

## Change and Innovation Part 2: Act out the Change

Our faith is based on change and innovation. God's creation of the world was full of changes and innovation. God changed the way he dealt with the world and people he created through the incarnation mystery of his Word becoming flesh in Jesus who dwelt among people (John 1:1-18). Jesus was 100% man and 100% God not half and half. This ushered in the 'New Testament' in which victory was accomplished by death upon the cross.

Usually it is the person that has caused a hurt that is expected to make the move for reconciliation with the hurt party but God sought us out with Christ dying for us while we were yet sinners. Thus God called all Christians into the 'Ministry of Reconciliation' of man on to himself instead of asking me to run after him for reconciliation God is seeking reconciliation with man (1Cor. 5:11-21). Our reconciliation ministry mandate means we must help others to reconnect to God, that is, make a change in their lives.

Taking a cue from the Word becoming flesh, it is important that our organizations' words in form of mission, vision, value and goal statements are demonstrated not only in speech form but in behaviours. Until these words become flesh our stated corporate culture are mere words and we can be accused of being hypocrites and not living up to our brand culture or promise. Recently a major US-Retail Chain patronized by Canadians when on trips to in USA closed shop in Canada because it did not achieve its profitability goals in Canada. The major reason for its failure from reports was that it did not fulfil its brand promise, that is, its word did not match its actions and range of products expected.

The first step to making changes and becoming innovative is to ensure our word become flesh, that is, our behaviours and actions are informed by or back up our words. This calls for stepping out of the usual, normal or comfort zone in our activities. For example, if your word of change for this year is to make a lifestyle change in respect of your diet, you must definitely go out of your way to purchase and consume things that are appropriate for the diet change or else you will not see the results of the change. If you want to be innovative in your career or business, consider Jer. 33:3 ('Call to me and I will **answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.**') and Jam. 1:5 (If any of you **lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.**)

Consider the following:

- How do I demonstrate my commitment to the reconciliation ministry that I have been called?
- What I am doing about the changes I need to make in my career and/or business?
- Have I been innovative in the last one year? If no, what do I need to do to start the innovative juice flowing?