

DISCOVER™

Missional Living where you Live, Work & Play...

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 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.



In My Neighborhood

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.

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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 about casting a net in the water (i.e. scattering seeds of truth), praying for fish, and then pulling it up. Our yield is up to God, not us. We can also fish with a pole, line, and hook, with our lives as the bate that will, prayerfully and winsomely, attract the lost to Jesus.

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At Work

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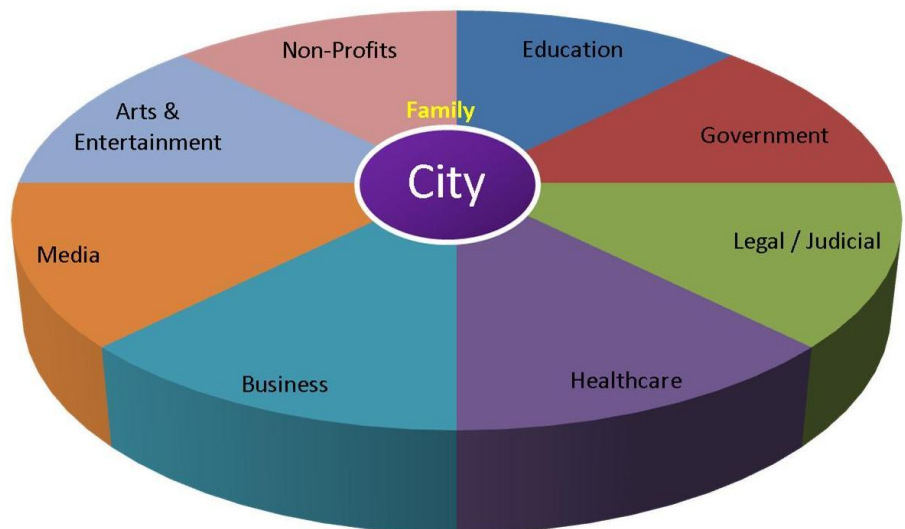
At Work

Missional living where we work is not so much about starting a Bible study at work (though there’s nothing wrong with that). But... it’s an even bigger vision! It’s a holistic vision to see people and “all things” redeemed for God’s glory. As one church planter said, *“The reason for our ministry is to seek the restoration of nouns (i.e. persons, places, and things).”*

It’s about living out your faith in an attractive way such that co-workers and clients become curious as to what makes you tick.

It’s about identifying your *“Channel of Cultural Influence”* (i.e. business, arts & entertainment, media, education, healthcare, non-profits, legal / judicial, and government) and seeking to influence your workplace, and channel at large, such that they begin to take on the characteristics and values of the Kingdom of God. For specific examples of what this might look like, see the reverse side of this document.

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Channels of Cultural Influence

Reflecting the Attributes of the Kingdom of God

The following chart includes information from the article, "City Transformation in China: A Starting Point" by Diana Wang, with Talene Lee, commissioned by ChinaSource. This article beautifully explains and communicates the vision for influencing our channels of cultural influence. God designed each Channel of Cultural Influence to reflect an attribute of His character. When the channels function the way that God intended, He is glorified as men and women are drawn to the godly values that promote a flourishing society.

CHANNEL OF CULTURAL INFLUENCE	GOD'S CHARACTER REFLECTED	PURPOSE
Art & Entertainment	Beauty	To Provide for rest, relaxation, and renewal of the soul through beauty and joy.
Business	Provision	To provide the needed goods and services and gainful employment opportunities for the community, at large, at a fair market price and wage.
Education	Knowledge	To develop the God-given gifts in every person to their highest potential in the service of their community, believing God gifts every child.
Government	Righteousness	To serve, govern, and defend the people with selflessness, fairness and equality.
Healthcare	Healer	To protect and preserve life by caring for the sick and dying with dignity, compassion, and kindness.
Law / Justice	Justice	To provide an independent and objective source of arbitration and conflict resolution for society and between nations, providing and insuring justice and equality for all citizens.
Media	Truth	To provide truthful, objective information of importance to the community at large so that citizens can make informed decisions.
Non-Profits	Mercy	To care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the least of these among us.
ADDITIONAL AREAS TO REFLECT ON:	GOD'S CHARACTER REFLECTED	PURPOSE
Church	Mercy & Holiness	To provide for opportunities to develop mature and equipped followers of Christ for the lost world, to meet the needs of the hurting, and to facilitate worship, fellowship, and the sacraments of the church.
Family	Nurture & Love	To provide a safe, loving, and nurturing environment for growth, values, and education of the next generation.

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At Play

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At Play

Missional living where we play is all about leveraging our favorite hobbies and recreational activities for Kingdom impact. It’s representing Jesus to the kids you coach by how you coach. It’s being selective in playing golf or tennis with people far from God, as opposed to your regular foursome from church. It’s accepting an invitation to the neighborhood Bunko (or Poker) night with the hope of making new friends with neighbors who need the gospel.



What do you love to do?

Get out a note pad and write down all the things that you enjoy doing (i.e. biking, camping, fishing, hunting, playing music, sewing, painting, writing, reading, playing sports, watching sports, cooking, eating barbecue, gardening, etc.). Now, think about what you might be able to do to use your specific hobbies and interests to meet and build relationships with unchurched people. Before you know it, you’re engaged in missional living doing the things that you love the most!

