

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh^[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. *Ephesians 2:1-5*

External
Crisis + Inner
Conviction + God-given
momentum = Church
Reformation

The Church of tomorrow:

- honours Jesus as Lord
- is dependent upon the Holy Spirit
- is confident in the gospel
- is a disciple making community
- plants churches that will plant churches
- has a diverse leadership
- is a holy people
- prioritizes prayer

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I have but one passion: it is He, it is He alone ... henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ.

Count Zinzendorf, leader of the Moravian Church

Being intentionally missional, either as individuals or as church communities, has become a massive source of angst and effort rather than a joy and privilege of sharing Jesus with others.

... we did not follow cleverly
devised stories when we told you
about the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ in power, but we were eye-
witnesses of his majesty.

2 Peter 1:16

If you want to change a society you
have to tell an alternative story.

Philosopher Ivan Illich

The Gospel is a truth widely held but a truth greatly reduced. It is a truth that has been flattened, trivialised and rendered inane.

Walter Brueggemann

THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION (ACC, 1984)

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

TELL
TEACH
TEND
TRANSFORM
TREASURE

We are already seeing a church that appears to be more confident in speaking about issues of justice, climate change, politics and economics than it does about Jesus.

TALKING JESUS

Evangelical Alliance ... research in 2022

– 4000 adults in UK

Of those who were not Christians

- 53% knew someone who was a Christian (a drop from 68% in 2015)
- Only 2% knew a Christian Minister

Of all those interviewed

- 54% believed Jesus was a real human being (fall from 61% in 2015)
- Only 16% believed he rose from the dead

75% of non-Christians felt comfortable
when a Christian talked about Jesus
41% felt closer to the Christian
33% wanted to know more
36% were open to an experience of
encounter with Jesus Christ