

Analyzing Your Church's DNA

1. LEADER PASSIONS

What passions and strengths has God stirred in the hearts of our leaders?

- What mission and goals have our leaders adopted for our church that might impact the direction in which we focus a new global initiative?
- Are our pastor/church leaders passionate about a particular type or location of ministry? If so, what and why?
- Is there anything unusual happening in our church right now that might point to a particular type of FOCUS involvement?

2. MISSIONARY VISION

Are we already involved with one or more missionaries who have God-sized strategic vision?

- Have one or more of our missionaries embraced a vision that is far too big for them to accomplish themselves?
- From what we know now, would a FOCUS partnership with them be feasible?
- What is the likelihood that they would be interested in a FOCUS partnership?

3. DENOMINATION/AGENCY VISION

Does our denomination or a mission agency we highly trust have a FOCUS or passion we should adopt?

- Do we have a strong relationship with a church body or mission organization with whom we want to work? If so, what are two or three highly strategic ministries God has laid on their heart? Are there priorities they presently cannot launch or adequately address because of insufficient people or other resources?
- Are there other churches in our denominational district, fellowship, or local area which have adopted an exciting FOCUS that lacks what we could contribute?
- Is this potential partner committed to working hand in hand with churches like ours?

4. CHURCH MEMBER PASSIONS

What passions has God ignited in the hearts of our congregation?

- Are there people in our church who have a passion to meet a specific type of need (homelessness, hunger, the terminally ill, illiteracy, etc.)?
- Do we have persons interested in future cross-cultural ministry? If so, do they have a burden for a particular people group, place, or ministry?
- Are there people in our church who have a passion to reach a particular people group or place? If so, what group? Where? What has already been accomplished?



5. CHURCH MEMBER EXPERTISE

What types of expertise and resources are well represented in our congregation?

- What are the top five occupations in our church? Do these represent particular skills?
- Does our church have a lot of entrepreneurial-type people? Hands-on trades people? Medical professionals? Educators?
- Do we have a significant number of immigrants or other internationals? If so, are they from a particular country or people group?
- What languages are spoken by people in our congregation?
- What percentage of our adult congregation is in their:

20s?

30s?

40s?

50s?

60s?

70s and above?

Looking at the two largest percentages, what is the strength that particular age group might contribute to our FOCUS?

6. MISSIONS EXPERIENCE

What clues does our missions history provide?

- Are we fairly new to missions or do we have extensive experience in cross-cultural ministry?
- What recent missions involvement (missionary or project) has our congregation gotten most excited about? Why?
- What cross-cultural peoples have been served by a short-term team from our church within the last three years?
- Have we promoted a financial project that has elicited a large outpouring of funds?

7. GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Are there significant DNA elements in our community or current world situation?

- What ethnic groups are highly represented in our city or region? Is any particular group experiencing unusual growth right now or expected to in the near future?
- Does our city or town have a sister city abroad?
- Is there a student exchange program at our local high school(s)? If so, with what country?
- Do any nearby universities have ties to higher-education schools or programs in other countries? If so, where?
- Are there international students in our city/town? If so, are there significant percentages from one or two countries?
- Are there businesses in our area that have offices or plants abroad? Where? Do they purchase materials or manufacture abroad? Distribute goods or services in particular countries abroad? Do members of our congregation who work there have regular contact with people in these places?
- Is anything unusual happening in our church right now that offers us a unique opportunity?
- What is happening in the world/our country/our area that creates a window of particular opportunity?



8. EXPECTATIONS

Are there specific characteristics we deem essential for our FOCUS?

- How exactly must our partners agree with our doctrinal statement and church practices?
- Do we need strong leadership from outside our church to develop our FOCUS or do we have the experience and expertise to develop the partnership ourselves?
- What length of commitment would we like to make initially to our FOCUS? (2 years, 3-4 years, 5+ years?)
- Are we willing to tolerate some risk and physical deprivation or are we looking to FOCUS on a very safe location?
- Do we want to minister to English speakers or will we work through translators?
- Do we want a single partner (missionary/agency/church) or multiple partners?



Mapping Your DNA

1. LEADER PASSIONS

2. MISSIONARY VISION

8. EXPECTATIONS

Your
Church's
DNA

3. DENOMINATION / AGENCY VISION

Jot key answers from
the preceding three
pages on the
corresponding space on
this chart.

7. GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Overview these DNA
elements. Do you note
connections that tie
together several
spaces?

4. CHURCH MEMBER PASSIONS

6. MISSIONS EXPERIENCE

5. CHURCH MEMBER EXPERTISE