

Emerging Missional Church

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Very little of what we do in the church is multiplication.

At best we see addition, and it's very common to see subtraction and division.
God has created all of us to be reproducers, and that isn't limited by structures.

Multiplication is not addition.

Addition is better than subtraction or division, but the population of the world is multiplying.

Gathering and assimilating Christians from other churches is not multiplication.

You cannot use addition methods to get multiplication results.

Church must be self-perpetuating and self-propagating. To reproduce we must lower the bar on how we do church and raise the bar on what we mean by making disciples.

All reproduction begins on the cellular level. The church must develop from the micro to the macro--disciples to leaders, leaders to churches, churches to movements.

The church is only good as its disciples. Everyone should be first a disciple of Jesus, connected to Jesus. If you want a healthy church, you must have healthy disciples.

Leadership is about influence, and we need influence that expands beyond time and space. We must pass it on to others. Every one of us should be making disciples.

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Three ways to move your church toward being a missional community:

1. Move from an internal to external ministry focus.

It's not moving from internal to external activity, but a shift of focus. It's a move from being church-centric to being kingdom oriented. God's redemptive mission has always been played out beyond us. We must be realigned to join God's mission. Our job is to be a blessing to the world. It's better to say to people, "How can I help you?" than "You are going to hell to burn forever." As we reflect God's heart, he creates conversation that he uses as a homing device to draw people. Intentional acts of kindness give us the opportunity to have spiritual conversations with people.

2. Move from a program-driven to people-development culture.

Programs won't survive eternity—people will. People are on God's mind all the time. Creating a people-development culture is very labor intensive. It requires that I walk with you and find out what's going on. People need to make sense out of their lives by debriefing. Ask them questions: What was your biggest surprise this week? Biggest challenge? The idea of rehearsing your life with someone is the same idea as prayer. Prayer was intended as a debrief with God, not the idea of how to say things right.

3. Move from a church-based leadership to a community-engaged leadership.

Nobody had a church staff in the second century. We keep trying to create leaders to run church staff, but that's a shrink-wrap of God's design. They are already deployed in the world. Why are we pulling people back into the church and putting them back on ice? The people that understand *missional church* right away are people who have significant leadership in the world, not in the church. They know that somehow they are supposed to be the church 24/7. They don't need to know how to be better church members, but how to be deployed in the world.