

What We Need to Do— Get Missional!

by Rev. Stanley Jim

As a leader, one of my tasks is to look for resources that will enhance local ministries. In the last year I have been meeting with Native American church leaders in Red Mesa, discussing a movement called “Missional congregations.” This movement calls the whole church to be shaped by God’s heart, with every member a missionary. In the book *Shaped By God’s Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches* (Jossey Books 2005), Milfred Minatrea defines this concept as “a reproducing community of authentic disciples, being equipped as missionaries sent by God, to live and proclaim His Kingdom in their world.”

For our churches in Red Mesa region, this concept does compliment the “Missioned to Mission” statement adopted by our classis. Every member is a participant in the mission of God. As Native American leaders, we have done pretty well in leading our members from “sin to salvation,” the first two concepts in the Heidelberg Catechism.



Leading our churches to be “Missional” moves us into “service,” the third “leg” of the catechism. We need to help the members understand the Lordship of Jesus Christ, so they will discover they are saved for good works as recorded in chapter 2 of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians.

To help our churches to understand this, I will be starting two more cluster leader groups in the next few weeks. Praise the Lord for his leading.

What We Need to Do— Look to God!

by Rhonda Berg

As we Anglos come to understand how our cultural dominance shaped Native American Christian church development in ways that have left deep issues for our Native brothers and sisters, we struggle with our role today. I’ve seen a tendency to react in two polar opposite ways, neither of which is very helpful. One way is to say “I’m not personally racist and the struggle of Native Americans today is not my problem.” The other opposite response is to try to make reparations for the “sin of racism” by blindly supporting any Native American leader in whatever project they are involved in.

I think there is third, more helpful way. It is to look for and recognize the ways that God is working among Native American Christians, and humbly coming along side them as God leads us. This is creative work that requires responses to individual people and specific situations, not global, broad-sweeping answers. But we can do this joyfully and confidently if we keep our focus on the Lord. We recognize that neither Native Americans nor Anglos are “in charge.” It is God’s project of redemption and restoration through Jesus Christ and he will show us our part in it.



The Red Mesa Foundation

Encouraging Native American Leaders, Telling the Stories of God’s Work and Providing Resources for Ministry

Through the Red Mesa Foundation, you can be involved in God’s work among Native American Christians, supporting the effort for the Christian Reformed Churches to move from “missioned to mission.” Financial contributions to the Foundation are used

to build and strengthen connections among Native American Christians and between them and brothers and sisters throughout the world. Donations also support the work of raising funds for the ministries that God is developing among Native American Christians.

We are a small and lean organization, but we do need the financial partnership of Christians whom God has called in order to sustain our work.

