



A Model for Extending the Kingdom in Your City

Principles, Methods and Tactics for
Christian Social Transformation

Overview

- [Six] Principles that Guide our Adventure
- Tactics
- Catalyzing Movements
- Case Study : *The Clapham Sect*
- Application



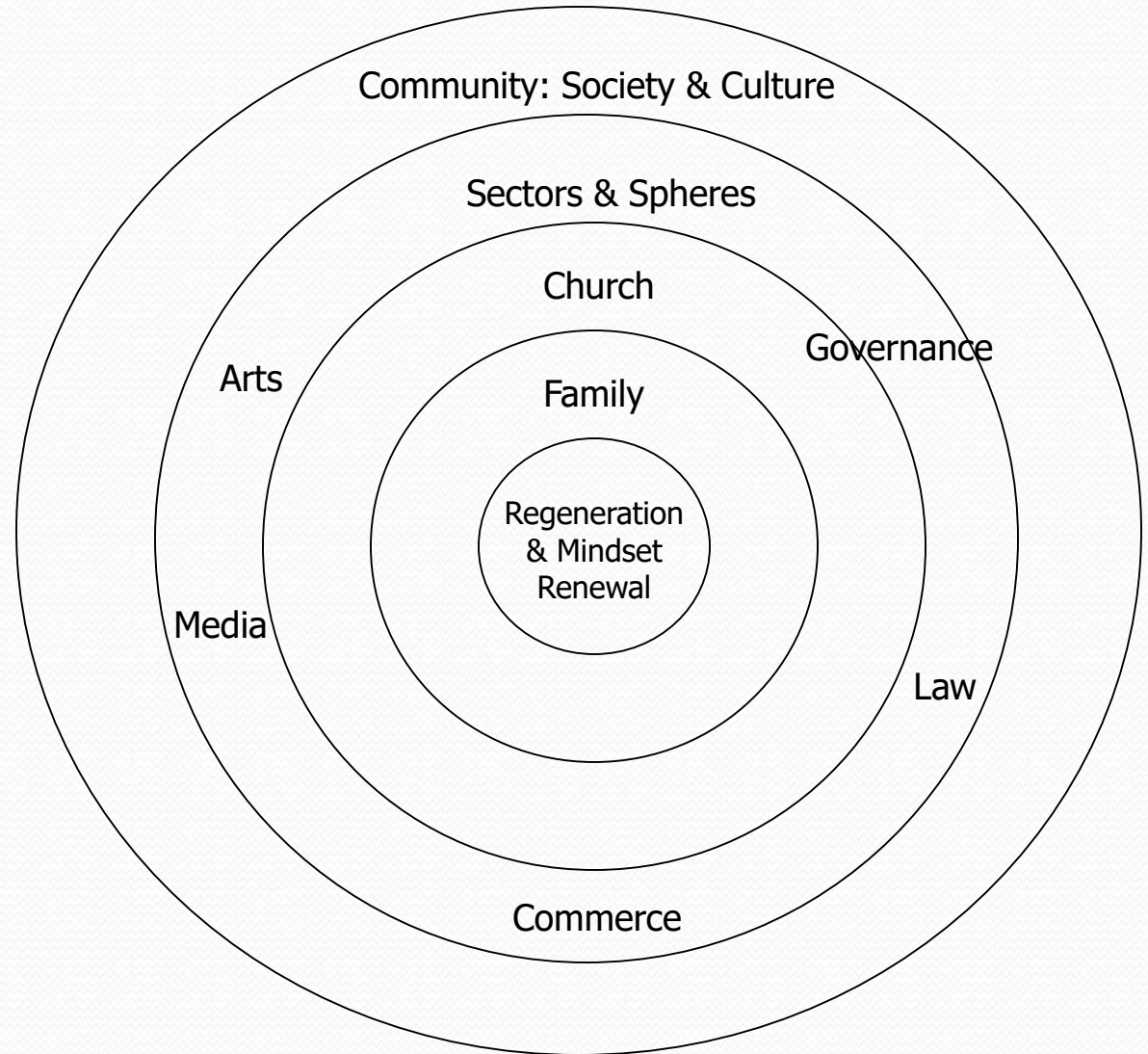
Principles

Principle #1: God's Work First, Our Work Second

- 2 Ch. 7:14: *"¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*
- Providential History: the God of the Bible superintends over all of life and history to provide for and direct it according to His purposes....
 - [The] Rev. S. W. Foljambe, in 1876 defined history as "the autobiography of Him 'who worketh all things after the counsel of His will' (Eph. 1:11) and who is graciously timing all events after the counsel of his Christ, and the Kingdom of God on earth. It is His-Story."
 - God is the primary Actor. We are the supporting cast.
- God works in every generation to extend His Kingdom. We are invited to participate with Him... Therefore, we seek Him for visions, plans, and goals. We find out where He is working and join Him.
- Hold your plans loosely!

