



# Depth Perception™

**Commentary from Design For Ministry™**  
Los Angeles • Milwaukee • Philadelphia

## **Prayer with the emerging church** **30 December 2005**

(Originally prayed at the Leadership Seminar of  
the Ecumenical Stewardship Center, December 2005)

Oh Lord,

We move to a time where the sermon illustration is no longer from literature, but from film and media.

We will begin to count attendance not by how many come on Sunday morning at nine a.m., but by the menu of ways people intersect with the congregation.

Pastors will not so much teach as tell the story of the faith, of the mission, of God's people.

We move from fixed programs to fluid relationships.

We are invited not so much to grab on to the next initiative as to let go of the previous one.

We are not so much urged to step up and act as we are to step back and reflect.

We who once emphasized what we do are now urged to emphasize what we be.

We who once defined ourself by being busy are asked to be known for our patience.

We once worked to preserve our institutions, but are now asked to emphasize the creation of new ways.

We once pushed to go, but now we push to wait.

Our testimony was that we were once lost but are found. Now we testify that we are lost and have invited God to find us.

We once were bold to say that we love God. Now our boldness comes from knowing we are loved by God.

We celebrate the opportunity to build family, community and generosity.

Until your return.

Amen