

MISSION – BUILDS COMMUNITY

*First trip to do Inner-City Camp – the Hurricane hits, was so mad at those kids as I hid behind the couch and the TV cameras came on. I purposed right then to get the lead hooligans on my side to help lead that group. I went on mission with them to get them on mission with God. It was a frustrating long, hot brutal summer – but later as fall approached, we had built a common unity in that group of core kids **because** we went on mission together. One of those kids – B McCain.*

Mission – builds community.

PHIL 1:3-11 (ESV) 3 I thank God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

Mission – builds community.

Band of Brothers video – mission builds community. 50 years later – they were still tight because they lived on mission. When the mission stopped – they started shooting at each other. On mission, the least likely of men to ever get along or become friends did. On a much more greater, eternal level in the body of Christ - mission builds community.

What is mission and what is community?

Mission = gospel; together in the gospel and for the gospel.

Together in the gospel = is the gospel (finished work of Christ) at work in us, changing, transforming us thru the power of the Holy Spirit. God uses his word, prayer, and other believers to press the truths of the gospel into us.

Together for the gospel = is how we engage others outside of Christ with the power and truth of the gospel- actions/words

Community (koinania) = relationships involving mutual sharing and giving because of what we have in Christ.

Karthik Nemmani won the 2018 Scripps Spelling Bee Championship with the word: koinania. Crazy! Only word I knew.

Some Christians think koinania is just about the life we share together. Biblically it is what we share together (or have in common) because of what we have received together in Christ & it is what we give together because of all we have received in Christ. This is koinania & it can only be known in the gospel. JStott

1) What we share in together that we have received together from God as part of the same family by Christ's work.

2) What we give together to each other and to others outside our family – because we are together in the family of God.

When we live together on God's redemptive mission (the gospel at work in us and the gospel at work thru us), God builds community (koinania). **What God builds is beautiful and powerful - & its evidenced in this prayer.**

PHIL 1:3 (ESV) I thank God in all my remembrance of you,

Mission – builds a community of thankfulness.

Paul was thankful because of what they shared together in the gospel – in Jesus' work. And, Paul was thankful for what they gave together as you will see – they were partners in the gospel work of living together in and for. But Paul was also grateful – because the Philippian church was known as a comm. of thankfulness. *Rejoicing was their deal – he enc more.*

Mission Trips: I counted this weekend as I was working on some things for our Summit Guatemala trip that will occur at the end of July that I will be a part of. I have been on almost 30 trips that we called "mission trips". These are trips where we gather a group specifically to go live in the gospel and for the gospel somewhere other than where we live. Interesting revelation: when we are on mission together, specifically focused on the mission – the group is uber thankful for health, food, and other basic things we take for granted here. 10 years ago when we were in Guate., everyone was just thankful for anything we ate – starving all the time. We get to Atlanta, walk down the food court, no Chick-fil-a. What? Complaining galore. Mission prompts thanksgiving in community. No mission – can seem to often spur complaining and grumbling, even in midst of excess.

PHIL 1:4 (ESV) always in every prayer of mine for you all

Mission – builds a community of prayer.

Mission Trips: Prompt prayer. I mean – the most timid and non diligent prayers – seem to want and need to pray – for health, for food, for God to empower and do what we are doing – because pretty quickly people realize – even youth realize we can't do what we are setting out to do – only God can save, encourage, heal, teach, etc. So we pray.

Beach Reach – Traci was a little quiet girl who never talked much but one night she volunteered to pray before we took our bus out to pick up party minded college students. Why? I'm so scared I need Jesus and I think we all do. Amazing how knowing you are on God's mission prompts prayer – desperate simple calling out: God – please, do this!

making my prayer with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

Mission – builds a community of joy.

This joy is **not** in the community – but in the person and work of Jesus – the gospel.

Community is a living breathing vehicle of God's redemptive grace on this earth – much like marriage or intimate friendships are. They are all wonderful gifts of God – but they cannot be our source of joy.

Joy – is the indestructible inner presence of God that is good, hopeful, and often, *but not always*, full of smiles. It cannot be destroyed by what is going on outside. Sure, it can be affected by – but not destroyed. The joy Paul spoke of was not based on their koinania, but the gospel that built the beautiful and powerful koinania they knew.

Like marriage and close friendships – koinania – can go through hard even ugly moments of hurt, betrayal, and more. If our joy is in the marriage or friendship or community – our joy will come and go. That is why our joy is in the gospel. If it is not – when these things end – so does our joy.

I saw this when we first started the Summit and a CG ended because our leaders moved to the city. One guy told me he would never be in another group because it hurt too much when his group ended. Life connected to the body of Christ and to Christ ended for that guy. He never stayed connected to the body of Christ or Jesus after that. His joy was in the community – not Jesus.

I met Alex Rod our Hispanic pastor on my third trip to Guate. Full of joy was this man because of Jesus – but he lived in a community of joy (mountain pastors) because those dudes were on mission together. Man they were fun to be around. They exuded joy in their group – 5 guys. And they exposed us to that every time we were with them in the mountains. Mission – that drives us deep into the work of Jesus – where we have to live in the gospel – to live for the gospel. Where we begin to want Jesus more than success, or looking good, or having it all together. When this type of mission is our purpose – we find joy because our joy becomes the person and finished work of Jesus. Not our work – Jesus work that he did on the cross that gives us himself.

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Sounds like a bad transition. Why does God go from talking about the power of the gospel to shape the beauty of His community – to God will complete His work in you? Why this now? I think it is because **joy** is something that is impossible for us to do. We can't make ourselves joyful, we can't keep ourselves joyful, and we can't keep other things or people from seeming to take our joy. **So right in the middle of God telling us how God's mission in and for the gospel builds the impossible - community of joy – God tells us how the impossible is done. -**

Mission – builds a community of transformation!