Principle #2: Think “Inside Out”

Mt. 13:31-33:
Parable of the
Mustard Seed
& Yeast



Principle #3: Engage the Church

- The Church is God's key agent for advancing His Kingdom (Eph. 3:10-11).
- The Church is not a building *but a body*... gathered on Sunday and scattered on Monday into every sector and sphere of society.
- Engage leaders **of** and **in** local churches
 - **OF** -- Clergy, full-time vocational ministers or pastors
 - **IN** -- Laity, leaders in the sectors and spheres of the city (family, arts, business, commerce, education, etc.).
- Think in terms of *local* churches, but also “the Church” of the city. Work at both levels.

Principle #4: Think Movement

- Think “school of thought” rather than institutions and buildings.
- Think “the word made flesh” rather than “church programs”
- Think families not segregated individuals and age groups
- Think “Kingdom” rather than particular churches, denominations or organizations.
- Have a vision so large that it can only be realized through a multitude of churches, organizations, networks, gifts, talents and skills working together to accomplish it.
- ***The right question: How can we be a catalyst for a movement?***

Principle #5: Prepare for Opposition

- Reclaiming territory from Satan is a battle—not against flesh and blood but principalities and powers.
- Count the cost—are you prepared to pay the price?
- Persevere: Celebrate even incremental gains.
- Think in terms of generations – what can you do now to shape the world your grandchildren will inherit?
- Understand the parable of the wheat and the weeds – *concurrently building kingdoms* - they will grow side-by-side until Christ returns (Mt. 13:24-29).
- Be optimistic, remember, Kingdom of God ultimately win!

Principle #6: Start with What You Have

- God supplies each of us with talents for the purpose of extending His Kingdom (Mt. 25:14-30).
- Identify them and start with them. Trust God to multiply what you have for the advancement of His Kingdom.
- Conduct an inventory of existing capital (individually and collectively)
 - As embodied image-bearers of God
 - In creation & the social realm
 - As Children of God
 - God's Signs and Wonders



Tactics

Three Key Groups

Local church sector groups



City-wide sector groups



A city-wide “action council”

Local Church Sector Groups

- Comprised of a Christians *from the same local church working in a common sector.*
- Study Scripture together: Discover the biblical basis and principles related to a particular sector. (Develop a “biblical theology” of the sector).
- Develop plans for how these principles can shape, influence or reform a particular sector (law, education, arts, etc.).
- Help to catalyze city-wide sector groups.

City-Wide Sector Groups

- Comprised of influential Christian leaders *working in a common sector*.
- Study Scripture together: Discover the biblical basis and principles related to a particular sector. (Develop a “biblical theology” of the sector).
- Develop plans for how these principles can shape, influence or reform a particular sector (law, education, arts, etc.).
- Serve as a city-wide catalyst, communication center and supporter for a sector-based transformation movement.
- Connect to national and international groups with a similar sector-specific focus and vision.
- Encourage and support local church sector groups.

City-Wide Action Council

- Focus is city-wide and multi-sector.
- Champion reform and transformation initiatives.
- Serve as a city-wide catalyst, communication center and supporter for a church-based transformation movement.
- Envision, expand and support the other two groups
 - City-wide sector groups
 - Local church sector groups
- Comprised of a cross-section of influential Christian leaders with diverse skills, networks and gifts
- Team members are committed to each other and to a common vision and principles. Long-term focus
- Modeled after the Clapham Sect (England, 1790-1830).



Catalyzing Movements

“To Change the World”

James Davidson Hunter

- Worldview and “the idea whose time has come” are central to social transformation
- Ideas alone are inadequate
- Three additional & overlapping factors are necessary:
 - Cultural & Political Capital
 - Supportive Networks
 - Economic Capital

Cultural and Political Capital

“Cultures change from the top down; rarely if ever from the bottom up”

- Cultural and political capital resides in “the culture shapers” those who consciously sit at the gates of the city to influence the life of the city.
- Cultural/political capital is formed through knowledge, wisdom and virtue.
- It is recognized by the community and is often appropriated by advanced degrees, social or political position, or significant success or awards in a particular field of endeavor
- Power to influence—to speak to a large audience
- Typically situated in a cultural *centers*: media, academic, spiritual, historic, economic and political hubs.

