

# MEMBER MISSION NEWSLETTER

#70 – New Life

April 2009

*God is most interested in how we live our new life in Christ from Monday to Saturday.  
Sunday – all of church life – helps us to do it better.*

This month's features:

## STORIES

- A Mother and Son Reading Group
- Contemporary Worship at Old Donation Church

## FOR MEDITATION

- Make War No More

## RESOURCES

- The Emerging Church – A Description
- Brian D. McLaren – Three Problems before Churches
- Phyllis Tickle – Issues Facing Emerging Churches
- YouTube's Three New Stories

### **!!! MEMBER MISSION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE !!!**

Help all of your members to be on mission in every area of daily life 24/7/365; And reshape your church's life around calling, forming, sending, and supporting them in their daily living as missionaries. Teams of a pastor and two lay leaders are encouraged. Agree to 3 years of follow up with mentoring provided.

Dinner, Sunday, Oct. 11 – Breakfast, Friday, Oct. 16, 2009  
La Casa de Maria Retreat and Conference Center, Santa Barbara, CA  
Cost: \$350; \$300 each for teams of two or more; up to 50% travel reimbursement  
For more information: [www.membermission.org](http://www.membermission.org) and click on Training  
Space limited: apply by 9/15/09.

## STORIES

### A Mother and Son Reading Group

Peggy and her son, Jim, read books together. They discuss them by phone weekly, chapter by chapter. They are now reading *Never Alone: A Personal Way to God* by Joseph F. Girzone (Guideposts, 1994).

Jim is in his forties and has his own family, a wife and six children who range from 5 to 20 years old. When they cannot be in church on Sunday mornings, they do "home church" that night. Of the reading and phone calls, Jim says, "It makes me think outside the box." Commenting on *Never Alone: A Personal Way to God*, he added, "It confirms elements of my faith when I find that what the author writes about parallels my own living. This book also alerts me to some of the mistakes that churches can make."

#### Contact Information:

**A. Wayne Schwab and the Member Mission Network**

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**Email:** [membermission@aol.com](mailto:membermission@aol.com)

## ***STORIES (continued)***

Peggy says reading books with her son and discussing them brings them closer together. Regarding her faith, Peggy said, "I'm interested in discovering what there might be to discover. I'm intellectually skeptical of many spiritual teachings, but I have faith in the guidance of the Spirit within me to continue searching for answers. People, especially my son Jim, and those at my church, and books are stimulating sources on my never-ending journey as a seeker."

Contact: membermission@aol.com

## **A Contemporary Worship at Old Donation Church in Virginia Beach, VA**

The Gathering offers alternative worship in the Parish Hall of the Old Dominion Church in Virginia Beach and uses more contemporary wording, yet in the same order as the Prayer Book. The Gathering started almost 4 years ago with 35 people for average Sunday attendance while the concurrent traditional service averaged 125-130. [For a picture and more, see [www.membermission.org/eNewsletter\\_69.htm](http://www.membermission.org/eNewsletter_69.htm)]

Today the traditional service averages 146 people and the Gathering averages over 100. A new order of worship is prepared for each church season and various groups in the church write different parts. The Call to Worship and Confession were written by the class of 9th-10th graders. The Prayers of the people were written by the 4th-5th grade class. The Peace was written by the Director of Christian Formation. Below are excerpts from the bulletin of 3/29/09:

### **Call to Worship**

v. Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**r. God's mercy endures forever.**

v. This Lent we journey toward Jerusalem and Easter.

**r. Turning to follow Jesus as he leads to the Father.**

v. How can you follow Jesus?

**r. Take up my cross and be God's servant.**

### **Confession**

Presider: In Lent we begin by asking God to cleanse our hearts to prepare us for worship. Let us confess our sins.

