

Das Gleiche auf Deutsch aber nur die Thesen:

## Friend Of Missional – Kennzeichen einer missionalen Gemeinde

9. Oktober 2006

Was macht eine missionale Gemeinde aus?

- Menschen erkennen und erfahren auf's Neue ihre Identität und Berufung darin, Gesandte Jesu zu sein
- Ihre Glieder wollen in ihrem spezifischen Umfeld kulturübergreifend als Volk Gottes leben
- Kulturelles Engagement, ohne von der Kultur aufgesogen zu werden
- Aufgrund der Einsicht, dass Gott überall gegenwärtig ist, besteht keine Notwendigkeit, Menschen aus ihrer Kultur heraus an einen "heiligen Ort" zu bringen
- Die Absicht, alle Arten von missionalen Gemeinschaften zu gründen
- Verkündigung des Evangeliums in Wort und Tat
- Alle Aktivitäten und Vorgehensweisen werden an der missio Dei, der Mission/Sendung Gottes ausgerichtet
- Das Wohl des Nächsten steht über dem eigenen
- Integrität, Charakter, Moral, Leidenschaft, Liebe und das Leben aus der Auferstehungshoffnung heraus haben einen höheren Stellenwert als das wohlformulierte mündliche Glaubensbekenntnis
- In Gastfreundschaft werden Fremde in die Gemeinschaft aufgenommen
- Eine missionale Gemeinde versteht sich als familiäre Gemeinschaft mit einer gemeinsamen Mission
- Der Wunsch, Jesus zu repräsentieren und seinem Namen Ehre zu bringen
- Eine in allen Belangen absolute Abhängigkeit von Gott, die in's Gebet führt
- Ein orthodoxes Verständnis von Evangelium und Heiliger Schrift bei gleichzeitiger kultureller Relevanz in Handeln und Methodik
- Der Umgang mit der Bibel ist Teil des Alltagslebens
- Alle Glieder befinden sich auf dem Weg der Nachfolge Jesu und wachsen in sein Bild
- Menschen werden dabei unterstützt, ihre von Gott geschenkten Gaben und Fähigkeiten zu entdecken, zu entwickeln und zu gebrauchen
- Eine heilende Gemeinschaft, in der die Lasten des Nächsten getragen werden
- ...

Quelle: [Friend of Missional](#) (Auswahl und Übersetzung: DoSi)

## Friend of Missional – Kennzeichen einer missionalen Gemeinde II

11. Oktober 2006

Was eine missionale Gemeinde **nicht** ist:

- ein Angebot für geistliche Güter, bei dem sich jeder bedienen kann
- ein Ort, an dem reife Christen gefüttert werden und ihre Bedürfnisse gestillt bekommen
- ein Ort, an dem "Hauptamtliche" angestellt werden, um die Arbeit der Gemeinde zu erledigen

- ein Ort, an dem “Hauptamtliche” Kinder und Jugendliche unterrichten, um die Eltern aus der Verantwortung zu nehmen
- eine Gemeinde mit einem Programm (oder einer Abteilung) für “Mission” – die Menschen sind das Programm für die Mission; sie gehen nach “Jerusalem, Judäa, Samaria und bis an die Enden der Erde”
- eine neue Strategie zur Evangelisation
- missional, weil das eben zeitgemäß, hip, postmodern, sucherorientiert, traditionell oder sonstwas ist
- fokussiert auf Programme und Organisationen, die Gottes Mission erfüllen sollen. Das bedeutet nicht dass es keine Programme oder Organisationen geben muß, aber sie treiben die Mission nicht an, sondern dienen den Menschen, die gesandt sind.
- auf eine politische Partei hin orientiert

Quelle: [Friend of Missional](#) (Übersetzung: DoSi)