Supportive Networks

“The key actor in history is not individual genius but rather the network, and the new institutions created out of those networks.”

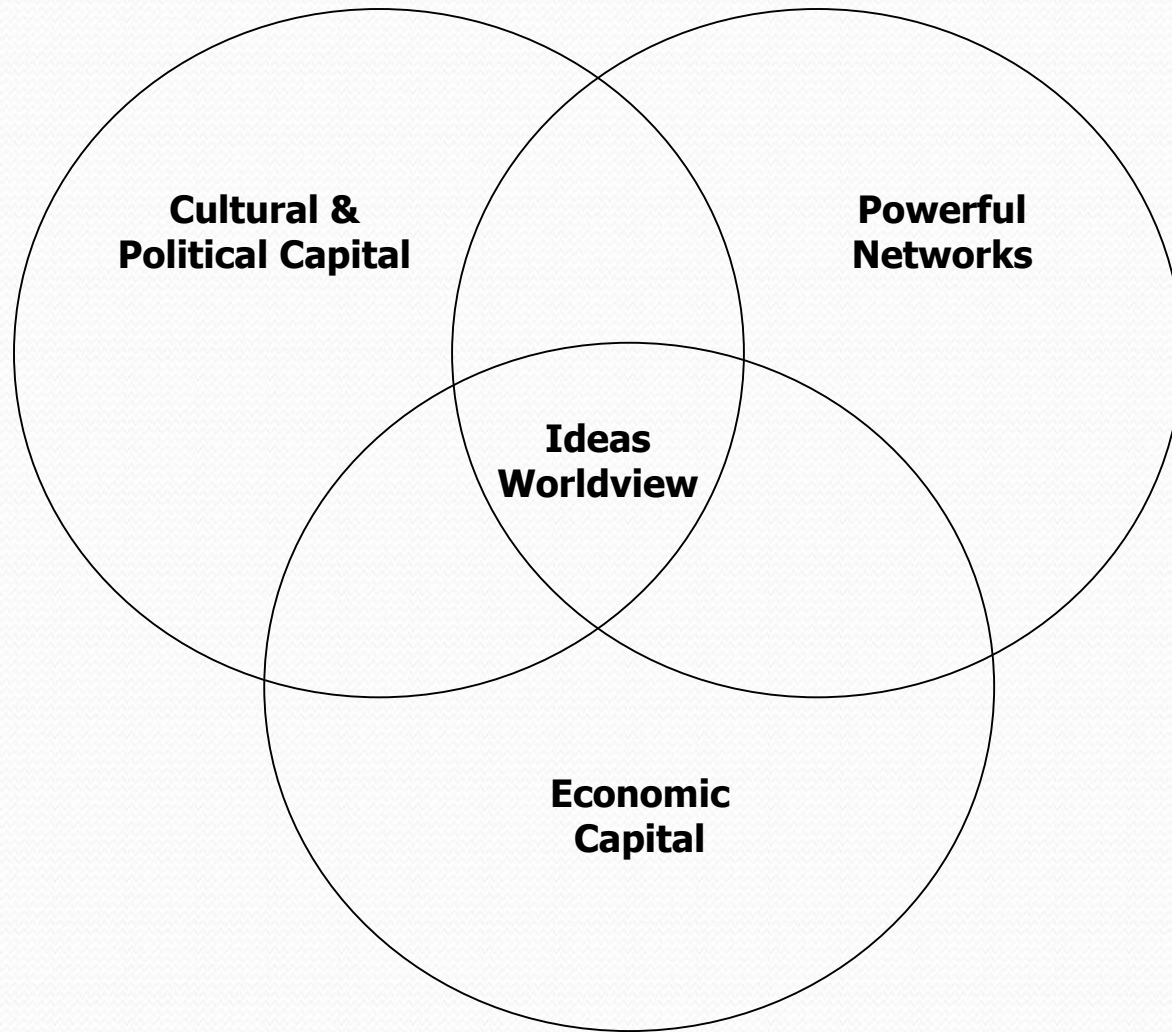
<u>Key Individuals</u>	<u>Supportive Networks</u>
William Wilberforce	“The Clapham Sect”
Martin Luther	Society of German theologians, scholars and political leaders
Sigmund Freud	“The Vienna Circle” including Jung and Adler
James Joyce	“The Dial” writers guild
Martin Luther King Jr.	The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

Economic Capital

Financing that allows for the expansion and scaling of the ideas and institutions