**All: God, creator and redeemer, I am wandering in the wilderness. Selfish and overconfident in my abilities, I have not trusted you and have neglected your commandments. I have not acknowledged that you are the source of all good things. I have not been grateful for your grace. Please forgive me. Open our eyes so we can see, our ears so we can hear, our hearts so we can love and our minds so we can pray. Turn my heart back toward you and help me to delight in your will and walk in your ways.**

Presider: Do not be afraid: God the Father is merciful. God's Son offers forgiveness of sins. God the Holy Spirit gives you new life, both now and forever. You have been redeemed!

. . . . .

### **Prayers of the People**

Presider: Let us pray in joy and confidence to our

Messiah, who has come to be with us:

*Please lead the petitions as you feel led by the Spirit.*

v. For all leaders of our nation and the world,

**r. Give them wisdom to lead.**

v. For our environment and those working to preserve it,

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## **STORIES (continued)**

**r. Help citizens to be good stewards of our natural resources.**

v. For all people who have fallen away from God,

**r. That they may find God in their lives again.**

v. For all those in retirement and nursing homes,

**r. That they may enjoy life to the fullest.**

v. For all churches and their members,

**r. That they will find hope with God and their church community.**

v. For those in need of jobs and who have lost their homes,

**r. That they may be able to support themselves and their families.**

v. For all animals in need, especially those who need homes, have been abused, or are hungry,

**r. That they may find good owners who will take care of them.**

v. For those fighting to protect our country,

**r. Give them strength and watch over their families.**

v. For those who are sick,

**r. That they may find healing through God's spirit.**

v. For those who have passed away,

**r. That they may rejoice and be glad in your heavenly kingdom.**

Prisider: Your intercessions and thanksgivings are invited, silently or aloud.

Prisider: Loving God, who is always with us and hears what we ask: mercifully accept the prayers of your people.

**All: Amen.**

### **The Peace**

Prisider: May the peace of God enlighten your mind, strengthen your body, sustain your spirit and fill your heart with love.

**All: Shalom.**

## **RESOURCES**

### **The Emerging Church – A Description**

Canon Steven Bonsey, in the Jan/Feb 2009 newsletter of the Massachusetts Episcopal Clergy Association, cited these marks: avoid a one-dimensional gospel such as saving one's soul or social justice; the authority of scripture without being authoritarian; community and authenticity in its common life; and many evangelicals exploring liturgical worship.

### **Brian D. McLaren – Three Problems before Churches**

**Brian D. McLaren**, author of *Everything Must Change* (Thomas Nelson, 2007) and a widely sought speaker on the future of the church and the emerging church in particular, spoke in Boston, MA on 3/7/09. He outlined three problems that must be addressed: prosperity, our drive for material things; security, our drive to keep them safe; and equity, our need to share wealth fairly equally – a need not being met.

At a reception, I put the [daily mission worksheets](http://www.membermission.org/basictools3b_x.htm) ([www.membermission.org/basictools3b\\_x.htm](http://www.membermission.org/basictools3b_x.htm)) in his hand saying, "These are something you need to know about. They will take you the next step to work with what people actually do and say in each area of daily life." "Can I have them and how do I reach you?" he asked quickly. "They're for you and here's my card," I answered. (AWS)

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## **RESOURCES (continued)**

### **Phyllis Tickle – Issues Facing Emerging Churches**

**Phyllis Tickle**, author of *The Great Emergence* (Baker Books, 2008) and, also, a widely sought speaker on the same topic, spoke in Boston on 3/26/08. She summarized her book and said the emerging churches face three questions: (1) what it is to be human; (2) how to be a Christian and work with others; and (3) how to interpret the atonement, the death of Jesus. She also said Anglicans, affirming the three legged-stool of scripture, tradition, and reason, need to name what is on the seat of the stool. (AWS)

### **Three New Stories on YouTube**

- [Jeff: A Whistle Blower Survives](#)
- [Sue: Member Mission Made the Difference](#)
- [Charlie: Church Buildings on Mission](#)

Click the links above to watch these stories and learn more about the personal impact of Member Mission. To see more MemberMission Presents videos, go to [www.youtube.com/user/MemberMission](http://www.youtube.com/user/MemberMission).

