

The Herald

· OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF SRI LANKA ·



"OUR CALL TO A MISSIONAL CHRISTIANITY !." - SEE INSIDE
ALSO INSIDE - "MISSIONARY, JUSTICE, EVANGELISM, RECONCILIATION"

Missional Christianity and Living Missionally !

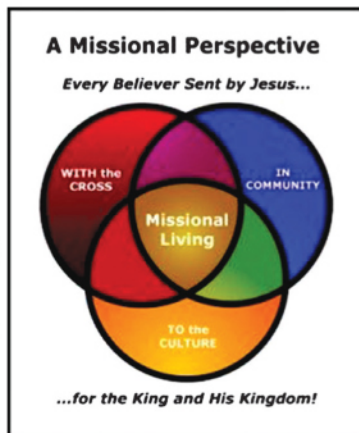
If there is anything that this past year and a half has shown us, it is that we are living at a time of great challenges and changes. The full implication of all of this is perhaps yet to be seen. Challenges and change have affected almost every area of society and life... and the Church and its Ministry has been no exception.

Of course churches have responded in many good ways – moving services online to connect with their congregations. Online Bible studies, prayer meetings, seminars, admin meetings etc. Pastoral care also has taken the online route and so even though buildings have been closed – “Church” has been happening for which we can be very thankful.

If we have been additionally taught anything from this past one and a half years or so, it is that we have to think missionally about the times we are living in. Not only because of the pandemic but also because of the fact that “doing missions” and living missionally have also some great challenges, due to the changed context. In other words we cannot do “missions” or evangelism the way we or our fore-fathers used to, decades ago.

In my younger days of ministry – mission efforts mainly took the shape of open air rallies, mass tract distribution programmes and even door to door witnessing. There were also programs to teach language skills and assist even with material needs, with the focus of ministering to the “whole” person. Over the years all of these strategies have changed for more reasons than one. And if we are to be missional Christians, then we must be aware of the ever changing contexts and at the same time be aware of our commission and call to creatively reach out with the Good News of the whole Gospel with humility and respect. The context may have changed but our mandate remains the same.

So in these challenging times, if we are to be missional, then I would suggest that we take to heart three critical areas that



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Front cover – Pics of Young people who Publicly Professed Faith. Pics by Helene de Rosayro, Thulitha Piyasena and Lindsay Melder.

would help us to move forward with faithfulness in continuing to fulfill our missionary mandate.

Firstly, we must strive to live out our identity.

Our identity is the very foundation of our lives and in our interactions with others. This identity emanates from our new life in Christ Jesus. That is what the Apostle Paul spoke about in 2 Corinthians 5 vs 17, the fact that we are new creations in Christ! In other words, as someone once said, "Name Christian, live Christian" Another has called this strategy, "Incarnational living". And this kind of living becomes an absolute necessity when the other traditional ways of doing "missions" are facing challenges in diverse ways. So our lives must become "adverts" of what is possible when Jesus becomes our Saviour and changes our hearts!

Secondly, we must seriously ponder our calling.

I was thinking of the word of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4: 1 – "As a prisoner of the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received..." Actually in this passage he builds on what our calling is and should be. A calling implies that God implanted us with certain passions and codes within us and we must exercise them if we are to bring in His Kingdom on earth. Ephesians 4 is full of the characteristics that are part and parcel of our Christian calling. The Apostle Peter also said this same thing in a different way in 1 Pet 2: 9..."(we are) called to declare the praises of Him, who has called us out of darkness into His wonderful light."

I remember concluding my Easter Sunday Sermon, quoting N T Wright, who said, "Jesus' Resurrection is the beginning of a new project not to snatch people away from earth to Heaven, **but to colonize earth with the life of Heaven...**" That is our primary calling and it involves all of us who name the Name of Christ!

Thirdly, we must subscribe to a Biblical Theology of Mission.

Arthur Glasser and Donald McGavran, define Mission as "carrying the gospel across cultural boundaries to those who owe no allegiance to Jesus Christ and encouraging them to accept Him as Lord and Saviour and to become responsible members of His church, working as the Holy Spirit leads, at both evangelism and justice, at making God's will done on earth as it is done in Heaven."

David Bosch defines Mission as "primarily and ultimately, the work of the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, for the sake of the world, a ministry in which the church is privileged to participate...this is the deepest source of mission...there is mission because God loves people." Mission then becomes God's sending action in which we, the Church, are privileged to participate.

So the time has come to think missionally taking into account, the context and times we are in. It cannot be business as in the past or business as usual. We are called to be faithful to this primary mandate, but yet think "out of the box" and shape our missionary contours and strategies in keeping with these changed and challenging times. And if the Church is to be faithful to its missionary calling, then its members must be missional and must live missionally – living our Christian identity, seriously pondering our calling and subscribing to the Biblical theology of Missions. It was done in the Church of Acts Chapter two in a context of many challenges and change. It can be done today, even though the challenges and changes may somewhat differ – for we have the same Power – but then equally important, we must have the heart !

by Pastor D. Ajendran

Our Call To A Missional Christianity !

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” - St. Matthew 5: 10. ESV.

With his missional call, the Master, the Guru on the mountain continues his training on the kingdom cultured life-style. All are astonishingly waiting on him. Sufferings and persecutions are very common in this world, but the reason and demand is which matters most. Today many are suffering and persecuted for poverty, politics, fame, rights, provisions, religions, teachings, doctrines, cultures, justice, powers and even for sex. Definitely He is not demanding something in common – earthly, but is demanding for something special - heavenly.

