

8 Nations of Innovation for Your Church

7. Illumination: How can we look at this in a new light?

When you've been working with something for a while, it's hard to look at it with fresh eyes. I remember a number of years ago, our bathroom mirror cracked. Here was this big crack that went down the middle of the mirror, and it really bugged me at first. I told my wife, "We've got to change that." Yet I didn't. A couple of days later, I said, "That mirror really bugs me," but again I didn't change it. About six months later, it occurred to me I still hadn't changed out the mirror because it no longer bugged me like it did at first.

We have an amazing adaptability. We just get used to stuff, and all of a sudden, we don't see the problems anymore. We no longer see the critical issues like we should. So it takes some new eyes to come in and see what you need to do in a new and innovative way. Ask your congregation what they see. Ask them, "How could we do this in a different way?" Find out what innovations they suggest. And take a look at other churches and see how they do things differently from you.

8. Fascination: How could we make it more interesting?

Whatever you're doing, try to figure out how you can make it more interesting or attractive. For instance, we wanted to create a sense of expectancy in our weekend services. We wanted our services to start with people sensing God in our midst and that lives were about to be changed. So we thought, "What would encourage this spirit of expectancy?"

We came up with several factors: having members praying for the services all week; having members praying *during* the services; having enthusiastic members bringing their unchurched friends to the service; having a history of *life-changing* services; music that celebrates the transformational nature of God; and a worship team that faithfully believes lives will be transformed during the service.

If you ask the right questions, they will lead you to the right answers. And the right answers will help you build a solid strategy for your ministry. Then believe that God will lead you to success.

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