

 9:38

 **MAXIMIZE**

Richard Coekin

ACTS 6:1-7

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER & THE WORD

Principle No.1: *maximising gospel ministry, in ourselves or others, is a priority for every Christian (v.2)*

Principle No.2: *building teams enables churches to maximise their gospel ministry (v.3-4)*

Principle No.3: *different people need to accept different roles to maximise gospel ministry (vs.5-6)*

1. They preserved loyalty to gospel mission by managing change carefully! (2-6)

a) They listened humbly and responded carefully to the complaint

1. The Apostles managed change with thoughtful love! (2-6)

b) They gathered everyone to explain their thinking

1. The Apostles managed change with thoughtful love! (2-6)

c) They provided the spiritual perspective on the situation

1. The Apostles managed change with thoughtful love! (2-6)

d) They presented a proposal

1. The Apostles managed change with thoughtful love! (2-6)

e) They proposed to carefully delegate the relief ministry

1. The Apostles managed change with thoughtful love! (2-6)

f) They invite and trust the involvement of those who've been hurt

1. The Apostles managed change with thoughtful love! (2-6)

g) They require high standards of godliness in their appointments

1. The Apostles managed change with thoughtful love! (2-6)

h) They solemnly authorised the new leaders

1. The Apostles managed change with thoughtful love! (2-6)

2. They proposed appointing leaders for delegated ministries!



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2. The Apostles knew that a healthy church is a team ministry!



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- a) Growing our churches
- b) Protecting our Senior Pastors from Burnout
- c) Recruiting church members to the mission of our church
- d) Church members have some functions which are the same
- e) Church members have other functions which are different

2. The Apostles knew that a healthy church is a team ministry!

Church members have some functions which are the same and others which are different.

2. The Apostles knew that a healthy church is a team ministry!



2. The Apostles knew that a healthy church is a team ministry!

3. They began to develop a team structure to enable prayerful word ministry!

The benefit of multi-ministry structures is...
more ministry to grow the church

Assume Biblical
Church ministry is:

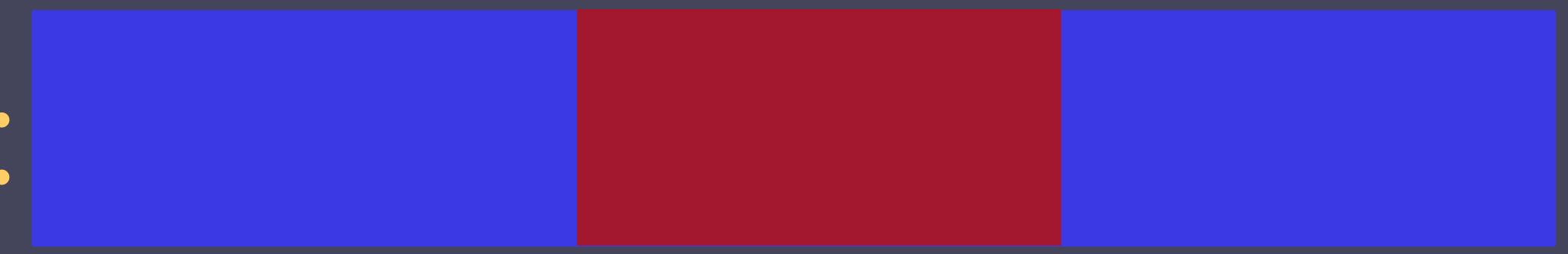


MONO-MINISTRY STRUCTURE

A gifted leadership may deliver:



An ordinary membership may learn:



The central 30% with excellence
(but 70% secondary ministry is neglected)

