

# FINDING OUR MISSION

July @ National

David Renwick, August 2, 2014

## Mission Series

- Rev. Donna Marsh  
and Elder Margaret Gardner [Serve Council Chair]
- Darrell Guder (“Missional Church”)
- John Bernbaum (“Justice in the Bible”)
  
- Today . . . *review and future possibilities*

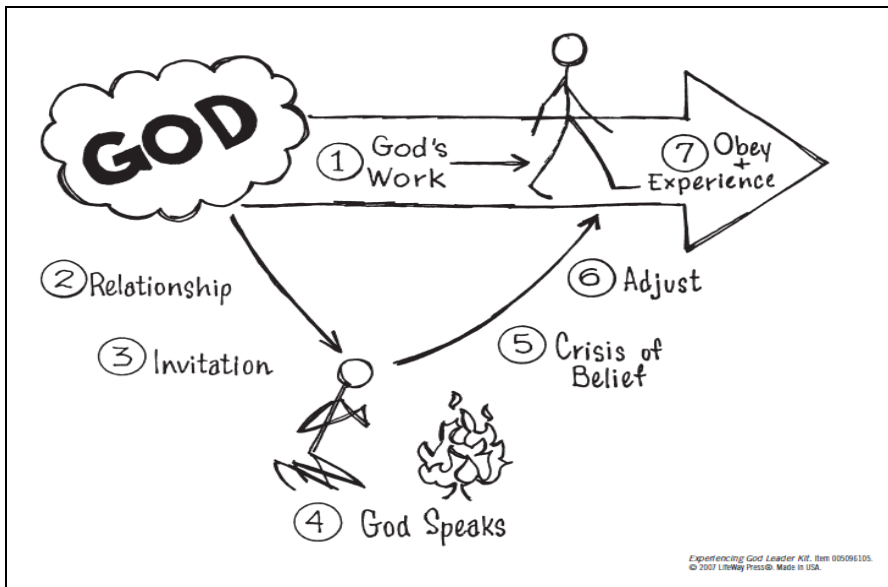
## Building on a Solid Theological Foundation

- The church does not just “do” missions;
  - Karl Barth (Switzerland, Pre-WWII)  
*“The Church IS a mission of God”*
  - Stanley Hauerwas (Duke)  
*“The Church IS a Political Statement”*
  - Declaration of Barmen  
*(the importance of the existence of a community that marches to the beat of a different drummer)*
  
- Therefore “missions” is not a subset of the church, *but . . .*
  - Participation  
by the whole church  
*in what God is doing in the world.*

EXCURSUS . . . (“Experiencing God” by Henry Blackaby → Moses)

### The Seven Realities of Experiencing God . . .

1. **God is always at work** around you (“you singular” and “you all” = **THE CHURCH!**)
2. **God pursues you** in a continuing love relationship that is real and personal.
3. **God invites you** to become involved with Him in **His** work.
4. **God speaks** by the Holy Spirit through  
*the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church*  
to reveal Himself, His purposes,  
and His ways. (DR → BBC).
5. God's invitation to work with Him  
always leads you to a **crisis of belief**,  
requiring faith and action.
6. **You must make major adjustments** in your life  
to join God in what He is doing.
7. **You come to know God by experience**  
as you obey Him (see M. Polanyi, “Tacit Knowledge”)  
and He accomplishes His work through you. . . .



**Gruder – Beware of “Reductionism” . . . i.e.,**

God is not just interested  
 in saving us (*evangelism*)  
 or in sanctifying us (*holiness*)  
But in giving us  
 a vocation (*a calling*), a mission (*a purpose*)

“Jesus said to the disciples again,  
 ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’” John 20:21  
 (send = Latin . . . *missio*; Gk *apostello*)

Alone and together  
 Christ Gives each/all of us a “Mission”  
 Christ Calls each/all of us to be “Apostles”

**TO DO WHAT? . . . Where is God at work?**

1<sup>st</sup> . . . in general . . . (*note: no reductionism!*)

**Our Presbyterians Heritage → “The Great Ends of the Church”**

1. The Proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind. (*John 3:16*)
2. The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God.  
 (*John 17; Paul’s care for the churches in scripture*)
3. The maintenance of divine worship. (*Psalms*)
4. The preservation of the truth.  
 (*Genesis 2; John 14:6*)
5. The promotion of social righteousness  
 (= “what is right” = justice. *Amos 5:24*)
6. (=1-5) The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven/God to the world. (*Mark 1:15*)

At NPC . . .