- Wilberforce and Clapham Sect were largely financed by Henry Thornton
- James Joyce and The Dial were financed by Harriet Shaw Weaver
- Karl Marx received significant funds from the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt
- Billy Graham received seed funding from William Randolph Hearst

Overlapping Capital for Social Transformation



“Filling The Nations with a Biblical Worldview”

Gary Edmonds

- Movements require three key groups of people
 - Teachers (ideas experts, vision casters)
 - Modelers (practitioners)
 - Connectors (networkers)

Teachers

- Ideas shapers —deal in ideas and concepts
- Expose ideas to others—cast vision
- Driven to communicate—to teach, write, speak
- Live to persuade, catalyze and emancipate others

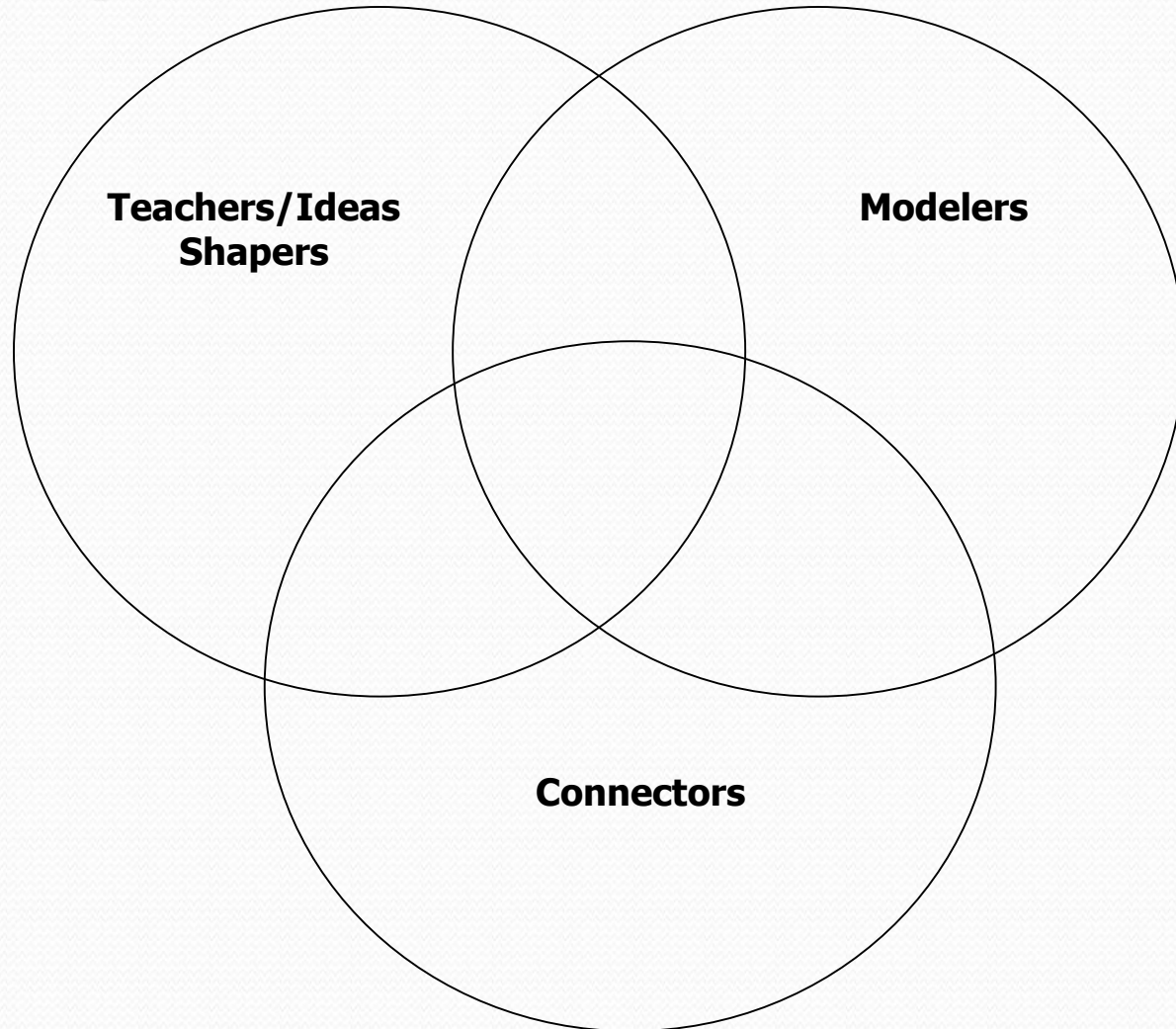
Modelers


- Practitioners—practical, hands-on people
- Driven to develop workable models
- Give credibility to the ideas
- Help other modelers catch the vision (modelers learn best by seeing ideas in action)

Connectors

- Driven to connect, form alliances and partnerships
- Always looking for others to link up with
- Interpret the ideas
- Spread the ideas and models
- Expose working models to different networks, sectors and spheres


Overlapping Skill Sets Required for Catalyzing a Movement





Case Study:

The Clapham Sect



The Clapham Sect provides a striking example of how God can use a company of believers that work together, sacrifice their time and resources and patiently persist in faith against seemingly insurmountable odds to transform an entire society and impact the world.