## **FOR MEDITATION**

### **Making War No More**

Commenting on the media and its focus on riling people up, Burt, aged 21, comments: “Why not flash the most gruesome thing mankind knows? War, which is literally partaking in the mass killing of one’s own race.”

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Tell us about your work with member mission at [membermission@aol.com](mailto:membermission@aol.com) or phone / fax (518) 561-1184. (You continue on this list because of past interest and / or work together with the member mission vision.) If you missed or lost any past newsletters, you will find them on the website under Making the Vision Work > Newsletters. To be dropped from the list, just write us at [membermission@aol.com](mailto:membermission@aol.com)

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**Our Mission Fields**



Home

Work

Local Community

Wider World

Leisure

Spiritual Health

Church Life and Outreach

Pastors and lay leaders . . .  
empower the laity,  
God's primary agents  
for mission in today's world

- Make the Sunday to Monday connection for every member
- Learn to use resources that work
- Deepen your spirituality
- Improve your leadership [3 CE credits]
- Meet new colleagues
- Commended by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

## Member Mission Leadership Institute

October 11-16, 2009

From this 4-plus day event, starting with dinner on October 11 and ending with breakfast on October 16, you will leave with a wholly new way for your congregation and all of its members to understand mission and what it means to be "on mission."

And you will leave better equipped to lead your congregation and its members to embrace more fully what it really means to live as a Christian every day.

**La Casa de Maria Retreat and Conference Center  
Santa Barbara, CA**

Registration: per person \$350; \$300 in teams of two or three  
Up to 50% travel reimbursement

Space is limited. Register by September 15, 2009

For information: [www.membermission.org](http://www.membermission.org), click "Training"  
or 518-561-1184

**About the Member Mission Leadership Institute**  
**October 11-16, 2009**  
**La Casa de Maria Retreat and Conference Center**  
**Santa Barbara, CA**

**About member mission:** we assume that the primary agents of God's mission in today's world are the laity in their daily places – their homes, their work, their local community, the wider world, their leisure, their spiritual health, and their church's life and its outreach. We provide tested resources to help members to discern their missions in each of those places; and to help the clergy and lay leaders of their church to make supporting the members in their daily living as Christians its primary purpose – or, at least, one of its primary purposes.

**For:** the ordained leaders of congregations and one co-leader (where possible); ecumenical with Methodists and Baptists already using the resources.

**Purpose:** participants will leave with the skills to begin to implement member mission in their congregations.

**The institute offers:**

- practice in following the basic steps to implement member mission for individuals, pairs, or small groups; and into the life of the congregation as a whole
- practice in the basic interpersonal, group process, system, and feedback skills needed to implement member mission
- ongoing consultation for three years

**Participants commit themselves to (see Registration form):**

- advance reading of the basic text and workbook for member mission and written preparation – bring all with you to the Institute (all to be sent to you after 8/17/09)
- implement three activities in your congregation each year for three years
- participate in coaching during this three year period

**More about the Institute:**

- space is limited – apply by 9/15/09
- most of the learning will occur in small groups
- lodging in single rooms
- arrive in time for dinner at 6:00 PM on 10/11/09 and leave after breakfast on 10/16/09

**Cost:** \$350 (\$600 for pastor and one lay leader; \$900 for pastor and two lay leaders) plus half your travel costs (based on economy/coach class air fare available through [www.priceline.com](http://www.priceline.com) plus parking, meals, and transport to the Center); the other half of travel costs and the balance of lodging and meals are provided by Member Mission Network, Inc. Scholarships are available.

To register: [www.membermission.org](http://www.membermission.org), click "Training;" phone 518-561-1184; write [membermission@aol.com](mailto:membermission@aol.com)

**Member Mission Leadership Institute – Registration**  
**October 11-16, 2009**  
**La Casa de Maria Retreat and Conference Center, Santa Barbara, CA**

Prefix (e.g., Rev., Mr., Ms., etc.)\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Title or Position (e.g., Pastor, Lay Leader, etc.)\_\_\_\_\_

Congregation\_\_\_\_\_Denomination\_\_\_\_\_

Address Type: Home\_\_\_ Office\_\_\_ (Choose an address where a package can be left that is sheltered from rain)

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day\_\_\_\_\_ Evening\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

Special needs (disabilities, dietary restrictions, etc.)\_\_\_\_\_

I accept the commitment requested of participants.

