

who's your **1**ONE?

Everyday Church – Gospel Communities on Mission by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis

“Here is an exercise to help identify everyday missions. Think of all the activities, however mundane, that make up your life: (1) *daily routine* (traveling to work, eating meals, doing chores, walking the dog, playing with the children); (2) *weekly routine* (grocery shopping, watching favorite television programs, exercising); and (3) *monthly routine* (gardening, getting a haircut, going to the movies). You should have a long list of activities. For each one, ask whether you could add: (1) a community component by involving another member of your Christian community; (2) a missional component by involving an unbeliever; (3) a gospel component by identifying opportunities to talk about Jesus.”

“None of this is adding anything to your schedule, for these are all activities in which you are already engaged.”

“Jonathan Dodson from Austen City Life in Texas suggests eight ways to be missional. ‘Missional,’ he comments, ‘is not an event we tack onto our already busy lives. It is our life. Mission should be the way we live, not something we add onto life...We can be missional in everyday ways without even overloading our schedules.’ Here are his eight suggestions:

1. *Eat with non-Christians.* We all eat three meals a day. Why not make a habit of sharing one of those meals with a non-Christian or with a family of non-Christians? Go to lunch with a co-worker, not by yourself. Invite the neighbors over for a family dinner. If it's too much work to cook a big dinner, just order pizza and focus on the conversation. When you go out for a meal, invite others. Or take your family to family-style restaurants where you can sit at a table with strangers and strike up conversations... Have cookouts and invite Christians and non-Christians. *Flee the Christian subculture.*
2. *Walk, don't drive.* If you live in a walkable area, make a practice of getting out and walking around your neighborhood, apartment complex, or campus. Instead of driving to the mailbox, convenience store, or apartment office, walk to get mail, groceries, and stuff. Be deliberate in your walk. Say hello to people you don't know. Strike up conversations. Attract attention by walking the dog... or bringing the kids. Make friends. Get out of your house!... Take interest in your neighbors. Ask questions. Pray as you go. *Save some gas and the planet.*
3. *Be a regular.* Instead of hopping all over the city for gas, groceries, haircuts, meals, and coffee, go to the same places. Get to know the staff... Go at the same times. Smile. Ask questions. Be a regular. I have friends at coffee shops all over the city. My friends at Starbucks donate a ton of leftover pastries to our church 2-3 times a week. We use them for church gatherings and occasionally to give to the homeless. Build relationships. *Be a regular.*
4. *Hobby with non-Christians.* Pick a hobby that you can share. Get out and do something you enjoy with others. Try... local rowing and cycling teams.

Share your hobby by teaching lessons. Teach sewing... piano..., violin, guitar, knitting, or tennis. Be prayerful. Be intentional. Be winsome. Have fun. *Be yourself.*

5. *Talk to your co-workers.* How hard is that? Take your breaks with intentionality. Go out with your team or taskforce after work. Show interest in your co-workers. Pick four and pray for them. Form moms' groups in your neighborhood and don't make them exclusively non-Christian. Schedule play dates for your kids with the neighbors' kids. *Work on mission.*
6. *Volunteer with nonprofits.* Find a nonprofit organization in your part of the city and take one Saturday a month to serve there. Bring your neighbors, your friends, or your small group. Spend time with your church serving your city. Once a month. *You can do it!*
7. *Participate in city events.* Instead of playing Xbox, watching TV, or surfing the net, participate in city events. Go to fundraisers, festivals, clean-ups, summer shows, and concerts. Participate missionally. Strike up conversation. Study the culture. Reflect on what you see and hear. Pray for the city. Love the city. *Participate with the city.*
8. *Serve your neighbors.* Help a neighbor by weeding, mowing, building a cabinet, or fixing a car. Stop by the neighborhood association or apartment office and ask if there is anything you can do to help improve things. Ask your local police and fire stations if there is anything you can do to help them. Get creative. *Just serve!*



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