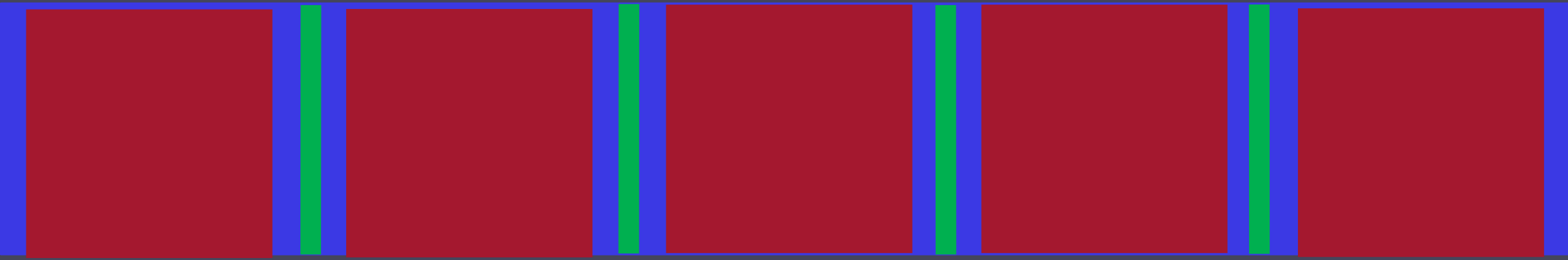
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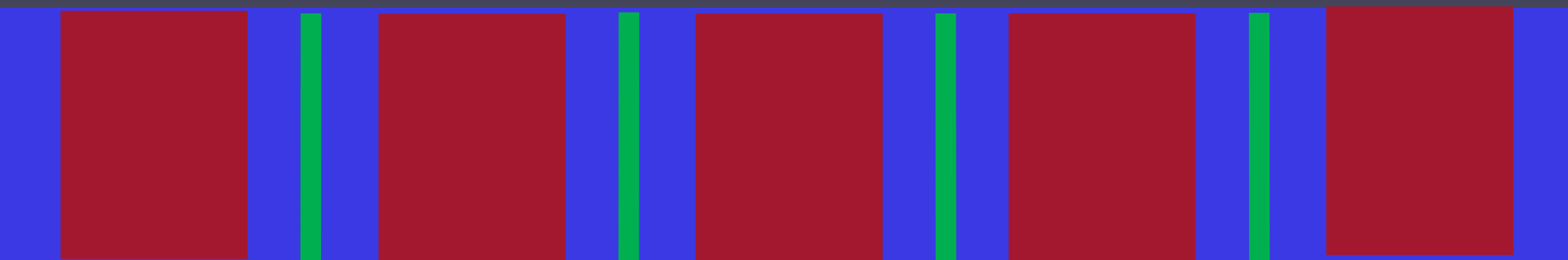


