

# Daring to Set People Free

## Chapter 5

- They (the early Christians) designed new structures and created new ways of doing things when the old ones didn't work anymore. They refused to recognize old boundaries, reaching out to people of other cultures, to outcasts, and even to women. (p.65)

### ***Reflections:***

*Are there structures and ways of doing things that don't seem to be working anymore?*

*Certain duties are assigned to committees.*

*Yes – otherwise the church would be packed*

*Need to adapt message to changing context in which we find ourselves*

*Change doesn't come naturally.*

*Getting people to volunteer*

*Harder to get people on committees.*

*Attendance down at regular services.*

*Not doing enough to bring people in.*

*Need to be getting people to do the work of the church versus being committee members.*

- But their (the pastors) job isn't to do ministry for us. Their job is to prepare us for the ministry we have been called to do. (p. 68)

### ***Reflections:***

*How does this change to the pastor's role impact the roles and responsibilities of the pastor and the members of the church?*

*If you see something that needs to be done – do it! (visiting, greeting newcomers)*

*Turns the pastor's role upside down – the pastor's role and leadership roles become more of a coach, mentor, role model*

*Pastor as shepherd equipping us to be "saints".*

*Less individual leading – show others how to be leaders.*

*The pastor helps us to learn new responsibilities and then we do them ourselves.*

*Members do more.*

- What does it really look like to set people free for ministry, *in here*, in our congregations, for the sake of equipping them to be God's hands and God's voice out there in the world? (p.69)

*Reflections:*

*If more people were "set free" in this congregation it would be more dynamic*

*More participation*

*Have to be accepting of different ways of doing things – their way might not be the way we would have done it.*

*It would be more dynamic with more people.*

*"Setting themselves free" instead of "set them free"*

*More of the congregation would be involved.*

*People should be more spontaneous about meeting the needs of other members and the community, as opposed to having to be asked or to get approval.*

- What excites you and what scares you about "setting people free" to do ministry. What are some actions we could take to begin this process?

*Excites – the church should be about acceptance – be a Judgment Free Zone.*

*Excites – accepting differences and the many ways there are to do things*

*Excites – more participation*

*Worries – Personal interpretation not based on Scripture*

*Worries – things may get done in a different way – not the "way we have always done things"*

*We need more understanding of Scripture.*

*More doing and less assigning of duties.*

*We have relied on the same people year after year. How do we get more or new people involved?*