

What Does it Mean to Be Missional ?

Presentation Three
Minnesota District Convention
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Bio info.

- _____ Assignment Day: “hybrid new mode”
- _____ Colombia: missionary, then ministry trainer
- _____ mission setting in Oregon
- _____ now little Sleepy Eye...

“What does it mean to be missional

“Missional”

Tim Keller, Alan Hirsch, et al, including The Gospel and Our Culture Network¹

“The Missional Movement”

“Going Missional”

“Alan Hirsch, one its proponents, says that ‘missional’ is not synonymous with ‘emerging’...²

Michelle A. Vu, Christian Post reporter, wrote an article “Missional Church Movement - The Next Big Thing?”³ “Rather than being program-focused, the missional church prides itself on being people-focused. ‘Missional is a way of living, not an affiliation or activity,’ explains missional leadership specialist Reggie McNeal in his new book, *Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church...* Instead, missional individuals ‘think about God and the world’ and arrange their whole life - every aspect of their life - around their faith convictions and put their faith into every day actions...

“‘This missional understanding of Christianity is undoing Christianity as a religion,’ McNeal writes... Those who miss (the missional renaissance) will find themselves on the other side of a divide that renders them irrelevant to the movement of God in the world.’”

¹ This background came from gotquestions.org (<http://www.gotquestions.org/missional.html>), found online: May 11, 2016

² ibid

³ <http://www.christianpost.com/news/missional-church-movement-the-next-big-thing-37456>, March 12, 2009|2:56 pm

Dumpster Dive in Religion Alley

Missional = _____

District Pastors' Conference?

Is there much to say about WELS and a missional nature? Of course! Mission work is one of two focuses!

1. _____
2. _____

“What are the obstacles for a confessional Lutheran synod to do mission work?”

External Obstacles

- _____ *“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.” (2Tm 4:3)*

- _____ *“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.” (Mt 24:12)*
- _____

- Strange, strange world: hyper-sensitivity to “most important” values
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Illogical mindlessness of some positions?

Cf. pro-abortion:

Cf. evolution:

“We cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.”⁴

Cf. hyper-care to call it “radical” Islam:

Cf. current attempts to make homosexuality normal:

Still get mad?

Are we “unaware of (Satan’s) schemes”?⁵

1) undermine good values

2) or restrict freedom to believe and practice

Culture is influencing church more than church is influencing culture.

What do we, with the purest gospel message, have to do with that?

Internal Obstacles

The Big Bottleneck: Individual _____

Time for some *Balloon Angioplasty*

1. Universal Missionality

There is no such thing as a _____

Cf Mike Kuschel’s “Mission Work and Outreach in Rural America”

Every church and school influences in the community.

First question is: _____?

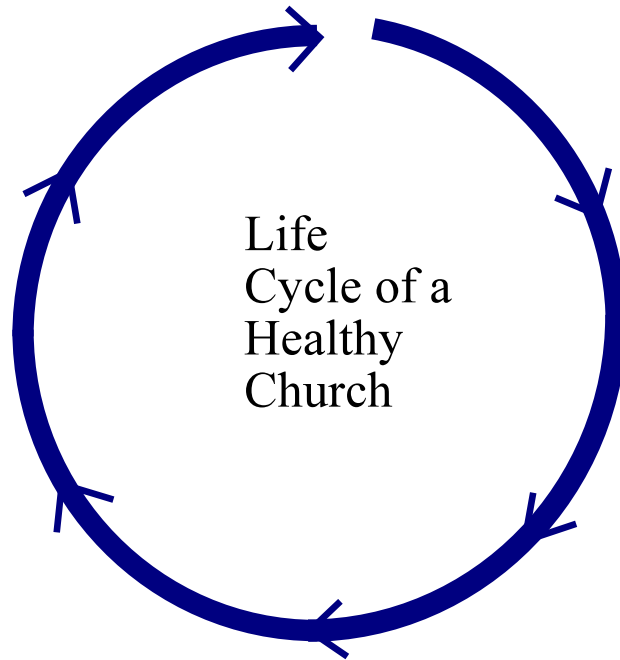
Second question: _____?

⁴ “Richard Lewontin, an influential evolutionist, candidly wrote that many scientists are willing to accept unproven scientific claims because they ‘have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism.’ Many scientists refuse even to consider the possibility of an intelligent Designer because, as Lewontin writes, ‘we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.’” (*The New York Review of Books*, “Billions and Billions of Demons,” by Richard C. Lewontin, January 9, 1997, pp. 28-32, quoted in *Was Life Created?*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, ©2010, p 22.)

⁵ 2Co 2:11

2. Balanced Church

Biggest goal of the Christian life: _____



3. Culture on My Campus

A Place of joy

– God wants us to teach joy!

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (P1 4:4)

– Is our view of the real God as clear as it could be?

- sample prayer to God the Father: By the blood of your Son, we plead for your forgiveness. For the sake of his merits, accept us as your own.

Or “Through faith in Jesus, God does not turn his face away from us in anger, but lifts it toward us in Fatherly love and compassion.”⁶

⁶ <http://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/daily-devotions>, “A Meaningful Blessing,” from May 25, 2016.