This righteousness is not just social justice or fairness or impartiality, but it speaks more than that. In the biblical perspective righteousness is a divine act and gift of God. It cannot be gained by the deeds of sinful fallen man. The bible talks about righteousness as a position rather than a subject. It's a matter of relationship. When we say God is righteous that means sinners have no place and cannot stand before him, because of His righteousness sinners should be punished and the sin should be evacuated in the presence of Him. In another sense, righteousness is “right to stand before the Holy God”, it's a qualification. The righteous means the man who found favor in the eyes of God and has been reconciled with Him forever. The peace makers - they are God's children who labor for peace and right relationship with God and human.

Since the World is full of wicked and evil and loves the darkness, therefore those who are bringing this kind of peace into this fallen world they will suffer and be persecuted. This is the persecution that Master is teaching about. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for bringing God's relationship into the world” for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Now the Master demands from His disciples to be the children of God and bring the righteousness of God. For what reason do you suffer today? When last did you act like the good child of God by bringing righteousness to others life? In another way our Master the Guru is our righteousness, we saw that on the cross God's righteousness was revealed. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for Christ' sake, to bring Christ' love, grace, salvation and mission to this world, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...

Merciful LORD, we have experienced your righteousness as our righteousness on the cross. Help us to share and prepare to be persecuted for your righteousness' sake ... Amen.

Read 2 Corinthians 5: 17 - 21.

(Pastor Ajendran, ministers with the CRC SL Congregation in Hatton. We are thankful to him for this reflection. – Ed.)

MISSIONARY JUSTICE EVANGELISM RECONCILIATION

Loaded Words

By Kristen deRoo VanderBerg

I once wanted to use the African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child” in something I was writing. While this proverb has been around for generations, an editor told me I should remove it from my piece. The proverb had become too associated with Hillary Clinton because of her book *It Takes a Village*, the editor said, and would therefore immediately turn off half of my readers.

This editor wasn’t wrong. Experts suggest that loaded language, such as a phrase associated with a specific political personality, can make us react to emotional stimuli instead of taking the time to fully read and understand what has been said.

With that in mind, I’d like to suggest a few loaded terms that we should all be thoughtful about in 2021. This doesn’t mean we shouldn’t use them, but I hope we can use them cautiously and redeem them for God’s purposes.

Missionary

In many countries the term “missionary” connotes colonialism and overreach. In the past, some missionaries arrived from Western countries, dismissed local culture, pushed their own ideas and understandings, and cared only for people’s souls—not their health and well-being.

As a result, when CRCNA staff members today talk with people about the prospect of doing gospel outreach, discipleship, church planting, and theological training around the world, it’s common for the candidate to say something like, “I’m really interested in this type of ministry, but I don’t want to be a missionary.”

The Christian Reformed Church is not exempt from historical mistakes by missionaries. But it’s important to realize

that today Resonate Global Mission, ReFrame Ministries*, and World Renew partner with Christians throughout the world to spread the gospel in a way that honors unique local contexts. CRCNA staff are from everywhere and go everywhere. This has changed what "mission" looks like.

"Over the years, my concept of what it means to be a missionary has changed," said Ken Lee, a Resonate missionary serving in Japan.

Years ago, when Ken's pastor suggested Ken serve in Japan, Lee wondered, "Why Japan? Japan is such a wealthy country."

But when Lee visited Japan, he discovered a dire need for the gospel. In a country of 127 million people, less than one percent of the population is Christian. Few of those Christians are young people, and churches are rapidly aging. Without support from Christians in other countries, the church in Japan could die.

"If we just leave them to do it on their own, it's almost impossible," Lee said.

Partnering with local churches, Lee disciples and teaches young people to actively follow Christ in their communities. In many cases, Lee also gets to introduce people to Christ



for the first time, but that process often takes months or years.

One time, for example, Lee tutored a university student in

English for a year, getting to know her before he shared the gospel with her.

"She accepted Christ and wanted to be baptized," Lee said. He connected her to a church and encouraged her to pray for her family. Four years later, her parents accepted Christ too.

Justice

"Around 2010, when Glenn Beck had a Fox News show, he went on the offensive against the term 'social justice,'" said Kris VanEngen, justice mobilizing coordinator for World Renew. Beck's influence turned many viewers into critics of the concept.

In 28 verses of the Old Testament and throughout the life of Jesus, the Bible is clear that Christ-followers are called to "do justice." Unfortunately, because justice issues often

intersect with politics, especially in their most urgent moments, it can be difficult for Christians today to recognize where justice fits in their Christian walk.

I'd like to suggest a few

loaded terms that

we should all be thoughtful

about in 2021.

"What I think we have to come back to is that there is an idea of social justice that is largely determined by our society, and then there is biblical justice, which is determined by Scripture," said Eliza Cortez-Bast, coordinator for local missional engagement for the Reformed Church in America.

Our call to biblical justice is clear. But we also have a responsibility to discern how God is specifically calling us to pursue this justice.

"It may be times of dedicated prayer—for issues, for our political leaders, for our communities or countries. It may be lament—joining with our communities as we mourn with those who mourn. It may be a letter-writing campaign. It may be service," said Cortez-Bast.

In other words, we shouldn't let the political connotations of "justice" prevent us from taking action.

Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, director of World Renew-Canada, agrees and adds that this should not be just an individual activity. In fact, she said, systems of injustice often contribute to the poverty that World Renew sees around the world. These systems need a larger group of people and policy changes to address them if we want to help individuals overcome poverty.