Overview

- Started in 1790 by Henry Venn, member of Holy Trinity Church in Clapham (a wealthy suburb of London).
- Active from 1790 to 1830.
- The 17 core members were prosperous, influential evangelicals who shared a common vision and reform agenda.
- They met in the Clapham home of banker Henry Thornton.

Members

- **Politicians** (Wilberforce, Eliot, Smith)
- **Pastors** (Gisbourne, Simeon, Venn)
- **Governors & Administrators** (Macaulay, Teignmouth)
- **Economists & Bankers** (Thornton)
- **Scholars** (Sharp)
- **Writers & Poets** (More)
- **Philanthropists** (Thornton, More)

Comprehensive Agenda

- Focused on the abolition of slavery and the slave trade.
- Reform of the penal system.
- Transform the morals of the society (e.g. bans on bull fighting and bear baiting, suspension of the lottery, etc.).
- Fought for better working conditions in factories and for child labor laws.
- Helped establish Christian schools.
- Reform of the British East India Company.
- Founded several missions sending organizations including the Church Mission Society (William Carey).

Tactics

- Worked to shape public opinion
 - Issued journals (*The Christian Observer*)
 - Wrote letters, tracts and pamphlets
 - Spearheaded petition drives
 - Spoke and taught
- Worked in concert with the Anglican Church.
- Worked through the social sectors (governance, law, arts, communication, education).
- Gave sacrificially of their time & wealth—were committed with their pocketbooks.

Willing to Pay the Price

- They were ridiculed as “the saints.”
- Macaulay gave up night after night of sleep, neglected his business and lost much of his substantial fortune.
- Thornton gave 80% of his income to charity.
- Ramsay was hounded by malicious accusations.
- Wilberforce suffered a nervous breakdown, his life was often threatened.
- Macaulay took passage on an African slave ship so that he might witness firsthand the horrors of the trade.

Victories

- Emancipation of slavery and the slave trade
- Penal reform
- Factory reform
- Missions sending organizations founded
- Reform of the British East India Company
- Founded Sierra Leone to provide a home for refugee slaves (Macaulay was the first governor)

Characteristics

- Set clear and specific goals.
- Researched carefully to produce reliable and irrefutable evidence.
- Built a committed support community. The battle could not be carried on alone.
- Refused to accept setbacks as final defeats.
- Committed to the struggle for the long haul, even if it took decades.

Characteristics Cont.

- Focused on issues, not allowing opponents' vicious attacks distract or provoke them.
- Empathized with opponents' position so that meaningful interaction could take place.
- Accepted incremental gains.
- Cultivated grass-roots support as well as “grass tops” influence.
- Transcended a single-issue mentality by addressing issues as part of an overall moral climate.

Characteristics Cont.

- Worked through recognized channels without resort to dirty tactics of violence.
- Proceeded with a sense of mission and conviction that God would providentially guide if they were faithfully acting in His service.



Application

Where are we at? What do we have?

- What sectors and spheres are represented by existing group members or within their immediate sphere of influence?
- What are group members already doing to influence/reform the spheres?
- What local churches are represented by existing group members?
- What is happening in those churches that connects to our vision?
- What “Cultural and Political Capital” exists within our group?
- What Networks are represented by our group?

Where are we at? What do we have?

- What “Economic Capital” exists within our group?
- Who are our “Ideas Experts?”
- Who are our “Modelers?”
- Who are our “Connectors?”
- What are we lacking and what steps can we take to fill the gap?
- Who do we need to invite to join us? What role do we see the fulfilling?

Next Steps

- Cultivate relationships
- Pray, fast, listen to God and share what you hear
- Articulate a common vision that relates to “thy kingdom come” to your city
- Develop common operating principles
- CARE
 - Clarify objectives
 - Agree on expectations
 - Resource the initiative
 - Evaluate the process and outcomes
- Determine the platform for operating
- Determine the leadership
- Do a reality check—are you willing to pay the price?