

Bellicose Church

Missional Community Strategic Planning Guide

(Rough Draft 9/14/11)

The following is meant to help missional communities to develop their strategy for being a family of missionary servants.

MISSIONARIES

1. Determine the people and places you are going to target
 - Take personal inventories of what everyone is already involved with and look for missional intersections
 - Identify personal burdens and passions (i.e. business, arts, media, sports, education, government, etc.)
 - Carefully and submissively listen to God alone and together
 - Do prayer walks or prayer drives to discern what God is saying
2. Collect information about the people and places you're targeting and develop a practical strategy of mission
 - Determine the spiritual fertility of the soil (i.e. hard, shallow, weedy, good)
 - Consider doing a historical study of the neighborhood, city, people groups, etc.
 - Identify idols and redemptive traits of the area
 - Identify things that exist that are open doors and barriers to the gospel
 - Identify the men and women of peace
 - Identify celebrations the culture is engaged in that you can participate with and still display the gospel
 - Identify the celebrations that exist that need redemption and look for ways to enter in and redeem them
 - Identify the celebrations that do not exist, ask God if they should and if so, how you should go about developing culturally appropriate forms for celebrating
 - Begin to engage in present celebrations and prayerfully plan out culturally appropriate ones for the community
 - Determine what is broken or missing in your community
 - Find out what exists to deal with those things and determine how you could serve
 - If it doesn't exist, discern with God and in community whether you are supposed to start something and who you should work with to see it started
 - Begin to identify the "watering holes" in the community God is sending you to and frequent them often
 - Determine where the people you're sent to hang out often to eat and drink
 - Regularly eat/drink there and pay attention (listen to others, ask questions, learn)
 - Become known as people who live out good news (tip well, bring more business, etc.)
 - If a good gathering spot does not exist, prayerfully consider starting one
 - Get to know the kinds of work people are doing and what connection points you might have with them
 - Discover their weekly/monthly/yearly rhythms of work/rest/play and begin to align with them
 - Look for places or situations where restorative work needs to be done and creatively bring that about
 - Pick up some recreational hobbies that would connect with the mission
3. Reorient lives around the mission
 - Pick a time and place for at least one weekly meeting
 - Consider geographical relocation to be in closer proximity to each other and the place you are targeting
 - Be conscience of missional commitments when making schedule decisions
 - Determine reasonable times for regular corporate prayer
4. Maximize missional effectiveness
 - Pray and fast for the mission
 - Regularly report on victories and struggles
 - Reevaluate the mission and strategy after a year
 - Multiply

FAMILY

- Become familiar with each other's stories/testimonies
- Pray and prophesy over each other and target a specific person, family, or couple weekly
- Regularly gather in a local expression for community worship through teaching, singing, sharing, eating
- Meet weekly as a Missional Community to encourage one another

- Collect a list of the birthdays and anniversaries in the community
- Throw parties and events to demonstrate to the community what abundant life is like (b-days, anniversaries, baby showers, wedding receptions, holidays, etc.)
- Make an inventory of what your community has been given by God for sharing purposes
- Intentionally and tangibly bless a Missional Community member weekly
- Extend blessing to someone not yet in the family weekly
- Remember our Lord's death regularly through communion
- Share meals with your missional community regularly
- Share another meal with another Christ-follower weekly
- Take a vacation together or do a focused retreat together
- Share hobbies or recreational interests

DISCIPLES

- Study and be prepared to teach others the Gospel
- Practice preaching the Gospel to each other
- Become aware of the barriers to the gospel in your own life
- Determine discipleship needs of the community and teach on them
- Grow in knowledge of and purposes for hospitality
- Learn how to creatively and contextually connect hospitality and the gospel
- Rehearse daily evidences of God's grace in your life
- Grow in understanding what gifts you have been given by God and work toward sharing them effectively to build others up
- Discover personal callings and passions and how to practically live them out
- Learn the real needs in your community and find ways to bless out of who you are
- Teach and lead others to understand blessing and live out being a blessing
- Be prepared to lead others in remembering our Lord's death through communion
- Become self-aware to what prevents you from resting/playing

SERVANTS

- Ask questions of neighbors and community leaders, looking for real and felt needs
- Discover the hopes the community has and gaps in resources available
- Pay attention to the stories of your missional community and where the needs in the community intersect with the passions, gifts, talents and experiences of the MC
- Ask God together to show you where and how to serve as a missional community
- Train your MC to be alert and in prayer listening for God's direction
- Identify the regular celebrations in your community and serve at them
- Connect meeting needs to celebration (i.e. A park clean-up day with a BBQ at the end)
- Volunteer to plan and lead the celebrations
- Identify at least one way/area to tangible express the gospel on a regular basis through serving and stick with it long enough to move beyond tasks to relationships
- As you become aware of the community needs and the MC resources identify a specific area or issue that you will lead the MC to regularly serve in
- As you serve in one area look for bridges into the other areas
- Eat at least one meal a week/month with someone who doesn't yet believe the gospel
- Pay for or provide the meal and tip well to demonstrate the gospel to the servers as well
- Engage in restorative work (i.e. community garden, neighborhood meetings, etc.)