"It's powerful when churches embrace 'justice' in the spirit of 'biblical justice' and think creatively about what that means for each of us in our local and global contexts," Kaastra-Mutoigo said. "Historically, when the church has engaged these issues and worked for solutions, we've had a big impact."

Evangelism

Evangelism has a bad reputation. Many people think of colonialism, televangelists shouting about burning in hell, and Christians standing on street corners with signs that say, "PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD!"

But every day, CRCNA staff and ministry leaders are working to paint a different portrait of evangelism as they share the gospel in loving ways.

When it comes to evangelism, motive and method make a big difference, said Resonate missionary Linda**. Linda

serves in West Africa among a people group from a Muslim background in which Islamic customs and traditions are deeply embedded in culture. Many are resistant to the gospel.

But Linda wants to see members of this people group know Jesus as Lord and Savior. She has lived among them for almost 30 years and has formed deep friendships.

"I like the term 'embodying the gospel,'" Linda said—"living it out, being the hands and feet of Jesus, being the only Bible that some will ever read. ... With this kind of ministry, it is often a thousand tiny things rather than one big thing that inches people along the road to Jesus."

After years of her living alongside them—laughing, crying, working, playing, and praying—people are starting to follow Christ.

Amadou** is one young man who accepted Christ after befriending Linda. He was intrigued by Linda's character and once remarked how "good" she was. "That was an open door for a long discussion about the only one who can truly be called 'good,' and that if there is any goodness in me it is because of him who lives within me," said Linda.

After nearly a decade, Amadou decided to follow Christ. His changed behavior is attracting other people to Christ, too.

"His integrity, his honesty, his servant heart, his humility, and eventually his passion for the Lord drew and continues to draw others into the kingdom," Linda said.

That is evangelism at its best.

Reconciliation

"I refrain from using the term 'reconciliation' because of my recent conversations with white communities after the George Floyd event and the protests afterward," said Reggie Smith, director of diversity for the CRCNA. "As I was asked to engage with members and churches about this issue, the statement I kept hearing was 'we just need to be reconciled to each other.'"

Smith explained that such uses of the term assume that there was a previous time of conciliation that we all need to get back to. But from slavery to Jim Crow, redlining to eugenics, and so much more, the history of racial relationships has long been fraught with pain and trauma.

"Most white people begin with the notion that everything was cool in some previous time," Smith added, "when in actuality, there was never conciliation in the first place. My white brothers and sisters quickly use 'reconciliation' as an easy and less painful trope to avoid the toughest fact that racial relationships did not start on any good footing."

The complexity of the term "reconciliation" isn't limited to race relations in the United States.


"While in Canada the term 'reconciliation' is generally seen as positive and acceptable, especially as it relates to relationships between colonizers and Indigenous people, the term also points to the need for deeper and harder work," said Shannon Perez, justice and reconciliation mobilizer for the CRCNA's Canadian Ministries.

"In my work with the Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee, I try to help people in Christian Reformed churches understand that for us to build relationships between colonizers and Indigenous people we need to not just teach history or find ways to justify what was done in the past; it is about listening, and then it is about making changes," she said.

The bottom line is that we have to start from scratch, own the history of racial injustice, listen to each other's experiences, and build a sustained process toward something better than the status quo.

Some Final Thoughts

Word choice matters. The descriptions and phrases we use solicit specific responses in our readers. That's what separates decent speech and writing from excellent speech and writing.

When words get loaded with meaning in unintended ways, however, they can elicit an emotional response far beyond the word's literal meaning. As Christians, let's be thoughtful and careful about the words we use, ensuring that we are not losing sight of our gospel calling as we interact with each other. Put another way, let's not allow our words to be a barrier to kingdom work. 

**ReFrame Ministries is the new name of Back to God Ministries International as of January 2021.*

***Names have been changed for security.*

(Reprinted with permission from "The Banner," Publication of the Christian Reformed Church of North America, January 2021).

THE ONE WHERE WE ALL GET ON THE M · I · S · S · I · O · N

'Nostalgic' is what I definitely felt last month watching the most awaited reunion of a show that in my opinion stood the test of time and space! In fact, I was crying within minutes from when the show began, and suffered from "post-show blues" long after it was over! While we can all agree that 'Friends' is only a comedy TV series that works well for entertainment, we would also agree that it is probably not the best portrayal of everyday life. Even so, there are still some elements of the show that I can definitely identify with! Having a clique of friends who become like family, the ones who journey with you sometimes for decades through all the ups and downs, and the ones who know what it's like to be always stuck in 2nd gear! Yes we all have that bunch of friends - and I'm sure thankful to God that I do!

Speaking of my bunch of friends, with the past two months (or I should probably say year!) being quite unpredictable, and disastrous events happening almost on a daily basis, about a month ago we started a 'venting' session (this usually starts as a conversation about the current news and how depressing it is but ends in many reflective thoughts shared by everyone, with questions like 'Are we living a pointless life?' 'Is there something 'bigger' I should be doing with my life?') So as we had this conversation, we started asking each other 'but what can we do then?' We know we should be doing more with our lives, but we are all stuck at home, our lives have become a stress-cycle of trying to survive from pay-cheque to pay-cheque, so in the midst of all of this how can we prioritize making a difference? We finally came to the conclusion - that it has to start exactly where we are at!

We tend to think that working on God's mission of advancing his kingdom on earth means that we need to be a church planter or leader or be involved in some sort of official ministry. And for many of us this past year may have particularly felt 'empty' because we haven't been part of the usual church ministries that we would otherwise have been actively involved with. While some of us may be called to serve and support the body of Christ in that way, not all of us are picked for the same task. The Bible is clear that God gives different gifts to everyone, but the same Spirit distributes them.

