

## Life on Mission pt 2 Getting Started!

**Intro: Stefan Duerksen, Lead Pastor**

**Church-Wide Prayer: Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus

- For camp staff, volunteers, campers – belonging, safety, fun, to know & love JESUS!
- Pray specifically for HS students at camp now - by name if you know them
- For opportunities in summer for SC to serve, love & share Jesus with those in our region
- For 1000 ppl to engage their life on mission through actively reaching ONE PERSON  
“each one, reach one”
- For SC to grow in Love & Obedience to Jesus: freedom from sin, forgiving others, serving those in our community, generosity, urgency for completing the Great Commission.

**INTRO:** If I would talk to your family... what would they say you are KNOWN for? What if I talked to your friends? What if I talked to co-workers? Classmates? People that see you but don't know you?

**John 13:35** By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”

**STORY:** Dirk Willems (Dutch pronunciation: [dɪrk ˈʊɪləms]; died 16 May 1569; also spelled Durk Willems) was a Dutch Anabaptist martyr most famous for escaping from prison but then turning back to rescue his pursuer – who had fallen through thin ice while chasing Willems – only to be recaptured, tortured, and killed for his beliefs. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dirk\\_Willems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dirk_Willems)

**DEFINITIONS from last week:**

- **Mission Statement:** Love God, Love People, Be Discipled, Make Disciples
- **Life on Mission:** A life committed to loving & obeying Jesus through prioritizing the Great Command & Commission to love God, love people, be discipled and make disciples.
- **You are here ON purpose, FOR purpose.**
- **Challenge from last week:** BE THE DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE!

### A. The Great Command: Who is my neighbor?

Great question! Glad you asked!

**Luke 10:25-37** One day an expert in the law stood up to test Him. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” Jesus replied. “How do you read it?” He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus said. “Do this and you will live.” But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus took up this question and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down the same road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So too, when a Levite came to that spot and saw him, he passed by on the other side. But when a Samaritan on a journey came upon him, he looked at him and had compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the

innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he said, 'and on my return I will repay you for any additional expense.' Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" "The one who showed him mercy," replied the expert in the law. Then Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

1. **Priest - passed by on the other side of the road**
2. **Levite - passed by on the other side of the road**
3. **The Good Samaritan - had compassion, helped him, took care of him, paid for his stay at an inn**

**Jesus, "Go and do likewise"**

**Don't let FEAR drive your life! Step out in FAITH & BE the difference in someone eternity!**

**Matthew 5:38-48** You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. If someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also; if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well; and if someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor' and 'Hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Do not even tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Human beings are TRIBAL by nature. We generally stick to those within our TRIBE.**

- Family – friends – Church – etc. We naturally stick to our TRIBE. NOT BAD – Just not enough!
- We want to focus our attention on those in our tribe. Jesus' response to that? "WHAT MORE ARE YOU DOING THAN OTHERS? Even UNBELIEVERS do this.
- YES – I am responsible for MY kids, family & tribe. But I am also responsible for loving my neighbor – which includes the needs of those OUTSIDE my family & tribe!
- How do you find the time? 24 hours in the day. It usually requires DENYING yourself – and changing PRIORITIES.

**What about seasons of life? Yes – and there may be needs within your tribe that are so great they consume your time. We should be prayerful and obedient to the Spirits leading. CAVEAT: Too often we use "seasons" when it really is tribalism.**

**Matthew 10:37-39** Anyone who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and anyone who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. FAITH over FEAR – Do you trust God to provide?

**TRIBES aren't bad – they are IMPORTANT! AND we need STRONG FAMILIES and STRONG CHURCH COMMUNITIES.** The problem comes when we exclusively stick to our TRIBE and FAIL to LOVE THOSE OUTSIDE OUR TRIBE.

**EFFECTS of Loneliness (No tribe):** <https://www.cdc.gov/aging/publications/features/lonely-older-adults.html>

- Social isolation significantly increased a person’s risk of premature death from all causes, a risk that may rival those of smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity.<sup>1</sup>
- Social isolation was associated with about a 50% increased risk of dementia.<sup>1</sup>
- Poor social relationships (characterized by social isolation or loneliness) was associated with a 29% increased risk of heart disease and a 32% increased risk of stroke.<sup>1</sup> A new study puts that number to 56%!
- Loneliness was associated with higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide.
- Loneliness among heart failure patients was associated with a nearly 4 times increased risk of death, 68% increased risk of hospitalization, and 57% increased risk of emergency department visits.<sup>1</sup>

**Who is most at risk?** Immigrants, LGBTQ, singles, developmentally delayed, socially awkward people, addicts, people who believe differently than us, people who look different.

