

# Paul's Missionary Band as Metaphor

by Dr. Dan Reeves - IMLT Strategic Consultant

## Easum, Bandy & Associates 2002 Coaching Seminar Forum Messages Part 1

PART SIX OF A SIX PART SERIES

**Easum, Bandy & Associates** ([www.easumbandy.com](http://www.easumbandy.com)) is a Christian based organization that continually shares with the EBA Community the new insights they are learning in the field.

EAB hosted a series of **2002 Coaching Seminars** for its members. The seminars were led by members of the EBA staff as well as regular guest hosts from a variety of backgrounds. These were opportunities for the EBA team to share their experiences and insights with the community.

Below is a partial list of the monthly 2002 coaching seminars:

### April

8-14: **Reconstructing Ministry Around Paul's Missionary Band: "How do Christian Commando Units Operate in a Post Christian Age?"**

with [Dan Reeves](#).

### **Institute for Missional Leadership Teams**

[IMLT](#) is directed by R. Daniel Reeves, a veteran missiologist, who has been leading cross-cultural missional teams and coaching pastors in team building for more than twenty-five years.

### February

4-10: **Creating Missional Communities: Implications of Re-Hearing the Church's Story** with [Todd Hunter](#).

18-24: **Doing Ministry in the Postmodern Matrix** with [Brian McLaren](#).

### June

24-30: **An Unstoppable Force** with [Erwin McManus](#)

### August

12-18: **The Role of Senior Pastor in Leading an Equipping Church**  
with [Susan K. Mallory](#)

- \* - Partnership with the Director of Equipping Ministry
- \* - Building the Culture

26-September 1: **The Language of the Emerging Church** with [Len Sweet](#)

# Institute for Missional Leadership Teams

**Below is a collection of forum messages edited from the above seminars:**

## **Re: Other questions**

**From:** easum

**Date:** 13 Apr 2002

**Time:** 21:08:25 -0400

## **Comments**

Dan, first a question and then a note about new hope. When we transcribe this forum, how do we access the information in the downloads? anyway to get them in electronic print? or at least the url? Now a story about New Hope. October 2000, I took nine of our church planters to spend three days with Wayne and his staff. This was the second time I had been with the church. Wayne told a story during the visit that may have some bearing on the tremendous spirit in that place. They were setting up very early Sunday morning like they always do, and Wayne was there about 3 in the morning ( it was early in their development ). A man snapped at one of the ladies. it wasn't a bad word and not even really harsh but it wasn't pleasant or nice. Wayne took the man aside and told him to go home until he got his spirit back. Such a small thing, but as he said, left unchecked that is how spirits go bad. Im like you, I never experienced a more joyful and loving church. Thanks so much for your time with us this week. it has been great. I hope your missionary band plays on for a long time. Bill

## **Practical Sodalities and Modalities**

**From:** W G Henry

**Date:** 12 Apr 2002

**Time:** 14:27:30 -0400

## **Comments**

Dan. "Sodalities" and "Modalities" dance just on the other side of my normal vocabulary. I know I can not use them with either the "Romans" or the "Celtics" in our congregation. However, I sense that there could be some meat on these bones which could make a difference. Would you unpack those energies in how you see them functioning in the New Hope setting. I think you are on to something here... Perketh up WG

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**Re: Practical Sodalities and Modalities**

