



**EQUIPPING FOR
MISSIONAL LIVING**

Ed Stetzer

EQUIPPING FOR MISSIONAL LIVING

- God is a sender by His nature.
- God is a missionary God.
- The Church is to be a missionary church.

EQUIPPING FOR MISSIONAL LIVING

- The Church does not have a function of mission.
- The Church exists for mission.

THE SENDING GOD

- “Apostolos” is a Greek word which means “sent”.
- “Missio” is a Latin word which also means “sent”.

THE SENDING GOD

- Genesis 12:1-4 - Abraham was sent by God, both to be blessed and to be a blessing.
- Isaiah 6:8 - Isaiah was sent *by* God and *for* God

EQUIPPING FOR MISSIONAL LIVING

- The Church does not have a function of mission.
- The Church exists for mission.



The sending God sent His Son into the world
to reconcile the world to himself.

THE SENDING GOD

John 1:1

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Christ – through whom He made the world – was sent into the world as the Logos, the Word.



John 1:14

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”



John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

God sent his son that the world might be saved through Him.

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THE SENDING GOD SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT

God sends the Spirit – the Third Person of the Trinity

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit—the Father will send Him in My name—will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.” (John 14:26, HCSB)

THE SENDING GOD SENDS THE CHURCH

The Church is sent to be God's missionary in the world.

John 20:21

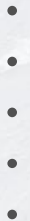
*“Again Jesus said,
‘Peace be with you! As
the Father has sent me, I
am sending you.’”*

**As the Father had sent
Him, so Jesus sent
his disciples – now
His apostles.**

Acts 1:8

*“But you will receive
power when the Holy
Spirit has come upon
you, and you will be my
witnesses...”*

**The Apostles were
empowered for witness
by the Holy Spirit – to
which they were sent.**



GOD SENDS US FOR HIS KINGDOM PURPOSE

We, the Church, are His sign in the world to the world.

Paul wrote with excitement about the gift he had been given – the sending to share the mystery of God’s eternal purpose – the mystery of the plan of the ages hidden in God – now made known the Church. (Ephesians 3:6-11)



“Just as God is a missionary God, so the church is to be a missionary church.”

Craig Van Gelder
The Essence of the Church (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), 98



MISSIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The nature of the Gospel
- The mission of God
- The rule of the Kingdom
- The purpose of the Church
- The communication of the message and contextualization of the church in the world
- The aim of the mission

CHANGE...

... always happens, and most change is out of our control.



WHAT WE CAN CONTROL ...

... is our response to a changing culture.

The response by the missional congregation to change has produced transitional patterns.

FROM PROGRAMS TO PROCESSES

Programs *never* seem to work the same way in two places.

The most important thing – seek to understand the people we were called to reach and develop processes to reach them.

Churches need certain processes to accomplish their purposes.

THE CHURCH AS A BODY

- The church congregation should function like a human body. (1 Cor 12:12-20)
- Every part is influenced by every other part.
- The “body” of Christ is one unit that operates through a series of systems.

FROM MODELS TO MISSIONS

Instead of importing styles and models, more pastors are asking the same questions that international missionaries do:

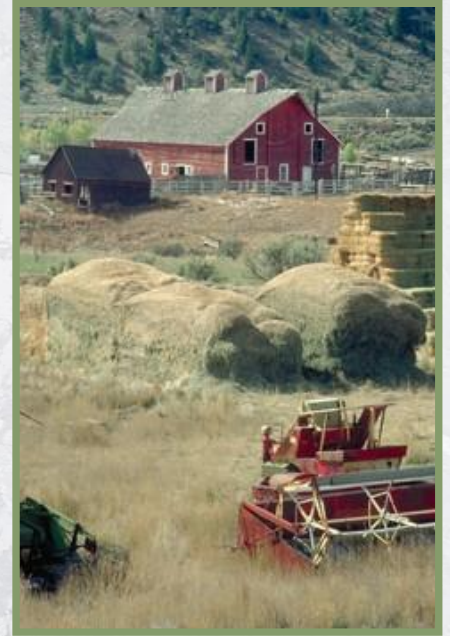


FROM MODELS TO MISSIONS

- **What style of worship** will best help this group to worship in spirit and truth?
- **What evangelism methods** should I use here to reach the most people without compromising the Gospel?
- **What structure of church** would best connect with this community?
- **How can *this* church** be God's missionary to this community?
- **Christology** should shape our **missiology** and should shape our **ecclesiology**.

ATTRACTIVE TO INCARNATIONAL

- Missional leaders are moving from attracting prospects to incarnating the mission.
- The incarnational church is more interested in the harvest than in the barn.



UNIFORMITY TO DIVERSITY

- Today, people are realizing that God is using many different kinds of methods and models to reach different kinds of people.
- Nobody thinks that their model is “a” model; they think it is “the” model.
- If churches are faithfully proclaiming the Word and reaching and serving their communities, we should celebrate them, whatever they look like.
- The answer is not to make all of our churches look alike.

UNIFORMITY TO DIVERSITY

The answer is to have everyone seeking the same thing:
to glorify God by being an indigenous expression of church,
living on mission where they are.



PROFESSIONAL TO PASSIONATE

- Missional churches are breaking down the unbiblical “levels” of Christianity.
- Today, people (and churches) are looking for passionate and gifted leaders.

SEATING TO SENDING

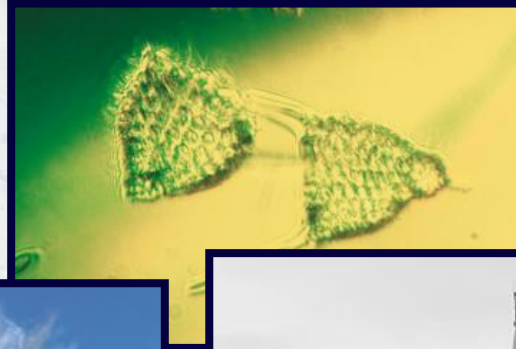
- "Big" was almost better in the age of church growth
- These churches give themselves away rather than serve their own needs.
- Churches need to move from "every member a minister" to "every member on mission".

DECISIONS TO DISCIPLES

- Should churches focus on better disciples or focus on reaching out?
- You cannot separate evangelism and discipleship.
- We need missional churches that are focused on serious disciple making, not just leading people to make a decision.
- For this to occur, we must identify what a disciples is.
- As we define a disciple to include both the **inner disciplines** of personal spirituality and the **outer disciplines** of missional living...
- ...then we will move our churches to be filled with **missionary disciples** like the early church.

ADDITIONAL TO EXPONENTIAL

All healthy living things reproduce.



ADDITIONAL TO EXPONENTIAL

Missional Churches should be multiplying:

- Disciples
- Small communities
- Ministries
- Churches

