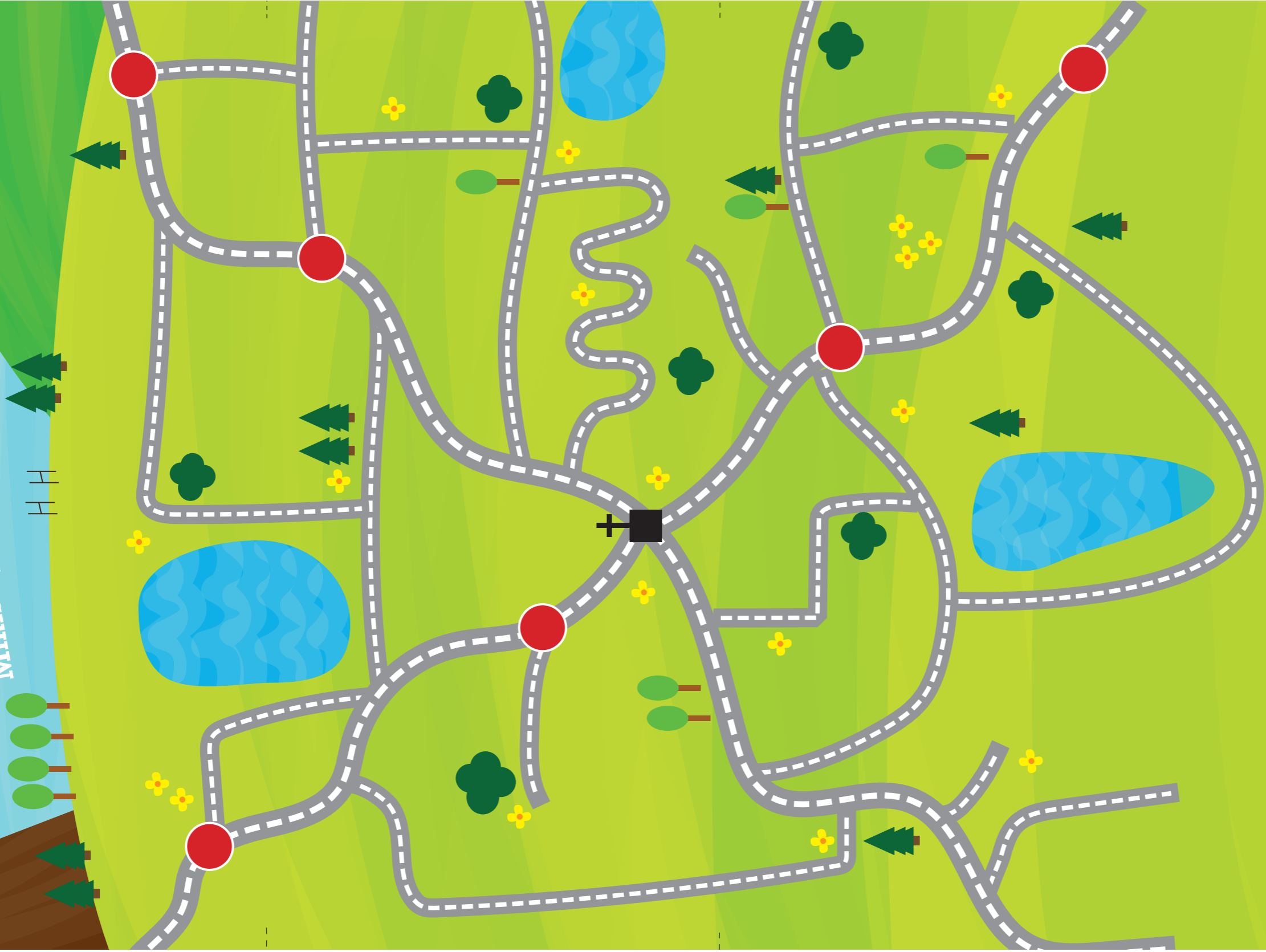


my MAP

Ministry Action Plan



ROAD CODE



Stop

Be Intentional

Change thinking



Partner with others



Traffic light

ROAD MARKERS



Road information

Places of Interest

Warning

my MAP Ministry Action Plan

Life is a journey

When you travel, you need to know where you are starting, and where you are going.

An overview map will show you your starting point, and your end destination. It is like a "big picture" of the journey and will help you plan your journey. In Ministry, your map should have a starting point - knowing where you currently are - and an end destination - your VISION: where you believe the ministry is going/God is leading you. You have a biblical mandate to create a vision for your church, which includes children and youth as a highest priority!

