



“Exploring Uncharted Territory”

By Pastor Lee

When Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were sent on an expedition to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase, they began under a false premise. They believed that the unexplored terrain of the west would be the same as it was in the east. But they were wrong. Thomas Jefferson sent these two men to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean. But instead of a waterway, they found the Rocky Mountains. Lewis and Clark realized that this uncharted territory was nothing like what they expected or prepared for. They had to reorient their thinking and their resources. And that’s what made them successful.

With the long-term decline of churches, we find ourselves in uncharted territory. The terrain is different from what we are familiar. The strategies of the past are often ineffective in the present. We are facing the difficult decision to reorient our thinking and our resources.

I want to challenge you to drop your presuppositions, and invest more time observing your present culture. The Church must be willing to experiment, learn, and adapt to the current terrain. It’s time to go off the map, and think like explorers. And that’s what will make Aldersgate successful. It may feel like we are going into this uncharted territory with blindfolds, but we are being led by the Light of the world. So, cling close to the Lord, and join the adventure.

