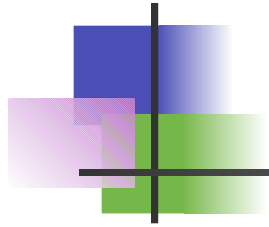




Missionary Church: Educational Church?



Mission

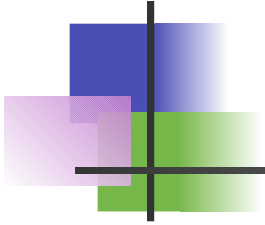
‘Mission is the church sent into the world, to love, to serve, to preach, to teach, to heal, to liberate.’ (David Bosch)

- a ‘sending’ (Latin, *mittere*)
- an action of God



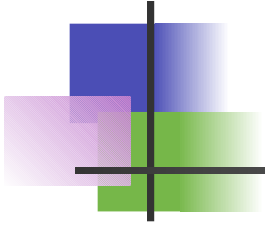
Mission: three-fold activity

1. **proclaim God's words** (*kerygma*, proclamation);
2. **inaugurate God's salvation**, by enacting God's works through a **ministry** (*diakonia*, service) that is continuous with God's compassion (pastoral ministry) and justice (pastoral and prophetic ministry);
3. **create God's community** (*koinonia*, fellowship), by means of (1) and (2).



‘Evangelism is the spreading of the good news by proclamation, whereas mission is the outflow of the love of God in and through our life, word and deed.’

(Mar Osthathios)



‘The words “ministry” and “mission” point to the same phenomenon, though they draw attention to different aspects of it.’

(John Macquarrie)



Dearing on Mission

‘The mission of the Church is:

To proclaim the gospel;

to nourish Christians in their faith;

to bring others into the faith;

and

to nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through service, speaking out on important issues and to work for social justice as part of that mission.’

(Church Schools Review Group, 2001)



Evangelism and Nurture

- ‘The Christian faith by its very nature demands conversions. . . . to be a mature Christian calls for numerous experiences of conversion. . . . Evangelization proclaims and explains the gospel so that faith might be aroused. Catechesis makes possible the growth and development of faith. The process is never-ending. Evangelization and catechesis, conversion and nurture belong together. Each is necessary for the other’

(John Westerhoff)



Evangelism and Nurture

‘there is a certain “evangelistic” intent in all forms of upbringing and teaching, it is just that religious parents are a little more honest about their intentions.’

(Elmer Thiessen)



Social cohesion

‘We are trying to remedy the fractures in our society. Some of those are economically driven; some are driven by other kinds of difference and division independent of economics.’

(Trevor Phillips)



On 'losers'

'Fear of the material consequences of failure is compounded by fear of the unsympathetic attitude of the world towards failure, of its haunting proclivity to refer to those who have failed as "losers" – a word callously signifying both that people have lost and that they have at the same time forfeited any right to sympathy for having done so.'

(Alain de Botton)



On 'losers'

'If our self-esteem is contingent on external standards we run the risk of feeling like failures, because, even if we succeed in these terms, there will always be someone better than us.'

(Oliver James)



The Christian school and Christian teacher must . . .

‘dispense with demarcation-making’

(David Deeks)

‘accept the Christian value and
dignity of every pupil and student
regardless of achievement.’

(Gerald Grace)



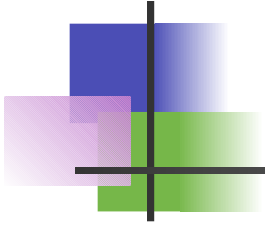
The task of schools?

‘A central job of the school [is] to generate that sense of personal worth on the basis of values which do not depend upon the contingencies of life here and now.’

(Richard Pring)

‘Schools and teachers are there, if they have any truly reputable purpose, to take people seriously, and essentially for that alone.’

(Robert Graham)



Thank you

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