We can still serve Jesus in a number of ways regardless of the challenging times we might currently be facing. We can reflect God's love in our school and workplaces, in our relationships, we can serve God in the decisions we make, in the care we show to someone in need. There are endless possibilities of living missionally on a daily basis and we can be confident that although there are different kinds of working, in all of them it is the same God at work.

So what is our mission? It's to join the Mission of Christ from exactly where we are! No matter where God has placed us right now, THAT is our mission field, and all we have to do is make a decision to get on that mission today!

Love,
Wish

Your Mission Field

(By Kelly Carlson: a reflection from *fervr.net*)

I used to think that being a missionary meant going to a location where people didn't look like me. It meant selling my music, living in a hut, and learning a new language. I thought being a missionary meant going far, far away.

Now, I know my thoughts were a bunch of bunk.

Being a missionary doesn't have to mean any of these things (though sometimes they are included). In fact, I'm glad to call myself one, even without a spotless past. Do you want to know why? Because being a missionary has far less to do with where we live, than it does how we think about it.

There are a lot of great things Christians would like to 'do for God.' However there are very few Christians who persevere on His path to get there. Our grand ideas of traveling the world and singing His name from the mountain tops; converting peoples, tribes, and tongues not by war but by love... this sounds somewhat glamorous when we're in our own comfy spots. But that's just it - sharing the Gospel cannot be about us.

I once attended a church which hung a large sign to be passed under, when leaving the building. It read, "You are now entering your mission field." I'd never thought of it like this before. Arriving on your mission field takes less travel than you'd imagine.

Think about it.

Step out of bed - you are now entering your mission field. Step into school - you are now entering your mission field. Get on the train, sit on your front porch, message on your phone, play your favourite sport - you are now entering your mission field.

Think of your neighbours, classmates, and workers at local shops. Think of everyone you meet! Like it or not, this is the "nation" to whom you've been sent by God. You don't have to build a hut or learn a language first. You just need to think of yourself as a missionary with incredible news to tell. You need to see others' spiritual state, and invite them to where you are. By the power of Jesus Christ, filled with a Spirit of power—not of timidity—you need to 'go' and think rightly.

We'll never know the fullness of life God has for us, if we do not live life fully right where we are. This means redefining a few things.

Missionary: If you know and love Jesus, then you are sent. You are already en route, running a great race, on your way to Heaven and with a Holy Spirit pace. It doesn't matter what you know or look like. The Good News has not changed.

Mission field: If you know and love Jesus, then the Holy Spirit lives in you. Wherever you walk is your mission field. Look around, because God's got people for you to tell. He has already sent you to wherever you are.

Call: If you know and love Jesus, then you've got some Good News to shout out. To be God's child is to be called. You are purposed because God has made no other quite like you. Be His. Be yourself. Tell the world who you belong to.

Youth Page

Edited By: Wishanka Gregory

Dig Deeper

The Bible continuously affirms that we have a sovereign God who knew us before we were born. This means we have a God who personally knit us together in our mothers' wombs, and a God who knows us intimately. So whatever path you are on, let Him work in your life and let Him show you how you can best serve Him.



**HERE IS YOUR MISSION SHOULD
YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT...**

Be a shining example of who Jesus Christ is. Shine bright in the world with his love, mercy, grace and hope. Go tell those you meet who Christ is, what he has done for you and how they can join the mission too.

**WE . KNOW . THAT
THEY . DON'T . KNOW
WHAT . WE . KNOW!
SO LET'S MAKE HIM KNOWN!**



Dear boys and girls,

Do you like making up stories? Stories of adventure and mystery, with happy endings or even sad ones, with superheroes or beautiful kingdoms. Making up stories can be fun.

It's even more fun to share our stories with others. Jesus wants us to be storytellers for him too. When we tell others about Jesus we are being witnesses. That means we tell others about what Jesus has done for us and share his message of love with them. By doing this we are inviting them to love and follow Jesus too.

There are lots of ways we can share the story of Jesus with others. We can draw them a picture or make them a card telling them how Jesus loves them. We can also be a witness by the way we act and behave.

When you show kindness to others and have a joyful and positive attitude to everything you do you can show other kids and even adults how Jesus has changed you. And when they see the way you are they might want to be like you too!

Can you think of some ways you can be a storyteller for Jesus?

