

Leading a Missional Community

MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES DEFINED

A Missional Community (MC) is a committed core of believers who live out the mission of God together in a specific area or to a particular people group by demonstrating the gospel in tangible forms and declaring the gospel to others – both those who believe it and those who are being exposed to it.

To Clarify...A Missional Community is not **PRIMARILY**:

1. A Small Group
2. A Bible Study
3. A Support Group
4. A Social Activist Group
5. A Weekly Meeting

MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES DIRECTION

Our Hopes for Missional Communities:

1. Have a clearly defined mission
 - o Articulate who you feel called to reach and where you will focus
 - o Call others to that mission with you
 - o Focus the movement of the group toward that mission
 - o Consider Matthew 28:18-20, John 20:21 and Acts 1:8 preceding Acts 2:42-47
2. Eventually led by shared leadership
 - o Prophetic type gifting – an emphasis on the unchanging truths of God’s character, the gospel message and the mission of the Church (LEARNER)
 - o Priestly type gifting – an emphasis on the care of the soul and caring for one another (FAMILY)
 - o Kingly type gifting – an emphasis on the tangible working out of the mission through structures, strategic thinking and hands on activity (SERVANT)



3. In submission to a Kaleo Church Elder or Elder Advisor which would include oversight, coaching and connection to ongoing development tools and resources
 - o Each MC should have a clearly identified coach who provides oversight for the effectiveness of the MC

- o The coach and leaders work together to identify appropriate equipping and development opportunities
4. They would be an accurate and effective display and declaration of the gospel to a people or culture that needs to experience the Good News of Jesus Christ
 - o The goal is not simply to get people to come to our our Sunday service (although important)
 - o The goal is to bring the church family to the mission field and live in such a way that preaches the gospel in deed and word
 - o Consider 1 Peter 2:9-23
 5. They would live out the reality of *being* the Church together as they walk through life together and live out mission together
 - o We envision every part of our region saturated with the Church living out the Gospel in every place and in every way possible.
 - o Church would no longer be seen as an event people go to, but a people called by God on mission to display and declare the gospel and see all things restored to the Father
 6. They would raise up indigenous leaders who would birth new MC's in the specific area or people group that is the identified mission
 - o Leadership development happens best in community – especially while leading people on mission (not just in a classroom)
 - o The measurement of our effectiveness isn't how many people are in the MC, but how many people come to faith, are growing in spiritual maturity and are equipped to lead others
 - o Consider Ephesians 4:11-14 and 2 Timothy 2:2
 7. This would all lead to the development of a new Kaleo Church Gathering and Biblically qualified elders being appointed to lead and oversee the Gatherings
 - o In all of this we are committed to planting more churches, NOT growing one big expression meeting altogether in one big building
 - o We must hold ourselves to the first mandate given to humanity which was restated through Jesus – *be fruitful and multiply and fill this earth...make disciples of all nations*
 - o This will require not only church planting, but the development and appointing of Biblically qualified overseers (elders) and lead servants (deacons) in each local expression
 - o Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9

MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES LEADERSHIP

Key Leadership Posture: As a leader of a MC you need to think like a Church Planter with a Core Group

Key Role of Missional Community Leaders: Shepherd a Gospel Community

Key Responsibilities: Oversee the *Gospeling* of one another in your MC and lead them on Gospel Mission in that neighborhood

Key Activities: Listen to God. Learn their Story. Celebrate Together. Eat Together. Recreate Together. Bless Others.

MISSIONARIES

Listen to God: carefully and submissively listen to God alone and together to gain clarity on the mission He has called you to lead people toward

ACTIONS:

- o Take some extended time to listen, pray and journal
- o Do pray walks or prayer drives to discern what God is saying
- o Pay attention to His calling as demonstrated through personal convictions, passions, ongoing leadings
- o Let the Spirit of God check your heart – what are your motives?

Learn Their Story: as you gain clarity on the mission God has called you to, begin doing the work to understand the story of that context (See Appendix A: Contextualization) and how best to bring the gospel to bear within it

ACTIONS:

- o Do a historical study of the neighborhood, city, people groups, etc...
- o Look for things that already exist that demonstrate the story of the culture (civic groups, social services, educational strengths/weaknesses, businesses, housing structures, people groups, etc...)
- o Identify things that exist that are open doors for the gospel and those that are demonstrations of gospel barriers
- o Overall, look for where the Story of God and the Story of the Culture can intersect

Celebrate Together: identify and join the celebrations that already exist within the culture God is sending you to and look to develop new forms of celebration that bring the gospel to bear in a culturally appropriate way

ACTIONS:

