

**From Reaching to Releasing**  
August 3, 2025  
Heartland Christian Center  
Senior Pastor, Dr. Phil Willingham

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**Theme:** The church's role is not just to gather people but to **grow, ground, and guide them** into becoming ministers and missionaries for the Kingdom.

**1. EVANGELIZE — REACH the Lost**

Matthew 28:19–20 (NIV) *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

Romans 10:14 *"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe... unless they are told?"*

**Application:**

- Be intentional about outreach.
- Teach our church that evangelism is not an event—it's a **mission field** they walk into daily.

**2. ASSIMILATION — CONNECT People to the Body**

Acts 2:42, 46–47 *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship... and the Lord added to their number daily..."*

A. If we Evangelize without Assimilating INTO A CHURCH FAMILY, People DRIFT.

Romans 12:5 (NIV) *"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."*

- SALVATION is the beginning — BELONGING is the bridge to growth.

**Application:**

- Create systems for follow-up, small groups, and new member classes.
- Help people go from sitting to **serving and belonging**.

**3. DISCIPLE — GROW Them in Christ**

Colossians 2:6–7 *"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up..."*

**Application:**

- Develop Bible studies, mentoring, and training paths.
- Move people from being **consumers to committed followers**.

**4. UNLEASH — RELEASE Them for Ministry**

Ephesians 4:11–12 *"...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."*

**Application:**

- Help people discover their gifts.
- Release them to serve in the church, in the city, and in the world.

**Conclusion:**

**The mission of the Church is movement.** From lost → to found; From found → to connected; From connected → to growing; From growing → to going.