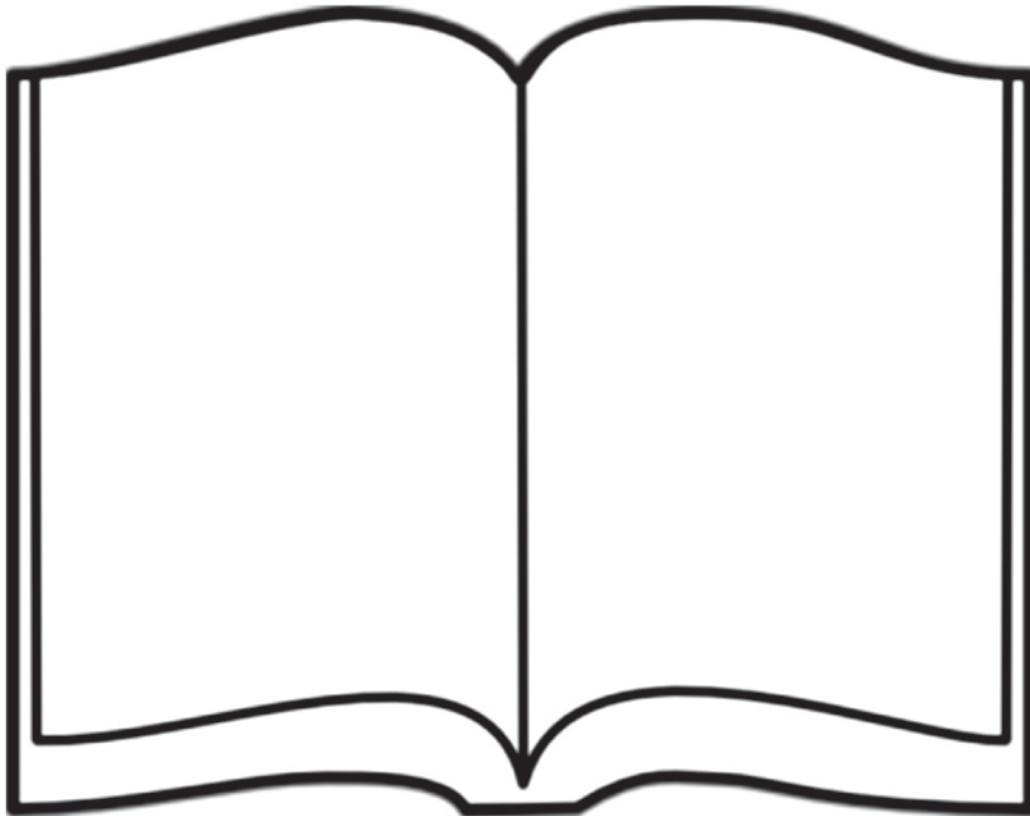
Lots of love,
Aunty Mandy
Xoxoxo



I can be a storyteller for Jesus

Write or draw pictures to remind you how you can be a witness for Jesus and spread some love. Here are some ideas;

- Send someone a message or make them a card telling them Jesus loves them
- Ask a parent to help you find something you can donate to someone
- Call a grandparent or an elderly person from your church to check up on them
- Make a memory verse bookmark for your friends
- Help your mum or dad cook a meal for someone, you can include a little note too.
- Pray for someone who doesn't know Jesus yet



Remember:

If you feel nervous or afraid to share the story of Jesus with others, you can ask God to help. He promises to give us the courage and the words we need.

"At that time the Holy Spirit will teach you what you must say." Luke 12:12

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE



Your mission today,
if you should so agree
is to share the Good News
and tell others about Me.

Your subject today,
could be anyone
who doesn't know
what for them I've done.

Your mission today,
if you should decide
is to let your light shine
on the reason I died.

Your actions today,
might just save a life
and bring someone peace
instead of eternal strife.