## **Friend of Missional – Kennzeichen einer missionalen Gemeinde**

### **III**

11. Oktober 2006

Einer missionalen Gemeinde kommt es nicht nur darauf an,

- ... wie viele Menschen in den Gottesdienst kommen, sondern wie vielen Menschen die Gemeinde dient
- ... wie viele Menschen ihrem Dienst beitreten, sondern wie viele Menschen zum Dienst befähigt wurden
- ... wie viele Menschen in der Gemeinde dienen, sondern wie viele Menschen außerhalb der Gemeinde dienen
- ... ihre Glieder heil zu machen, sondern sie zu befähigen, ihrer Umgebung Heilung zu bringen
- ... wie viele Dienst sie beginnt, sondern wie viele Dienst sie unterstützt
- ... wie viele Ungläubige zur Glaubensgemeinschaft stoßen, sondern wie viele “Gläubige” gesunde Gemeinschaft erfahren
- ... die Verletzung der Vergangenheit aufzuarbeiten, sondern gemeinsam mit dem Heiligen Geist danach zu streben, ganz zu werden
- ... mit der Kultur in Verbindung zu treten, sondern sich mit der Kultur auseinanderzusetzen und sich in ihr zu engagieren
- ... einzelnen Menschen Frieden zu bringen, sondern der Welt
- ... in ihrem Auftrag effektiv zu sein, sondern Gott gegenüber treu
- ... Einheit in der Ortsgemeinde anzustreben, sondern Einheit der Christen am Ort und in der Welt
- ... den biblischen Text in allen Details auszulegen, sondern treu in der Geschichte Gottes zu leben
- ... sich um das Wohlergehen der eigenen Nation zu sorgen, sondern das anderer Länder
- ... wie viele Menschen sie in’s Reich Gottes bringt, sondern wie viel vom Reich Gottes sie auf die Erde bringt

Quelle: [Friend of Missional](#) (Übersetzung: DoSi)

*One important note before you continue: On this website, the term "church" refers to the people of God; the called out ones; those formed for his dwelling and bearers of his presence in the world. It doesn't refer to a building, denomination or physical location. So when you read "church," think of yourself and your faith community, not that building you go to each Sunday.*

In an article titled, "The 'Missional Church': A Model for Canadian Churches?" David Horrox writes, "The church should stop mimicking the surrounding culture and become an alternative community, with a different set of beliefs, values and behaviors. Ministers would no longer engage in marketing; churches would no longer place primary emphasis on programs to serve members. The traditional ways of evaluating 'successful churches' – bigger buildings, more people, bigger budgets, larger ministerial staff, new and more programs to serve members – would be rejected. New yardsticks would be the norm: To what extent is our church a 'sent' community in which each believer is reaching out to his community? To what extent is our church impacting the community with a Christian message that challenges the values of our secular society?"

Dan Kimball in "The Emerging Church" (Zondervan, 2003) describes the missional church "as a body of people sent on a mission who gather in community for worship, encouragement, and teaching from the Word that supplements what they are feeding themselves throughout the week."

Both Horrox and Kimball capture much of the essence and heart of what it means to be missional, but can we probe deeper and articulate a more definitive understanding? I think we can and what follows is an imperfect attempt to explore and develop our appreciation of what it means to be missional.

### **Missional is a Shift in Thinking**

But first a necessary word of caution for those who wish to explore and understand what it means to be a missional church or people. Alan Hirsch rightly states that "the word 'missional' over the years has tended to become very fluid and as it was quickly co-opted by those wishing to find new and trendy tags for what they themselves were doing, be they missional or not. It is often used as a substitute it for seeker-sensitive, cell-group church, or other church growth concepts, thus obscuring its original meaning." As a result, missional is often looked upon as just another phase or program. But we error when we do so for missional is more than just another movement, it is a full expression of who the ekklesia of Christ is and what it is called to be and do. At its core, missional is a shift in thinking. This shift in thinking is expressed by Ed Stetzer and David Putman in their book, "Breaking the Missional Code" (Broadman & Holman, 2006) like this:

- From programs to processes
- From demographics to discernment
- From models to missions
- From attractional to incarnational
- From uniformity to diversity
- From professional to passionate
- From seating to sending
- From decisions to disciples
- From additional to exponential
- From monuments to movements

Making this shift can be difficult for many (particularly Evangelical Americans), but to fully appreciate what the missional church is, we must look outside of our traditional understanding of how we do church and realign ourselves with the biblical narrative. So, as you consider the

following "description," don't attempt to understand it within your traditional framework, shift your thinking.