**From:** Dan

**Date:** 13 Apr 2002

**Time:** 02:23:50 -0400

**Comments**

Thanks for raising this question. Sodalities sometimes do take a while to grasp and to appropriately translate to various audiences internally. Think of a modality as an eggshell. Inside the egg there is energy flowing. The energy produces life through the reproduction of cells. The shell is the circle around your total membership, or for churches without formal membership, it includes all the regular attenders. Many attenders are not ready to serve others. Because of needs in their own lives, or fears, or doubts, they need care. They are not yet willing to care for others. There are also many attenders who have not been invited to serve, and who if invited by a friend, or someone they respect would be willing to give it a try. Many of these attenders develop meaningful friendship as they serve. They receive love and affirmation, and they grow in their faith while serving others. Some of these team members become believers and followers of Christ after a period of involvement on a front line team because they are captivated by the radical faith of those around them that lay down their lives for others. Congregations by their nature are modalities. Within most congregations there are only a few if any sodalities (missional teams). This is why they are so heavily lopsided with a maintenance rather than a mission focus. Most of the work in these typical churches is done by individual volunteers, who have little if any sense of mission (something they think about all the time, and well as being with people they enjoy immensely.) Most attenders in congregations with a predominant modality mindset are still receiving information and services, and have not been invited to join a cause. At New Hope a very high percentage of people are involved in serving others for the right reasons. All of these persons serve on teams. None serve as individual volunteers. In most cases the primary care for team members comes from members of their team. There is a strong sense of commitment to one another. Attenders who are not yet on teams are part of the modality. Non-sodality attenders are ministered to by missional teams who have as their mission to serve these future sodality participants in exceptional and sacrificial ways. Without missional teams (sodalities) as the heart and soul of a congregation like New Hope, attenders will soon drift into spectatorship and a pervasive maintenance orientation. At New Hope leaders are produced more quickly, because they have all been developed in the context of action-oriented, service focused teams (sodalities) Leaders have a genuine and radiant joy that is acquired in this culture of radical servanthood. This radiant joy screams out to the curious and to the skeptical, many of whom soon become believers and followers. I hope this helps.

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**Re: Practical Sodalities and Modalities**

**From:** W G Henry

**Date:** 13 Apr 2002

**Time:** 09:44:51 -0400

**Comments**

Dan... This is helpful. Sodalities then are those who come out of the stands, and as Bill points out, actually follows Jesus into the Mission Field. A maintenance commitment will not make a difference in the world we are in right now. I look forward to more dialogue on New Hope Church and how fractaling can help people to minister out of the gifts God has given them. Our church is right at this point where we are really "Reconstructing Ministry" The materials from this forum, as well as the new writings by Easum, Bandy, Nixon and Patton are good Reconstructing Plans. I am taking a two week vacation to re-focus my Call. I became keenly aware that I was placing far more time and energy doing ministry than time and energy with the One who Called me into ministry. With time to listen .. really listen.. It seems that I have been given an entirely new bible. I believe the "Reconstructing" has started with me.

**Laboratory Two: New Hope Honolulu**

**From:** Dan

**Date:** 12 Apr 2002

**Time:** 01:02:08 -0400

**Comments**

Let' s spend most of today interacting on the twodownloads for New Hope. Within a short period of time Wayne Cordeiro' s fractal team' s have rapidly reproduced. New Hope is now a missionary movement to the Pacific Rim and beyond. Many congregations on the mainland are selecting this approach to help them accelerate ministry to postmoderns. What questions or reactions do you have?

**Commando training**

**From:** John Laughlin

**Date:** 11 Apr 2002

**Time:** 15:03:09 -0400

**Comments**

Dan, I have enjoyed looking at your material, though I have no idea how you keep all this information in your head. I am sensing the need to form a group of like minded pastors who are going in the same direction. Do you have a team from outside your church to coach and support your ideas, efforts and movements?

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# Institute for Missional Leadership Teams

## Laboratory One: Mosaic-Los Angeles

**From:** Dan

**Date:** 11 Apr 2002

**Time:** 00:50:37 -0400

### Comments

During the remainder of the week we will be looking at congregational laboratories which are effectively reaching postmodern peoples in the tradition of Barnabas and Paul. One of the leading innovators is Mosaic in Los Angeles. If any of you have visited one of Mosaic's sites, or read the book Unstoppable Force, please share your impressions. Lead pastor, Erwin McManus is a pioneer in designing and releasing postmodern, multicultural missional teams. Since Erwin will be available to answer your specific questions during his EBA coaching seminar June 24-30, I will merely pass on these few introductory impressions. I have been able to observe and interact with Mosaic's missional teams on several recent occasions. I encourage you to read the book and study this particular laboratory carefully. Mosaic's core values are uniquely catalytic. Their mission is global. Mosaic's leadership teams have spawned dozens of life groups during the last several years throughout this vast metropolitan basin. Most of these emerging first generation postmodern disciples are young. All of them are zealously contagious. With extremely challenging demographics Los Angeles is not the easiest place to launch an explosive missionary wave. Prior attempts by some exceptional visionaries have resulted in struggles, discouragement and numerous casualties. What questions would you like to have answered?