## **Mission in NPC's Strategic Plan**

**There should be . . .**

- Service that we DO together for Christ because of *a sense of vocation*: who we have been CALLED TO BE in/by Christ . . . *salt and light*
- A few, clear activities that everyone can identify and take part in  
A clear “balanced portfolio” of mission that our church is known for.

### **So . . . Thinking of *The Great Ends and the Kingdom of God***

**We should Manifest God's Kingdom** through our Mission partners as a whole

- **Knowing the King** (*evangelism, strengthening churches*)
  - Presently mainly International Mission
  - Reaching out to and welcoming the unchurched
- **Demonstrating the King's Kingdom** (*relationships, action, justice, etc.*)
  - The Biblical “quartet of the vulnerable”  
—*widows, orphans, poor, “aliens”* (see Scriptures → approx 300)

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### **Building on Our Partnerships**

- Clear criteria for our partners and partnerships.  
*Nimble, relational, annual evaluations.*
- Build relationships with partners that are mutually beneficial. . . involve more of our members

### **Building Something New! . . . esp. where we know God is already at work . . .**

(see back page of handout)

- Emphasis on justice—new partnership with the *International Justice Mission*
- Exciting innovations in local partners' ministries
  - *E.g., Central Union Mission, Martha's Table*
- Increasing collaboration with children, youth, NPS
- Mission trips:
  - 2014. Israel/Palestine in 2014.
  - 2015. Youth to the Dominican Republic (D.R.)
  - 2016. June: multi-generational to D.R. for anyone 10 and up, including singles, families and seniors.
- Local Evangelism: pilot project to help people share faith in relational, respectful ways (home based evangelism)
- New Director of Serve Ministries, coming soon.

# Building Something New. . . Ideas from David's Experience in Past Congregations . .

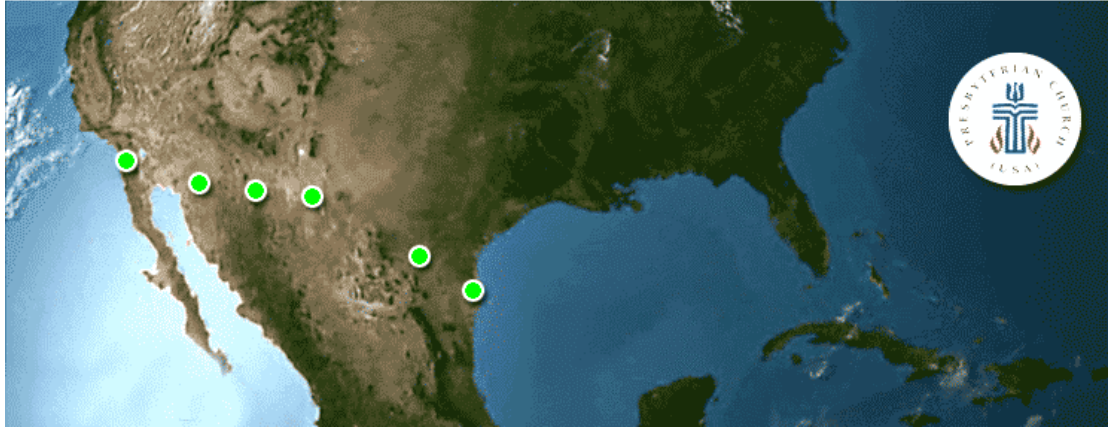
## FINANCES

- Three former congregations
  - that gave between 20-25% of annual congregational giving to Mission (excluding salaries)  
-- through annual commitments and regular annual special offerings
  - that knew what their congregation's mission involvement was  
-- and that involvement was facilitated and repeatedly encouraged

## PROJECTS

**San Antonio** (450 members)

Border Mission



Samm Shelter

An infographic for SAMMinistries. It is divided into three sections. The first section on the left says 'SAMMinistries has prevented 8,193 CHILDREN FROM ENTERING HOMELESSNESS' with a red icon of a person. The middle section says '96% of families served through Homeless Prevention Services NEVER ENTER HOMELESSNESS' with a blue house icon. The right section says 'SAMMinistries provides clients a HOLISTIC PLAN TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY INCLUDING WEEKLY WELLNESS CLASSES' with 'HOLISTIC' in large red letters.

