


“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

“Every Christian is a priest already...because Christ Himself has begotten him as a priest and has given birth to him in Baptism.” –Martin Luther



“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

Your Webinar Hosts:

- Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper, Assistant to the President Congregation Mission and Ministries, Metro Zone / Ministry Support Michigan District, LCMS
- Michele Jones, CrossBridge Action Network

“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

Michele’s Story:

- Sometimes the gifts of God aren’t wrapped as we expect.
- Rockin Story: Importance of enabling and building up.
- CrossBridge Story: Importance of trust.
- Leaders have responsibility for noticing, identifying and creating opportunities for the benefit of people, organizations and society.

“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

Michele’s Story:

- The Fish Story
- GOD PROVIDES direction and resources BUT you have to work really hard!
- Remember: No matter how many mistakes you make or how slow your progress, you are still ahead of everyone who isn’t trying!

“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

Let’s recap some key points for broad application:

1. A need in the community is presented and gains our attention.

“How to Identify and Release Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

2. There is an “uneasiness” or “tension” between “how things are” and “how things could/should be.”

A. *“Missional thinking embraces the belief that God intends for every one of His children to be living on mission, partnering with Him in His redemptive mission in the world.” **To Transform a City**, Swanson and Williams, pg. 21.*

B. *“It is Truth that makes us relative.” **Already Gone**, Ham and Beemer.*

“How to Identify and Release Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

3. We recognize that God may be calling us to be His answer to their prayer/need.

A. *“Despite our cool presentations, powerful personalities, and biblical mission statements we have plastered all over the Sanctuary walls, people have a hard time living for Christ or becoming like Christ because their flesh pulls out a switchblade and tries to fight off God’s ways.” The Gathered and Scattered Church, Halter and Smay, pg. 79.*

“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

4. We seek council with other Christians to frame a response.

A. *“When synergy occurs, we are able to exceed our individual potential: 1+1=>2.” To Transform a City, pg. 23.*

“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

5. We simply “start doing something” toward bringing change.

A. *“It is important to note that we do not engage ...our communities so that they will become Christians, but...because we are Christians. We don’t serve to convert, but because we have been converted.” To Transform a City, pg. 58.*

B. *“You might call **initiative** putting shoes on faith. Shoes prepare us to journey across all terrains and to go wherever we are led, no matter how treacherous or unpaved.” ME and WE, Sweet, pg. 139.*

“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

6. We ask for help.

A. *“We humans seem to be capable of great kindness, so long as it does not cost us anything.” ME and WE, Sweet, pg. 3.*

“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

7. BREAK-THROUGH

A. *“Sound contextualization means translating and adapting the communication and ministry of the Gospel to a particular culture (ministry context) without compromising the essence and particulars of the Gospel itself...to express the Gospel message in a way that avoids making the message unnecessarily alien...yet without removing or obscuring the scandal and offence of biblical truth.” Center Church, Keller, pg. 89.*

“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

8. The vision we held now holds us and carries us forward.

“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

What were some actions on the part of the pastor and of congregation leaders that really helped along the way?

- Rockin 4 Hunger idea was enabled by a pastor and Christian friends
- CrossBridge first preschool was embraced and supported by the Pastor.

“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

What support systems were missing?

- ALL! Both examples show that a group determined to bring an idea to reality required great effort and help.
- What if? What if the ideas had been shattered at inception? What blessings would have been missed.

“How to Identify and Release Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”



istockphoto.com/malikiid



“How to Identify and Enable Lay Missionaries From Within Your Congregation”

Bibliography

- “Breaking the Missional Code” Ed Stetzer | David Putman.
- “Center Church” Timothy Keller.
- “ME and WE” Leonard Sweet.
- “Missional Renaissance” Reggie McNeal.
- “The Gathered and Scattered Church” Hugh Halter | Matt Smay.
- “To Transform a City” Eric Swanson | Sam Williams.