- Is it true that without the work and grace of Jesus, the Father would not be disposed to help us in the least, but instead to destroy us completely? Doesn't that open the door to the idea that the Father is the angry one, and the Son is our only Buffer, who constantly calms the rage within the Father's heart? Wouldn't it be better to plead on the basis of Jesus' work, merits, and grace – all of which pour out of the Father's compassionate heart?
- How does God look on us? Edge of seat, ready to pounce on the next evil move?
Or...
 - Is he “_____”? (Ps 145:17)
 - looking on us with pity? (Ps 145:9)
 - grieving when we are hurting? (cf. widow of Nain)
 - and loving us even when we are naughty? (cf. _____)
- When he says, “God is love,” that means _____
- Do you view your people as God does?
This is about Christian identity.
Crossroads⁷: “Do you see yourself more as sinner than saint?”
Or do you try to have a “balanced” view: sinner-saint (*simil justus et peccator*)?
Or does that even really speak the spirit of the Scriptures?
Consider: _____

Are you really a sinner since Jesus justified you and made you a child of God?

Consider: Does God ever refer to any of his believers as “sinner”?⁸

Cf. Ro 7

This is about how you address your children.
cf. parent to misbehaving child, “You’re a bad boy!” or even “What’s wrong with you?” or “You’re so lazy.”
Contrast: “You are acting naughty. We like to do what Jesus wants instead.”
Big question: Whom are you actually addressing when you discipline? Whom do you **want** to address?

⁷ from an introductory Bible study by Crossroads Consulting Ministry, a WELS para-synodical organization, helping churches and institutions evaluate entire ministry, develop meaningful ministry plan, and pursue it. Rev. Elton C. Stroh, Executive Director, 608-837-3819, elton.stroh@timeforcrossroads.com

⁸ “An Encouragement to Speak Positively to Believers,” by Pr. Mark Cares: Paper delivered to the North Atlantic District Missionaries Conference, June 14, 2004.

It's also about how you address your members/students.

“specific law” – For which repentance: daily kind or conversion kind?

cf. *Gospel Motivation*⁹

It's also about how you think of yourself.

“I thought this was about Missionalism.”

Cf. Paul to Titus re slaves as magnets.

“Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them,¹⁰ and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.” (Ti 2:9-10)

Your view of God ...

→ your view of _____

→ their view of _____

→ their view of God's _____¹⁰

→ their _____ for life and ministry

+ _____ of the message

Place of intensity

“Zeal for your house (+ kingdom) consumes me.” (Ps 69:9; Jn 2:17)

Urgency – before too late.

Cf. Jesus: *“as long as it is day,”* (Jn 9:4)

Cf. Paul's *“now is the time”* (2Co 6:2)

All signs fulfilled (long ago)!

“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” (Ep 5:15)

⁹ *Gospel Motivation – More than ‘Jesus Died for My Sins,’* by Robert J. Koester. NPH Catalog Item Number: OL-150732

¹⁰ cf. Ne 8:10, *“The joy of the LORD is your strength.”* כִּי־חֵדוֹת יְהוָה הֵיא מְעֻזְכֶם:

Could be your joy about the LORD, or the joy felt in God's heart: whether...

– *ad intra*,

– in heaven “just because” (1 Ch 16:27, *“Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy in his dwelling place.”*),

– or “in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents,” (Lk 15:10 – χαρὰ ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀγγέλων τοῦ θεοῦ)

4. Evangelism Training – the right kind!

– Important to teach? A: 1 Pe 3:15-16:

Btw: healthy goal: _____ members know how to share faith.

– How not to (?)

– How to: • seminar in a sermon

• BIC/Catechism/Religion courses: formal presentations (e.g. “Great Exchange”)

• pop quiz: “Diagnostic Question”

• Family devotions? 1) _____

2) _____

(might have to model in church/classroom, in homes)

Cf. “Frank”

Uncork It

“Critical”:

– have _____ for outreach

Reasons: • _____

• prospects belong to the _____ rather than the _____

– create goals you can measure ~~success~~ progress with:

• # trained to share,

• specific tasks/events,

• non-member contacts per month

•

•

Cool nudge from outside:

PNW DMB’s great idea

Missional Church: Now?

Amazing, blessed activity!

- Now serving _____ mission churches in US at various stages toward self-sufficiency, + _____ cross-cultural ministries, + _____ churches established and paying back CEF loans
- Now, through _____ seminary, _____ ministry training school, _____ liberal arts college, _____ preparatory high schools, _____ area Lutheran high schools, _____ WELS grade schools, and _____ early childhood ministries, we are power-training _____ students in Scriptures, character, lifestyle, and ministry.
- Now in _____ foreign countries, serving _____ baptized members, + _____ by correspondence and workshops, + _____ by internet!
- opportunities to expand into _____ new fields
- focusing on _____ of nationals
- Multi-Language Publications – from small arm for Spanish-language provisioning to providing print media of “over 2.9 million items in 47 different languages”!¹¹

What more can we do?

- Think _____ billion people.
- Think pure _____. We could be at the forefront!

- What will God do with us... if we...
 - unclog _____,
 - re-joyce in the _____, and
 - _____ ourselves onto this dying world?

*Hallowed be your name! Your kingdom come!
Your will be done!*

¹¹ Rev. Nathan Seiltz, Director, M-LP-WELS, Introduction in 2016-2017 Catalogue.