



## Inside the Missional Mindset

You have already received a mailing describing the details of our May missions conference, so I will not repeat them here. We have a great line-up of speakers: two with an international focus, and two local. And please know that you are invited to join with the missions teams as we take the Hursts and Stewarts out for lunch after each of their sharing at our Sunday worship service.

What I want to do with this space is talk more about our theme, ***Inside the Missional Mindset***. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century Christianity became a truly worldwide movement, with churches established on every continent and among every major cultural group. The great modern missionary movement has been a truly successful enterprise. On the other hand, while modern missions have led to an expansion of Christianity through the world, Christianity in North America has moved (or been moved) away from its position of dominance. It has not only experienced the loss of numbers, but of power and influence within society. It is now appropriate to speak of North America as a mission field. The struggle for us, as a north American church, is how are we going to respond to this challenge?

The basic thesis of Darrell Gruder and others involved in the "Missional Church" movement is that the answers to the crisis will not be found at the level of methodology and problem solving. In other words, the answer is not in tweaking the things we do on Sunday morning. The problem is much more deeply rooted. It has to do with our understanding of who we are and why we are here. The real issues in the current crisis of the North American church are spiritual and theological.

One way of describing our problem is that we see "mission" as one activity we do as a church. Mission has become just one of many programs within the church. As a result, neither the structures nor the theology of our established Western traditional churches is *missional*. But is that really biblical? When we look at the scriptures, we see that mission is the result of God's initiative, rooted in God's purposes to restore and heal creation. "Mission" means "sending," and it is the central biblical theme describing the purpose of God's action in human history. ("As the father has sent me, so I send you." *John 20:21*). Bishop Newbigin and others have helped many to see that God's mission is calling and sending us, the church of Jesus Christ, to be a missionary force in our societies, in the cultures in which we find ourselves.

It has taken the North American church decades to realize that mission is not just a program of the church. Mission must define the church as God's sent people. Either we are defined by mission, or we reduce the scope of the gospel and God's mandate to the church. Therefore the challenge for today's church is to move from *church with mission* to *missional church*.

I hope you'll jump in and join us for this month long exploration ***"Inside the Missional Mindset"***. I think that you will find it helpful as we continue to move forward with the results of our congregational survey and our desire, as a church, to make a difference in our community. We need to develop our own missional mindset as disciples of Jesus in Seattle.

## The Pastor's Letter

- by Bill Glad



### Are You Rested?

I've been reflecting on Lent and our push to make this a season of rest. How successful was it? Do you feel rested? Personally, I felt like there were many small triumphs in simply choosing quiet instead of turning on the radio, having "reading evenings" as a household, and even choosing to go to bed earlier. There was more prayer for me and increased attentiveness to God through the day. On the other hand, I've come out of the season of Lent more tired than when it began. Obviously, Becky's cancer was a huge part of this, with both the busyness of doctors visits and the emotional strain of dealing with illness. We had more visitors from out of town, and it seemed that our circumstances conspired against us to keep us busy.

So many things go into feeling rested. How well we eat, quality of sleep, decisions to prune unnecessary activity, choosing time with God... But as I have come away from Lent, it seems to me that there is a deeper issue that is more fundamental than all these. It goes back to the first Nooma DVD we saw called "Dust". Rob Bell talked about the familiar verses from Matthew 11:28-30 where Jesus says, "*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*" For all of my Christian life, when I heard these words I pictured an oxen yoke in my mind's eye, wondering how something as cumbersome as that could bring rest! The answer, presumably, was that yokes are built for two oxen, so we weren't pulling alone but with Jesus.

As Rob Bell explained, a "yoke" was a way of referring to a Rabbi's teaching. So to take Jesus' yoke upon us means that we are learning how to put his

words into practice. It's learning how to live life Jesus' way. And this makes much more sense given that the sentence ends "Take my yoke upon you *and learn from me*!" We are tired because we haven't yet learned how to live life Jesus' way. In this sense, rest-oration comes not so much from inactivity, but activity that is aligned with God's purpose and design.