Your mission today,
is not impossible
for with Me . . .
all things are possible!



~~~~~

Mark 16:15

“And he said unto them,  
Go ye into all the world,  
and preach the gospel  
to every creature.

# Your child's learning style

Marsha Navamanie

Learning at home over the past year has given us one opportunity that we as parents might not be aware of. It has helped us learn a little about **how** our children learn. It may have been a real struggle to get them to do the school work at home, but did you notice anything interesting about the ways they did the work when left to themselves?

Just like we all have different personalities and different abilities, we also have different ways of learning, different learning "styles" we will call them. Many things can affect the way a child learns and each child is different. Knowing your child's styles and preferences can help you find ways to make learning fun for them, instead of a struggle.

I usually do this in detail as a morning workshop, but thought I would share a few ideas here that might help you understand your children better and maximize their study time. If you have older children you might want to discuss this article with them, or let them read it. There are several different areas that relate to study skills. We will start with the easiest one to change.

### I. Environmental preferences:

**1. Time of the day**, morning or night people. I am a morning person. I find it very hard to concentrate in the evening. My daughter is a night person. It took me a while to realize this. She does her best work between 11pm and 2 am. I of course don't think this is healthy, but we have learned to adapt over the years. When they are in school they have to be morning people, but for home study, you can be flexible.

**2. Intake**, do you need a cup of something or a snack while working? This can help some kids focus better, for others it is a distraction.

**3. Light**, do you prefer bright or dim light? Dim light won't hurt your eyes. Unfortunately again in school there are no options, but at home we can easily increase the light, or dim it down according to preference.

**4. Design**, do you like clutter, or a neat space, a desk or a sofa, or the bed? For working at home we can make sure our children have the space that works best for them. I like a desk, my daughter prefers the computer on her bed. Some like activity around them, others need complete quiet and solitude. We should experiment and try to make it work for them.



**5. Temperature**, cool or warm? Not always controllable here in Sri Lanka.

Although we can't always control the environment at school, we do have control when they are at home doing homework, so try to make their study environment fit with their preferences.

**At Home Project 1:** To find out what environmental preferences they have, ask them to draw you a picture of their ideal study environment, or if they are not sure themselves, try out different things and let them figure it out. Be aware that sometimes there is no preference.

### II. Modalities - How do they remember?

Although we can all learn in various ways, we have preferences, things that work better for us. How we remember things is one of these. There are other ideas out there, but these are the main three preferences to keep it simple.

**1. Auditory** - This student learns best by listening. This modality works in the traditional school set up, it is a good for lectures, you listen, maybe write a few notes and memorize what was said to repeat it on a test.

These children like to repeat out loud what they are learning. If this is your child, practice material before a test by asking them questions and having them repeat the material verbally.

**2. Visual** - This child will look like they are daydreaming during a lecture, because they are trying to visualize what in the world the person is talking about.

This person remembers best with flash cards, pictures and charts. If they are having trouble





focusing in class, you can teach them to doodle pictures of what the teacher is saying, highlight important points in the notes, etc. Give them plenty of color highlighters.

**3. Kinesthetic** - This is the child that can't sit still. It is difficult in the traditional class room for this type of learner, but at home learning is a different story. These kids may excel in sports.

You can help them by teaching the material to a rhythm or rhyme, and giving them frequent breaks to move around, even to pace the room or bounce a ball, while studying. They will need more coping skills for long hours in the classroom.



**III. Cognitive style** (Herman Witkin, how we take in and communicate information)

**1. Analytic** - Break down information into smaller parts, look at the facts and details. Need instructions that are logical and given in step-by-step format.

**2. Global** - grasp the overall situation, the big picture, and assume the details will fall into place. These people need to know where they are going, not a detailed explanation of how to get there.

Organizationally, the Global person considers themselves organized if they can find something, the Analytic likes everything in its place.

When they describe things for instance: if I was telling my husband where to find the sugar, a Global would say, it is in the kitchen. Not enough for an Analytic. It is in the kitchen, in the cupboard above the cooker, on the right side, bottom shelf, next to the milk powder.

Analytics don't like interruptions. They need to focus on one thing at a time. So don't interrupt them. Help them limit their tasks or break them down if they are too big. It helps to have a system, the best system is one they create themselves.

Globals need to make any systems they create simple, they need to find ways to focus on the task and finish something, sometimes working with someone else can help this. They need a jumpstart, so start the task with them, then let them go. Try to minimize distractions.

**At home project 2:** Get a jigsaw puzzle and watch how your children put it together. Analytics will start with the edge pieces and sort pieces in order to make it easier. A global person will look at the picture on the box and

pick something that stands out to them and try to make that part of the puzzle. If they order by color it shows a visual learner. If they get bored easily, maybe they are kinesthetic.

There are two more areas that are interesting, but too detailed for this article.

**IV. Multiple Intelligences** (Howard Gardner: **Frames of Mind**, Thomas Armstrong: **7 kinds of Smart**.) It isn't just IQ that is important, there are many ways to be "Smart". These include:

Linguistic - Use of Verbal skills, Logical-Mathematical, Spatial, Musical, Kinesthetic - Interpersonal, and Intrapersonal (understanding ourselves). There is plenty of information on the internet about these and even self tests, so check it out.

V. The last area is **Mind Styles**, put forward by Anthony F. Gregoric

This is about how you perceive and order things. Do you think in Concrete ways or abstract? We are usually comfortable using one more than the other. The person whose natural strength in the **concrete**, for example, may communicate in a direct, literal, no-nonsense manner. The person whose natural strength is the **abstract** may use more subtle ways to get a point across.