## Re: Laboratory One: Mosaic-Los Angeles

**From:** easum

**Date:** 11 Apr 2002

**Time:** 10:46:02 -0400

### Comments

<<With extremely challenging demographics Los Angeles is not the easiest place to launch an explosive missionary wave. Prior attempts by some exceptional visionaries have resulted in struggles, discouragement and numerous casualties. What questions would you like to have answered?>> Dan, how would you compare what your are doing with the missionary band with the growing city reaching movement. Are they the same? How would you compare it to George Hunter' s Celtic Way of Evangelism? are they similar? Also, what are the major obstacles in Los Angeles to planting mission outposts?

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**Re: Laboratory One: Mosaic-Los Angeles**

**From:** Dan

**Date:** 11 Apr 2002

**Time:** 13:23:58 -0400

## **Comments**

Bill – Yes, I am describing many of the same challenges faced by the city reaching movement. Even in cities, such as Houston, where the amount of prayer and financial resources have been enormous, momentum is still slow. Breakthroughs have been elusive. The bar is still set very low. My research also draws upon the lessons learned in George Hunter's Celtic Way of Evangelism. Mosaic also identifies closely with the Celtic movement. As their leaders have studied Hunter's text, they immediately respond by saying, "That's us!" I would like Mosaic to describe the obstacles in LA to planting mission outposts from their standpoint. One of their staff will likely join our conversation by tomorrow. In the meantime, here's my take. For starters, those who want to plant mission outposts in metropolitan LA face the same institutional and entropic forces at work in the suburbs of South Orange County. Most churches in the shadow of Saddleback, for example, struggle to plant mission outposts. They lack visionary leadership, critical mass and effective strategies. Then overlay these local institutional inhibitors with some urban conditions such as poverty, crime and low self-esteem. Add some unhealthy amounts of parochialism and provincialism and you begin to see that the degree of difficulty for planting mission outposts is exceedingly high. Most LA churches tend to attract a single ethnic group. Because their leaders and members do not mingle with other tribes, their attitudes often become ingrown, ethnocentric and culturally chauvinistic. As you know, Bill, these values and attitudes are antithetical to how postmoderns think. Such worldviews create ripples of dissimilation (aversion which causes people to head in the opposite direction) rather than a magnetic force for attraction and assimilation.

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**Re: Laboratory One: Mosaic-Los Angeles**

**From:** Gerardo Marti

**Date:** 13 Apr 2002

**Time:** 02:42:47 -0400

**Comments**

Here are a brief list of obstacles in Los Angeles: 1) people in Los Angeles are cynical and slow to trust strangers, 2) many bring deep bitterness from previous experiences with traditional churches, 3) people understand that following Jesus has radical implications on their lifestyle and addictions, 4) people have many opportunities and distractions that can keep them from committing to any type of community, 5) Christians often come to church more interested in further study of the Bible than creative, evangelistic outreach. --Gerardo Marti

**Comments**

This past year, Alex McManus and I took about 70 people through George Hunter' s Celtic Way of Evangelism and found that our people universally recognize themselves in that book. "This is us!" they say. Our philosophy of ministry and the operations of our small groups (as well as our other ministry teams for that matter) are "Celtic". St. Patrick would be proud...In terms of obstacles: we have found that as people take ownership for the apostolic mission of the church, they themselves find fresh, creative ways to reach people around them with the gospel. My job as pastor is to provoke people for mission; I am astounded at the amazing variety of missional activity that results.