## Description of a Missional Church

- A missional church is a collection of missional believers acting in concert together in fulfillment of the [missio dei](#).<sup>1</sup>
- A missional church is one where people are exploring and rediscovering what it means to be Jesus' sent people as their identity and vocation.
- A missional church is individuals willing and ready to be Christ's people in their own situation and place.
- A missional church knows that they must be a cross-cultural missionary (contextual) people and adopt a missionary stance in relation to their community.
- A missional church will be engaged with the culture (in the world) without being absorbed by the culture (not of the world). They will become intentionally indigenous.
- A missional church understands that God is already present in the culture where it finds itself. Therefore, a missional church doesn't view its purpose as bringing God into the culture or taking individuals out of the culture to a sacred space.
- A missional church is about more than just being contextual, it is also about the nature of the church and how it relates to God.
- A missional church will seek to plant all types of missional communities.
- A missional church is evangelistic and faithfully proclaims the gospel through word *and* deed. Words alone are not sufficient; how the gospel is embodied in our community and service is as important as what we say.
- A missional church understands the power of the gospel and does not lose confidence in it.
- A missional church will align all their activities around the [missio dei](#) -- the mission of God.
- A missional church seeks to put the good of their neighbor over their own.
- A missional church will give integrity, morality, good character and conduct, compassion, love and a resurrection life filled with hope preeminence to give credence to their reasoned verbal witness.
- A missional church practices hospitality by welcoming the stranger into the midst of the community.
- A missional church will see themselves as a community or family on a mission together. There are no "Lone Ranger" Christians in a missional church.
- A missional church will see themselves as representatives of Jesus and will do nothing to dishonor his name.
- A missional church will be totally reliant on God in all it does. It will move beyond superficial faith to a life of supernatural living.
- A missional church will be desperately dependent on prayer.
- A missional church gathered will be for the purpose of worship, encouragement, supplemental teaching, training, and to seek God's presence and to be realigned with God's missionary purpose.
- A missional church is orthodox in its view of the gospel and scripture, but culturally relevant in its methods and practice so that it can engage the worldview of the hearers.
- A missional church will feed deeply on the scriptures throughout the week.
- A missional church will be a community where all members are involved in learning "the way of Jesus." Spiritual development is an expectation.

### What is Missional - A Short Answer

"Jesus told us to go into all the world and be his ambassadors, but many churches today have inadvertently changed the "go and be" command to a "come and see" appeal. We have grown attached to buildings, programs, staff and a wide variety of goods and services designed to attract and entertain people.

"Missional is a helpful term used to describe what happens when you and I replace the "come to us" invitations with a "go to them" life. A life where "the way of Jesus" informs and radically transforms our existence to one wholly focused on sacrificially living for him and others and where we adopt a missionary stance in relation to our culture. It speaks of the very nature of the Jesus follower."

---Rick Meigs

- A missional church will help people discover and develop their spiritual gifts and will rely on gifted people for ministry instead of talented people.
- A missional church is a healing community where people carry each other's burdens and help restore gently.
- A missional church will require that its leaders be missiologists.

