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**Are You a Catalyst? ... Mobilizing Your Church**

Catalyst is defined by [Merriam-Webster](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/catalyst) as: *a substance that enables a chemical reaction to proceed at a usually faster rate or under different conditions (as at a lower temperature) than otherwise possible*. You have come home from your short-term mission trip on fire and passionate about the world or at least the ministries you served. But maybe you came home to a church that wasn’t as passionate or engaged. What if God wants to use you as a catalyst to cause a reaction in your church even though they don’t have the same passion?

Just like each individual has been given different skills, gifts, interests, personality and experience, God has also given each local church a unique mix of gifts, interests, skills and passions. This unique mix could also be referred to as their DNA. As a result, God calls and equips each local church to join in different aspects of His mission work.

As you encourage your church to engage in God’s global heartbeat, it is important to understand your church’s DNA; maybe help them identify what their specific DNA is. You may have come home totally on fire and passionate about the children’s orphanage in Africa you worked with and wonder why your church doesn’t share your enthusiasm.

It could be that your church is made up business people who are passionate about building self-sustaining projects in rural communities or tradesmen who want to help rebuild in Haiti or Japan. If you, and your church, do not understand your DNA, then it will be hard to get your church excited and engaged in missions.

A one-day workshop called Design Your Impact is an excellent tool to help you, and your church, understand your church’s DNA.

You could even gather your Pastor, elders, and mission passionate people together and work through these questions:

* What is the make-up of our church? (Ages, vocations, ethnicities, etc.)
* What ministries does our church do well?
* What are our people passionate about?
* What has been our history or experience in missions?
* What is the make-up of the community around our church?
* What are the challenges we face in developing a mission focus?

As you prayerfully consider these questions and their answers, you should start to see some potential focal points begin to surface that you can then pursue and develop. As you do, contact mission organisations, other churches or missionaries to find out what opportunities might be available in those areas for your church to engage with.

God uses people all the time to be a catalyst for change in the lives of individuals, churches and communities. Maybe God had you go on your short-term mission trip so that you could come back and be a catalyst for missions in your own church.