

MISSION

We believe that the South Central Conference Office exists to strengthen and support the mission and ministry of the churches in the South Central Conference. Therefore, the South Central Conference Church Ministries & Mission Development Department exists to assist pastors and their church leaders in leading their churches to become more Spirit-led and Mission-driven. We do this by providing pastors and their church leaders with ministry coaching and support in five fundamental areas of Church Development: 1) Prayer, 2) Mission, 3) Spiritual Gifts, 4) Small Groups, and 5) Ministries. When engaged sequentially, these become one fivefold strategy for leading churches to become more Spirit-led and Mission-driven.

10 STEP SPIRIT-LED, MISSION-DRIVEN PROCESS — STEP #3 —

Our SCC Vision for the next five years is focused on four major emphases: #1 Transformational Evangelism; #2 Christian Education; #3 Community Engagement; and #4 Youth & Young Adult Empowerment. The Church Ministries & Mission Development Department has been tasked with assisting pastors and their church leaders in moving their churches forward with #1 Transformational Evangelism and #3 Community Engagement. To do so, we recommend churches follow our 10-Step *Spirit-Led, Mission-Driven Process*. In previous editions we've introduced Steps #1 and #2—Discover the Mission and Describe the Vision. **This month we move on to Step #3: Depend on God's Promise.**

Let's imagine that for our summer



vacation my wife and I decide to take our family on a cross country road trip to visit the Grand Canyon. The mission (step #1) is to drive from Nashville, TN to Grand Canyon Village, AZ, and the vision (step #2) is to make memories that will last a lifetime, bonding our family together forever! Sounds like a wonderful plan, doesn't it? But what if, after putting all of our suitcases in the trunk, instead of getting in the



Furman Fordham, II, Director
Church Ministries & Mission Development

driver's seat and starting the engine, I stay behind the vehicle and proceed to push us from Tennessee to Arizona???

Clear mission. Compelling vision. Wrong source of power.

As bizarre as this story may seem, unfortunately it all too accurately de-

THE SCC CHURCH MINISTRIES &



10-STEP SPIRIT-LED, MISSION-DRIVEN PROCESS, *Continued from page 1*

scribes what is currently taking place in many of our churches—we are trying to execute the mission, and fulfill the vision, in our own power. This, however, was never Jesus's intention. That's why we find Him in Acts 1:4 commanding His followers "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father." In other words, before they preached any sermons, gave any Bible studies, did any community services work, or proceeded with any social justice reform, they were to wait for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit! It's as if Jesus needed them to know that the assignment He had given them was way above their paygrade; therefore, provision had already been made for them to move forward through the power of the Holy Spirit. And then Peter tells us that the same power made available to them has also been made available to us: "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39). Additionally, Ellen White writes, "The lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ's parting promise to send the Holy

Spirit as His representative. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need

"Why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit?"

of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension, and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plentitude."

She continues, "Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God. Companies of Christian workers should gather to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to execute wisely. Especially should they pray that God will baptize His chosen ambassadors in mission fields with a rich measure of His Spirit. The presence of the Spirit with God's workers will give the proclamation of the truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give" (Ellen White, *Acts of the Apostles*, pg. 50).

After we have "Discovered the Mission," and "Described the Vision," let us not be found guilty of trying to do God's work in our own power. No! Let's "Depend on God's Promise" to fill us with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit!



Just before Jesus returned to heaven, He charged us to do something which seems impossible...one of the most amazing verses in the Bible.

"Verily, verily" (pay attn.) "I say..." (means He is putting all His authority behind this statement) He that believeth, the works I do shall he do also



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MISSION DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

POSSIBLE



(that’s amazing enough)... and greater works than these shall he do...” (not only equal His works, but exceed them!) John 14:12.

Sounds like mission impossible! And yet, our God, who cannot lie, has said it. So, how can we bring ourselves into obedience to this verse? How can we make it a reality, without explaining it away? / watering it down? / twisting the meaning?

Let me tell you precisely how we can fulfill this verse. We need 4 things:

1. Expectation of our Purpose (Mission)

What did Jesus mean by “greater works”? He fed 5,000 people with a lad’s lunch and walked on water. Will we walk on water? Raise the dead? No, Jesus did not say we’d work greater miracles than He, but that we’d do greater works!

What are the greater works?

Greater than raising someone physically is to raise them spiritually. The greater work is salvation—seeing people pass from spiritual death unto spiritual life. Jesus is not talking about miracles, but work. Jesus’ primary work was not walking on water, healing diseases, raising people from the dead...though He did all of those things. The primary work was His mission: Jesus’ work was to seek and save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” We can do a greater work than He did because we’re building upon what He started! Jesus BEGAN

a work that we are supposed to bring to completion. He BEGAN it in His earthly body, and He will CONTINUE it thru His spiritual body (us!).

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“The mission of the church of Christ is to save perishing sinners. It is to make known the love of God to men and to win them to Christ by the efficacy of that love.”

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world” (AA, 9).

2. There’s an Explicit Promise

Right after our text, in v. 12, where Jesus says that we’ll do greater works, vs. 13-14 says He promises to do it thru us! It applies to our witness here, and our giving around the world. When we ask something according to God’s will...something which we KNOW is God’s will, God promises to make it happen. Why wouldn’t we take this amazing promise all the way to the bank?

3. An Exalted Purpose

This is what we’re all about...bringing glory to God by seeing people

saved! There’s a life worth living! There’s a purpose worth committing yourself to. It’s bigger than just ourselves and our problems. God didn’t leave us here just to work a job and make money to pay bills. We’re here to keep people out of hell and finish His work on earth...and in so doing we bring great glory to our Father in heaven! This is our purpose.

4. Explosive Power

MISSION IS POSSIBLE WHEN WE ARE SPIRIT-LED AND MISSION DRIVEN. When we follow this pattern, we will fulfill the promise of “greater works” that Jesus foretold. And He promises us power to fulfill this mission.

Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”



Pastor **Jeffery L. Watson**
Associate Director,
SCC Church Ministries
& Mission Development
Department



A Reason for Small Groups

Question: As a man attending church, have you ever felt like the following—Is this all, come to church weekend after weekend not really making a connection? It is not that the church service is bad or that the Pastor cannot preach, but it seems that there is a connection missing, a desire to go a little deeper. You may even ask yourself, "Are there any men that are going through some of the things that I am going through, seeing things the

way I see them or even having some of the same concerns that I have?" However, the closest you have gotten relationship wise with the men in the church is a superficial "hello" or a wave from a distance.

There is a way to make a connection, and that is through small groups. How is that? you might ask. A small group is a group of 3-5 men that come together on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to share, learn and build trust and accountability with each other. Small groups are es-

sential for men because they build relationships beyond the Sabbath worship service. Small groups also help men to know that they are not alone in their spiritual journey. It's like a church within the church and it allows men to connect with each other.



Pastor Reginald Robinson
Leader, SCC Small Group Ministries

RAISED GARDEN BED

Spring is in the air, which means it's time for gardening! For those who are interested in starting a "raised-bed" (4x8) garden, we can guide you thru this journey (Click WATCH NOW to access the YouTube Video).



Curtis and Paula Eakins
SCC Health Evangelism Ministries