You have to choose the right vehicle for the journey. Choosing the right vehicle for your ministry journey, means formulating a STRATEGY. Your strategy will be the chosen mode of travel to reach your VISION. There will always be many options to choose from: do we fly, train, sail, bus, cycle, go by car or walk?

To travel to your destination, you need the right vehicle.

from where we are now, to where we want to be? How are we going to travel? How are we going to make the vision a reality?

And so is ministry. A map is an essential part of an intentional journey.

Not having a map when you travel, could cost you dearly - ending up on the wrong roads, having to take detours, re-routing and wasting time. This leads to frustration, fatigue and disappointment - and missing things because you are not in time, or you have been on the wrong road. On the other hand, when you have a map, you can navigate your journey and get from where you are, to where you want to be, in the best time and by the best route, while eliminating guessing and ending up on wrong paths. You move around more effectively and accomplish what you have set out to do - reach your destination!

Travel by...

Bus - Intergenerational Faith Communities

Because life does not happen in silos and we all need each other, and because we all have value to add and something special to bring on the journey - we travel on the bus together. Everyone can come on board for the journey: babies and toddlers fit in, with their strollers and squeaky toys; the primary aged kids fit in, with their skate boards and sports equipment; the teenagers fit in, with their devices and weird music; the adults fit in - mums, dads,

grandparents, uncles and aunts, singles, old and young, big and small. We all fit on the bus and can travel together.

Having a strategy for intergenerational faith formation is the vehicle that will take you all on the journey together. It is the space where generations bring what they have to offer, support one another through love and care, do life and faith together, learn from one another, serve together with

their gifts and talents and passion, celebrate together and make a difference in the world, together. It will be different in every context. There is no "one size fits all". There are different buses for different faith communities.

What might this strategy look like in your context? Who is on your bus? How will their presence on the bus, affect the journey? How will their presence on the bus affect others on the bus?



Car / Family Vehicle - Partnering with parents / families

Travel by car - the family car. We all know that families are as diverse as it comes. Whether the family needs a station wagon to fit them all in, or whether a Smart car will be enough for the solo mum and her toddler, it is a crucial strategy for the church to partner with/travel alongside parents and families on the journey.

Reggie Joiner says, "Every person who is raising, nurturing and parenting a kid or teenager, matters. Regardless." Why? Because they matter to God! And to their kids! And their kids matter to them! And to God!

No one has more potential to influence a child, than a parent (grandparents/caregivers could be the substitute where parents are absent). The Church has on average about 40 hours a year to influence a child. A parent has approximately 3000 hours a year! What happens at

home is more important than what happens at church!

What would happen if all you did was help the average parent to do something more for their child's faith development, than what they are currently doing? What if... a dad simply prayed with his son for the first time? A grandma read a Bible story to her grandchild? A single mom got connected to a community of faith?

Constantly look for ways to build a bridge to the family. Look for ways to: Support and defend, encourage and refresh, invite and involve, include and remind, love and serve, honour and celebrate, respect and esteem, equip and train parents/grandparents/ caregivers. What vehicles are your families travelling in/on? Small cars, motor cycles, people movers? What challenges do you face on this part of the journey?



Foot - Engaging with Community/Whanau

When we walk/travel on foot, we are far more able to connect with everyone along the way. We can pause and connect, we can talk while we walk together, we can sit down together for a rest. We can get others along the way to join us, to play with us, to walk or run together. We are more in touch with everything happening in the community, when we are on foot.

Walking is about community. Our community. Our wider family. Our whanau.

Our churches are all part of wider communities. The church in the community matters.

As church, we value and care for our communities and we want to intentionally love, serve and welcome the children and families in our local community.

What might this strategy look like in your context? What will you discover/see/notice when you travel on foot through your community? Who can you love, serve and welcome? What is the "climate" in your community? What factors are impacting your engagement with your community? Who can you partner with along the way?



10 TOP TIPS

- 1. Compass**
- the True North
- 2. Plan ahead**
- time frames, external factors, seasons, community climate
- 3. Stay hydrated**
- learn, grow, personal development
- 4. Wear comfortable clothing**
- sustainability, perseverance
- 5. Stop to rest** - self-care, life balance
- 6. Lookout points**
- step back, assess, adjust
- 7. Emergency services**
- know where to go, ask for help
- 8. Snap a photo**
- celebrate successes
- 9. Travel together**
- team, church leadership, parents, congregation
- 10. Playgrounds** - have fun