God plainly and clearly tells us – the joy that He promises – only comes from Him.

- **God began the work in – as he gave us His Spirit by Christ's work.** he who began

- **God will continue the work – through Christ's work – as you live in community.** will bring it

- **God will finish the work – through Christ's work – and His body, His community will be complete in His joy.**

We are not done –with this passage – there is more – but I want to stop and pray right now – and ask God to work in us. God - WORK in US Specifically that He would do 2 things:

- 1) **Remind us – You God are our joy. Your Spirit in us.** Not our circumstances or community. Christ in us.
- 2) **Father - transform us into people who live in Your joy and for Your joy.** We cannot conjure up joy. We seek it in other things but God's presence. Let's ask God for His joy to overwhelm and become our identity. Right now let's do these two things. Let's pray.

PRAY – position doesn't affect our prayers before God, but it affects our attitude – reminds us of who is who – kneel.

Paul concludes his prayer - with two more things mission builds in community.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about you *all*, because I hold you in *my heart*, for you are *all* partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you *all* with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Mission – builds a community of deep affection!

Terry's – we have been on mission with them off and on - most of our lives – since 21 (college). Still live in community that has deep affection because of this mission together –even tho they live in Texas. Why, one of a few in Tex? They sent us here. This basketball was David's prayer and he has asked me countless times – how are being the point? April's questions - How is your heart? What is God moving in? They have served with us, served us, and prayed over us and for us for 30+ years. Recently, David was one of the first men I told about what God was calling me to – he asked a lot of good and hard questions and pressed me deep into Jesus. There is a deep affection there for those two because we have lived on mission together for a while.

The men and women I am closest to in this body - have little to do with an inner circle of friends or the pastor's clique – it has everything to do with who has been on mission with me over time. Not the people I've been on "mission trips" necessarily – but the people I have lived on mission with day in and day out over years of life together in this body. To be clear – that is warring together in prayer, walking in hard places together as God transformed us, our friends, kids, spouses, going together to see others know Christ, speaking mercy together, truth together so others would follow Jesus.

For sure – there are individuals I have a deep affection for in this body because of mission together. **BUT** – I can also honestly say – I love this body with a deep affection. Notice how Paul frames who he has this deep affection?

Vs 7 – all, all, vs 8 – all. (vs 1, 4, 7, 7, 8 – “all” references)

I love this church. Why? We have been on mission together thru so much – good and bad, seen so many lives changed together, run after this city and county with the gospel together. You have warred for my family, my kids, me – in prayer.

We hold deep affection for all the body – when we go on mission together. Even if it not with every single person.

If we have no affection for the body or any part of Christ’s body – why? It is not just that you are **not connected**. You can be connected and not feel deep affection – **because** you are not living on mission with anyone.

GOD IS AT WORK IN You and I as we live on mission together, but he is also at work in many others we don’t even know about. He tells us to trust him – the fields are white unto harvest. He has planted and watered. Question is – Will we be harvest hands? This is why our mission is to not just live in the gospel – but also for the gospel. This is God’s work thru us.

Mission – builds a community that increases in number by Christ’s work (love).

7 ... for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense & confirmation of the gospel. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,

- Paul celebrated their participation with him – in for the gospel work, declaring, defending the gospel. And, They were being sent together to places not near Phillipi to declare the gospel and they were going right into their own town defending the gospel and declaring it with their words. But Paul’s prayer – is that God’s love in them – would continue to increase and be poured it even greater to others – who did not His love.

- Although he gave thanks for the impact of their gospel work, he specifically prays that their love – how they communicated, shared and engaged others with the gospel would look more and more like Jesus.

“your love” (agapeo – unconditional God given love of God) / may abound more and more (overflow / in excess – unending) (knowledge – nature of love that is like Jesus) and the discernment – that they would love like Jesus.

That we live in community together – is vital. But just living in community – will build closeness and maybe even care – but rarely does it breath the unconditional agape love of God into and thru our lives to others.

This defines the community of Jesus Christ according to the Word – God’s love being lived in, given to each other, and even more – given to those who are far from Jesus’ love – and may even not be for us.

Back at Beach Reach – the second night we went out to pick up riders, the biggest Wisconsin football player I had ever seen up close got on our bus. He wasn’t nice or kind to any of us when he got on the Jesus bus as he called it. But – he sat next to Tracy. Right there in that bus – he bowed his head and his knee to Jesus. He rode with us that night & a few other nights. He worshiped with us in the small Padre Island Church. It was amazing – began with a simple desperate prayer.

Our college community at that church – which was small, awkward, and diverse – grew tight that summer and it all began with a few college students – going on mission together.

Mission trips have always been a name for something I didn’t really like. Why? It makes it sound like something we don’t do here, at home – we just do on a trip. I’m not sure of a better name. The point is this – we are called to be partners in the gospel – live on mission together – every day. As we do – community, deep koinania will be built.

LET’S LIVE ON GOD’S MISSION TOGETHER as HE BUILDS HIS COMMUNITY.

This summer – we are asking God to move in us and through us. We are asking him – do the work only he can do.

SO we have committed to pray together – asking God

GOD - work in us.

GOD – work thru us.

We want to facilitate this with prayer all summer.

1) Every time we gather here together – we are going to pray and ask God to move – in us and thru us.

Just a minute – we will ask God to move thru us.

2) Sunday nights – we are asking our whole body to prayer walk in their neighborhood

3) We will have more opportunities to pray and to engage others.

Now – let’s on mission together in prayer.