- o Identify the celebrations that the culture is engaged in that you can fully participate in and still display the gospel
- o Identify the celebrations that exist that need redemption and look for ways to enter in and redeem them
- o 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
- o With a team of leaders/workers begin to engage in present celebrations and prayerfully plan out culturally appropriate ones for the community
- o

Eat Together: begin to identify the “watering holes” in the community God is sending you to and frequent them often

ACTIONS:

- o Determine the watering holes by paying attention to where the people you’re sent to hang out often
- o Regularly eat/drink there and pay attention (listen to others, ask questions, learn)
- o Become known as people who live out good news (tip well, bring more business by leading others to join you, etc...)
- o If a good gathering spot does not exist, prayerfully consider starting one

ReCreate Together: learn about the work habits of the community and what they do for rest and play

ACTIONS:

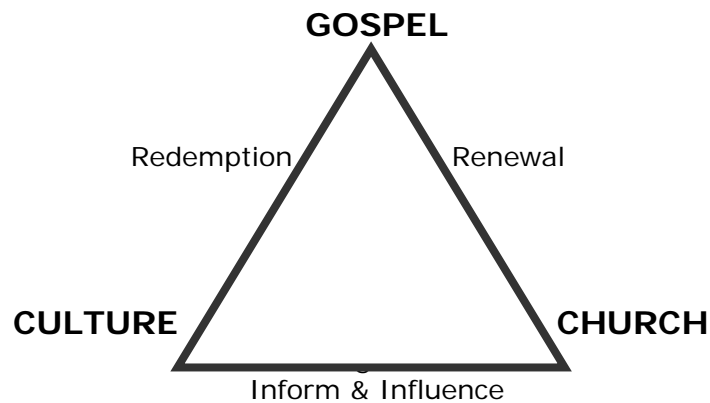
- o Get to know the kinds of work people are doing and what connection points you might have with them
- o Discover their weekly/monthly/yearly rhythms of work/rest/play and begin to align with them
- o Prayerfully consider how you might demonstrate Creation/Rest to your culture so they might see Gospel through you and with you

Bless Others: determine the most appropriate forms through which the community you're called to would feel blessed and it would be "Good News"

ACTIONS:

- o Determine what is broken or missing in your community
- o Find out what exists to deal with those things and determine how you could join them
- o 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

There are 3 relationships that must occur between the church, gospel and culture:



FAMILY

Learn Their Story: know the life-stories of the people you are on mission with and mission to so that you know how to shepherd and develop effectively

ACTIONS:

- o Hear one another's stories
- o Develop Pastoral Care skills (EMI Training)
- o Growth in personal character
- o Involvement in DNA groups

Listen to God: regularly listen to God on others behalf so that you can learn to discern how best to care for each

ACTIONS:

- o Regular times of listening prayer with a journal
- o Develop shepherding plans as you hear from God and listen to one another
- o Direct members toward next steps for spiritual growth & development
- o Create space to listen to God and pray together

Celebrate Together: regularly gather to celebrate God's extravagant blessings through a variety of forms – parties, worship gatherings, special events, home meetings

ACTIONS:

- o Regularly gather in a local expression for community worship through teaching, singing, sharing, eating, etc...
- o Meet weekly as a MC to encourage one another
- o Throw parties and events (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to demonstrate to the community what abundant life is like (b-days, anniversaries, baby showers, wedding receptions, holidays, etc...)

Bless Together: love one another through tangible acts such as encouragement, gifts, time spent, acts of kindness, etc...

ACTIONS:

- o Intentionally and tangibly bless a DNA member every week
- o Intentionally and tangibly bless a Missional Community member weekly

Eat Together: break bread together with the family – not only your immediate family (spouse and kids) and remember Christ's work on our behalf together through a meal

ACTIONS:

- o Share a meal with your MC weekly
- o Share another meal with another Christ-follower weekly (DNA members, a person you're developing, a mentor, etc...)

ReCreate Together: take regular times to create, rest and play together as a community.

ACTIONS:

- o Work on projects together
- o Take a vacation together
- o Do focused retreats together
- o Share hobbies or recreational interests

LEARNERS

Learn God's Story: Learn God's story of the world and the story of your life and how God is redeeming and re-storying yours – develop a gospel worldview

ACTIONS:

- o Go through the Story of God with your MC
- o Study and be prepared to teach others the Gospel Story, Means and Purpose
- o Become aware of the barriers (idols) to the gospel in your own life that are connected to lies believed and wounds received
- o Let a trusted counselor/mentor and your Gospel Christianity (GC) group know your story and have permission to walk you toward health

Listen to God: regularly listen to God through times of Scripture reading, journaling, solitude, book reading, fasting and prayer

ACTIONS:

- o Block regular times to work through the contemplative disciplines and journal what God shows you through those times (should be done alone and in community)