Christian Assistance Ministry

Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) is a cooperative ministry founded by nine downtown San Antonio churches . . . to offer temporary assistance to individuals and families in crisis situations, alleviating the duplication of services by forming one centrally located social service agency.



**Spartanburg, SC (2,500 members)**

- Hunger/Seniors: Mobile Meals (1,500-1,800 meals/day, serving county of 275,000) →
- Low Income: Annual Winter Coat Drive (\$35k)
- Medical work and School Construction
  - Free Medical Clinic in Spartanburg
  - Annual mission to the Dominican Republic
- “Witness Season” Projects every February
  - Cuba (new Christian Education Building, Santa Clara Presbyterian Church)
  - Haiti, and D.R. (below)



**2011-2013 Witness Season - Repatriote, Haiti**

In 2011 our congregation raised over \$25,000 during Witness Season toward rebuilding the church in Repatriote, Haiti toppled by the 2010 earthquake. In 2013, we raised another \$25,000 to complete the project by placing a roof on the church.



During our church's Haiti mission trip this January 2014, the church in Repatriote was dedicated by an overflowing congregation. More than 900 people worship in the church each Sunday. Throughout the week the building houses community outreach ministries. Thank you for the miracle you are making happen in Haiti!

**2014 Witness Season Project - Operation D.R.**

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul...who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.” (Psalm 103:2-3)*

**Project:** Raising support for an operating room at the new clinic in San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic  
**Goal:** \$25,000  
**Total Project Cost:** \$50,000



Our 2014 Witness Season campaign will support the construction of a new hospital in San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 toward an operating room in the new hospital, with a total project cost of \$50,000. This hospital will replace the current clinic, moving operations to a new location out of a floodplain and dramatically expanding capacity. This new facility will revolutionize healthcare in the southwest region of the Dominican Republic, providing affordable, high-quality healthcare to a population with limited access to even the most basic medical facilities now.



Please be a part of this opportunity for our congregation to serve our neighbors. Each Sunday during Witness Season, speakers will share the difference our contribution will make to the people of the Dominican Republic. Please pray for our project, and please give as God leads you. Together we can be a part of the miracles God will work.

Thank you for your generosity,  
 Scott Neely

Lexington, KY (1,100 members)



Housing: Habitat for Humanity: >15 houses with FPCChurch “Habitat Build Week” —funding and time (often vacation)

Westminister Village:  
*Non-Profit Affordable Housing Project*  
(NOTE: non-profit leadership, KY & SC)

Hunger/Seniors: Meals-On Wheels (70-90 meals/day from the church kitchen)

Church Planting, Medical: PCUSA Missionaries – Malawi

Justice: B.U.I.L.D – a congregation based community organization working to make changes locally for “what is right” (justice). See *next page*

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## **PERSONAL AREAS OF INTEREST . . .**

1. **Child Sponsorship** -- NEW RESEARCH in *Journal of Political Economy* -  
[<http://press.uchicago.edu/pressReleases/2013/April/0413JPEpr.html>]

### **Does International Child Sponsorship Work? New Research Says Yes.**

- ☞ APRIL, 2013. Child sponsorship is a leading form of direct aid from households in wealthy countries to children in developing countries, with approximately 3.39 billion dollars spent to sponsor 9.14 million children internationally. A new study published in the *Journal of Political Economy* shows international child sponsorship to result in markedly higher rates of schooling completion and substantially improved adult employment outcomes.
- ☞ Researchers used first-hand survey data from a study of *Compassion International*, a leading child sponsorship organization, to examine the adult life outcomes of a group of 10,144 individuals in Bolivia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, the Philippines, and Uganda that included children who began sponsorship through the program a generation ago. The study estimates causal effects on adult life outcomes in areas such as educational completion, type of employment, and community leadership.
- ☞ Specifically, the study finds that international sponsorship increased the probability of a child completing secondary school by 27%–40%, completing a university education by 50%–80%, and obtaining a white-collar job as an adult by about 35%.

