

SUMMER 2012



FISKEBÄCKS
MISSIONSKYRKA

Fiskebäck's Mission Church is taking steps to be a church without walls.

Now we are on the last part of BELLS (Bless, Eat, Listen to the Spirit, Learn Jesus, Sent). When we talk to those who are involved in DNA groups who work mostly with BELLS; it's the sent-section which many people find most difficult. The other parts of BELLS are more concrete in some way, we can bless others and eat with others and read the Bible and so on. We probably have come away from this way of thinking and perhaps we have become accustomed to the fact that it seems as if only some are sent: missionaries and pastors, for example. But am I sent? Are you sent? And if so, then to whom?



Luke 24:46-49

¹¹ And he (Jesus) said (to his disciples), "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. ⁴⁷ It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of all these things. ⁴⁹ "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

Jesus sums up the Gospel and says it is preached to all nations. Then He gives a direct invitation, "You are witnesses of all these things." What if no one had followed Jesus' invitation, then we might not know Jesus today. Imagine what would happen if we don't follow Jesus' challenge, maybe because of that there is someone who will not get to know Jesus tomorrow...

The word *missional* is fairly new to the Swedish language, but the idea is not particularly new. The Latin word *missio* means *send* and the English word *mission* means a charge/command/task. There is always someone who gives the tasks and someone who acts and receives the tasks. God has always been the one who sends and His people have been those who acted and received so that they would then become "sent".

A missional congregation is a church that finds both its identity and mission in God's sending. Like Abraham, we have received a blessing so that we can pass it on. Mission is not just an activity the Church does, but is also a mindset that permeates everything we do as a church and as individuals. Of course, worship and spiritual direction are important; but even in these areas we have the idea of being at the disposal of God and His mission, whether it's about doing outreach on the streets or taking time to talk with a brother or sister in the congregation.

We normally think that mission is about going to Congo or Ecuador. But a country where about 3% of the population is active in a congregation must surely count as a mission field, right? Yes, this is Sweden I'm talking about! We are called "Brunnen – Church through community" not only because we think it's neat, but because we believe that fellowship with God and communion with others is essential in discipleship. As a Christian you need a community to grow both in faith and as a follower of Jesus Christ. And those who do not believe can find a relationship with God through a Christian community. But only if the community is open and looking outward to those who are outside the church today.

Perhaps it is too easy for us just to sit back and think that others will take care of "missions", just because we are busy doing other things in church. But that's where mission can get short-circuited. Missional-thinking is instead all about connecting everything we do with our duties as followers of Jesus. Jesus did not stop being who He was when He walked to the market in Jerusalem or when He had dinner with friends. So in the same way we shouldn't stop being His disciples and witnesses when we are in our everyday lives. Or should we stop? I hope not!!!

We are all sent by Jesus to be His witnesses. We can figure out our sent-ness through prayer and discernment, and we can do this together as Christians. But do we dare to be sent out?

BRUNNEN

BEING MISSIONAL

Jesus said, "You are witnesses of all these things. And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised."



Our Hope

Our hope is to start a new fellowship in Brunnsbo that reflects God's kingdom in its beauty and diversity where people can grow as Jesus followers. We long to do so in openness with other churches near Brunnsbo, so that we can proclaim and demonstrate God's whole Gospel to His creation.

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Fun ways God is moving!

- We had a great retreat together at Styrso where we got to know each other better through conversation and prayer for one another.
- Language Café has gained momentum and will continue throughout the summer on Monday evenings.
- We had a great first worship service in the Backa community center where we were reminded to put Jesus first and that everything else comes later...



What's next?

Prayer Requests

- Thank God for what He has done in and through the church plant since August 2011.
- Pray that God will make it even clearer what people and groups He wants to send us to in the fall. Pray also that God would prepare these people and us during the summer.
- Pray for the Spirit's protection, and renewed strength for each of us who are a part of Brunnen in one way or another.

- During the summer, we continue with our gatherings every other Sunday, but we will not be in the Backa community center. Instead we will be meeting in one another's homes.
- We hope to have a Block-Party on July 28th. If you would like to help, then please let us know - the more we are, the better it will be.
- On August 26th we will have our kick-off service for the semester in the community center (Folkets Hus), you're welcome to join!