iN

Precepts

Goal of iNeighborhood: Connect others to Jesus

Purpose of iNeighborhood: To foster a missional lifestyle for individuals and missional identity for congregations.

iNeighborhood promotes these precepts:

- □ We are <u>all</u> called to love our neighbor and be a witness partners in Jesus' mission
- □ We support a coalition of the willing, voluntarily bound for a common purpose
- □ It's relational BLESS those who need Jesus
 - Enjoy others with whom you have a common Bond
 - Learn about others through natural interaction
 - Go deeper: **Engage** by doing things together; understand needs
 - Serve their needs through prayer (together) and deeds . . . put love in action
 - Share your faith story, what Jesus means to you, your hope when opportunity arises (we plant, we water . . . the Holy Spirit grows faith)
- □ It's out in the harvest field, i.e., the community
- □ It's other centered
- □ Here. Now. Me.
 - It's local . . . people you know where you live-work-play (not someplace else)
 - It's urgent . . . BLESS others today (not sometime else)
 - It's me . . . (not someone else)
- □ The reality of resources: missional living is not an add-on; it's in place of
 - We have limited time-talent-treasure
 - We already have our time-talent-treasure committed, but not to missional living
 - To live missionally, we must reallocate time-talent-treasure to the endeavor
- □ Change is hard shifting your lifestyle requires at least:
 - A plan (preferably a written one)
 - A heart for others, i.e., to love and serve them (moved)
 - Attitude of humility, joy
 - Prayer and the Word, to guide and strengthen
 - Partner(s) to encourage, exhort, and hold you accountable
 - Work (persistence, intentionality, effort)
 - Accountability (goals, milestones, feedback)
- □ Hearts and wills > smarts and skills
- □ Essentials for a shift to a missional lifestyle, therefore, are:
 - Available
 - Relational
 - Moved to act
 - Supported

For *congregations* who embrace iNeighborhood, there are additional precepts:

- □ In God's view, there are two kinds of people: the saved and the lost (Matthew 25:33)
 - Christ's mission on earth was redemptive, i.e., He came to save what was lost (Luke 19:10; John 3:17; 1 Timothy 1:15)
 - The #1 priority of Christ's Church on earth is not to care for the saved; it is to care for the lost (John 21:20; Luke 15; Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8)
 - We're concerned for anyone lost, not just youth
- □ iNeighborhood is about kingdom growth, not congregation growth
- □ A congregation must reorient its efforts to outside the walls, to the unsaved
 - "Things left undone" must be recognized as disobedience (James 4:17)
 - Repentance from this should produce fruit toward others (Luke 3:8-14)
 - "Go" (Matthew 28:19) and "send" (Luke 10:2; John 21:20) don't mean "invite to church"; congregations should play away games, i.e., be on someone else's turf not ours
 - Reallocate time-talent-treasure to relationships outside the walls
 - 4 Not everyone will go, but everyone can participate in support
- □ Pastors and leaders lead
 - Live missionally, setting an example for others (1 Corinthians 10:33-11:1)
 - Champion that "everyone's a missionary" regular preaching, teaching, exhorting
 - Organize the congregation to join Jesus as partners in the redemptive work
- **Goals and measures and milestone checks advance meaningful progress**
 - De-emphasize activity measures (what we did, how many participated, etc.)
 - Emphasize output measures (how we impacted, gospel communications, etc.)
 - Ultimately, seek outcome measures (results, fruits, faith decisions, etc.)

Anyone WITHOUT Christ is a mission field. Everyone WITH Christ is a missionary.

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