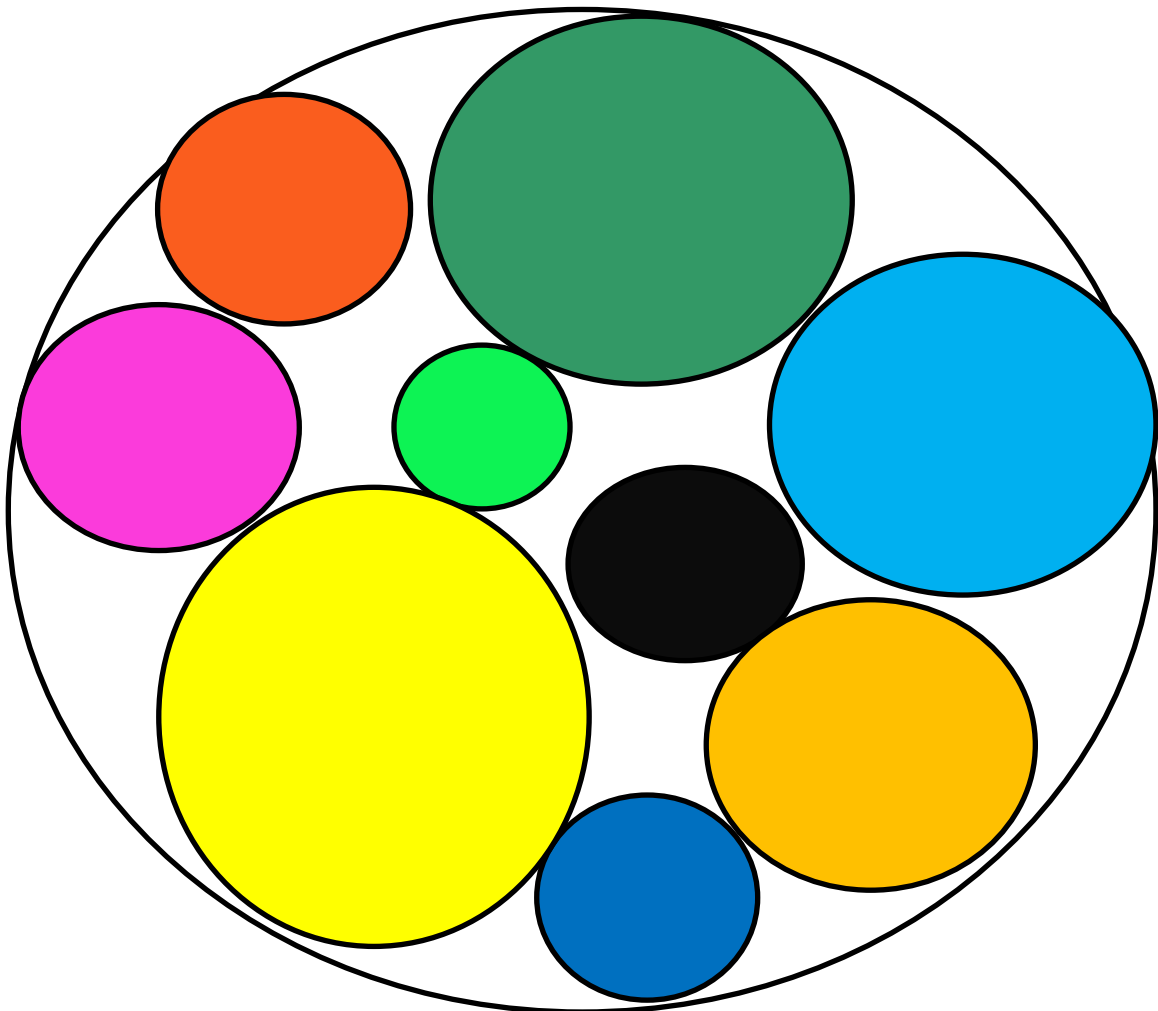


Prioritising—A Rural Mission Solutions Resource

Most churches are kept going by a small segment of the regular congregation who undertake various roles and tasks. In an ideal situation everyone who is part of the regular congregation would be playing an active part. But when it comes to developing mission strategies we need to ask, (a) What could we do? (b); “What should we do?”; and (c) “What must we do?”

Churches can soak up a lot of resources including money, time, people, and energy. Here’s a simple exercise for helping to focus the resources where they are most needed.

- A. First on a large piece of paper draw a circle.
- B. Make a list of all that goes on in the church (preaching, study, music, administration, mission, homegroups, etc). Then as a rough guide suggest how 100% of all the resources (see above) are divided between all these activities. Are you sure you listed them all?
- C. Now create a circle for each of the activities, which you must place within the big circle you drew but making sure they do not overlap while filling the big circle. The proportion of the smaller circles equals the proportion of resources used.



- D. Having now illustrated how resources are currently being used, repeat the exercise, but this time adjusting the proportion of the resources to represent how you would like them to be divided.

This exercise is best done in small groups of 4 to 6 people. You could have several small groups working at the same time. The reality is that we only have a finite amount of people, time, money, etc. Wishful thinking will never achieve our desired objectives. We must make the best use of what is available.