

In My Neighborhood



What exactly is “Missional Living” anyway?

One way to define “Missional Living” might be this, *“when anyone, being motivated by the love of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, uses their gifts, talents, and training to love and serve people where they live, work, and play.”* Missional Living is winsomely engaging and attractively exposing unchurched people to God’s Word and God’s people.

Missional living is living out the gospel right through serving, hospitality, and love with “no strings attached.” It’s praying for

our neighbors, co-workers, and classmates. It’s seeing the things that you enjoy most as your best opportunities for ministry. It’s realizing that love opens relational doors and truth sets people free. It’s being nice to people. It’s initiating conversation. It’s recognizing that people aren’t looking for a friendly church, as much as they are looking for friends, and... it’s being that friend.



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Missional living in my neighborhood is a vision to add value and build community, right where we live. It’s meeting neighbors, getting to know them, and introducing them to each other. It’s taking time to chat while getting the mail or pulling in the trash can. It’s asking “How can I help?” It’s opening up our homes, inviting neighborhood kids over to play with our kids, or inviting new (or long time) neighbors over for a cookout. It’s throwing a party, coordinating a neighborhood food drive, taking a meal to a new mom, welcoming new neighbors, and much, much more.

Getting Started

If you’d like to have a conversation about what missional living might look like in your neighborhood in your own personal context, contact Drue Warner (Director of Live, Work & Play Ministries) at druew@perimeter.org or 678-405-2227.



Top 10 Principles of Missional Living

1. Investing ourselves in developing friendships with non-Christians is one of the most important evangelistic activities we can do.
2. Prayer is the fuel of personal ministry. Before we talk to people about God, we need to talk to God about people.
3. Three of the best ways to make a Kingdom difference are: 1) hospitality 2) serving 3) peace making
4. Christians need to remember that we don't need to try to be different around non-Christians, but that because of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we ARE different and it's that difference (i.e. fruit of the Spirit) that attracts non-Christians to Jesus Christ.
5. If we want people to know and love Jesus, we should make it our goal that their starting point might be that they know and love us. As Christ followers, we will have greater influence among those around us if they believe and experience that we care about and add value to their lives. People will best to understand God's love for them to the degree that they experience love from me. Love opens the door. Truth sets them free.
6. We've got to be willing to not let ourselves be offended by or judgmental towards the language, actions, and / or addictions of our neighbors. The question that every non-Christian asks is, "Am I valuable and worth loving?" If we can show them that they are, then we've got a great chance of being able to tell them why. *"Non-Christians are not looking for a friendly church, they're looking for friends."* -Rick Warren
7. We've got to make tough decisions with whom we spend our time. It may be that we need to tell some of our Christian friends that we won't be able to see them as much as we'd like, because we need to spend our prime times (i.e. Friday evenings, Saturdays, etc.) with our non-Christian neighbors.
8. "Witnessing is less about something that I do and more about who I am. Witnessing is really nothing more than befriending people and telling them your story at the right time (usually when they ask you). Witnessing is being so in love with God that you eventually end up talking about Him. Witnessing isn't coercing someone; it's quite the opposite. It's having someone coerce the gospel out of you, because they can't stand not knowing what's going on with you anymore." - John Fischer
9. Think of "evangelism" as trying to move people closer to God, instead of trying to get every person you talk with to committing their life to Christ in that one conversation. Remember, that God uses some to sow the seed, some to water, and some to harvest. Occasionally, we're privileged to share in all three, but often, we are one link in the chain to bring someone into relationship with Christ.
10. Fishing for men is less about "baiting" a hook and using a lure, and more about casting a net (i.e. truth) in the water, and hoping and praying for fish, then pulling it up. Our yield is up to God, not us.