

Mick Duncan is a Baptist pastor who works part-time at Carey Baptist College, is an itinerant speaker who is used in various parts of the world.

He and his family lived for nine years in the slums of Manila.

Mick is involved in a number of organisations. Please take time to look at his web site at www.michaelduncan.org

Mick was the speaker at GA10 at the invitation of the Moderator, Peter Cheyne.

The recordings of his talks are available at <http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/about-us/general-assembly/general-assembly-2010/news-and-audio-from-ga10>

if you have any comments, or suggestions, on these studies you can contact Peter at Peter@calvin.org.nz

Questions For Discussion

to accompany
the talks by

Mick Duncan

at the

2010 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand



Peter Cheyne

Mick Duncan—Talk 1

1. Why do you think Mick focused on stories of people in “the second half of their lives”?
2. Which of the stories he told made an impression on you?
 - Don Ritchie
 - The elder who sat with the hippie
 - Abraham
 - Norman and Mary McLeod
 - The 30-year old with cancer
 - Andy Bray
 - The man who lost his wife to cancer and his family in the Tasmania Massacre

What point was he making? What are the implications for you?

3. Discuss Ps 92:14
4. Mick suggested the future of the Presbyterian Church (which is quite elderly) lies in our hands but we tend to think that we are excused. Do you agree and what is he suggesting we need to do?
5. Mick said he has a fire in his belly because he loves people and he loves making disciple-making disciples and he will give himself to that fire. Could you say the same? Why or why not?
6. Mick said that we, as a denomination, must desperately and urgently start making disciple-making disciples. But he asked if we would bend our wills and our knees to walk as Jesus walked—making disciple-making disciples. Is he right?

What are the implications of that for you personally?

Talk 4

1. What was the point of the Richard story in Manila?
2. Again Mick talks about “doing life together” for years. What are the potential fruits of doing that? Is that practical in our society?
3. Mick said he used four questions (Micah 6:8)
 - What is happening for this person? (a descriptive question)
 - Why is this happening for this person? (an interpretive question)
 - What ought to happen for this person? (a biblical prescriptive question)
 - What then should I do? (an ethical discipleship question)

What do you see as the value of that approach?

4. What do you think is the link between making disciples and the social justice issues (running a bank, fighting elections)?
5. Mick’s disciple-making seems to revolve around “doing coffee”, maybe for several years (around prayer and scripture) and saying “How about wherever I go, sometimes you come with me.” How do you imagine he made disciple-making disciples that way?
6. Richard, Steve and Margaret have all gone on to make disciples of their own. Mick illustrated the generations in the disciple-making process (The Presbyterian Church → Murray Robertson → Mick Duncan → Richard, Steve, Margaret etc → their disciples). How can we make disciple-making disciples, not just disciples?
7. Twice Mick said “You can’t beat this stuff.” What is it about making disciple-making disciples that would be that exciting for him?

Talk 3

Summary

Mick talks about disciple-making involving:

- a. Slowing down (the divinity students; Desmond Tutu)
- b. Walking
- c. Sitting
- d. Sensitive enquiry (facts then thoughts then feelings)
- e. Making and keeping promises (“Promises are the food of hope”) (Naomi and Ruth)
- f. Rebuke (see the Bonhoeffer quote)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer quote

“The word of admonition and rebuke must be ventured. Nothing can be more cruel than the tenderness that consigns another to his sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin.”

Questions

1. Work your way through those one-by-one asking:
 - A. What was the main point he was making?
 - B. What does the Bible say about that?
 - C. Do you see this aspect in Jesus’ disciple-making? Give examples.
 - D. What changes is God asking you to make in your life?
2. Do you agree that Christians have forgotten the art of relationships?
3. What would you say about being companionship-oriented not goal-oriented? Give some examples.
4. What does “doing life together” (rather than relying on programmes) mean and what might it mean in your life?
5. What do you think Mick means by making disciples?
6. How much emphasis should a church put on intentional one-on-one relationships for discipling young Christians? Can people be disciplined without these relationships?

Mick Duncan—Talk 2

The diagram Mick drew during this talk (“Mick’s Spectrum”) is in the next two pages.

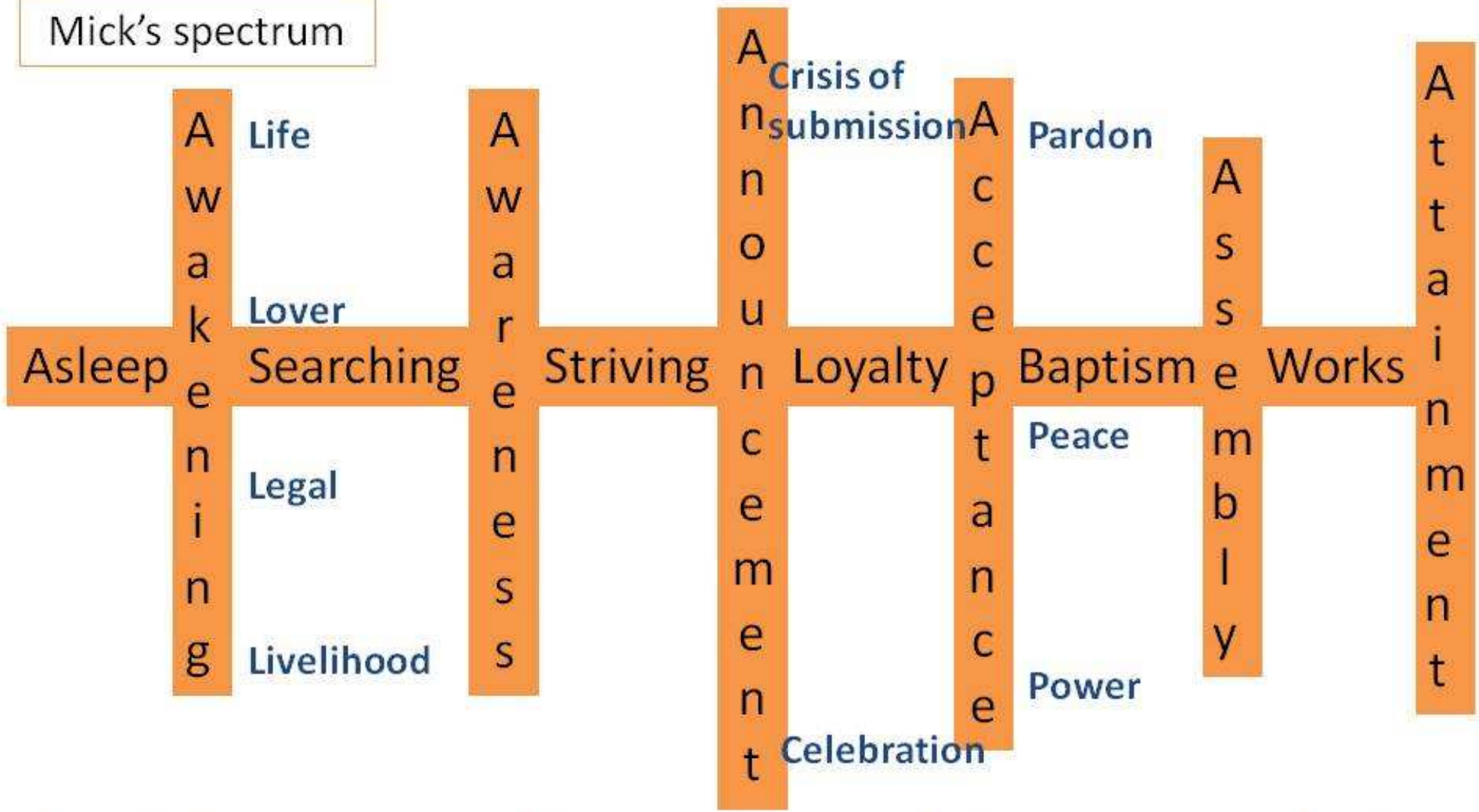
1. What incident do you think had the biggest impact on Mick?
2. Do you agree that “there are a lot of people out there” in the various stages Mick describes?
3. Are Christians too ready to condemn? How should we consider people who are searching, striving etc?
4. How do you feel about Mick’s description of Jesus as a radical? Why did he say that Jesus is like barbed wire?
5. What did Mick mean by “crisis of submission”? Does following Jesus mean giving your life away for the rest of your life for others? Have you?
6. If the question at judgement will be “What did you do for the least of these?” will you pass the exam?
7. Do you think that will be the question?
8. Where are you on the diagram?
9. What did you think of Mick saying that most Christians don’t make disciples because they have not wrapped their lives around Messiah and so won’t do the hard things?

Convincing

Saving
Grace

Serving

Mick's spectrum



Speculative

Sincere

Faith

Saving

Serving