**Surveying the landscape of your congregation’s life & witness**

**Unfruitful - *‘Might we be a bit like that’?***



**Imagining signs of unfruitfulness**

**[](http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwipguTs1YXRAhXM7xQKHUdsAvIQjRwIBw&url=http://clipart-finder.com/thought-clipart.html&bvm=bv.142059868,d.ZWM&psig=AFQjCNEesjZhBzkDpoaMK9ZVcppa9U1XHw&ust=1482422903546169)**

**In unfruitful congregations…**

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**‘Going to church’ is just a weekly routine – *IMAGINE: In worship people come, go, stand, sit, close and open their eyes at the right times, but the general sense is there is not a lot of life***

**Following Jesus in everyday living is seen as an upgrade on church membership – *IMAGINE: For most members there is little connection between their church-going life and their Monday to Saturday worlds***

**‘Church’ is a place where events & programmes happen, but real relationships are shallow – *IMAGINE: Church life is busy, the doors are always open, but access to the areas behind the doors of our public lives remain tightly shut***

**The understanding of the congregation’s purpose is that it is there to meet the preferences of existing members – *IMAGINE: The big task in church life is to keep every member provided for and content with what is on offer***

**Expectation of involvement locally & globally is that we pay and pray for others to ‘go’ & rely on a ‘they’ll come to us’ mind set – *IMAGINE: Involvement in overseas mission is arm’s length and formal; Attitude to the local community is, ‘they know where we are if they want us’***

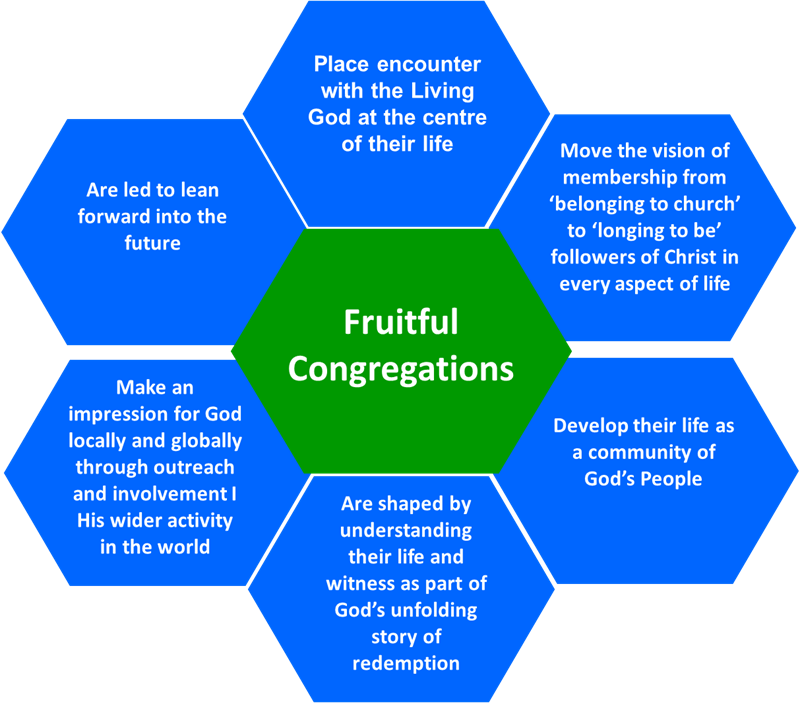
**Leaders are expected to do all they can, to maintain everything they can, the way it is now – *IMAGINE: Leadership meetings revolve around plugging gaps and trying to avoid uncomfortable changes***

***Discuss the area of greatest unfruitfulness in your congregation’s life & witness.***

***Ask God to help you find ways to begin to address that weakness.***

**Surveying the landscape of your congregation’s life & witness**

**Fruitful - *‘Do we see a bit of that’?***



**Imagining signs of fruitfulness**

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**Fruitful congregations…**

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**Place encounter with the Living God at the centre of their life – *IMAGINE: Members worship and pray with a sense of expectation that God is among them, ready to work in and through their life & witness***

**Move the vision of membership from ‘belonging to church’ to ‘longing to be’ followers of Christ in every aspect of life *– IMAGINE: The way church membership is talked about is that it is expected to equip people of all ages to follow Jesus in all of life’s situations, relationships and circumstances***

**Develop their life as a community of God’s People *– IMAGINE: Time and space is created for members to get to know each other and support one another more deeply***

**Are shaped by understanding their life & witness as part of God’s unfolding story of redemption – *IMAGINE: The congregation has a growing awareness of playing its part right here, right now in what God is doing in Jesus to redeem the world***

**Make an impression for God locally & globally through outreach & involvement in His wider activity in the world *– IMAGINE: What the congregation does makes a difference that can be seen in the mark that it leaves in lives and communities at home and overseas***

**Are led to lean forward into the future – *IMAGINE: Leaders are frequently involved in preparing the congregation for today’s changes and tomorrow’s challenges***

***Discuss the area of greatest fruitfulness in your congregation’s life & witness***

***Ask God to help you build on that strength.***