



# WHICH PASTURE?

A pastor of a church with a large missions budget was asked, "How many missionaries does your church support?" His answer, "None." The follow up question for clarification brought this explanation. "We don't support missionaries... they support us. Without missionaries we cannot be obedient to the command of Christ to reach the world with the gospel."

That pastor "nailed" it. He viewed the church as missional. He does not believe that the local church is an end to itself ... it is a delivery system to accomplish an incredible mission. His approach toward the church was that it is a place for preparing people for ministry and then launching them out. Sounds a lot like Ephesians 4:11-12.

When a church starts thinking and acting this way, there are some radical changes that begin to take place. One of them is that the pastor begins to view himself as a potential missionary. The dichotomy between "pastor" and "missionary" has caused many to think that if you are on one track, you can't cross to the other. Should we not consider a missionary another member of the pastoral staff? They are simply doing the local church's ministry in some other part of the world. Therefore, it is no great leap from pastor to missionary.

The missional church realizes that missions IS the mission. Therefore, whether the pastor is ministering here or somewhere overseas, it is all the same mission.

What is keeping you from the mission field?