**Who is responsible for them? According to Jesus – WE ARE. “As I have loved you, love others...”**

- **Died for us, served us, loved us, prayed for us, adopted us into His Tribe!**

**Reflection Questions:** Good Samaritan story

- Who is someone in your life lying on the road and needs help?
- How can you show them Jesus' love?
- Is my Tribe open to others? e.g. small group, family, friends, etc.

## **B. The Mission Field: where do I start?**

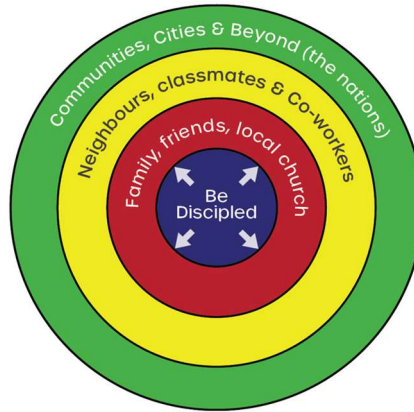
**Mission Fields:** A mission field is any location where people live, frequent, or gather. E.g. neighborhoods, grocery stores, gas stations, schools, businesses, parks, etc.

**God calls every believer to take responsibility for the mission fields they are already in. AND he calls many believers to new mission fields!**

**Alex Mitala story:** in Uganda Alex wants the church to be the center of the community. They set up schools, hospitals, churches and help communities get access to fresh water – exciting! (we are a part of that!) When he was showing us one of the communities he said something that really grabbed me, “Pastors are responsible for EVERYONE in their community and region.” As such, the church would announce deaths, important events of anyone within the community.

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**Who is responsible for the mission fields around us? WE ARE.**



**Mission Field Blue Circle: Be Discipled – 2 Cor 3:18, Rom 8:29. Rom 12:2, Col 3:10** all speak about the process of putting on the new self, being transformed into the image of Christ.

**Red Mission Field:** Home, Family, Friends, local Church, etc.

**Yellow Mission Field:** neighborhoods, schools, place of employment, etc.

**Green Mission Field:** communities we live in, parks, malls, region around us, Canada & beyond

**Matthew 9:35-38** ... When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest.”

**This is why we pray for 1000 ppl to say, “YES” to “each one, reach one”! What would happen to our community? Businesses? Schools?**

### C. Prayer is the foundation of successful Mission

**If the Great Command is the HEART of Mission. Prayer is the Foundation of Mission.**

Charles Finney was the most famous evangelist of his generation. He made headlines during the Second Great Awakening, but there is a footnote to the story. Finney had an "Aaron" named Daniel Nash. At the age of forty-eight, Father Nash quit his pastorate to devote himself to full-time intercession. Several weeks before Finney would visit a city, Father Nash would rent a room, recruit two or three intercessors, and begin laying a prayer foundation for the revival that would follow. By the time Finney showed up, the hard work had already been done. The victory had already been secured in the spiritual realm.

During one of his revivals, Finney was contacted by a woman with a boarding house in town. She asked him "Brother Finney, do you know a Father Nash? He and two other men have been at my boarding house for the last three days, but they haven't eaten a bite of food. I opened the door and I saw them on their faces. They have been this way for three days, lying prostrate on the floor and groaning. I thought something awful must have happened to them. I was afraid to go in, and I didn't know what to do. Would you please come and see about them?" Finney replied, "No, it isn't necessary. They just have a spirit of travail in prayer."

When public meetings started, Father Nash rarely attended. He stayed in his prayer closet pleading with God for the convicting power of the Holy Spirit to fall on the crowd and melt their hearts.

Shortly before his death in 1831, Father Nash recorded these words in his journal.

I am now convinced; it is my duty and privilege, and the duty of every other Christian, to pray for as much of the Holy Spirit as came down on the day of Pentecost, and a great deal more...I have only just begun to understand what Jesus meant when He said, "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Show me a MOVE OF GOD and I'll guarantee there was a PRAYER movement that was at the FOUNDATION!

*"You can do more than pray after you have prayed but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. Prayer is striking the winning blow! Service is gathering up the results!"* — S.D. Gordon

*"Prayer isn't everything, but everything should come out of prayer."* – P. Ray Duerksen

#### **D. Life on Mission: Getting Started!**

**CARD Reflection Questions (SEND ME SONG):** Be creative! Be intentional! NEXT week you will hear another AWESOME story that will highlight how this can look!

1. **Life on Mission:** are you willing to give your, "yes" to a life on mission? \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Mission Fields:** Where are your current mission fields? \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Prayer:** write down when & where you plan to pray for your mission field each week? \_\_\_\_\_ (E.g. every Wednesday evening from 630-700. Either a prayer walk or drive around my mission field.)
4. **"Each one, reach one":** Prayerfully ask Jesus to highlight someone you can be intentional to pray for, show love to, serve, encourage, and share Jesus with: \_\_\_\_\_

**AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM and 11AM**

**MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!**

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**SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2024**

**Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship**

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Israel & Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom "to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel"
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal:** Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers