

## **Worship in a Global City – a London Perspective – Where are we heading?**

[Martin Turner](#), London Superintendents Meeting, October 2009

### **1) *Worship will have a strong theological emphasis:***

This applies more on the evangelical end where there will be a divide between:

#### ***Evangelical/Charismatic/Open Churches***

*(in our London situation HTB network is the main example, also some Ixthus based)*

and

#### ***Evangelical/Calvinistic/Closed,***

*(in our situation All Souls, St Helen's network, New Frontiers)*

#### ***Evangelical Prosperity Model***

*(in our situation Hillsong, KICC, Kensington Temple)*

I see no key statistical growth pattern if we are talking about theological emphasis on Churches with a liberal emphasis, where there is growth I would argue it is for other reasons.

### **2) *Style will have as much importance in attracting as theology,***

Modern band based music,

Emphasis on experience over intellect.

### **3) *Racial, cultural and national emphasis will be increasing strong and often reflect cultural boundaries from the country of origin.***

Leadership from royals or chiefs

Money sent back home

Fierce nationality

Sometimes use of another language

*(e.g., Chinese congregations – offering familiarity, identity – sometimes out of necessity because of language skills level.)*

Sometimes strong emphasis on a particular age range.

### **4) *Large congregations will be increasingly strong and well supported,***

Statistical trends show this.

They offer the opportunity to participate and receive without needing to commit or contribute.

**5) Context is important.**

Cathedrals are huge growth points in the Anglican church, the experience of being in a large, holy, beautiful and historic building very important to people.

**6) Excellence is vital**

Used to extremely high standard of music and presentation in secular settings, will not settle for poor music, presentation, context unless there are very strong other reasons such as family or personal links.

**7) Where does this leave Methodism?**

*In considerable trouble!*

***NEGATIVE***

Lack of continuity does not give theological emphasis

Pattern of traditional worship which does not appeal

Commitment to racial integration right, but not always leading to Church growth

Only 19 congregations of 300+ nationally, thus less attractive

Many buildings insignificant or poorly presented and maintained

Lack of resources does not lead to excellence

***POSITIVE***

Denomination where all can find a welcome and a place

Model of what the Kingdom of God will be in its many nations

Sense of belonging strong

Immense possibility

Integrity – a sense that what we offer is honest and will last

***ACTION***

If we are to survive then the strong need as much help as the weak

Specialist ministries need resources and space to flourish

Financial commitment to excellence

Deliberate strategy of growing some congregations very large in order to support the whole denomination