1. From [Brother Maynard](#)

## What a Missional Church is Not

- A missional church is not a dispenser of religious goods and services or a place where people come for their weekly spiritual fix.
- A missional church is not a place where mature Christians come to be fed and have their needs met.
- A missional church is not a place where "professionals" are hired to do all the work of the church.
- A missional church is not a place where the "professionals" teach the children and youth about God to the exclusion of parental responsibility.
- A missional church is not a church with a "good missions program." The people are the missions program and includes going to "Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- A missional church is not about a new strategy for evangelism.
- A missional church is not missional **just because** it is contemporary, young, hip, postmodern-sensitive, seeker-sensitive or even traditional.
- A missional church is not about big programs and organizations to accomplish God's missionary purpose. This does not imply no program or organization, but that they will not drive mission. They will be used in support of people on mission.
- A missional church is not involved in political **party** activism, either on the right or left. As Brian McLaren wrote, we need "purple peoplehood" — people who don't want to be defined as red or blue, but have elements of both.

### Etymology of Missional

**Definition:** "Relating to or connected with a religious mission; missionary."

**Part of Speech:** Adjective. An adjective modifies a noun or a pronoun by describing, identifying, or quantifying words. An adjective usually precedes the noun or the pronoun which it modifies.

**Etymology:** From the word missionalism which is a noun meaning, "missionary work or activity."

**First Usage:** 1907 in W. G. HOLMES' *Age Justinian & Theodora II*. Page 687. Quote: "Several prelates, whose *missional* activities brought over whole districts and even nationalities to their creed" (emphasis added).

(Reference: Oxford English Dictionary)

**Modern Usage:** The first missiologist using the term "missional" in its modern understanding was Francis DuBose in his book, *God Who Sends* (Broadman Press, 1983). By the 1990's the term began to appear more and more in such books as *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America* (Edited by Darrell L. Guder) and the works of Lesslie Newbigin.

## What a Missional Church Looks Like

JR Woodward at [Dream Awakener](#) has a perspective on success that really helps my understanding of missional. His post "[A Working Definition of Success](#)" provides a working definition of what missional might look like. Here it is:

- Not simply how many people come to our church services, but how many people our church serves.
- Not simply how many people attend our ministry, but how many people have we equipped for ministry.
- Not simply how many people minister inside the church, but how many minister outside the church.

- Not simply helping people become more whole themselves, but helping people bring more wholeness to their world. (i.e. justice, healing, relief)
- Not simply how many ministries we start, but how many ministries we help.
- Not simply how many unbelievers we bring into the community of faith, but how many 'believers' we help experience healthy community.
- Not simply working through our past hurts, but working alongside the Spirit toward wholeness.
- Not simply counting the resources that God gives us to steward, but counting how many good stewards are we developing for the sake of the world.
- Not simply how we are connecting with our culture but how we are engaging our culture.
- Not simply how much peace we bring to individuals, but how much peace we bring to our world.
- Not simply how effective we are with our mission, but how faithful we are to our God.
- Not simply how unified our local church is, but how unified is "the church" in our neighborhood, city and world?
- Not simply how much we immerse ourselves in the text, but how faithfully we live in the story of God.
- Not simply being concerned about how our country is doing, but being concern for the welfare of other countries.
- Not simply how many people we bring into the kingdom, but how much of the kingdom we bring to the earth.

### **An Invitation to Dialog**

I'm interested in a conversation about my description of what a missional church would and would not look like. Your perspective is important since mine will be colored by my journey and American experience.

#### **Reading List**

[Click here](#) for a basic reading list on the subject of missional and missional church.

Got a suggestion, comment, rephrasing, addition, or comment, drop me an email at rickm AT meigs DOT org .

### **Be a Catalyst for Missional**

Got a passion for missional? People want to know more and enter the missional conversation. They are looking for sites where they can do so. We can help introduce them to your missional blog or website. Further, you can help familiarize others with the missional paradigm by displaying the "Friend of Missional" graphic (below) on your website or blog and linking to this site. If you do so, send us an email (rick AT blindbeggar DOT org) with your website url and we will add you to our list of linking sites (see list below).

Von <http://www.friendofmissional.org/>