

MISSION

G O Y E I N T O A L L T H E W O R L D

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 #5

Our SCC (South Central Conference) 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 have presented the following steps: 1) Discover the Mission, 2) Describe the Vision, 3) Depend on God's Promise, and 4) Draw a Fresh Slate. This

month we move on to **Step #5: Design Mission Strategy**.

When one reads the story of the early church chronicled in the book of Acts, one of the most striking features of the saga is the obvious presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst. Ministry was conducted in the gifts of the Spirit; miracles were performed through the working of the Spirit; decisions were made with the direction of the Spirit; and lives were transformed by the power of the Spirit. In everything that was done the Holy Spirit was front and center. They were clearly *Spirit-led*.

Another equally impressive aspect of the New Testament church is a direct corollary of the first—being Spirit-led made them *Mission-driven*. Jesus had said it this way: “The Holy



Spirit will come upon you and give you power. *Then* you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world” (Acts 1:8 CEV, emphasis mine). And that is exactly what took place! The Holy Spirit was the cause, and mission was the effect—so much so, that eventually the apostle Paul could declare that “the gospel” had

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THE SCC CHURCH MINISTRIES &



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

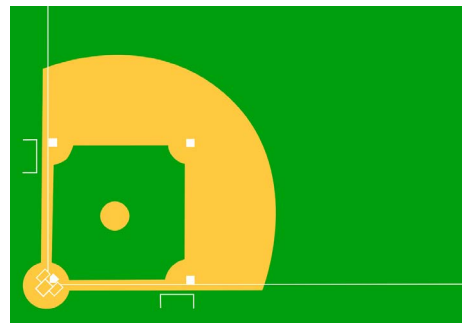
been “proclaimed to every creature under heaven” (Col 1:23 NIV). The early church was definitely *Mission-driven*.

But a frequently underemphasized (but by no means unimportant) aspect of their story is the *strategy* they used to accomplish the mission. Notice, the first assignment they were given was “not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4 NKJV). That was step #1. But then, even after the Holy Spirit had been poured out at Pentecost, they were not to individually run off every which way at once, excitedly attempting to share the good news. No. The systematic way in which evangelism occurs in the book of Acts suggests that Jesus was strategically directing them to *first* witness for Him in Jerusalem (the city), *then* in all Judea (the equivalent of the county), *then* in all Samaria (the neighboring county), and *then* to steadily expand their witness to the entire world. This was to be their large scale, world evangelism strategy.

And we also see the church operating a smaller localized “in Jerusalem” strategy. Referring to the 3,000 who were baptized on the day of Pentecost the Bible says: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They

sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:42–47, NIV). Teaching, fellowship, prayer, outreach, worship, and evangelism—those were the components of their “in Jerusalem” strategy.

The point is, the New Testament church was not only *Spirit-led and Mission-driven*, they were also extremely strategic in how they pursued the mission. They operated according to a clearly defined, intentionally designed mission strategy.



A mission strategy is simply a step-by-step process for achieving a goal. Baseball is an excellent example. The goal, or mission of the game, is to score runs by getting a player home. But there is a process involved, a step-by-step strategy. First you must get to first base, then second base, then third base, and then home. That is the process. That is the strategy.

Incidentally, it should be obvious that it would be insufficient for a baseball team to only know the mission (getting home). That is a good place to start; but in order to be successful, they would need to have the strategy (first base, second base, third base, home). Yet, that is exactly what many of our churches do. We take the time to develop a well-crafted statement that explains *what* the church exists to do (mission), but we do not take the next step of clearly explaining *how* it is to be done (strategy).

To better understand the benefits of designing a mission strategy, we recommend the book *Simple Church* by Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger. Additionally, our Church Ministries & Mission Development Department will gladly provide your church with assistance in designing your mission strategy as part of our overall *Spirit-led, Mission-driven process*. Like the New Testament church, our churches should strive to become Spirit-led; and like the New Testament church, our churches should aim to become Mission-driven; and like the New Testament church, our churches should pursue the mission according to a clearly-defined, intentionally-designed mission strategy.



Pastor
Furman Fordham, II,
Director
SCC Church Ministries &
Mission Development
Department



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MISSION DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Camp Meeting Workshops Ignite Passion for Ministry

SMALL GROUPS

Camp Meeting 2023 was a spiritual feast that reminded all that “It Is Time To Go!!!” One of the areas the church needs to get going in is the area of small groups. We enjoyed a very powerful 2-part seminar facilitated by Brenda Allen, LMSW from the Montgomery area.

She took a group of 12 attendees on a journey with her small group ministry called **Lifetime Resolutions**. The ministry concept started out with the small group model but



grew too large. Allen shared that God revealed to her to get back to His method. Now the ministry is flourishing again.



Additionally, Allen shared the model with her sister, a retired church school teacher, Reggenia Baskin who used the small group model to start a ministry called **Home In The Heart**.

She shared pictures of the homeless community in Montgomery who were being blessed by that ministry.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

In the same room following the Small Group Seminar: Pastor Jeffery L. Watson, Associate Director of CMMD led



out in a seminar “**Why You Act The Way You Do.**”

The subject matter felt like fire as he kept the attendees spell-bound by making a connection between how God wires us (**temperaments**) and then gifts us for His service.