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Top 20 “Out of the Box” Ministry Ideas

1. Start a “Book Club”
2. Start a “Golf or Tennis Group”
3. Start a “Walking or Running Group”
4. Coordinate a game night (i.e. Bunko, Poker, etc.)
5. Host a “Christmas Caroling & Hot Chocolate Party”
6. Organize a “Progressive Game Night” for kids and families.
7. Start a “Neighborhood Supper Club” (eat in or go out to eat)
8. Build a fire pit and invite neighbors over to enjoy it with you.
9. Find out what your neighbor enjoys doing, and do it with them.
10. Organize an “Ultimate Tasting Party” for neighbors or co-workers.
11. Start a “Community Garden” in your neighborhood, school, or at work.
12. Coordinate a “Yard to Yard Golf Tournament” (i.e. play with plastic golf balls or Frisbee golf)
13. Host a viewing party for the next big sporting event (i.e. College football, NFL, NASCAR race, etc.)
14. Invite one, two, or all of the families of your child’s sports team over to your house for a cookout.
15. Put on a pot of soup one Friday evening per month and invite neighbors to come over for soup, drinks, and conversation.
16. Facilitate or coordinate a “how to” workshop on gardening, bbq / smoking meats, brewing beer, holiday or home decorating, etc.
17. Facilitate or coordinate a seminar / discussion on marriage, parenting, finance (i.e. Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University)
18. Organize a “Chili Cook Off” and invite your neighbors to bring a batch for the contest and to be prepared to taste and judge.
19. Have an “Outdoor Movie” using PVC pipes, a King sized bed sheet, projector, speakers, and DVD player.
20. During the winter, make (or buy) Windshield De-Icer Spray and give out to neighbors. This can be a great relationship / conversation “ice breaker!”
 - Recipe: Use a bottle of 70% isopropyl alcohol (50% works, too, but not as well) with a few drops of dish soap. Apply liberally to the glass with a spray bottle.

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In Our Local Public Schools

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In Our Local Public Schools

So, what does missional living look like in our local public schools? First of all, we must have a Kingdom perspective to make a Kingdom difference in *“allowing God to work through us to bring the characteristics of the Kingdom of God (i.e. love, humility, servant hood, compassion, justice, peace, etc.) to the community.”* When we help a child learn to read, we’re making a Kingdom difference. When we help raise graduation rates, we’re making a Kingdom difference. When we encourage a child who doesn’t think they have any value, we’re making a Kingdom difference. And certainly, when a student or a teacher begins to experience and comprehend the love of Christ, we’re making a Kingdom difference.

Serving Ideas include: coordinating a landscape project, helping a child learn to read, mentoring a student, starting a Moms In Touch or All Pro Dad chapter, serving on the PTA or LSAC, volunteering in the cafeteria or

classroom, being a chaperone on field trips, and much, much more. When a passionate follower of Christ embraces loving and serving the needs of others, it becomes a powerful combination for impacting hearts, families, and communities with the gospel.

Public School Serving Opportunities

E = Elementary School, M = Middle School, H =High School

(NOTE: Check with your particular school for their specific opportunities)

- **Pray E / M / H**
Join (or start) a Moms in Touch prayer group for your school.
- **Reading Helper E**
Contact: Drue Warner (678-405-2227 / druew@perimeter.org)
Volunteer for 30 minutes a week to listen to a K or 1st grade student practice their reading
- **Landscaping Service Project E / M / H**
Coordinate a landscape service project around a need identified by the school.
- **Kids Hope USA (Mentoring / Tutoring) E / M**
Contact: Tammy Lopez (678-405-2292 / tammyl@perimeter.org)
Volunteer to spend 30 minutes a week (during or after school) being a friend to an elementary or middle school student in need of a positive adult role model and/or tutor.
- **All Pro Dads E / M**
Contact: Drue Warner (678-405-2227 / druew@perimeter.org / www.AllProDad.com)
Join (or start) a dads group at your school, where you meet each month with dads and kids to encourage and celebrate your kids.
- **PTA E / M / H or Local School Advisory Council (LSAC) H**
Contact: PTA Laura Warner (770-364-4143 / lauradwarner@mac.com)
LSAC Jerry Schriver (678-405-2110 / jerrys@perimeter.org)
The PTA is a great way to engage in your local school. LSAC is a parent-led school council serves as the chief advisory source to the principal and school administration. Parents can support the school administration by serving on this influential committee.
- **WyldLife M**
Contact: Chip Sweney (678-405-2256 / chips@perimeter.org / www.YoungLife.org/WyldLife)
Join (or start) a WyldLife group that meets before school once per week. WyldLife is the middle school version of Young Life for high school students.
- **Campus Ministries**
Get involved with Young Life, Student Ventures, FCA, or other campus ministries (as a volunteer or a supporter)
- **Substitute Teacher E / M / H**
Fill out an application to work as a substitute teacher.
- **Classroom or Office Volunteer E / M / H**
Find out where the greatest need is in your local school (possibly due to budget cuts and lack of funding) and offer to volunteer or help out however you can.