

RELEVANT MISSION

September 2009

The Pastors Connection

"Relevant Mission"

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me to preach good news to the poor, freedom for prisoners, sight for the blind and release of the oppressed...today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Adapted from Lk. 4: 18-21

Our Lord knew his mission. His ministry would have an economic, social and spiritual impact immediately recognized as good news by prisoners, the blind and the oppressed.

A few minutes after Jesus claimed these biblical words as his calling he reminded his hearers that God was as active at healing their enemies as he was at healing them. That assertion made them so mad they tried to kill him on the spot. Why are human beings so threatened by God's mercy equally available to enemies?

As a congregation we have a rich history of impacting our community and world with kingdom light. This summer we have had numerous dynamic reports from our mission partners. What an incredible heritage we steward! It increases my passion for us to also succeed at setting people free. We want to increasingly live such that our neighbors know their world is a better place because Conestoga exists.

The agenda the Pastoral Team is addressing these openings months of my service includes a review of our mission. During candidacy I shared my sense that the words would build on the double meaning of "living history." Our goal is to shape a statement of thirty words or less; and a tag line of eight words or less. The current draft reads as follows:

Our mission: ***Christ calls us to be the next generation living His story together; joyfully inviting God's Holy Spirit to flow through us offering healing and hope to the world.*** \

Our mission tag line: **Joyfully living His story together.**

The biblical foundations and practical implications of these draft statements will be introduced through Sunday messages the first two weeks in September. As a Pastoral Team we invite your feedback before we approve final wording.

Once it "seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us" we will use the words to shape our identity and focus our priorities. Every generation needs to sort out what it

means to honor the values of their heritage while also being relevant to the challenges of their time.

Aim for nothing and you are sure to hit it. We rather aim to hit the mark with the best clarity and courage we can muster! Thank you for your creative and faithful partnership!

Living His story with you,
Pastor Bob Petersheim