

How Can the Arts Contribute to Church Revitalisation?

A common problem for a church needing revitalisation is that it has lost contact with its environment – it is out of touch with the culture of our times and the culture of its location. How do we engage our neighbors and communicate in a way that they will understand? How do we help passive or skeptical nonbelievers to consider the gospel? The use of the Arts can encourage church members to reach out to unbelievers and to do it in a way that connects with them.

David Brown has been involved in church planting in France since 1976 and has planted three churches (two in Nancy and one in the Paris suburbs). At present he is “replanting” a church in central Paris (Église Protestante Évangélique de Paris-Cardinet). For many years he was involved with GBU (Groupes Bibliques Universitaires), the French student movement affiliated with IFES, first as General Secretary, and then as chair of the board. He also chairs the Evangelism Commission of the French “National Council of Evangelicals” and teaches church planting and revitalization at the Geneva Bible Institute. He is married to Mary, and they have four adult children and a growing number of grandchildren.

I. My background

II. What is culture?

III. The different forms of art

IV. What is art for?

- A. It helps to reveal reality
- B. It brings pleasure
- C. It tells stories
- D. It raises awareness of the passage of time
- E. It asks questions
- F. It stimulates our imagination
- G. It transmits a vision of the world

V. How can art transmit a vision of revitalization for Christians?

A. The Lausanne Movement

1. The Gospel for every person
2. An evangelical church for every people
3. Christ-like leaders for every church
4. Kingdom impact in every sphere of society

B. The appearance of a place of worship

1. The help of an interior designer
2. Art work (the painting in Blanc-Mesnil)

VI. How can art be used in evangelism?

A. Exhibitions

B. Talks on art

C. Targeted services

Bibliography

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