

Pastor's L E T T E R

Sharing the Joy of Living in the Grace of Jesus

What Is Our Mission?



Greetings to You All,

From time to time, we hear the word “mission” as applied to our church – whether it be our denomination or a local congregation. We feel we need to come up with an appropriate “mission statement” to define in just one clever phrase or short sentence how we see ourselves, what it is that we are up to, and where we are headed as we march into the future. At a recent GCI Regional Conference, the words “mission” and “being on mission” were heard quite frequently. But what does this mean, anyway? Just what is the mission of GCI? And by extension, what is the mission of our local Bellflower congregation? Another question: Can our perceived “mission” change over time?

At the Regional Conference, we explored and discussed church planting quite a bit. In our denomination, there is a department, Church Multiplication Ministries, that specifically focuses on planting new congregations, whose purpose is drawn primarily from Jesus’ words found in Matthew 28, where He commissions His followers in this way: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Another way to express this concept is in a phrase often stated by Joseph Tkach, Sr., our recent denominational president: “Christianity is NOT a spectator sport!” By this, he asserted that even under grace, we still have something to DO. We are participants in this Christian walk with Jesus Christ, not passive observers, who just sit and watch Him do it all!

The church is also compared to a building, fitly framed together, and a body, where each part or member of the body has its unique function. Not every member is a mouth (speaker), or a person who feels a calling to plant a new church. Every member of the body has a function. We need to get out of our comfort zones at times and find some way to reach out beyond our walls in order for the church to move forward. God will call people into his Body; but WE are his hands, feet and mouth to participate in this “mission.” Let us continue to seek ways in which we, individually and collectively, can identify and fulfill our personal as well as our collective mission with Jesus.

Larry

Pastoral Team Leader