

Changing the Scorecard:
Measurement on the Mission Field
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Millions of people around the world are glued to the television, tracking and keeping score on the race to the World Series of Major League Baseball. The old scorecards may have anticipated Yankees and Cardinals, or Angels and Braves, but sliding into home are the White Sox and Astros. And for some of us, it feels as though someone has changed the scorecard.

When congregations adopt a *missionary approach*, it will change the scorecard.

Some congregation scorecards are a basic reflection of member core values: items such as how many people attend worship services, make financial contributions and participate in classes and congregational activities. Then these numbers are often used to compare one church with another. Meanwhile, the typical congregational “scorecard questions” asked by many denominations are questions which reflect the age of the “churched culture,” when almost everyone was a practicing Christian who went to church. Unfortunately, this kind of scorecard can establish a kind of pecking order among pastors and congregations. What is wrong with this picture?

A *missionary congregation* will need to start “keeping score” on things that are quite different from those measured in the age of the churched culture. Since life in these United States has returned to an age of the *secular mission field*, similar to the apostolic era, the scorecard of the missional congregation looks quite different. Items being measured now include such things as:

- How many new mission initiatives are undertaken in the community?
- How many Gospel-powered conversations (critical events) are taking place in the marketplace?
- How many universal priests (saints) are being released into local and global mission projects?
- How many languages (ethnic, generational and cultural) do we worship in?
- How many church activities target people who have no relationship (yet) with Jesus Christ?
- How is our congregation engaged in daughter and satellite church planting?

Do you get the picture?

Someone ... or something ... *changed the scorecard*.

Yes, the changed scorecard may look and feel different, perhaps even threatening. And yet it is not “new” at all. It is the *ancient-future scorecard* of the Body of Christ fully

engaged in the mission field. You can read and explore that ancient-future scorecard in the Book of Acts.

Then Jesus came to them and said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:18-20