

VISION ESPRESSO



CONDENSED CONVERSATIONS WITH LEADERS WE LIKE

Like a Mighty River

Warren Hoffman - Brethren in Christ

INTRODUCTION: Positive Values Billboards

BIBLICAL IMAGE: Living Water

The dream – living water flowing from God's people

John 7:38

Unpack – “As the Scripture has said”

Zechariah 14:38; Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 47:1-12

water coming from the temple...

a river no one could cross...

flowing east – through the wilderness into the [dead] sea...

where the river flows everything will live...

The dream fulfilled – the early church onward . . .

Acts 1:1

THE BIC MOVEMENT: Seeped in renewal, aspiring to be continually renewed, living out the dream

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES: The impact of spiritual DNA

Impact 2010

Focusing our Faith (Terry Brensinger, Evangel Press, 2000)

Partnering to Succeed – prayer, people and money

PRAYER: For the life-changing grace of God to renew the church

Annual Week of Prayer

Prayer resource -- Seek First Righteousness

24/7 -- see www.bic-church.org/prayer

ENCOURAGING LEADERS: Raising up and developing women and men as workers and leaders for an expanding network of congregations and ministries

Equipping for Ministry (EfM) – see www.bic-church.org/efm

STARTING AND SUPPORTING HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS: New congregations

- Church planting movements
- Connections and accountability
- New Publication
- BIC Foundation

GOING INTO ALL THE WORLD

In 100 years...

- 23 Countries
- 50 People Groups
- 1011 churches
- 65,500 members

Mobilizing to penetrate the 10/40 window –

2 billion people with little or no chance to hear about Jesus.

PARTNERING TO SUCCEED – PRAYER, PEOPLE & MONEY

When we pray, work and give TOGETHER

we can accomplish great things for God's kingdom!

CONCLUSION – The living water that swells the river of God flows from ME

John 7:38

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Discuss the meaning and significance of this quote by Lou Engle: *I believe God is saying we can go to the wells of our spiritual forefathers and dig again to find new streams of revival bubbling forth.* After briefly reviewing this week's message share one thing that most challenged, encouraged, or perplexed you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Read over our key passage – **Ezekiel 47:1-12.** a) How does the direction of the river's flow – to the east (through the wilderness and into the Dead Sea, the saltiest body of water on earth) – impact your understanding of Ezekiel's prophetic vision? b) The temple in Ezekiel's vision was a physical structure in Jerusalem. What are the applications of the “temple” imagery in the New Testament as the source of the flow of living water? **See I Corinthians 6:19, Ephesians 2:19-22, Revelation 21:22.**

SO WHAT?...

3. Take a few moments (3-5 minutes) to meditate on **Ezekiel 47:2-12 and John 7:38** as these passages apply to your spiritual journey. If you like, after meditating, share any new insights or old reminders that have come to mind.
4. Does the message of THM (and the wider BIC movement) prepare us for “stormy weather” in a western culture that is arguably in distress and decline? Consider a quote by John Zercher, a former leader and spokesperson among the BIC: *These elements – a first-hand faith, an awareness of the world, costly discipleship, and a sense of community – are essential elements in the faith that will survive in stormy weather. We may not look with anticipation at the weather ahead, but I believe that it is weather for which the BIC are prepared by heritage and doctrine.*
5. Have any of the wider expressions or ministries of the BIC movement stirred your heart and imagination? Our spiritual DNA – mission, vision and values. Prayer. *Equipping for Ministry* training. New Publication. Unreached Peoples. Learn more on the BIC website, www.bic-church.org.

Warren Hoffman @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, January 9/16, 2005