And do you order things Sequentially, in a linear, step by step manner or in a Random way.

Again there are online resources to help you understand this. I am also available if you are struggling with home schooling, I have some experience in this. You can contact me at [m.navamanie@yahoo.com](mailto:m.navamanie@yahoo.com).

Hope this is helpful during these difficult times. I have include a link to a pdf that helps you assess your learning style. This Christian woman's website might also be helpful.

<http://cynthiatobias.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Free-Standard-Learning-Styles-Profile-Revised-2015.pdf>



## +++ CHURCH NEWS+++



### ❖ **Good Friday and Easter Worship.**

Good Friday and Easter Worship took place in the Local Churches with increased attendances, following the necessary approvals and health restrictions.

The traditional Maundy Thursday Service organised by the Dehiwela WMU and led by Michelle Dirckze, took place on Thursday 1st April with a good attendance. Lorraine de Silva gave the message whilst Melina Marianayagem and Vino Schubert, shared words on the significance of Maundy Thursday and the sufferings of our Lord. The Rukmalgama congregation also held a Service on Maundy Thursday, which included the rituals associated with the last day of our Lord on earth. Pastor Andrew Cottling led this service.

### ❖ **Services / Ministry OnLine.**

With the lockdown coming into effect again, CRC SL Services and ministry have been sustained by many local congregations Online via ZOOM and YouTube mainly. Certain congregations have also been conducting Bible Studies and other areas of Ministry, including administrative meetings, through these platforms.

### ❖ **Public Profession Of Faith.**

As it happened last year, the annual United Public Profession of Faith service, held on Good Friday at Wolvendhal could not take place this year as well. Last year it was due to the Lockdown following a resurgence of the Pandemic. This year, it was due to the restriction of the numbers gathering. So, where it was necessary, the young people publicly professed their faith in their local Churches. The following professed faith this year...

From the Regent-Street Congregation – Ryan Passe, A M Ryan Damian.

From the Bambalapitiya Congregation – The-dassi Piyasena.

From the Dehiwela Congregation – Arianna Perera, Eliza Rodrigo, Jordan Melder.

### ❖ **CRC SL Womens Federation – Office-Bearers 2021.**

At the AGM held on the 20th of March, 2021, the following were elected to Office: - President: Rose Nelson – Vice-President (E) Arlene Vandersay (I) Pushpa Murugaiah, Secretary: Vino Schubert, Asst Secs: Dammi Cottling (S), Chrysanthi Fernando (T), Treasurer: Winifreda Fernando, Asst. Treas: Uma Urkalan.

### ❖ **Colombo Theological Seminary – Office-Bearers and Council Members 2021/2022.**

At the AGM held virtually on Saturday 22nd of May, 2021, the following were elected:

President: Revd: Charles Jansz – Vice-President: Revd: Roger Koelmeyer.

Secretary: Revd: Dharshan Fernando.

Treasurer: Revd: Ramesh Schaffter.

Council Members: Dr Ivor Poobalan (Principal), Revd: Niroshan Perera, Rt.Revd Dhilo Canagasabey, Dr. Roshan Perera, Mr. Prashan de Visser, Mr. Roshan Mendis, Ms. Grace Surenthiraraj.

Revd: Charles Jansz was also appointed Chairperson of the Publishing Standing Committee, and a member of the Academic Affairs Standing Committee.

### ❖ **Redeemers Youth Ministry.**

The Youth at Dehiwela have continued to meet both on line and physically during the past few months for the following programs – 20th March “Jesus and Culture” Lesson 3, in Parish Hall, led by Marlon Jansz, 3rd April, “Jesus and Culture” Lesson 4 led by Shehan Thomas/Marlon Jansz, in Parish Hall, 17th April, “Jesus and Forgiveness” Lesson 1, led by Shehan Thomas/Marlon Jansz, in Parish Hall, 1st May, “Jesus and Forgiveness” Lesson 2, Led by Marsha Navamanie via ZOOM, 15th May, “Jesus and Forgiveness” Lesson 3, led by Shehan Thomas/Marlon Jansz via ZOOM, 29th May, “Jesus and Forgiveness” Lesson 4, led by Shenaya Fernando/Marsha Navamanie. Maurice Jansz and Shenaya Fernando presently, give leadership to RYM with Roshni Foe-nander as the LC representative.



❖ **Suganthy Simms.**

Suganthy passed away on the 7th of April, 2021, after some health issues that were part of her life for a while. As many of our denominational Church family would know, for decades Suganthy gave leadership to the Sunday School at Dehiwela, where she functioned as Superintendent and also as a Teacher when the occasion demanded it. She was also legendary when it came to the Vacation Bible School, which she directed also for many decades, with a great sense of commitment and passion, drawing many into serving in some capacity, which included many members of her extended family.

She also was involved with the General Sunday Schools and at one point, if my memory serves me well, also with the Denominational Teaching and Training Committee. She had a great passion to teach the Word of God to kids and went out of her way, to provide advice and even material to other Sunday Schools that needed any help, when it came to ministry to children.

During the last couple of years, when health issues and Covid, kept her from joining in Public Worship, she spent much time listening to On-line sermons and messages and always made it a point to send a word of encouragement when a message spoke to her and also shared such messages with many of her family and others.

*(The "News" in these pages is usually gathered from the Bulletins published by the respective local churches and available in the Church office. Any other news of events or involving the membership could be sent directly to the Editor of "The Herald," for publication according to the established criteria. – Ed.).*

Generations of children who have been part of the Sunday School would remember her faithfulness, driven by a passion to serve for the greater glory of God.

We do thank God for her life and service and pray God's peace, comfort and courage upon Darrel, Gillian, Hisham and Seravi.

❖ **Church Register**

❖ **Silver Wedding Anniversary.**

*"Great is Thy Faithfulness."*

**Kamal and Roshini Mututantri**, on the 15th of June, 2021, of the Dehiwela Congregation.

❖ **Deaths.**

*"I am the Resurrection and the Life..."*

**Suganthy Simms**, on Wednesday 7th April, 2021, of the Dehiwela Congregation.

**Rita Peiris**, on Sunday 25th April, 2021, of the Dehiwela Congregation.



*"In a world which seems either unwilling or unable to listen, how can we be persuaded to go on preaching, and learn to do so effectively? The essential secret is not mastering certain techniques but being mastered by certain convictions. In other words, theology is more important than methodology."*



*(by John Stott. Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today. Eerdmans, 1982)*

## **A TESTIMONY OF THE LORD'S HEALING GRACE AND CARE.....**

(ONE YEAR AFTER HE EXPERIENCED THE LORD'S MIRACULOUS HEALING AND HIS CARE THROUGH SO MANY OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE FROM NEAR AND FAR, **Shane Croner** GIVES GLORY TO GOD, THROUGH THIS TESTIMONY ...)