MULTI-MINISTRY STRUCTURE

A gifted leadership may deliver 80%



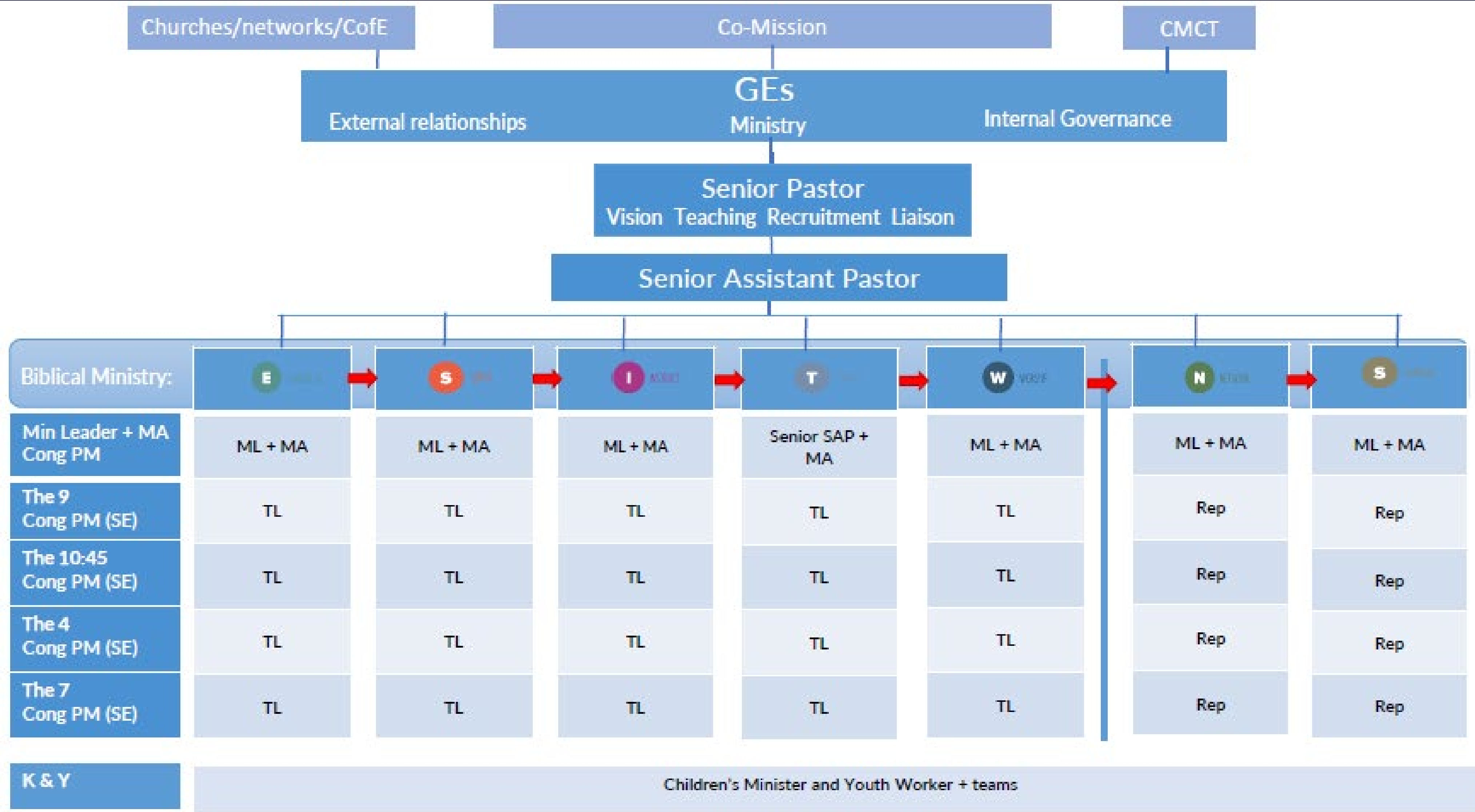
An ordinary membership may learn 60%



60% of all ministries with excellence
(and 40% is neglected)

While a city centre church may choose to focus in a central ministry (e.g. small group leadership excellence) other churches with fewer potential leaders can encourage more of their congregations into ministry with multi-ministry ("purpose-driven") structures i.e. more ministry is being done to grow the church: prayerfully build teams, establish a pipeline, lower the bar, embrace good meetings, measure outcomes to enable more ministries and better teaching that enables gospel ministry.





The key benefits of such a Team Ministry structure are:

1. A maturity development pipeline so everyone is making progress (a detailed database)
2. Specialisation per gifting/training offering focussed excellence e.g. Evangelise: Something Better
3. Increased range of ministries without gaping holes e.g. Serve: We're sticky
4. Opportunity for church members to serve in a variety of teams e.g. Envision: 60 committed members

5. Senior Pastors flourishing rather than exhausted headless chickens e.g. Assistant Pastors
6. Congregational team pastoring e.g. seven ministry teams looking after us not one leader
7. The quality of Sunday gatherings e.g. Worship
8. Great new initiatives e.g. Marking the most of Christmas/Real Life

Conclusion: no member of a team is more important than another for the shared goal of all the teams is the same: *making disciples of all nations for Christ i.e. a life boat not a cruise ship*