This is why I am still so excited about what we are pursuing through the congregational survey and this year's missions conference. Both of these endeavors are focused on how we, as a congregation, can become "missional" in our life together. When I say missional, I think back to the beginning of the Bible, in Genesis 1:26-28 where we learn that we are created in God's likeness (identity) and as His partners in ruling creation (purpose). In my mind, being "missional" is moving in our God-given identity and purpose. As we discover concrete ways for us to serve the community around us and put God's kingdom on display, I believe we will find the rest we so long for. But one thing that scares me is the realization that this happens, not by adding it on to everything else, but by making it our number one priority.

Years ago a famous psychologist was asked on a radio talk show what advice he would give to someone who was struggling. His answer was very simple. "Go find somebody worse off than you are and try to love them." Couldn't this be a summary of Jesus' yoke? We were made for love. We were created to serve. Or, as the prophet Micah put it, we were created "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God." This is the dynamic of life in God's kingdom that Francis of Assisi captured in his prayer centuries ago. "O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. It is in dying that we are born to eternal life." This is the secret, really the mystery, of true rest. We find rest as we give ourselves fully to living the Jesus way.

## Do You Want to be Initiated?

By Andrea Zikakis

As an infant, my parent's had me baptized to declare their desire that I grow up in obedience to God. It wasn't until many years later that I began to understand my longings for God and His love for me. As an adult, I gave my life to Jesus. Without doubt, it was a real exchange. Somehow, the Holy Spirit revealed that Christ wanted all of me, not just a prayer or a portion, but everything. I got it, and when I got it, I wanted to enter into baptism on my own accord.

Baptism is a public proclamation that visibly and verbally acknowledges Jesus Christ is Lord. In fact, in the early church, baptism was considered the initiation rite into the Christian life. The bible is clear that we are called to be baptized: it is an act of obedience. But beyond obedience, it is a mystery. Somehow through the act of baptism, the Christ-follower symbolically understands that he or she is buried with Christ (going under the water), cleansed by Christ (through the water) and risen in Christ (coming out of the water.) In a very real way, baptism immerses us into Jesus.

If you have not been baptized (at all or as an adult) and would like to take this step of faith, we encourage you to be baptized on May 20th. If you are interested, please contact the church office to talk to a pastor.

## Serving Our Neighbors for Jesus – Missions Month, 2007

During the month of May, CC Children's Ministries will focus on getting to know our neighbors:

- Our global neighbors who are here on furlough: The Hursts and the Stewarts
- Our personal neighbors and our church neighbors

We want to figure out how we can care for the physical and emotional needs of our neighbors, just like the good Samaritan did, in order to share the gospel. To this end, we will be participating in two outreach projects:

- **Our global neighbors:**

- The Hurst family is going to Congo. Because of the inaccessibility to consumer goods in this country, the Hursts must buy many of their major household items here in the United States before they go. These items are much cheaper when purchased here, and then shipped in a large container to Congo. We would like to raise enough money to help the Hursts buy an electric stove. The cost for this item is approximately \$500.
- The Stewarts are finding new ways to bring the gospel to villages outside the city they live in. Jon would like to purchase a video Ipad to use as a vehicle for carrying Bible lessons and the Jesus video to teach new Christians in these villages. This would be a more discreet way of bringing this information to the villages than hand carrying bags of Bibles or literature. For this project, we will be raising \$350.

*For both of these projects, we will be asking children to place spare change in small banks at home. They will be able to turn in their change on each Sunday of May.*

- **An outreach to the Green Lake Church neighborhood:**

- We will be organizing a clean-up hour during church on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Children will get to participate in a walk around the neighborhood, using their eyes and hands to observe who lives here and making our church neighborhood a cleaner place. We will need a few extra volunteers on this day, as well as walking permission slips for children.

Doing and talking about it can be a great learning experience! It's our goal to combine good teaching on sharing the gospel, serving our neighbors, and growing in following Jesus during Missions Month this year! Come join with us and see us impact our neighbors for Jesus! **Kids can do it!**

**Questions? Ideas? Want to volunteer? Contact Connie Schutte at [connie@ccseattle.org](mailto:connie@ccseattle.org)**

### Wahoo! Summer Children's Church!

This summer, we are excited to be bring a dynamic VBS called "Avalanche Ranch" to our children's church classrooms. Wahoo! "Avalanche Ranch" is a Bible based program where kids will enjoy upbeat worship songs, wild Bible Adventures, fun Horseplay Games, creative Cowpoke Crafts. The children will become reacquainted with their favorite chipmunk, Chatter, from 2 summers ago. We are rolling out the VBS to all the classrooms from toddlers through Grade 5 this year, so even our youngest children will get to experience the fun of Avalanche Ranch.



