

HOW TO BE **MISSIONAL**



STEP 1 - THINK & PRAY

Think of all the activities that make up your life:

1. **daily routines** (traveling to work, eating meals);
2. **weekly routines** (grocery shopping, watching TV, exercising); and
3. **monthly routines** (gardening, getting a haircut, going to the movies).

For each one, ask whether you could add a **community component** by involving another member of your Christian community, a **missional component** by involving an unbeliever, and a **gospel component** by identifying opportunities to talk about Jesus (*Everyday Church*, Chester and Timmis, 90).

Make a list of all of your daily, weekly, and monthly routines, and then identify how you might be able to add a community component, missional component, and/or a gospel component.



STEP 2

8 WAYS TO BE MISSIONAL

1

Eat with Non-Christians

We all eat three meals a day. Why not make a habit of sharing one of those meals with a non-Christian or with a family of non-Christians? Go to lunch with a co-worker, not by yourself. Invite the neighbours over for family dinner. If it's too much work to cook a big dinner, just order pizza and put the focus on conversation. When you go out for a meal, invite others. Or take your family to family-style restaurants where you can sit at a table with strangers and strike up conversations. Have cookouts and invite Christians and non-Christians. Flee the Christian subculture.

2

Walk, Don't Drive

If you live in a walkable area, make a practice of getting out and walking around your neighbourhood, apartment complex, or campus. Instead of driving to the mailbox, convenience store, or apartment office, walk to get mail, groceries, and stuff. Be deliberate in your walk. Say hello to people you don't know. Strike up conversations. Attract attention by walking the dog or bringing the kids. Make friends. Get out of your house! Take interest in your neighbours. Ask questions. Pray as you go. Save some gas and the planet.

3

Be a Regular

Instead of hopping all over the city for gas, groceries, haircuts, meals, and coffee, go to the same places. Get to know the staff. Go at the same times. Smile. Ask questions. Be a regular. I have friends at coffee shops all over the city. My friends at Starbucks donate a ton of leftover pastries to our church two or three times a week. We use them for church gatherings and occasionally to give to the homeless. Build relationships. Be a regular.

4

Hobby with Non-Christians

Pick a hobby that you can share. Get out and do something you enjoy with others. Try local rowing and cycling teams. Share your hobby by teaching lessons. Teach sewing, piano, violin, guitar, knitting, or tennis. Be prayerful. Be intentional. Be winsome. Have fun. Be yourself.

5

Talk to your Co-Workers

How hard is that? Take your breaks with intentionality. Go out with your team or taskforce after work. Show interest in your co-workers. Pick four and pray for them. Form mom groups in your neighbourhood and don't make them exclusively non-Christian. Schedule play dates for your kids with the neighbours' kids. Work on mission.

6

Volunteer with Non-Profits

Find a nonprofit organization in your part of the city and take one Saturday a month to serve there. Bring your neighbours, your friends, or your small group. Spend time with your church serving your city. Once a month. You can do it!

7

Participate in City Events

Instead of playing Xbox, watching TV, or surfing the net, participate in city events. Go to fundraisers, festivals, clean-ups, summer shows, and concerts. Participate missionally. Strike up conversation. Study the culture. Reflect on what you see and hear. Pray for the city. Love the city. Participate with the city.

8

Serve your Neighbours

Help a neighbour by weeding, mowing, building a cabinet, or fixing a car. Stop by the neighbourhood association or apartment office and ask if there is anything you can do to help improve things. Ask your local police and fire stations if there is anything you can do to help them. Get creative. Just serve!



STEP 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY

Habits take time to form.

1. Do it with someone.
2. Talk about it with your mentor.
3. Hold each other accountable in community groups.
4. Do it with your family.