

NCD-UK News

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NCD-UK: The New Home of NCD in the UK

We are delighted to announce that Natural Church Development has a new home in the UK: NCD-UK.

In the 1990s NCD was introduced to this country through the British Church Growth Association, championed by Monica Hill and others at Moggerhanger Park. Working alongside Monica was Elim minister, Rev Dr Philip Walker. Since BCGA's closure in 2003 Philip has continued to promote and resource NCD through Healthy Church UK.

Now NCD-UK takes up the reigns! But rest assured that continuity is maintained. Philip remains as one of NCD-UK's new directors, alongside Colin Day, a 'retired' minister in the Church of England, Henrik Andersen, a senior officer in The Salvation Army in Denmark, and Baptist Minister, Kerry Birch. The new team hope and pray to make NCD even more accessible and effective in the months and years ahead.

"As well as getting the new and, we pray, an even more effective structure up and running, we are also really busy putting together

the NCD Transforming Churches Process, which launches in October 2010," said NCD-UK's new chairman, Revd Kerry Birch. "We are grateful for all that Philip has done with NCD for so many churches over the last decade. We plan to build on this foundation and ensure that NCD tools and resources are available for all churches seeking to apply NCD principles in developing the health of their church in its mission."



Christian A Schwarz is the founder and President of NCD International which was set up in 1989 in order to help churches of all denominations experience qualitative and quantitative growth.

The basis of this international ministry was an extensive research project on church growth, involving over 1,000 churches in 32 countries in the first phase, but which has gone on to involve over 65,000 churches worldwide.

NCD International now has a network of National Partners in about 70 countries, through whom the NCD Survey and other NCD books and tools are made available to churches. NCD research has shown that the average growth rate of all churches that have done three or more surveys, has increased by 51% between the first and the third survey.

In the UK the vast majority of churches that have engaged with NCD have not conducted more than one survey. To encourage churches to fully embrace NCD growth principles and apply them to their life and mission, NCD-UK is launching the Transforming Churches Process (TCP). Coaches will work alongside churches, encouraging churches to release the growth potential that God has given them. We are delighted that Christoph Schalk, Vice President and Director of Coaching, will oversee this part of the process. Both Christoph and Christian will be in the UK in October 2010, leading sessions in the first Transforming Churches seminar event.

Christian A Schwarz and Christoph Schalk in UK

Two Years of Preliminary Events

The past two years have seen a number of events which have been building towards the Transforming Churches Process. In June 2008 Adam Johnstone, NCD National Partner in Australia, was in the UK presenting a number of one day seminars on 'Enjoying Natural Church Development.'

Then during 2009 Christoph Schalk was in the UK leading a series of Coaching workshops. In February at Swanwick (in the snow) the emphasis was on coaching individuals—'Coaching: Easy, Brief and Effective.' In June at Luther King House in Manchester (in the sweltering heat) the emphasis was on 'Coaching Teams.' In November, again in Manchester, the final workshop covered 'NCD Coach Training.'

Each of these events were hosted in partnership with The Salvation Army, under the guidance of Henrik Andersen prior to his return to Denmark. The Salvation Army have since held a number of coaching workshops at High Leigh and Sunbury Court, again led by Christoph Schalk.

In the summer of 2009 an invitation was issued to key leaders in each of the main Christian denominations in the UK to attend an NCD briefing at Sunbury Court. Christian Schwarz spoke about the values of NCD, and the Transforming Churches Process was outlined—inviting denominations to join as partners, whereby they themselves might be trained and equipped to implement NCD in their own churches. Disappointingly, despite interest on the day, there was little further take up in addition to the enthusiasm of our Salvation Army partners.



What is the NCD-UK Transforming Churches Process all about?

we hear you asking. And it is a good question! At heart it is all about encouraging churches to implement NCD principles for a sustained period in their own contexts, with the support of a coach for the journey. You will often hear us say that Natural Church Development is about 'releasing the growth potential' that God has placed within a church, or enabling the 'all by itself principle' to take effect. You will also hear us talk about 'qualitative' as well as 'quantitative' growth; in other words, about the relationship between the increased health of a church and its increasing numbers.