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**“ When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad consider; God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future...” Ecclesiastes 7:15,**

The 12th of June marks a year after surgery for an Aortic Dissection. I thank the almighty for the gift of life. I have been blessed by a wonderful family and surrounded by some wonderful people, all those who prayed for my recovery from different faiths, Prayer groups in Sri Lanka and around the world (Christian Reformed Church, Methodist Church, St Theresa's Thimbirigasyaya). People who literally stormed the heavens for my recovery. There were those who helped with my travel arrangements enabling me to fly to India for surgery and safe return.

I think of my family and friends who rallied around by wife Shani and son Michael and provided advice and helped during this very difficult time. At times there were people who were complete strangers who helped and for this I am truly grateful. I like to think of the words of song Through it all by Andre Crouch which I can relate to ;

I've had many tears and sorrows,  
I've had questions for tomorrow,  
there's been times I didn't know right from wrong.  
But in every situation,  
God gave me blessed consolation,  
that my trials come to only make me strong.  
Through it all,  
through it all,  
I've learned to trust in Jesus,  
I've learned to trust in God.

God Bless

Shane Croner



*(Shane is a member of the Dehiwela congregation )*



# Sharing and Living the Gospel

**ACCORDING TO STUDY.COM**, the textbook definition of a “growth strategy” is “the method that an institution uses to achieve their goals for expansion.” Generally, it involves at least three things: an internal adjustment, an external focus, and risk. Does your church have a growth strategy? Do you sense that our denomination has one? And are we ready to risk it for Jesus’ sake?

Fittingly, at the Council of Delegates meeting in February, Zach King, director of Resonate Global Mission, reminded those in attendance that “we are all missionaries.” It seems to me that such a phrase conveys the heart of God’s growth strategy: the Great Commission (Matt. 28). It also conveys the overall strategy for growth that Jesus placed upon the church in Acts. And it is, for us as the Christian Reformed Church, the fourth milestone of the *Our Journey 2025* ministry plan.

That milestone is this: “We desire to be congregations and communities that share the gospel, live it missionally, and plant new churches in our neighborhoods as we discover how to connect with our local and global ministry contexts.”

As Canadian ministries director, I see this desire being lived out in so many places across Canada. I see it in Destination Church in St. Thomas, Ont., which converted an old bar into

Every part of our  
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a ministry center and transformed the town around it. I see it in Bridge Church in Fort Saskatchewan, Alta., which launched a completely online church that includes dedicated pastoral leadership, community, discipleship, and small groups. And I see it when you or I invite a friend into a deepening relationship with Jesus. This is missionary work!

Within Canada, CRCNA missionary efforts also expand nationally to places like our three Canadian Indigenous Ministry centers in Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Regina as they embody the gospel with and to Indigenous communities in their midsts. The missionary staff have become frontline workers during the pandemic as they serve meals, provide hospitality and fellowship, and care for very vulnerable urban populations. That’s missionary work!

The Centre for Public Dialogue also worked with key partners in 2019 and 2020 to extend grace to recent immigrants so that their financial debts

to the government are further minimized. This too is missionary work!

And around the world, as Resonate, Reframe, and World Renew bring the gospel in word and in deed to places far away from North America, they do so in ways that bring people to Christ and carry out mercy and justice. That’s missionary work.

Yet even with all of these success stories going on, I know there is a lot more we could do. Every part of our denomination needs a growth strategy. Every church needs a growth strategy. Perhaps seeing ourselves as missionaries is the place to begin.

That’s the thinking behind *Our Journey 2025*. As we go into this five-year stretch, imagine what God could do with and through our denomination if we all took this call to be missionaries seriously.

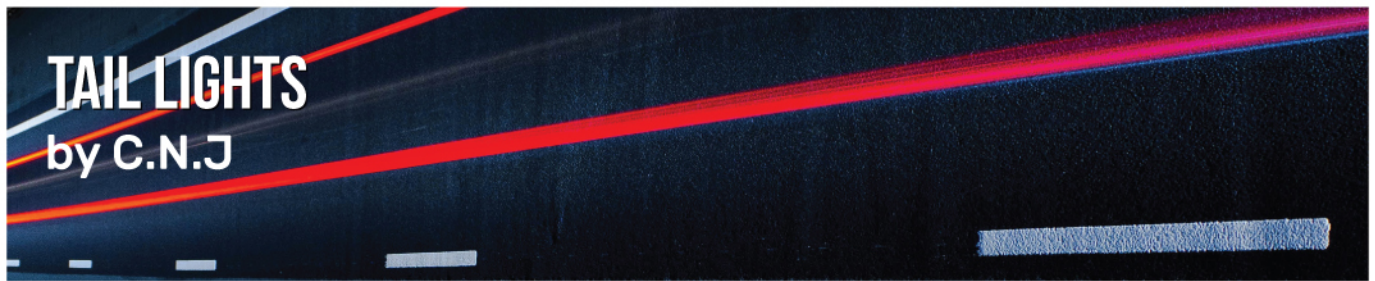
Theoretically, it should be easy for us Reformed types. After all, God has called us to embody gospel witness everywhere and in all areas of life. This includes practicing the way of Jesus in our neighborhoods and the world and dedicating abundant resources of time, talent, and treasure to this cause.

Granted, there are myriad challenges in our churches right now. This is not the place to name them. But challenges will never cease. What must rise above the challenge is a real, practical, comprehensive growth strategy. I look forward to seeing how God will use us.



Darren Roorda is the Canadian Ministries director for the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

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## THE MAFIA !



Some might find it strange to have a “Tail light” with this title ! After all, we have associated the term primarily with those groups of people in some places of the world who dominate society with violence.

In recent times in our own Country, this word has also been bandied about in other areas of life. So we have the “Rice Mafia,” the “Medical Mafia,” the “Media mafia,” the “Cricket Mafia,” and the branding seems to be growing with every passing day – not without reason!

I was however completely taken aback when in a conversation recently, the term was mentioned regarding a particular Church group! The person speaking to me said, “They are like the Mafia”!! I had to make sure that I heard it correctly! After all, in all my years of ministry I never heard the “church” being described in this particular way. The reference of course was to the intense persuasion and pressure exercised to join this particular group as if Salvation, the Holy Spirit and God’s blessing, is the prerogative of only this group!

As I thought through this strange description of a “church” I kept thinking, why can’t a creative strategy, with similar enthusiasm, be pursued in terms of the millions who are still outside the Kingdom and do not name the name of Christ! After all, that is our missionary mandate and that is the reason for our existence. Bringing the good news to those who live with bad news. Not bringing good news to those who have been already blessed with that good news, with the objective of getting them to change fish tanks! Mafia tactics must give way to missionary tactics – and that too with much tact, respect and love as the Bible says.

The gospel is not about a particular church community and its numerical growth or superficial expansions. It is primarily about changed hearts and lives, that colonize earth with the life of heaven. And if that is to happen, “Missional Christianity” must replace the “Mafia”!

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