people of vision with a passion and drive to take it forward.

This seminar will take a look at what makes a leader an entrepreneurial leader and will highlight the vital need for such people in Christian ministry in the 21st century. It will enable you to discover if you are an entrepreneur and will explore the particular requirements and challenges for Christian entrepreneurs. It will outline how leaders in churches and organisations can stimulate and encourage entrepreneurs to realize their calling to serve God in this way. With reference to real case studies from the workshop leader's experience, we will also work through the five key steps to starting and sustaining a new mission venture whether para-church or church based, leaving plenty of time for participants to interact with the leader over specific issues and questions.

Jeremy Peckham began his career as a government scientist at the UK Royal Aircraft Establishment and later moved to Logica, an international software and systems integration company. He founded his own speech recognition company in 1993 and launched a successful public offering on the London Stock exchange in 1996. Jeremy is now a technology entrepreneur having helped to establish several high tech companies over the last 20 years where he has served as interim CEO, Chairman or non executive director. He set up and is Chairman of The Fraser Peckham Trust - a grant giving foundation, Give a Kid a Life - a child sponsorship charity and Africa Rural Trainers Trust, a Kenyan based Trust (www.africaruraltrainers.org). Africa Rural Trainers trains people who are already pastors in rural Kenya in Bible understanding and practical skills and hopes to expand this model of training into other African nations over the next few years. Jeremy has served in lay leadership as a deacon and also as an elder for many years at Eden Baptist Church, Cambridge, UK. Jeremy is a Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts and 1st class honours graduate in Applied Science.

1) What is entrepreneurial leadership?

    i.   How it differs from management and general leadership

    ii.   Strengths and weaknesses of entrepreneurial leaders

    iii.   Cultural barriers

2) Why it is urgently needed in Christian Ministry?

    i.   Examples from history in scripture, mission and social impact

    ii.   Making a difference in mission, church, and society

    iii.   Business as mission

    iv.   Encouraging entrepreneurs within an organisation or church

3) Spiritual Disciplines

    i.   Finding your calling

    ii.   Requirements and challenges for Christian entrepreneurial leaders

    iii.   Guarding our souls

    iv.   Taking risks

    v.   Dealing with rewards and failure

4) Five key steps to starting a new venture

    i.   Defining the vision

        a)   The creative process

    ii.   Developing a strategic plan

        a)   Doing the research and due diligence

b) Financial modeling

c) Budgeting and cash flow forecasting

d) Determining key resources

iii. Raising funds

a) Finding the right partners

iv. Launching the venture

a) Recruiting

b) Premises

c) Equipment

v. Executing the plan

a) Managing

b) Evaluation

5) Case study