In Natural Church Development, our task is not to make the church grow, but to reduce human-made hindrances to growth. Then the church can flourish "all by itself".

Christian A Schwarz

Coaching is at the heart of TCP.

Coaching is one of the NCD tools that we seek to develop through the Transforming Churches Process. Coaching is basically an intentionally structured form of encouragement; i.e. asking the sorts of questions and providing the appropriate support and resources to enable a church to reflect upon its own health and growth, applying NCD principles, making the necessary adjustments or changes to church life. Coaching frees a church to find its own solutions.

Churches and Coaches together. That is why in the Transforming Churches Process we are focussing on training and resourcing teams from churches and those who will be coaching them, or are wanting to develop their NCD coaching skills, all at the same time. Coaches will be able to meet with and work with church teams during the seminars, and church teams will become familiar and comfortable with coaching skills—indeed they will gain experience in coaching one another.

Enabling Leadership. Indeed any individual church or denominational leader will find value in the NCD-UK TCP seminars as a step towards using and implementing NCD within their own situation. We welcome a conversation with any denomination who would like to partner with us.



The NCD-UK TCP Journey in Outline

You may already know about the Transforming Churches Process from the website, www.ncd-transformation.com, or you may already be halfway through registering or doing the initial survey. However, here is an outline of the different stages for churches, as a refresher or as an ongoing guide.

Summer 2010. It is time for churches, coaches and other interested church leaders to register online, for the process as a whole and for the first seminar. Leaders will download the NCD Survey material and conduct the initial survey in their church. The *Profile Plus* received by the church will form the basis for reflection and implementation at the first seminar and as the process unfolds. Now is a good time to get familiar with NCD by reading *Colour Your World with Natural Church Development*, sent to participating churches, otherwise available to order from www.ncdresources.co.uk.

1st Seminar, 1 & 2 October 2010. This is being held at the Barceló Daventry Hotel, over two days. Christian Schwarz will focus on NCD principles and insights, whilst Christoph Schalk will be leading in NCD coaching skills. The NCD-UK team will also be on hand. Churches and coaches will be sufficiently resourced to enable them to begin developing solutions in implementing NCD in their own contexts.

October 2010 to May 2011. Churches will be working at understanding and implementing NCD, supported by a number of coaching appointments. This is also an opportunity to put the seminar learning into practice.

2nd Seminar, 13th & 14th May 2011. This is being held at the Leicester South Salvation Army Conference Centre. Continuing the input and training from Christian A Schwarz and Christoph Schalk, and opportunities to share experiences so far.

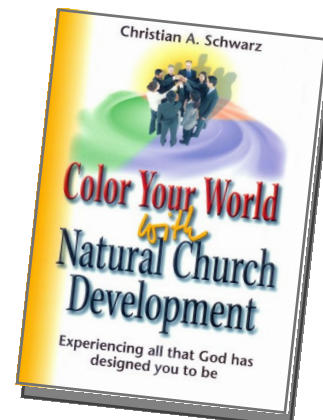
May to November 2011. Churches will be continuing working at understanding and implementing NCD, supported by a number of coaching appointments. Towards the end of this period churches will conduct a **2nd NCD Survey** to measure and evaluate progress so far.

3rd Seminar, 11th & 12th November 2011. This is also being held at the Leicester South Salvation Army Conference Centre. This is the final opportunity during TCP to hear from Christian and Christoph. This will be followed by a continued period of coaching and implementation. The end of TCP is not the end of the NCD cycle, but rather the beginning of the next phase. The next steps will be different for each church as we experience what God has in store for His church and its mission in the UK.

Empowering Leadership in the UK

Christian Schwarz is researching and preparing for his next book in the NCD Discipleship series covering *Empowering Leadership*. Building upon and developing the findings of the initial NCD research, Christian will present in detail what empowering leadership is and how a leader at any level can become more empowering. The book is planned to be published in 2012, but Christian will teach on this topic during the TPC, giving the participants exclusive insight into this crucial aspect of church development.