During the summer, the structure of Children's Church at Calvary Chapel is a bit different than the rest of the year because we combine the kindergarten through grade 5 kids in one big group. They experience the VBS all together. It is also different because we use the Vacation Bible School curriculum, which is very easy to teach from, instead of a "regular" curriculum. That brings me to my next point: which is of course that we need both lead teachers and assistants to help out in our classrooms this summer! During the months of July and August, we give our regular dedicated teachers a much needed break from teaching, and we staff our classrooms with temporary leaders.

We are looking for:

- \* **Leaders** to facilitate Avalanche Ranch activities for kindergarten through Grade 5 kids: worship, drama, snacks, games, video theater, and crafts
- \* **Assistants** to help guide kindergarten through Grade 5 kids
- \* **Leaders and Assistants** to teach in the preschool classroom (ages 3 and 4 year olds)
- \* **Leaders and Assistants** to teach in the toddler classroom (ages 18 months up to age 3)

We will need at least 10 teachers per week for the 10 weeks of summer, so that is a lot of volunteers! If you have had experience working with children in some capacity before, it would be great to have your help as a lead. All of the curriculum will be provided for you. As mentioned before, I especially appreciate that this VBS is very easy to teach! To help as an assistant, you don't need any experience or skills besides a love of God and children. We will provide training for all volunteers. There is no a minimum number of weeks you can help out, but teaching for consecutive weeks is ideal for both volunteers and children. If you have questions or would like to sign up to help out in July or August or the first weekend of September, please contact Kristen Okabayashi at [skokab@aol.com](mailto:skokab@aol.com) or (206) 937-7900, or Connie Schutte at [connie@ccseattle.org](mailto:connie@ccseattle.org). Thanks!



Calvary Chapel meets at the Green Lake Church, 6350 E. Green Lake Way N.  
 Phone: 206.633.4134  
<http://www.ccseattle.org>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>May is Missions Month</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Missions Team Meeting 7:30 PM</p> <p>Bill &amp; Kris H.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Prayer Meeting at the Lijja's—8:30 PM TG 7:00 PM @ the church</p> <p>Troy S.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Elder Meeting 7:00 PM</p> <p>Michelle H.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Harry &amp; Kathleen L.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Connie S.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Intercession – 8:00 AM Worship—Communion 10:00 AM</p> <p>New Comers Lunch-12PM</p> <p>David &amp; Amy L.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Becky Z.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Garett B. &amp; Michelle Q.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>TG 7:00 PM @ the church</p> <p>Jim &amp; Chikako M.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Jerry &amp; Daelene K.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Doug W.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Troy S.</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Intercession – 8:00 AM Worship—Prayer &amp; Anointing 10:00 AM</p> <p>Happy Mother's Day!</p> <p>Ian H.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Scott &amp; Kristen O.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Rena C.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Prayer Meeting at the Lijja's—8:30 PM TG 7:00 PM @ the church</p> <p>Erik L.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Elder Meeting 7:00 PM</p> <p>Lauren H.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Andrea Z. &amp; Angie D.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Kay S.</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Intercession – 8:00 AM Worship—Prayer &amp; Anointing 10:00 AM</p> <p>Water Baptism—11:30 AM Worship Night 6:30—8:00 PM</p> <p>Jeff &amp; Jeanie D.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Greg &amp; Lisa D.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Mark &amp; Jessica B.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>TG 7:00 PM @ the church</p> <p>John &amp; Linda C.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bill &amp; Becky G.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Steve &amp; Annabelle R.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Lorelle J.</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Intercession – 8:00 AM Worship—Kids in Worship 10:00 AM</p> <p>Renee L.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Wendy A.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bill &amp; Kris H.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>TG 7:00 PM @ the church</p> <p>Troy S.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Michelle H.</p>	<p>The names on each day represent the current schedule for Prayer &amp; Fasting. If you would like to join the rotation please contact the office.</p>	



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