

HELPFUL REASONS FOR MISSION AND FAITH SHARING:



BECAUSE THE END-POINT OF DISCIPLESHIP IS TO IMITATE GOD

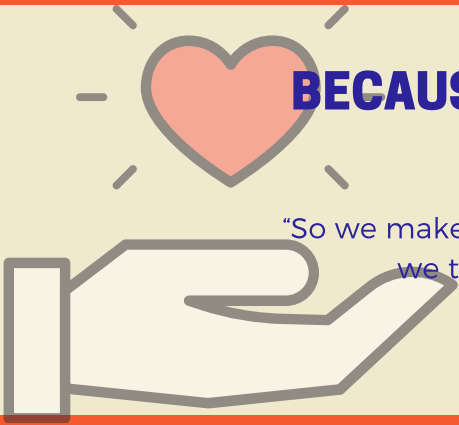
shaping our lives around what He does.

Our mission is based on who God is and what He does. God is a missionary God – He came to us in Christ. Jesus always went to others and responded to their needs.



BECAUSE THE MORE WE JOIN IN WITH GOD, THE MORE WE CAN BRING PLEASURE TO HIM

“So we make it our goal to please him...Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others...For Christ’s love compels us...” (2 Corinthians 5: 9-14)



BECAUSE IT IS A RESPONSE TO WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THOSE WHO SHARED FAITH WITH US.

BECAUSE EACH GENERATION NEEDS TO RECEIVE THE GOOD NEWS IN THEIR OWN WAY.

“The gospel must be proclaimed afresh in new ways to each generation, since every generation has its own unique questions. The gospel must constantly be forwarded to a new address, because the recipients are repeatedly changing their place of address.” (Alan Hirsch)



BECAUSE WE THRIVE WHEN WE ARE PART OF A PURPOSE

bigger than ourselves.

Our original purpose was to “be fruitful” and reflect God in the world. We were blessed in order to be a blessing to others. A balanced life includes “acting justly”.



BECAUSE JESUS COMMISSIONED HIS DISCIPLES TO CARRY ON HIS WORK

saying “Seek the kingdom” over a hundred times, and “Go and make disciples” three times.



BECAUSE THE MISSION OF GOD HAS A CHURCH

As the church we are apostolic and called out.

The Church is the fruit of God’s mission, but also the agent of it. Together we are Christ’s body in the world.



BECAUSE OF THE DESPERATE NEED FOR HEALING AND GOD’S LOVE IN THE WORLD.

BECAUSE MISSION AND FAITH-SHARING IS AN EXPRESSION OF GOD’S PROMISED FUTURE AND A WAY TO MAKE THAT FUTURE REAL NOW.

BECAUSE JOINING IN WITH GOD’S MISSION AND SHARING FAITH HELPS US TO MEET WITH AND DRAW CLOSER TO GOD

St Francis said those in need are like a sacrament to us.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in...” (Matthew 25:35)



HELPFUL ATTITUDES IN MISSION AND FAITH SHARING:



OUT OF LOVE FOR GOD

"We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4: 19)



"Missionary zeal does not grow out of intellectual beliefs, nor out of theological arguments, but out of love." Roland Allen

WITH LOVE FOR OTHERS

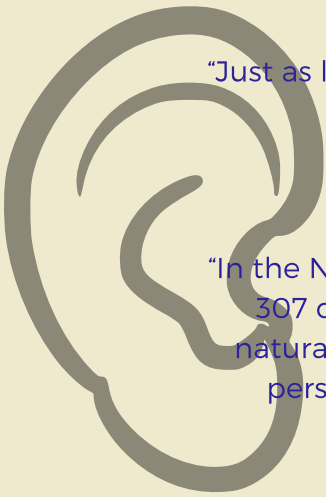
GOING TO OTHERS AND ADAPTING TO THEM

"I become a Jew to win the Jews." (1 Cor 9: 19-23).



STARTING BY LISTENING

"Just as love of God begins with listening to his word, so the beginning of love for our brothers and sisters is learning to listen to them." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).



ASKING MORE QUESTIONS THAN GIVING ANSWERS

"In the New Testament Jesus asked 183 questions, gave three answers, and answered 307 questions with a question in return. The point of this approach is to allow the natural curiosity of the human person to draw him or her to an encounter with the person of Jesus." (Sherry Weddell) (Who are you? Where are you? Why don't you?)

SEEING WHERE GOD IS ALREADY AT WORK

Where are those who are of "peace" towards God?

KNOWING AND SHARING MY STORY WITH VULNERABILITY AND HONESTY.

BEING PREPARED TO LEARN FROM OTHERS, WHATEVER THEIR BACKGROUND OR BELIEF.

HAVING HUMILITY IN KNOWING I AM NO BETTER OR WORSE THAN OTHERS.

HAVING MY WORDS AND ACTIONS FOLLOW THROUGH FROM EACH OTHER.



BEING PREPARED TO EMBRACE THE COST AND RISK OF REJECTION.



"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Teresa of Avila

