



AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU

John 20:20-22 (NLT)

²⁰As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ²¹Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

0. COMMENTS ON THE TEXT

0.1 Setting & People

Jesus appears to his Disciples who had hid themselves behind closed doors

0.2 Jesus' wounds are still fresh

He showed them the wounds in his hands and his side (v. 20)

0.3 Impartation

Peace be with you

0.4 Commission

As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

0.5 How would you define Jesus' mission in one word?

- The founder of the Salvation Army William Booth's one-word: "**Others**" (Phil. 2:4-11)
- To what extent is the church focussed on others rather than itself?
- Where are most of church's activities focussed on?
- How much of church's budget focussed on others?
- Jesus focus (during incarnation) was on others
- Jesus' budget (during incarnation) was on others (also including Caesar).

0.6 We are sent to others

- Our text implies that we are sent to others: "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."
- Our core mission is about others.

1. TIMES HAVE CHANGED

1.1 Context:



The context in which the church finds itself today is different from the one of 1908 when the AFM was established.

- We were using steam locomotives then, but now we make use of the rapid transport system such the Gautrain,
- Our communication is quicker than the snail pace mail because of email and social networks options.
- Information has become more accessible because of internet
- Technology has reduced the world into a "small village."
- People from all over the world are now coming to our country & neighbourhood.
- These changes have culminated in a new context which makes it possible to reach vast number of people all over the world within a short space of time.

1.2 Secularizing culture

1.2.1 Faith

Faith is regarded as private and not public truth. Personal beliefs have 'gradually become equated with the word "opinion" and the concept of "values"'.

1.2.2 Individualism.

Individual has taken the center resulting in God being pushed to the periphery. Whereas in the premodern the emphasis was on the individual's 'place and duty within society', in secular cultures the focus is on the individual's rights.

1.2.3 Materialism and hedonism.

If humanity is the only agent of progress in the universe, it follows by implication that its sole driving force for existence would be the 'pursuit of happiness'.

1.2.4 Religious pluralism and relativism.

Another characteristic of a culture influenced by a secular worldview is religious pluralism and relativism. Religious pluralism is 'the belief that the differences between the religions are not a matter of truth and falsehood, but of different perceptions of the one truth.

2. OUR VISION: THE FUTURE

- In 2000 the leadership of the AFM coined its current vision statement. In this statement they said: "We see a church (AFM) that is accessible to all people, celebrating its unity and a God-given diversity, empowering its members for caring and transforming communities to the glory of God"
- In this vision statement there are four critical concepts. These are accessibility (accessible), celebration (celebrating), caring and transformation (transforming).



- This is what we want to be. We want to be a church that is accessible, celebrating, caring and transforming.

3. STRATEGY: BECOMING MISSIONAL CHURCH

- Towards the end of 2013 our strategy towards realization of our vision began to take shape. We redefine our thinking about the church.
- Our early history bears unmistakable evidence that every activity in the church was "mission-driven". This instinctive obedience to the Great Commission was part and parcel of being filled with the Holy Spirit and being a member of the AFM. Every member of the church was characterized (inside and outside of the AFM) as a witness of Christ. All members had to bear witness to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit wherever they were. This is how new assemblies were planted both in South Africa and in various African countries. Ordinary AFM members who were baptized with the Holy Spirit were on fire to share their testimony. This is what made the AFM for many years to be one of the fastest growing churches in the country. And the Lord worked with them, confirming their witnesses through signs and wonders.
- It is a strategy based on the need for the church to transition from a traditional Pentecostal into a missional church. The concept of missional church is the basis for our strategy.
- A missional church is a community of God's people that defines itself, and organizes its life around, its real purpose –that of being an agent of God's mission to the world. It is a church whose members regard themselves as the "sent people of God -sent on the Mission of Jesus."
- The communication process we use to refocus our leaders and members to our original missional calling is One AFM Game Plan.

4. CORE VALUES

- Our strategy embraces integrity, accountability, relationships and excellence as core values for its leadership and entire membership.
- These core values should define the pedigree of our leadership and membership.

5. DRIVERS

- Five drivers have been identified towards the implementation of our strategic plan. These are empowerment, discipleship, community involvement, ecumenical involvement and governance (stewardship).
- Beyond its 110th Anniversary the AFM will be focusing on empowerment, discipleship, community involvement, ecumenical relations and governance (stewardship)



6. OUR MEMBERS

6.1 Role

- The key to being, a missional church is its members.
- The goal of a missional church is to develop members who will act as apostolic agents in the world.
- Every member of the body of Christ must consider himself/herself as a salt and light wherever he/she lives or works.
- Our message to our members are is "Preach the Gospel all the time, if necessary use the words" (statement associated with Francis of Assisi's lifestyle).
- Our conduct should speak louder than our words.

6.2 Assessment

This goal requires a measurement tool to help us determine the extent to which our current members are living as apostolic agents based on:

- What are the personal qualities of this member?
- What does this member do on daily basis?
- How does this member interact with other people?
- What are other, people's opinion of this member?
- What does this member do which is different from the daily lives of ordinary people?

7. OUR PASTORS

7.1 One of the key shift that our pastors will have to make is to becoming coaches.

7.2 From a Pastor (Shepherd) to a Coach

Pastor (Shepherd)	Coach
Directly meets the needs of people	Empowers people to meet their needs
Draws fulfillment from doing the work	Draws fulfillment from equipping people to do the work
Reacts to needs that arise from moment to moment	Creates opportunities to coach others
Focuses on immediate needs	Focuses on long-term vision
Plays the role of player	Plays the role of coach

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