

RURAL MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

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(all Scripture is used from *The Message*)

What is a Missional Community?

- “Somewhere along the way, ... church became a _____ to go to instead of a _____ who are going. A place to attend, instead of a people with a message to extend. The gospel was never meant to be kept inside of a building, but was meant to _____ all of a Christian’s life and then lived out in a _____ that seeks to love and care for others.” (Logan Gentry)
- Acts 2:38 – 47

³⁸⁻³⁹ Peter said, “Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites.”

⁴⁰ He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, “Get out while you can; get out of this sick and stupid culture!”

⁴¹⁻⁴² That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

⁴³⁻⁴⁵ Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person’s need was met.

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷ They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

- Question for reflection: How much are we shaped by the Jesus of Scripture, and how much are we shaped by the Jesus of our culture?
- “the Gospel ... was meant to define _____ of a Christian’s life, and then lived out in a community that seeks to love and care for others.”
(Gentry)
- “A community of Christ-followers on _____ with God in obedience to the Holy Spirit that demonstrates tangibly and declares creatively the _____ of Jesus to a specific _____ of people.” (Todd Engstrom)
- A missional community is “a family of _____ learning to follow Jesus in every area of their lives.” (Engstrom)
- Caution:
 - Being missional is not a simple 3 step process or “one pill” solution
 - Instead it is
 - A Conversation
 - An Adventure
 - _____
 - A Change of Paradigm
 - A _____ or _____ Matter

10 Horizon Markers for a Missional Community:

1. The primacy of _____ (for God, one another, our neighbours, our community and world)
2. _____ renewal precedes _____ renewal
 - Immersing yourself in _____
 - Prayer and meditation

- _____ into what God yet has for you
3. Your central question to answer:

Why has God called us here for this place, this time, and for the future into which He's leading us?"
 4. Embrace the _____ God has given to us

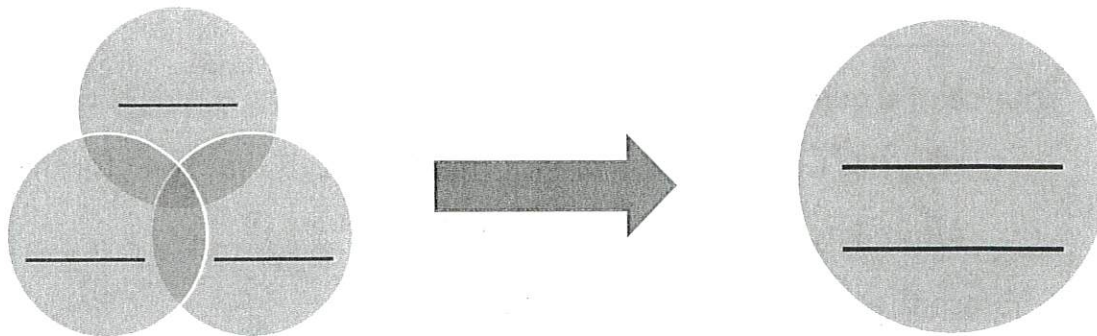
Matthew 28:19,20; Matthew 25:40; Luke 19:10; Romans 10:14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:9-10
 5. Join in what God is already _____

_____ You

_____ You

_____ You (your neighbourhood and world)
 6. A _____-centred agenda rather than a _____-centred agenda.

(Romans 15:2,3)
 7. 6 Elements of a Missional Community
 - a. The dual movement of the church -- _____ and _____
 - b. Outward-focused _____
 - c. Proclamation of Gospel in _____
 - d. Demonstration of Gospel in _____
 - e. Seeks to understand and engage with _____ without compromising to the culture
 - f. Pursues and welcomes _____
 8. Realize you have everything you need to start (or take the next step) to where God wants to take you



- Focus on one _____ ministry that fits who you are and your context but which will grow the Kingdom
- “To a specific pocket within your neighbourhood” (Engstrom)

9. Two things the world expects of us:

- We _____ with each other
- We _____ for those less fortunate

10. Impress on each member that they are each called to be _____

(24/7)

Thank you!!