- advance reading of the basic text and workbook for member mission and written preparation – bring all with you to the Institute (all to be sent to you after 8/17/09)
- implement three activities in your congregation each year for three years
- participate in coaching during this three year period

Begin now to plan your travel. If by air, plan to arrive in Santa Barbara by 4:00 PM on Sunday, 10/11/09, and leave any time Friday, 10/16/09; also, please let MMN, Inc. review the ticket before final confirmation. Once your ticket is confirmed, send an itinerary that notes the cost and reimbursement for one-half of economy air fare (or, if driving, one half of current IRS allowance per mile up to the cost of economy air fare) will be sent to you. In the event of cancellation, we will agree on an equitable adjustment. If driving, plan to arrive by 5:00 PM on Sunday, 10/11/09; for directions go to <http://lcmd.org/map.html>

I am enclosing a check for [\$350 for pastor; \$600 for pastor and one lay leader; \$900 for pastor and two lay leaders] made payable to Member Mission Network, Inc.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Member Mission Network, Inc.; 10 Jubert Lane, Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
Phone 518-561-1184; [membermission@aol.com](mailto:membermission@aol.com); [www.membermission.org](http://www.membermission.org)

## **Background information about member mission and its developer, A. Wayne Schwab**

Member mission assumes that the primary agents of God's mission in today's world are the laity in their daily places – their homes, their work, their local community, the wider world, their leisure, their spiritual health, and their church's life and its outreach. We offer resources to help members to discern their missions in each of those places; and to help the clergy and lay leaders of their church to make supporting the members in their daily living as Christians its primary purpose – or, at least, one of its primary purposes. For more, poke around the web site – [www.membermission.org](http://www.membermission.org) -- as you have time.

Among ways to implement this approach, we offer the Member Mission Leadership Institute which gives participants practice in every step to start the use of member mission in their church. They will also receive a taste of basic skills in human relations, group process, and systems. As we present them, appreciative inquiry and emotional intelligence resonate with these three areas. My own training in these areas began with my years at the center of the group process, systems, and consultation training of ECUSA from 1956 - 1970; 19 productive years as a parish priest in Montvale, NJ, 1956-1975; and 19 years as the Episcopal Church's first-ever evangelism staff person, 1975-1993. Member mission has emerged out of all those experiences and, most recently, out of research funded by Trinity Church Grants (NYC), 1999-2000.

There are some unique keys that make the member mission approach unique in the midst of all the attention being given to living out our baptism in daily life. Here are tested ways to get down to what the baptized actually do day by day. It is an approach that:

- works for every member** – other resources are limited by their method – e.g., calling on members at work reaches only those whom someone, usually the rector, has time to visit; Sunday morning witnesses to “how I found God I found in \_\_\_\_\_” reaches only the witnesses and their hearers, etc.
- includes all the areas of daily life** – not only our work but also our home, our local community, the wider world, our leisure, our spiritual health, and our part in our church's life and its outreach
- discerns a specific action in deed and word for each area of life** – we need to get to what we will actually do and / or say now in each area of life to make life more loving or more just now – this specific action in deed or word becomes the member's mission there (for this use of mission, go to [www.membermission.org](http://www.membermission.org) > Making the Vision Work > Basic Tools > Basic Tools 1-3D)
- organizes church life around supporting the members in their daily missions as its primary purpose** – at least, one of its primary purposes

Note that on June 25, 2008 we discussed member mission with our Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori. She was glad to hear of it and found it new among current resources for ministry in daily life. She requested a paper from us for the September 2008 meeting of the Episcopal House of Bishops which would explore the future of theological education. Our paper was to outline how member mission can support a new way in theological education. Initial feedback indicates it was well received by them.