- o Listen to good gospel teaching and submit to what the Spirit tells you to do from His Word (i.e. Listen to Tim Keller with a journal)
- o Take spiritual retreats alone when necessary (once a quarter is suggested)
- o Pick a book of the Bible, a Bible reading plan, or another book to study, journal and then share what you're learning

Celebrate Together: Know the gospel well and how it informs and changes all of life so that we are leading gospel celebrations from a gospel foundation

ACTIONS:

- o Grow in knowledge of and purposes for hospitality
- o Become skilled in hospitality (through books or training)
- o Learn how to creatively and contextually connect hospitality and the gospel
- o Train others to be hospitable and share responsibility for hospitality with the MC

Bless Others: Know and embrace that we have been blessed to be a blessing and see the sharing of our physical and spiritual gifts as a part of that fulfillment

ACTIONS:

- o Grow in understanding what gifts you have been given by God and work toward sharing them effectively to build others up
- o Learn what the real needs are in your community and find ways to connect what you have been given to what is needed
- o Teach and lead others in blessing and live out being a blessing

Eat Together: Grow in knowledge and understanding of the intersection of the Biblical feasts and the gospels

ACTIONS:

- o Study the Biblical feasts
- o Learn to identify and articulate the gospel in all of the feasts
- o Be prepared to contextualized the gospel over a meal
- o Regularly proclaim the gospel through meals (appropriately within each context)
- o Teach others to know and do these things as well

ReCreate Together: Understand, learn and teach how to create, rest and play together

ACTIONS:

- o Grow in knowledge and understanding of Gospel rest in connection with Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration (Christ is our Sabbath)
- o Become self-aware to what prevents you from resting/playing (Idols)
- o Discover what patterns you need to change to build this into your life
- o Help others to live this out through example, teaching and equipping

SERVANTS

Learn their Story: Know the stories of the people in your community well enough to know what medium the gospel should embody

ACTIONS:

- o Ask questions of neighbors and community leaders; look for real and felt needs
- o Discover the hopes the community has and gaps in resources available

- o Pay attention to the stories of your MC and where the needs in the community intersect with the passions, gifts, talents and experiences of the people in your MC and neighborhood

Listen to God: Regularly ask God to show you the needs of your community and how He is calling you to demonstrate the gospel through serving

ACTIONS:

- o Prayer walks/drives to discern where God is leading you to serve
- o Journal what God tells you during your prayer times
- o Ask God together to show you where and how to serve as a MC then share what you hear
- o Train your MC to be alert in prayer listening for God's direction for serving your community
- o See prayer as a form of serving others and engage in it regularly

Celebrate Together: regularly provided the best parties and events that coincide with the needs of the community

ACTIONS:

- o Identify the regular celebrations in your community and serve at them (i.e. "Out in the Park" serve in the kids areas)
- o Connect meeting needs to celebration (i.e. A park clean-up day with a BBQ at the end; a back-to-school party with free school supplies handed out)
- o Connect neighbors who can serve each other by having a weekly BBQ, then catalyzing conversation about serving each other when you're together)
- o Volunteer to plan and lead the celebrations

Bless Others: Identify at least one thing through which you could tangibly express the gospel on a regular basis through serving and stick with it long enough to move beyond tasks to relationships

ACTIONS:

- o As you become aware of the community needs and the MC resources (passions, gifts, talents and experiences) identify a specific area or issue that you will lead the MC to regularly serve in (Education, Business, Health Care, Social Services, Marginalized or Disenfranchised People Groups, Media or Government)
- o Make serving in that area a regular focus of your MC
- o As you serve in one area look for bridges into the next areas (i.e. as you work with a local High School be on the lookout for opportunities to serve by meeting Health Care needs or connecting businesses to meet needs)

Eat Together: Regularly provide or pay for meals for others in your MC and those you are on mission to

ACTIONS:

- o Eat at least one meal a week with someone who doesn't yet believe the gospel (do this alone or with others as God leads you)
- o Pay for or provide the meal and tip well to demonstrate the gospel to the servers as well (blessed to be a blessing)
- o Teach your community about what serving looks like over meals by being an example and then calling them into serving the meals (You shouldn't be the only one always providing meals)

ReCreate Together: Regularly enter into the life of the community you are on mission to and work with them to create demonstrations of the gospel and creat, rest and play with them in the ways they prefer

ACTIONS:

- o Take time off when your community is taking time off and try to rest and play with them in community (i.e. golfing, waking, jogging, gym memberships, fishing, surfing, boating, gardening, vacationing, etc...)
- o Also determine together with your community which things need to be created in order to better serve the community (i.e. community garden; community meeting; neighborhood watch; neighborhood cleanup, etc...)