

## **Eight Ways to Be On-Mission** - this summer and forever!

Participating with God in missional living doesn't have to be something we tack onto our lives - it can be our lives and the way that we live. If you would like to expand your thinking about such things consider the following:

- 1) **Eat with non-Christians.** We all eat three meals a day. Why not make a habit of sharing one of those meals with a non-Christian or with a family of non-Christians? Go to lunch with a co-worker, not by yourself. Invite the neighbors over for family dinner. If it's too much work to cook a big dinner, just order pizza and put the focus on conversation. When you go out for a meal, invite others. Have cookouts and invite Christians and non-Christians. Be intentional with those far from Jesus.
- 2) **Walk, don't drive.** If you live in a walkable area, make a practice of getting out and walking around your neighborhood, apartment complex, or campus. Instead of driving to the mailbox, convenience store, or apartment office, walk to get mail, groceries, and stuff. Say hello to people along the way. Pray as you go.
- 3) **Be a regular.** Instead of hopping all over the the city for gas, groceries, haircuts, meals, and coffee, go to the same places. Get to know the staff...Go at the same times. Build relationships. Be a regular.
- 4) **Hobby with non-Christians.** Pick a hobby that you can share. Get out and do something you enjoy with others. Try local kayak, cycling, or exercise groups. Share your hobby by teaching sessions - sewing, piano, violin, guitar, tennis. Be prayerful. Be intentional. Be yourself.
- 5) **Talk to your co-workers.** How hard is that? Take your breaks with intentionality. Go out with your team or taskforce after work. Show interest in your co-workers. Pick four and pray for them. Form a moms group in your neighborhood and don't make them exclusively non-Christian. Work and live on mission.
- 6) **Volunteer with nonprofits.** Find a nonprofit in your part of the city and take a Saturday each month or so and serve there. Bring your neighbors, your friends, or your small group or Bible study friends. Spend time with your church serving your community. You can do it.
- 7) **Participate in city events.** Instead of watching TV, surfing the net, or other activities, participate in city events. Go to fundraisers, festivals, clean-ups, fairs, farmers' markets, summer shows, and concerts. Participate missionally. Strike up conversations. Study the culture. Reflect upon what you see and hear. Participate with the city/county.
- 8) **Serve your neighbors.** Help a neighbor by weeding, mowing, building a cabinet, or fixing a car. Stop by the neighborhood association or apartment office and ask if there is anything you can do to help improve things. Ask your local police and fire stations if there is anything you can do to help them. Get creative. Just serve.

\*adapted from Jonathan Dodson "Eight Ways to Easily be Missional" April 7, 2009, Church Planting Novice.