***Developing Missional Bridges***

Ministry activities require effort to become missional bridges. Always plan how you will leverage an activity to build bridges to Jesus and into your church. *Plan each event with the next one in mind.* The more bridges we build for people, the more who will cross over into life in Christ, fruitful relationships with others and meaningful ministry. A ministry out in the community should bridge to one at your church.

Here are some ways to create “missional bridges”:

“*Taste and See*” Plan small and large group opportunities for people to get to know you and your church’s vision, values and mission. Let them “taste and see that the Lord is good…and our church is, too!”

“*Go and Serve*” Go out (sometimes partnering with other community groups) to serve redemptively, demonstrating God’s love in practical ways. This is where to deploy your ministry and mission teams. Remember, “Where people congregate, we will operate.”

“*Learn and Grow*” Develop short term seminars or groups to meet felt needs, usually four to six weeks long. These groups can meet inside or outside your church.

“*Get to Know*” Develop creative ways for people to connect relationally. “Social” can be “spiritual” too! People want to experience life in community. As we do life together, we can see grace at work in each other.

These strategies do not need to be done sequentially. It’s more important that they be done sensitively in order to leverage them for building ministry momentum. The key is always being intentional about the relationships they make possible.

As you develop your missional strategy in terms of who you will serve and who you will serve with, give yourself flexibility for “missional discovery.” Experiment and field test to see what works and what doesn’t. See where the Lord is blessing and join Him. Don’t be afraid to change where you devote your missional energy.