**Re: Laboratory One: Mosaic-Los Angeles**

**From:** Faith Fairchild Colburn

**Date:** 11 Apr 2002

**Time:** 07:48:59 -0400

**Comments**

Knowing absolutely nothing about Mosaic, my interest has been sparked by your introduction! Questions I have are logistical: number of disciples in each life group, how is mission for each group determined, role of prayer and finally, how do new people fold in? Thanks

**From:** Dan

**Date:** 11 Apr 2002

**Time:** 13:30:11 -0400

**Comments**

These are excellent nuts and bolts questions. You should receive the precise answers you deserve from one of Mosaic' s pastors by tomorrow. Thanks, Faith, for moving the discussion in this practical direction.

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**Re: Laboratory One: Mosaic-Los Angeles**

**From:** Gerardo Marti, Pastor, Mosaic

**Date:** 13 Apr 2002

**Time:** 02:03:55 -0400

## **Comments**

Dear Faith, Mosaic has been doing small groups for over 20 years with several different formats, organizational structures, and training mechanisms. In terms of size, groups right now range from 8 - 28 regular attenders. In terms of mission, all have a mission of reaching their friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers for Jesus through prayer and servanthood. Every group contextualizes that mission. Personal growth and Bible study occur in the context of evangelistic outreach. In addition, groups have a goal to raise leaders and multiply themselves. Some of our groups have had five or six generations of groups over the last three years. Finally, all groups are open. People invite friends to both regular gatherings and special events. And anyone visiting Mosaic can go to any group they desire; just give the leader a call and find out what' s going on this week--Gerardo Marti

**Re: Laboratory One: Mosaic-Los Angeles**

**From:** Greg Wack

**Date:** 11 Apr 2002

**Time:** 11:16:09 -0400

## **Comments**

Unstoppable Force has been on my want to get/almost got/still want to get list for some time now. I keep telling myself that when I finish some others I' m reading, I' ll get that one. Sitting here in rural northwest Ohio, a few questions come to mind. I like to read books that open avenues of thought that challenge me to apply the principles of the book to the situation I' m in. Does a book about ministry in Los Angeles have something to open avenues and inspire me in rural northwest Ohio? Another question has to do with Mosaic' s vitality in LA where others haven' t seemingly done as well. I' m not familiar with others, but how much of it has to do with being missionaries for Christ against being missionaries for a "church" (name, building, group of people, denomination, non-denomination)? Everything about this week seems to point toward being missionaries for Christ and what God offers to us through Christ rather than some of the perceived "proprietary" missions we' ve sometimes been on. Not to answer one of my own questions, but that seems to me to be how rural northwest Ohio and LA are connected - not in the proprietary organizational missions, but in a common sense of being missionaries for Christ wherever we' re at. That also seems to be the model of Paul' s, the Celtic, and other historical missionary bands? GW

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**Re: Laboratory One: Mosaic-Los Angeles**

**From:** Dan

**Date:** 11 Apr 2002

**Time:** 13:49:35 -0400

**Comments**

Yes, well said! The lessons from Mosaic have implications for established mainline rural churches in northwest Ohio (even those that are aged and toxic) as well as Conservative Baptist mission posts in Manhattan. All of us can and must learn how to identify with the native tribes, as well as the displaced new arrivals. Like Mosaic, we must discern how to create a catalytic vitality that will spread like a bacteria, through authentic love and servant leadership.

**From:** Gerardo Marti

**Date:** 13 Apr 2002

**Time:** 02:25:50 -0400

**Comments**

Dear Greg, Mosaic's first core value is "Mission is why the church exists." All of us on staff are cautious in taking about our methods because they change constantly. We take up opportunities and structures quickly if we think they'll work, and we will drop them just as fast. In our training internally and our sharing with other Christian leaders, we point people to our values. We believe in being on mission; we believe in being in community; we believe in spirit-led structures; we believe in cultural relevance; and, we believe in the unique creativity of every human being. And we believe these values are Biblical, reflecting the heart of God. I agree with you that it's all about being on mission with God. Churches in Ohio most certainly can have "vitality" by commissioning their people for creative work that strikes the heart of the local culture. --  
Gerardo Marti