

# The Water Cooler

A Publication of *City-Wide Redeemer*

## Aliante Blue Star — CWR's First Missional Community

Recently I was asked a great question in the midst of our planning with the leadership team for CWR's first missional community. After speaking for a few minutes with the team about the biblical underpinnings that support what it is we will be trying to accomplish through our missional communities (MC's), one of the team members said, "This is great, but what is a missional community again?"

That's a great question! One way of answering it would be to turn over to the pages of Matthew 5-7, and read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, or to read about the MC of Acts 2. Another way to answer would be to simply say, "It's the church being the church." These answers still feel incomplete to many of us because, for most, our experience of "church" has been less than an identity altering reality that invades all our relationships, vocations, and dreams. Instead, for many of us, the definition of church has been tied to place. This view sees the church as a building,

or location, were we go. "I'm going to church," summarizes this view. As writer Jason Zahariades has put it, "The implication is that when we are not at the building, we are not at church."<sup>1</sup>

Another view understands church to be defined in terms of what happens when God's people gather together on Sunday. It is defined by services of worship, prayer meetings, or other ministries.

Again, the implication with this view is that when we are not engaged in one of these activities or events, we are no longer doing or

having church. Other views of church are tied to people ("I go to Rick Warren's church."), or certain programs and services ("My church has the activities and services my family needs.").

Our MC's are simply an intentional attempt to recover what it means to live as God's people, in God's world, for the sake of His glory, on His mission. In a MC the church is God's sent people. That means when everything is stripped away—the building, the events, the activities, the leaders, and other identifying markers for the



<sup>1</sup> Jason Zahariades wrote an article on missional community for [theofframp.org](http://theofframp.org)

*("Aliante Blue Star" Continued from page 1)*

church—the people are the church and church is the people. Therefore, wherever God's people are corporately or individually, there is the church. Church is at home, in the car, in the restaurant, at the beach, doing the laundry, replacing brake pads and listening to music—wherever God's people find themselves in their daily lives.

The aim of our first MC, Aliante Blue Star, will be to live out these realities around the focused mission of serving families of deployed personnel. (BTW, if you're tempted to think, "I'm not really that interested in the military,"

think simply about the people you'll be serving. It's not about the military. It's about people affected by service in the military, something for which all of us are grateful.) At times the group will organize and participate in specific projects of mercy to these families. At other times the group will pray, sing, and learn together. Sometimes the mission will be carried out by the group at large, at other times by subsets of the group. There will be planned events and spontaneous happenings. Everyone will be using the gifts God's given them to build up his body (Eph 4).

The sum of these things will be identified as a Holy Spirit led

movement of God to make himself known in Las Vegas. Lord willing, other MC's will emerge in the coming months that will seek to serve other geographies and specific areas of need in our city. With that said, the best way I can answer the question, "What exactly is a missional community again?" is to say, "Join us November 19, and you'll find out!"

Aliante Blue Star's launch gathering is planned for Nov 19th from 6:30—8:00 pm at the Alexander Library (MLK and Alexander). Paul Fletcher will be leading a discussion with spouses of deployment as we seek to understand better how to serve this community.

## Las Vegas Marathon Runner for Team Haiti

Over the next few weeks Team Haiti will be doing their final training runs ahead of the half-marathon on Dec. 06. These runners will be letting family and friends know about their efforts to raise funds for the orphanage of Churette, Haiti. Their goal is to raise \$5,000 that will be used to provide between six and seven months of food and medical relief for the 65+ children who call that orphanage home. In order to fully support our team in this act of mercy we will reschedule our worship on Dec. 06 for 11:15 am.

## Thanksgiving Offering

On the first Sunday of each month at CWR we invite everyone to give a separate gift to fund our community mercy account. Instead of taking this offering in November and December we have decided to take up a special mercy offering on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This is such a natural thing since our only enduring source for generosity is gratitude toward Jesus who became poor so we might become rich. Please pray about what God would have you share with others in need during this holiday season. Also, if you have need, contact Don Arata at 702.645.4689.

## Contact Us



[www.CityWideRedeemer.com](http://www.CityWideRedeemer.com)

Philip Glassmeyer, Pastor · 702.540.2932  
[philip.glassmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:philip.glassmeyer@gmail.com)

Eric Phillips, Pastor · 702.540.2934  
[eaphil2@gmail.com](mailto:eaphil2@gmail.com)

| <b>General Budget</b> | <b>October</b> | <b>YTD 2009</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Local Offering        | \$ 8,263.08    | \$ 104,732.25   |
| *Outside Support      | \$ 10,110.00   | \$ 122,221.00   |
| Earned Interest       | \$ 0.00        | \$ 0.61         |
| Giving Total          | \$ 18,373.08   | \$ 226,953.86   |
| Expenses              | \$ 21,764.29   | \$ 226,056.48   |
| Surplus/Deficit       | \$ (3,391.21)  | \$897.38        |

  

| <b>Community/Mercy Ministry</b> | <b>October</b> | <b>YTD 2009</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Mercy Giving                    | \$ 1,217.00    | \$ 13,459.55    |
| Mercy Expenses                  | \$ 1,022.00    | \$12,915.11     |
| Surplus/Deficit                 | \$ 195         | \$544.44        |

\* Outside support comes from individuals and churches around the country who sacrificially give to this work until the CWR budget is able to be supplied in full by its local members. For more information on how these monies are used visit the website ([www.CityWideRedeemer.com](http://www.CityWideRedeemer.com)) and click on the “Common Questions” link.