A church leader in Southampton to their congregation, on receiving their second NCD Survey results: "Look at that improvement. He (our coach) promised we'd see an improvement and just look at them" Their average had risen by about 6 points.



This is the book to read to discover NCD principles and to begin to colour your world with Natural Church Development

"I wish that I had known about NCD when I was younger and near the start of my ministry."
An NCD-UK Team Member



Christian A Schwarz's latest book in the NCD Discipleship series focusing on the eight NCD Quality Characteristics

It may not be too late to register for the TCP, as a church or a denominational leader/trainer wanting NCD Coaching skills. Contact details on next page.

"Natural Church Development gave us something to focus on, something to direct us, something we could measure ourselves with and, having been a boat without a rudder for some time, we cannot emphasise enough how enormously it helped us. To this day we take NCD very seriously along with leadership, vision casting, goal-setting and prayer."
Eric Hobson, Ilkeston Christian Centre

The NCD-UK Team: An Introduction

Philip Walker is an ordained minister in the Elim church, who has had several pastorates, including in York; has lectured in Old Testament; and served in the denominational headquarters. Philip is passionate about church health and growth, and gained his Doctorate in Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary under Dr Peter Wagner, leading academic and writer in church growth at that time. Philip served as Executive Director of the British Church Association until its closure in 2003, since when he has headed up Healthy Church UK, which was until May the UK National Partner for NCD. Philip travels widely, teaching, consulting and coaching in the area of church health and growth. He is married to Eileen, and they have two children and two grandchildren.



Canon Colin M Day, now retired, has served in the Church of England, first as a Church member, and then as an ordained leader in four parishes since 1967. He has also held a Diocesan post of Adviser for Mission and Evangelism, and was the first Executive Officer of the Church of England Evangelical Council and was responsible for NEAC3 (Caistor 1988). He only wished he had heard about NCD before he did in 2000, only time enough to use three NCD cycles in his last ministry!



Henrik Andersen has been an Officer in The Salvation Army since 1986, serving in Denmark, Latvia and the UK. He has been a local pastor for 16 years. His present appointment is as Secretary for Programme in Denmark overseeing all the Army's church and social work. Henrik coordinated the initial NCD research in Denmark, and is co-founder and first chairman of NCD in Denmark. He established NCD in Latvia in cooperation with the Latvian Evangelical Alliance. A trained NCD coach, Henrik has coached churches in Latvia, UK and Denmark, and has coordinated the translation and publishing of 11 NCD books into Danish and/or Latvian. Henrik is on the International Advisory Board of NCD International. He is married to Lisbeth, and has three children.



Kerry J Birch is an ordained Baptist minister and over the last 13 years has served as pastor in two churches: in Cheltenham and at present in Worcester. Kerry also serves as Community Tutor for Bristol Baptist College and Training Networker within the Heart of England Baptist Association. He was recently awarded an MLitt from the University of Bristol for his historical thesis on the Baptist Churches in the Georgian City of Bath. Amongst Kerry's many interests is seeing how churches use their history and heritage as part of their current mission. He was introduced to NCD around millennium year, when he first heard Christian Schwarz, and has introduced it in each of his pastorates, also promoting NCD and an emphasis on healthy church more widely among his local Baptist Association.



The NCD-UK Contact Directory

GENERAL NCD-UK ENQUIRIES

Web: www.ncd-uk.com
(being updated soon)

Email: info@ncd-uk.com

Books and other resources:

www.ncdresources.co.uk

TRANSFORMING CHURCHES PROCESS (TCP)

Information and Registration:

www.ncd-transformation.com

or for TCP admin queries contact Sarah Kay, TCP Administrator:

transformation@ncd-uk.com

Tel: **0845 302 6868**

NCD-INTERNATIONAL

www.ncd-international.org

www.ncd-research.org

www.ncdnet.org

To hear Christian A Schwarz talking about NCD in a series of mini-seminars, go to the www.ncd-international.org website and click on the link at the top left of screen. You may find this helpful before diving into the books!



"All by itself the soil produces corn—first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear" Mk 4:28