2. **D.C. School Libraries!! . . .**

## B.U.I.L.D., Lexington, KY / The “Dart organization

[www.thedartcenter.org](http://www.thedartcenter.org); <http://thedartcenter.org/location/build/>

### → *Mobilizing Communities for Direct Action*

The screenshot shows the DART website interface. At the top left is the DART logo (Direct Action & Research Training Center) with a target icon. To the right is a search bar and 'Log in | Contact Us' links. A navigation bar contains: HOME, LEARN ABOUT DART, BECOME AN ORGANIZER, INVOLVE YOUR CONGREGATION, and APPLY. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: DART > Learn About Dart > What Makes Us Different. The main content area has a green header 'WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT'. Below this is a paragraph: 'There are many non-profit organizations across the nation doing noble and important work to ease the suffering caused by the problems plaguing our communities. DART is not one of them. DART does not address symptoms of injustice. Rather, we target the root cause of injustice: powerlessness. Below, we highlight this and several other ways in which DART is distinct.' A 'Mission' section is highlighted with a green bar and a 'Close' button. It contains three columns: 'DART WILL:', 'DART WILL NOT:', and 'WHY?'. The 'DART WILL:' column lists: 'Seek justice by holding systems accountable. Examples include holding public school officials accountable to use of high quality, proven reading curriculum in low-performing public schools; holding criminal justice officials accountable to lower recidivism and taxpayer burden by providing substance abuse treatment programming in county jails, and; holding city and transit authorities accountable to improve public bus service and expand accessibility to higher paying jobs'. The 'DART WILL NOT:' column lists: 'Provide direct service to meet immediate needs like the Red Cross, which provides food and supplies in the aftermath of natural disasters; Teach for America, which sends teachers into low-performing public schools for a limited time to provide supplemental support; Habitat for Humanity, which builds several affordable homes using volunteer labor and donations'. The 'WHY?' column lists: 'Although mercy work/direct service that alleviates individual suffering is necessary, DART believes that justice and fairness are at least equally important values that we are required to act on in our communities.'

## PROCESS . . . Non-Partisan Approach

Seeking Issues and Solutions that unify

1. Establish a Team that meets with members of the congregation one-on-one to establish congregational areas of interest
2. Surface broad areas of common interest that unite
3. Research and “Cut” issues down to specific parts that can be resolved
4. Determine and meet with those with the power to effect change
5. Use the power of prayer, people, pertinent and correct information, to create action.

**NPC's Mission Partnerships. . .**  
**Serving our Neighbors in the Greatest Need**  
**Equipping the Global Church for the Greatest Impact**  
**and**  
**Being Transformed Together**

**People hear the Gospel and are encouraged in their faith in difficult contexts**

<i>On Capitol Hill</i>	Peggy McCracken, Christian Embassy
<i>In High Schools</i>	Young Life DC John Wagner, Young Life NYC Anne Gochnour Snow, Young Life Puerto Rico
<i>In Kurdistan</i>	The Callisons, PC(USA)
<i>In Eastern Europe</i>	New Hope International
<i>In Moldova</i>	Moldova Marriage Ministry
<i>In Palestine</i>	Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Birzeit Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation
<i>At a school for the deaf</i>	Angela Bednarczyk, Senegal

**People have the Gospel in their own language for the first time**

<i>Worldwide</i>	Fraser Bennett, Wycliffe/SIL (HQ)
<i>In Africa</i>	Keith Patman, Wycliffe
<i>In Burkina Faso</i>	Stuart Showalter, Wycliffe
<i>In the Philippines</i>	Steve Quakenbush, Wycliffe

**The global Church has indigenous leadership, well-trained to share the Gospel**

<i>In Croatia</i>	Evangelical Theological Seminary
<i>In Moldova</i>	College of Theology and Education
<i>In Palestine</i>	Bethlehem Bible College
<i>In Zambia</i>	The Ellingtons, Justo Mwale
<i>In Thailand and SE Asia</i>	McGilvary College of Divinity

**The homeless**

<i>Hear the Gospel, are housed, fed and stabilized</i>	Central Union Mission, DC
<i>Find housing, psychiatric care, mentors and jobs</i>	Friendship Place, DC
<i>Are fed</i>	Martha's Table, DC

**The poor**

<i>Receive food, clothing and assistance</i>	Central Union Mission, DC/Metro
<i>Receive food, clothing and education</i>	Martha's Table, DC
<i>Find permanent housing</i>	Habitat for Humanity DC
<i>Find the Gospel and after-school programs</i>	Unique Learning Center, DC
<i>Find justice and freedom from human trafficking</i>	International Justice Mission
<i>Receive development assistance and medical care</i>	Foundation for Peace, Haiti & DR
<i>Find the Gospel, education, mentoring and care</i>	Unsung Heroes/The Carrs, South Africa

**Seniors are fed, receive medical care and social services**

<i>In Palestine</i>	Birzeit Senior Center
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