

This role play was devised as part of a review exercise for Unlock carried out by Greg Smith in Summer 2003...but could be used or adapted by any group planning it's future strategy.

Acts 18

{1} After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

{2} There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, {3} and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

{4} Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

{5} When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

{6} But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

{7} Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God.

{8} Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

{9} One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.

{10} For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

{11} So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

{18} Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchrea because of a vow he had taken.

{19} They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

{20} When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined.

{21} But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is God's will." Then he set sail from Ephesus.

{22} When he landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.

{23} After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Tarsus Tents PLC

*Intent on your Salvation :
Suppliers of Earthy Tabernacles for the Heavenly Journey*

Proprietors: Paul (formerly Trading as Saul), Aquila (and wife)

Agenda for Extraordinary Board Meeting

Circulated to : The Chairman JC,
 The Directors: Paul... Aquila , Silas , Timothy,
 Non voting members: Priscilla, Intentus Maximus (workers rep)

1. Minutes of Last Meeting
2. Strategic plan for AD54
3. AOB.

Minutes of Board Meeting Julius XXII AD LII in the Board Room : Corinth

Present: The Directors: Paul... Aquila Silas , Timothy

In attendance: Priscilla, Intentus Maximus (workers rep)

1. Minutes of previous meeting were accepted as a correct record.
2. Priscilla was thanked for making the tea and sandwiches which always helped to make these events so enjoyable.
3. **Paul (managing director)** reported good progress and high hopes in the work of evangelism. Numerous residents of Corinth had come to Christ and the local church was well established.. Paul wished to expand the work to other branches in Ephesus, Macedonia and then to move on to establish a new branch in Rome. Despite some local competition and disruptive tactics by the opposition he felt we had enough spiritual resources and enterprise to move forward. Local people like Crispus and Titius Justus were showing promise as potential leaders and should be invited to join the board. Following a clear vision of an angel he believed these priorities should be included in a revised mission statement for the company.

Priscilla claiming to speak on behalf of the ordinary shareholders asked whether:

- a) The company should pay more attention to the problems of the members of the Corinth branch, who appeared divided and confused, especially since Apollos had arrived on the scene..
- b) The company needed to strengthen and renew its commitment to the HQ branch in Jerusalem which was reported to be suffering as the result of a severe famine.
- c) They thought Crispus and Titius Justus (who both still fancied themselves as synagogue elders) really understood the problems of the ordinary working people and slaves in the church and local community, and had got the point that you really didn't need to wear a suit and carry a leather bound scroll before you came to church. They were just the kind of people who would end up asking all the Gentile lads to get the snip.

The directors told her to keep quiet in the board room and ask her husband about it when they went home. Paul added that as he had been done as a baby, he'd have his head shaved if Priscilla turned out to be right..

4. **Aquila (Director of Finance)** urged caution. The annual balance sheet showed disappointingly low profits, as sales of the Family Pilgrimage Tabernacle model were declining as Gentile Christians were not celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles and Jewish consumers were boycotting all Christian suppliers. The Massive Messianic

Marquee was doing quite well in expectation of significant anticipated events in the near future. He felt the salvation of the company might lie in a long term contract to supply the military with a basic 10 man Campaign Camper.

Priscilla asked whether:

The values on which the company was founded were consistent with support for an oppressive military regime which was known to rape women, kill innocent children and persecute Christians in furtherance of its imperialistic ambition.

The directors told her to keep quiet in the board room and ask her husband about it when they went home.

Intentus Maximus commented that the workforce were committed to the company, and were already working hard for little or no pay in order to ensure there were no further compulsory redundancies. A contract to supply the army would be good news for all the workers and their families. He suggested a 20% pay increase would motivate the staff to do even greater things.

Aquila said he had no difficulty about a 20% figure for the unpaid slaves in the workforce...However any rise for the paid staff was dependent on increased productivity and improved sales.

4. **Silas (director for export sales)** reported that there were many good business opportunities for both spiritual and camping products in the cities of Asia, Macedonia and Greece. He felt the company should seek to market its full range of products throughout the known world as a package... offering salvation as a free gift with every tent purchased. Only the sale of increased numbers of the company's quality products would generate enough income to sustain the spiritual side of the business in which we all believed. He also reminded the meeting that Tarsus Tents remained a wholly owned subsidiary of the greatest multinational in the known world, Galilee Fisheries (Human Inc.) and that really we ought to get clearance from Bishop Rocky at HQ in Jerusalem before embarking on any new ventures.

Priscilla pointed out that the fax machine had not yet been invented, and C-mail took several weeks to traverse the Eastern Mediterranean, while she had heard from Paul himself that relying on angelic messengers was unwise as Satan himself could disguise himself as an angel of light..

The directors told her to keep quiet in the board room since it was not permitted for a woman to attempt to teach the men in the church even though they knew she was a good listener and had memorised the whole of the Scriptures and Paul's sermons by heart..

5. **Paul** proposed that he should be released immediately from all tent making and sales duties in order to concentrate on a travelling evangelistic ministry. He felt that the company could easily afford to purchase a 2 litre donkey for his business use. Timothy supported this proposal as he believed he (as a rising young executive) had something to offer and much to learn if he could accompany Paul. It was the time he said for taking risks for the sake of the Gospel.
6. **Paul's proposal was put to the vote : There were two votes in favour and two against.** As the result was inconclusive the managing director asked that an EGM of the board be convened within a week. The main business would be to seek consensus on the outline of a strategic plan for next year. The Chairman of the Company (JC) should be invited and in case of disagreement would hold the casting vote.
7. The meeting concluded in ~~(uproar)~~ PRAYER

Task 1 10 mins

In pairs or threes... In the role of each character (Paul, Aquila, Priscilla, Silas, Timothy, Intentus Maximus) discuss your view of the meeting recorded in the minutes, and prepare your case / strategy for the forthcoming EGM..

Task 2 10 mins

Feedback to whole group

Task 1 20 mins

In two groups work out (and flip chart record) the parallels between Tarsus Tents and the current situation in our organisation:

Who are the equivalent characters?

What are the equivalent products?

Risks and stability factors?

Visions and Tensions?