The attendees were amazed at learning about the four temperaments: introverts & extroverts; people oriented & task oriented.



On the next day, the attendee number grew to almost 20. The group was able to take their own temperament analysis and spiritual gift analysis. The group was able to find biblical characters that were wired like themselves. This revelation made them very optimistic and enthusiastic about the fact that God can use them also.



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

Camp Meeting 2023: "Exactly What We Need!"

The room was filled to capacity of nearly fifty (50) on both days of workshops during the South Central Conference camp meeting, 2023. The responses received immediately following our Monday presentation: “A Woman’s Heart” (focusing on the unique differences concerning heart attack symptoms etc.) and our Wednesday presentation “Cool Answers to a Hot Topic” (revealing how to balance hormones, enhance intimacy etc.) were: “*This is exactly what we need, we just don’t talk about this stuff in our churches.*”

Another stated, “*There are so many more women that need to hear this.*” In addition, these vital topics targeting women’s health were so informative that Shawn Moss, senior pastor of Greenville, MS asked Paula to do a zoom presentation of the “Cool Answers to a Hot Topic” for her church audience the following week, over twenty people were in attendance! We praise God for the avenues that were provided to educate not only the church, but to empower all attendees to share *evangelistically* with their communities as well.



Curtis and Paula Eakins
SCC Health Evangelism
Ministries

PRISON MINISTRIES

Teach them Truth; Provide Support



Camp meeting 2023 has come and gone leaving those who attended the Prison Ministries meetings well informed and armed with new ideas. The participants listened to the information presented by Cleve Houser, the department head for Prison Ministries with the North American Division.

They learned of opportunities to share with inmates about helping them land a good job once they leave the penal system. We discussed the importance of having a GED when assisting these men and women who are re-integrating into society. We shared a lengthy list of companies who hire ex-offenders and how important it is to help these individuals find transportation to these potential job opportunities. Additionally, we

spent time discussing church readiness and what that means when inmates are released and what steps should be taken in order to prevent them from being ostracized. We closed our time by discussing ideas that will assist two of our current prison ministries teams in moving forward with a broader holistic approach to prison ministry.

Ultimately, our desire for prison ministry is to see it include not only truths for those incarcerated, but support for the inmates' families while their sentences are being served. This would include assistance with the inmate's children, spouse, and extended family as well. The need for support for the inmates and their families has long been overlooked and is now on our radar as we

move forward. Finally, we want to assist in finding jobs as these citizens return to their communities and help them become productive citizens that enhance the communities where they live.

We would like to thank some of the individuals who attended our seminar: Raymond Freeman, David U Shirley, Lynn Terrell Douglas, James Hickerson, Tony Hall, Torry Townsend, Mildreth Easter, Robert Ervin, Carmen Ervin, Winfield and Elinor Burks, John Young, and Leon Bradley.



*Pastor
Ricky Wade
SCC Prison Ministries
Leader*

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Women Empowered at Camp Meeting 2023

I am joyfully reporting another successful, informative, empowering Women's Ministry celebration during SCC Camp Meeting, June 9-17, 2023. WM Leader Dr. Freddie Jenkins set the tone of the celebration on Monday with a Women's Small Group Ministries 101 workshop that explored and discussed the fundamentals of developing small-group ministries.

Estefania Howell, Coordinator and Leader of Ablaze Prayer Group

shared how-to, hands-on information to create, grow, and maintain a small group ministry. Dr. Jenkins was gifted a beautiful lantern from the Ablaze Prayer Group, symbolizing her empowering leadership in Women's Small Group Ministry.



*Dr. Freddie Williams Jenkins
SCC Women's Ministries Leader
Women's Small Groups*



THE FACE-2-FACE CONNECTION

Camp Meeting 2023 Men's Small Groups

In a world where connection is often sought through digital means, it is refreshing to find genuine camaraderie in face-to-face gatherings. Recently, I had the privilege of experiencing this during the men's small group seminar at our SCC Camp meeting. From the moment I entered the room, it was evident that this gathering would be a remarkable experience. The energy, engagement, and profound sense of fellowship were truly captivating.

Captivating Encounters:

The men's meeting began with an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm and anticipation. As introductions were made, I discovered an eclectic group of individuals who came together with a common purpose: to

foster personal growth, build relationships, and support one another. As I presented, it was evident that every attendee had an opportunity to contribute and participate.

Dynamic Discussions:

Engaging discussions formed the heart of the meeting. The atmosphere was one of open-mindedness, respect, and vulnerability. Every man in attendance had the opportunity to share and express the importance of forming small groups within the church so that trust, accountability and comradery might be established.

The authenticity with which the attendees shared their experiences was inspiring, fostering an environment of trust and understanding. It was invigorating to witness the

passion with which everyone contributed to these thought-provoking conversations.

As I reflect on the time spent at the men's seminar, I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of such a remarkable gathering. It served as a reminder that when men unite with a common purpose, incredible things can be achieved. The experience will forever remain etched in my memory as a testament to the power of human connection and the transformative potential of shared experiences.



**Pastor
Reginald Robinson**
*Leader,
SCC Small Group
Ministries*