

Missional Communities in Cities and Suburbs

Acts 29 Bootcamp : Jonathan Dodson : 9/15/09

I. What is a Missional Community?

- A. What it is Not
 - 1. Bible Study
 - 2. Small Group
 - 3. Therapy Group
 - 4. Socially minded Small Group

The challenge is to actually avoid becoming one of these because this is the inherited form of church for anyone who has spent time in a church.

- B. What it Is?
 - 1. General Definition
 - a. Community, Mission
 - 2. Examples
 - a. Missional Community (Austin Stone, Tangible Kingdom)
 - b. Gospel Community (Crowded House, Kaleo)
 - 3. City Groups (ACL, Sojourn)
 - a. Where the church is the church to one another and the city.
 - b. A city-focused community gathered around the gospel.

Missional Communities in Acts 29 are deliberately Gospel-centered. How do we inculcate and cultivate the Gospel DNA without becoming a Bible Study? How do we stay true to a GCM dna in MCs?

II. How to Form Missional Communities

- A. MC Principles: *"Raise the problem of mission solve it with the solution of the gospel in the context of community."*
 - 1. Mission
 - a. INCH
 - b. Build it in but make is ordinary (8 Ways)
 - c. Everyday Life with unbelievers
 - 2. Community
 - a. Not two events MC and Sunday
 - b. Steady State Community
 - c. Everyday Life (tweet, text, meals, gym, shopping, mission)
 - 3. Gospel
 - a. Leaders (Modeling)
 - b. Sermons (Discussing)
 - c. Teaching (Knowledge)
 - d. Training (Skill)
 - e. Resources (Stuff)
- B. MC Practices – come back to these over and over again. Never tire.
 - 1. Michael Frost, *Exiles*)

- 2. ACL Practices
 - a. SHARE *life and truth*
 - b. PRAY *for one another and the city*
 - c. ENGAGE *peoples and cultures*
 - d. LOVE *one another*
- 3. Soma Rhythms
 - a. BLESS
 - b. LOVE
 - c. SERVE
 - d. EAT
 - e. PRAY

III. How to Lead Missional Communities

- A. Leader
 - 1. Hi Bar/Low Bar?
 - a. Missional Churches don't reach mature leaders? Seminary perspective on Church.
 - b. Christendom Shift.
 - 2. Challenge of Leadership: How do we cultivate mature leaders?
 - a. **Observe:** Don't give people a leadership/exemplary position unless they are already leading/exemplary (in G, C, M). We often say more than we do.
 - b. **Inquire:** Require potential leaders to fill out an application – screen people. Don't rely on this exclusively. People know the right answers (sometimes) but don't always live them.
 - c. **Train:** Move them from inexperienced to experienced, untrained to trained. (Coaching, Training, Monthly Meetings, Resources)
- B. Meetings
 - 1. Reminder
 - 2. Shared Leadership (urban)
 - 3. Don't make Prayer a tack on!!
- C. Gatherings
 - 1. Cast Vision - Deconstruct-Reconstruct Church winsomely
 - 2. Spotlight – let the church preach to the church
 - 3. City Group Sermon Application – don't just apply to individuals and families; apply to City Groups
- D. Pastoral Leadership
 - 1. Vision/Church Culture
 - 2. Lead and Participate in them
 - 3. Coach MC leaders
 - 4. Visit MCs
 - 5. Read
 - 6. Be ready to adjust and refine as church grows