

Missional Churches are Sending Churches

by Kevin Wilson

*From the Missional Bible Studies series
of the Center for U.S. Missions*

Time of Gathering

Discuss changes that have occurred in churches the past 10 to 20 years. What are the most significant changes? What inspired these changes? Why were these changes implemented?

God is a Sending God

Read the following the Bible passages. What do they say about God and “sending?”

1 John 4:9-10

Galatians 4:4-6

John 14:23-26

Jesus Practiced “Sending”

Compare and contrast the following two Bible passages: Mark 6:6b-13 and Luke 10:1-11

Similarities:

Differences:

Missional Churches are Sending Churches

Discuss the following examples of churches “sending” people to do ministry in the community.

- + St. Andrew Lutheran Church adopted a local public elementary school. Members were sent to serve as classroom volunteers, tutors and fund raisers.
- + Word of Life Lutheran Church decided that groups with fewer than 12 people would not meet in the church facility. Instead, these groups had to meet in homes, businesses and public areas.
- + When St. Paul’s Lutheran Church called an associate pastor, they sent the associate pastor and 15 families to start a second campus 20 miles from the original church campus.

Objections to Sending

Read the following Bible passages. Identify the objections people had to being sent and how God responded to the objection.

I Samuel 16:1-5

Exodus 4:10-16

Acts 9:10-19

Blessings of Sending

Read the passages. Discuss why Christians were being sent and the results of being sent.

Colossians 4:7-8

Philippians 2:19

Acts 13:1-3

Philippians 2:25-30

Why Send?

Missional Churches send members into the community for five primary reasons.

- + So people who have no _____ in churches can be _____ to Christ.
- + Build _____ between the _____ and the _____.
- + Provide the opportunity for _____ to _____ the faith of members who take the risk of serving in the community.
- + Train and _____ members to _____ as people who are sent by God into the world.
- + Start _____ so God's _____ of sending people will continue.

Time of Sending

As a class, identify different opportunities for class members to be “sent” out in the name of Jesus this week. Each member should follow through with one opportunity. Report back about the experience in the coming weeks.

January 2007. Rev. Kevin Wilson is a Mission and Ministry Facilitator for the Ohio District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Accompanying Leaders' Guide is also available from the Center for U.S. Missions.