

THE MISSING LINK OF MISSIONS

Acts 1:8 and John 4:1-42

Familiar verse: outline of Book of Acts: Acts 1:8: 4 steps in fulfillment of the Great Commission:

1. Jerusalem: your family & neighbors & friends who are like you
2. Judea: people further away like us: eg our church plant in Frederick
3. **Samaria**: people near us, but UNlike us. Need cross barriers: egs: language, culture, race, religion
4. The ends of the earth: traditional foreign missions

Samaria is the challenge because it is not others, but us. And it is uncomfortable, at least at first.

But Samaria is the critical link of any church between evangelism and missions. Especially in Howard Co, MD.

See Jesus as a model of this for us in John 4: 3 lessons:

1. Be _____ : 4:4
He **had** to go through Samaria. No, He didn't. But He did.
He purposed to go where most Jews did not, to have contact with people most Jews avoided
So: go out of your way to have "Samaritans" over for dinner. To befriend them
2. **C** _____ **B** _____ : 4:7
He asked her for a drink. In doing that He crossed barriers of gender -- culture -- racial & religious animosity -- shame
Cf talking to a prostitute of a different race in Sandtown
3. **Show Christ as Savior of the** _____ : 4:42
Bigger than my tribe and subculture
Significant that where the early Church was first diverse, it was also the first missionary sending body: Acts 13:1-3

As we are involved in our Samarias, we will also be more concerned for and effective in foreign missions.

10 Suggestions for Samaritan Ministry

1. Invite an international student or immigrant family to your home.
2. Accept an invitation to their home.
3. Drop in and get to know an immigrant family in your neighborhood.
4. Volunteer to help someone learn English.
5. Befriend a coworker from another culture.
6. Interact with the staff of an ethnic restaurant.
7. Share recipes with international friends.
8. Ask about the political concerns of their home countries. Possibly offer to pray with them about it.
9. Offer to explain the basis (often Christian) of American holidays.
10. Attend a worship service of an ethnically different church. Stay and talk afterward. Be open to where that leads.