

**Title:** It's Time...for Churches to Discover and Fulfill their God-Given Mission      **Date:** February 28, 2010



1. If you could go anywhere in the world to be a missionary, where would you go? What would your main task be? How would you accomplish that task?
2. Review first lesson in series: 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21. What Biblical passage best summarizes the Gospel to you?
3. The Missional Church—Revisited
  - a. What are two traps for today's Church? What are the problems with these approaches?
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Another way to look at missional is to compare it to maintenance church.

Programs	Presence
Attendance	Action
Meetings	Ministries

Situation	Statement	Which one does it represent?	
		Missional	Maintenance
When measuring the effectiveness	How many disciples are being made?		
	How many pastoral visits are being made?		
	How many visitors have come to our church?		
	How many members have we sent?		
When contemplating some form of change	If this upsets any of our members, we won't do it.		
	If this will reach anyone outside of our faith community, we will risk it.		
When thinking about change	How will this align us to God's mission?		
	How will this affect me?		
When thinking of its vision for ministry	We have to hold on to our past.		
	We have to be faithful to our future.		
When looking at the community	How can we go and be engaged with these people?		
	How can we get these people to come to our church?		
Chief preoccupations	Its congregation, its structure, its organization, its constitution, its committees		
	Relating to the culture and understanding how those who don't know Jesus think—determining their needs and accessibility to the Gospel		
Underlying motive	How can we save this congregation?		
	How can we extend the kingdom and reach the world?		

- c. Strange statement—"The missional church is not about the church". Roxburgh
  - i. It is not about how to make the church better.
  - ii. It is not about how to get more people to come to the church.
  - iii. It is not about turning around a church that is dying.
  - iv. It is not about making the church culturally more acceptable and central to society.
- d. Why is it so hard to define "missional church"?
  - i. Part of the problem is that certain things come to mind when you hear the words "mission" and "church". What do you think about when you hear each of these words?
  - ii. Part of the problem is that there is no one model for becoming a missional church.
  - iii. The idea is to join God on God's mission. Why would this make us uncomfortable?

e. Snapshots of the Missional Church

- i. Cultural Context—Move from modern to postmodern
  - 1. Christian worldview is no longer main influence.
  - 2. Church is no longer at the center of community life.
  - 3. Many people live by their own personal philosophies.
  - 4. There is considerable cultural and religious diversity.
  - 5. There is a great interest in the spiritual, the supernatural, and the paranormal.
- ii. Denominational Context
  - 1. Churches feel less allegiance or loyalty to denomination.
  - 2. Denominations continue to fragment and realign.
  - 3. Churches seek out multiple partnerships and affiliations.
  - 4. The role of denominations will move to networking people without controlling the local church.
- iii. The Congregational Context—10 Missional Trends

From this approach	To this approach
Denominational	Partnering
Program-based	Lifestyle
Delegated	Participatory
Clergy-led	Celebrating gifts of laity
Fragmented view of Gospel	Holistic view of Gospel
Geopolitical	Ethnolinguistic
Monological	Dialogical (based on relationships)
Prayer support	Prayer as missions
Law	Love

- iv. How have we seen changes in each of these areas in our church? In our community?
- f. Some quotations to ponder
  - i. “A missional church empowers its people to use their passions (gifts) on purpose to be the presence of Christ in the world, whether anyone joins the church or not.” –How can Augusta Heights Baptist Church help its members use their passions and gifts in this way? How do you feel about the last part of this statement?
  - ii. “Missional churches are ones that see their purpose for existence as incarnating the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and thus extending the mission of God.”—What do you see as Augusta Heights Baptist Church’s purpose for existence?
- g. “The church of today will find doing effective ministry more difficult because: We are too proud to cry. We are too nice to sweat. We are too sophisticated to laugh. We are too busy to celebrate!”—What do these statements mean to you? What do we need to do to be more intentional about being missional?
- h. Some final thoughts for discussion
  - i. “There are more Muslims in America than Presbyterians” (p. 19).
  - ii. “Established churches that become missional will do so only with intentional and persevering leadership; and even then, it will not be without pain” (p. 29).
  - iii. Shocking Statistics: The average church member has been a Christian 20 years, heard 4,000 sermons, sung 20,000 songs, and participated in 8, 000 prayers. The average member has brought no one to Christ.

**A closing prayer...** Oh Lord, you have called us, the members of Augusta Heights Baptist Church, your servants, to ventures where we cannot see the destination. The paths before us have not yet been trod upon and we face unknown dangers and great uncertainty. Give us the desire, the energy, and the faith to step out of our comfort zones and to follow your lead knowing that your love holds us up and your Spirit both empowers us and shows us the way.

