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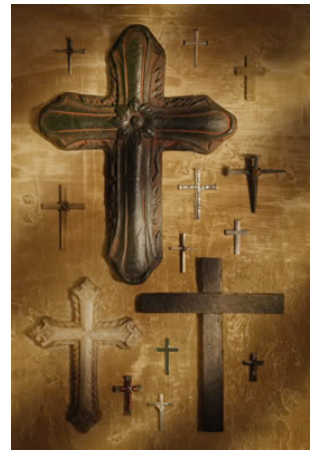


Pastor Connect

12th August, 2009

Mission

I have heard this word a few times in the last week when talking to people about the Church. I have been asked how we at MCC Sydney 'do' mission. Now this is a very complex question! Mission is one of those words that can mean so many things. I don't know about you, but often when I hear that word I think of white Europeans in the 1700s and 1800s hacking their way through jungle on their way to 'civilise' and 'church' people and societies they presumed to be uncivilised and unchurched. This happened whether the people wanted it or not! There are many stories of people with good intentions and bad information working in ways that were ultimately harmful and often destructive. I know many countries, Australia included, has stories about this. As one writer put it, the churches in their early missionary activities imported everything; from hymnbooks to archbishops to harmoniums!



So when we talk about mission today, I believe we have to make sure that we engage in activities that are appropriate, well thought out, and effectively target and engage with those we want to reach. Jesus was the ultimate example of this. His mission example was so incredibly inclusive. It embraced both the poor and rich, both the oppressed and the oppressor, both the sinners and the devout. Ultimately his mission would be to dissolve alienation and to break down the walls of hostility, crossing boundaries between individuals and groups. In addition to all of this, Jesus doesn't lay down conditions when he went to meet with others, which was a big problem for the Pharisees in the gospel story.

This is what we try to do in MCC, and in MCC Sydney. We try our best to be an inclusive Church to emulate the example of Christ. Much of the time we get it right. Sometimes we get it wrong. And when we do we ask forgiveness, learn from our mistakes and continue on. For the Pharisees of this modern world would like nothing more than to see us fail.

So how do we 'do' mission? In many different ways, but always with the love and inclusively of Christ as our guide as we continue on the mission that he started so many years ago, and that continues on to this day.

Blessings

Gavin

Announcements

Board Of Directors

There have been some changes with the board of directors. Glenn Boyd, our lay delegate, and Sonia Milner, our treasurer, have both finished up their time on the board. The board and I will miss them both greatly, and I want to thank them for their hard work and dedication to MCC Sydney. I also would like to thank Alan Maurice who has stepped in as acting treasurer until the annual general meeting in November.

Sleaze Ball

Sleaze Ball is happening again this year on the 3rd October. MCC Sydney is again doing the cloak room for this party and we are looking for volunteers. It's a great way to meet other people in the

room for the party and we are looking for volunteers for a great way to meet other people in the church while helping to raise money and the awareness of MCC in the community. If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at pastor@mccsydney.org.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

10am Service - Traditional

All are welcome at our 10am traditional service where we will be looking in more depth at communion and what it really means for us as Christians.

6:30pm Service - Crave

What does God look like? Does this change the way you think about God? Come along to hear discussion about these questions and more as we look at the images of God and how we visualise or imagine God.

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