

# Living Missionally...

## By Giving Myself Away

American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS) 2008

### 1. Be Godly – By Reflecting God’s Nature

God is on \_\_\_\_\_

The Trinity

God’s people are on mission \_\_\_\_\_ ...

We’re blessed to be a \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 12:1-4)

Abraham received

Land

Posterity

Blessing

We model \_\_\_\_\_... (John 20:21)

The Disciples Received

Peace

A Reminder

A Calling

By the power of the \_\_\_\_\_... (Acts 1:8)

Through our \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 13:1-3)

### 2. How To Get Started

Here - Local Mission opportunities - Handout

And there - Short-term Mission Team opportunities to

Go

Give

Support

Pray

### 3. My Response

To live on mission with God...

by giving myself away...

here and there.

## The Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

Often our thinking about mission heads in one of two directions. Sometimes we think that people involved with mission are spiritual heroes, and we're just not like that. Other times we think that people involved with mission make huge sacrifices, more than we are prepared to make. Yet there may be another perspective that God would have us consider. It's that God Himself is on mission, and that all of us can join Him. When He was on earth, Jesus never visited Elk Grove. And He didn't speak English. Yet we hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus in Elk Grove, in our own language, and in a way that makes sense to us. This is because Jesus' followers over the centuries have joined God on mission. Sustained by the Spirit, they have carried the gospel from where it was to where it was not yet. This is an exciting privilege that all of us can give our lives to, in a variety of ways. Here at FBC we call this "living missionally, by giving ourselves away." Let's go back to the Scriptures and see how God may kindle passion in our hearts to join Him on mission.

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**Monday** - Read Genesis 12:1-4. In one sense Abraham (Abram) was the first missionary. God asked him to give up much. And God also promised him much: land, posterity and blessing. God called him to a whole new lifestyle. Certainly Abraham made mistakes along the way, but in general he did what God told him. And God fulfilled His promise to Abraham making Himself known to countless people. While God's promise was partially fulfilled in the Old Testament, there are two more levels to its fulfillment. One way that God's promise to Abraham was fulfilled is through Jesus and his church -- through you and me today. Read what Paul wrote about Abraham in Galatians 3:6-7. As people of faith in Christ, we are sons and daughters of Abraham. We are heirs to the promise that God gave him. One thing that Abraham learned is that it is alright to give up something, if God prompts you, because God is able to provide far more than what we lay aside, and to bless others in the process. I would have struggled to believe God, but Abraham did. And I am so glad to see his example -- and how his faith was rewarded -- in Scripture. How does his faith, and God's faithfulness to him, encourage you to be willing to give away some aspect of your life that others would be blessed? Would you pray today for our team of six men roofing a church in Gembu, Nigeria and for their families?

**Tuesday** - Read Genesis 12:1-4. Yesterday we talked about how God's promise to Abraham (Abram) was fulfilled partially in the Old Testament but also through Jesus and the Church today. Another fulfillment is still to come. Read what John wrote of his glimpse of heaven in Revelation 7:9-10. How many people are there (v. 9)? Where are they from (v. 9)? What are they doing (v. 10)? Friends, this is a reality -- a personal experience -- that you will have someday. Can you imagine, when your days on earth are done, entering that great mass of people, hearing their singing, seeing their different colors and features and being struck by their single focus on praising God? Missional living is often messy. It is frequently a three-steps-forward, two-steps-back kind of experience. Yet, how does John's vision of heaven encourage your soul? Reminded of this destination, is there one small way God would have you give yourself away today? Would you pray today for the ministry of Pastor Phil Fuller and our high schoolers headed to Camp Barnabas this summer?

**Wednesday** - Read Genesis 12:2. God promises to bless Abraham (Abram) "so that you will be a blessing." God did, and Abraham was a blessing. Now read Psalm 67:1-7. What is the psalmist asking God to do (v. 1)? Why does he ask Him to do it (v. 2-3)? The Psalmist asks that he and his people would be blessed -- so that others will know God's way and power and turn to Him. I remember climbing a Mayan pyramid alone in Tikal, a dense jungle in northwest Guatemala. It was striking to sit atop this ancient structure and look out over the beautiful forest canopy stretching as far as I could see. Yet I was alone. I had no one to share this blessing with. The experience would have been better had I'd been able to share it with someone. I imagine most of us would say that we have been blessed -- with health, relationships with family and friends, and more of this world's goods than we need. God is so generous! He gives because he loves us -- and "so that you will be a blessing." Take a moment to count your blessings. Can you count ten? Can you count twenty? Enjoy them, but ask God, "Is there a way that I could give some of Your blessing away, that others would praise You?" Would you pray today for Kevin and Kathy Kane as they lead a remodeling team to Sierra Pines Christian Camp in October?

**Thursday** - Read John 20:21. Jesus is our model for missional living, and the One who sends us out. John 1:4 says that "in Him was life, and the life was the light of men." Aren't you glad you have found life and light for living day to day! Read Matthew 5:16. Have you ever experienced this – being impacted by someone else's good works so that you just have to praise God? It is a fantastic experience! Is there a small way that you can let your light shine today – by putting another first or honoring another – that might glorify your Father in heaven? Would you pray for Pastor Bob Speizer today and those that God is prompting to go to the Urbana mission conference December 27-31 2009?

**Friday** - Jesus' death hit the disciples very hard. They had not seen it coming. They were divided, discouraged and distracted by worldly things. After the resurrection their faith was rekindled yet they still didn't quite get it. Read Acts 1:6-8. Waiting with Jesus in Jerusalem, they asked about His political plans (v. 6), but He was headed in another direction. He was about to send them out to be His witnesses, a word from which we get the word 'martyr.' They seem, for all the world, like unlikely candidates. Yet, I realize their struggles then are not that different from ours. Jesus' confidence seems to rest less on the disciples than on the One who will come and empower them (v. 8). The Old Testament prophet Zechariah reminds us that God accomplishes his work "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit..." (Zech. 4:6). I am so glad for that. In my experience with missional living, I have known fear and, more than once, a sense of failure. Yet, I've come to realize that God's ability to be faithful, when we take small steps of faith, is much greater than I'd imagined. Wherever you are with missional living, may you be comforted by the power of the Spirit living in you to accomplish His work through us. It really depends more on Him than on us! Would you pray for John and Kathy Imboden today as they prepare to lead a team to minister to missionary children at the Cameroon Missionary Fellowship in January 2010?