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[On Mission Highlights on
Southwestern Ohio District
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First Edition

This is the first edition of the SWO *On Mission* newsletter. Each month we will be highlighting activities being done on our district and around the world that help us stay "on mission." Please email me information your church or other churches are doing that have been missional in nature. It is our hope that we can incorporate into our churches ideas and concepts that apply to our sphere of ministry.

What Does It Mean To Be Missional?

God's Word tells us to **go** into all the world and **be** his ambassadors. Being missional is about going and being. Missional describes what happens when we replace the "come to us" mindset with a "go to them" lifestyle. There is more effort given to getting our church people out among the people of the world than there is to get the people of the world in among us. To put it in theological terms...**The church's ministry is *incarnational***, not attractional.

Cincinnati Covenant NewStart

Mending Day - a group of ladies from West Chester Church of the Nazarene are going to bring their sewing machines to mend people's clothing on December 8. Many cannot afford new clothes so they make the ones they do have last as long as they can. **People from West Chester going into the community...very missional.**

Also, Grace Chapel in Mason is providing a food pantry for Cincinnati Covenant, November 10, 2007. They will come back and replenish the supply every month. **A non-Nazarene church helping a Nazarene church...very missional.** Thanks to Pastor Abe Brandyberry for sharing these ideas.

Flag Football at Xenia Church of the Nazarene

Gregg Parkman, associate pastor at Xenia, has started a flag football league in an effort to reach the unchurched in the Xenia. The league has 8 teams and about 80% of the players are non-believers. This league has given Gregg the opportunity to share the gospel through devotions and personal testimonies. Several men within the church volunteer as officials to help keep things running smoothly. The church's vision is to grow this league in an effort to build relationships the players. At the end of the season each player will be given the opportunity to receive Christ.

Conferences Attended

Doug Dunlap, associate pastor at West Chester who attended the Catalyst Conference. "Rick Warren challenged me attitudinally. He said, "Don't go home looking to serve God in the ideal church, but the real church." Regardless of our search for the ideal setting, the real church is the one that exists within our hearts...with our own walk with Christ...with our own relationships that need enhanced and advanced.

Keven Wentworth, pastor at Beavercreek: "The LEAP seminar at MVNU with Eddie Gibbs was truly an outstanding time. One thing I received out of this seminar was the stark reality of what is going on in the mind of today's generation. As much I would like to deny the fact there are generational differences one can truly observe what Gibbs was saying; reminding us to not look at this time as hopeless but as opportunity for the church today.

Books We're Reading

Creating Community by Andy Stanley
Unlearning Church by Michael Slaughter
The Way of the Master by Ray Comfort
Simple Church by Thom Rainer
The Present Future by Reggie McNeal
Making Disciples One Conversation at a Time by D. Michael Henderson
Communicating for a Change by Andy Stanley

Top Ten Issues Facing Today's Church

What are the most pressing challenges impacting the local church? More than 1,300 ministry leaders from Europe, North America and elsewhere provided input into their most important issues. See the results and resources to tackle each problem [click here](#).

Springdale Hispanic Outreach

Brian Reisen (Springdale) employs many Hispanics at his company and has a common interest with them... soccer. Brian approached Rick Harvey, Senior Pastor at Springdale, with the idea of an indoor soccer (futsal) league. Rick asked former missionary, Marlon King to work with Brian and pull together a team of mission-minded Springdale people to lead this initiative.

Futsal teams have been formed and games started Tuesday, October 30. The idea is simple; Use futsal to build relationships in order to share the love of Christ.

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