

CHURCH ON A MISSION: RAISING UP LEADERS

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May 18, 2025

We are ALL sent!

John 20:19–22 (NLT)

That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said.

²⁰ As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ²¹ Again 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.

Matthew 28:18–20 (NLT)

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE WE?

Cruise Ship Church	Rescue Ship Church
Comfort-driven	Mission-driven
Passengers are served	Crew members are trained and deployed
Entertainment is expected	Sacrifice is embraced
Success is measured by satisfaction	Success is measured by lives saved
Focus is inward (what I get out of it)	Focus is outward (who we can reach)
Everyone is relaxing and consuming	Everyone is alert and contributing
Leadership is for keeping people happy	Leadership is for equipping and sending
Safety and luxury are the priorities	Urgency and readiness are the priorities
Goal is to enjoy the ride	Goal is to save the drowning
Maintenance of what is	Mobilization for what could be

Matthew 9:36–38 (NLT)

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸ So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

PART OF THIS SENDING MOVEMENT IS RAISING UP LEADERS IN THE CHURCH

We see Jesus model this:

Mark 3:13–15 (NLT)

Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him. ¹⁴ Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, ¹⁵ giving them authority to cast out demons.

We see the early church practice this:

Acts 13:2–3 (NIV)

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

The Antioch church became a launch pad not just a landing strip!

Some denominations report that for every new pastor stepping into a senior role, seven senior pastors are retiring, highlighting a significant imbalance in leadership succession. – The Pastorate

We want to be continually ready for the harvest

John 4:35–36 (NLT)

You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. ³⁶ The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!

It starts by being persuaded and compelled by God

Jeremiah 20:7–9 (NKJV)

O LORD, You induced me, and I was persuaded; You are stronger than I, and have prevailed. I am in derision daily; Everyone mocks me. ⁸ For when I spoke, I cried out; I shouted, “Violence and plunder!” Because the word of the LORD was made to me
A reproach and a derision daily. ⁹ Then I said, “I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name.” But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.

“Induced” in Hebrew is “Pathah”: To open up, persuade, entice, to woo or draw in, to seduce, to open the mind or heart, to make vulnerable and trustful!

Jeremiah 1:4–9 (NLT)

The LORD gave me this message: ⁵ “I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.” ⁶ “O Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I can’t speak for you! I’m too young!” ⁷ The LORD replied, “Don’t say, ‘I’m too young,’ for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you. ⁸ And don’t be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the LORD, have spoken!” ⁹ Then the LORD reached out and touched my mouth and said, “Look, I have put my words in your mouth!

Despite the extremely difficult message he had to preach, (and even though he complained sometimes) Jeremiah had been strongly persuaded by God and the message of the Lord was like fire in his bones!

This is what we need as we press into the mission!

2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (NIV)

For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.