

**Missional Previval**  
**August 20, 2017**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**

**Introduction**

The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me—to tell people the Good News about God’s grace. (Acts 20:24 NCV)

As the Father has sent me [on a mission], so I am sending you [on a mission]. (John 20:21 NLT)

When people encounter the Lord in a life-changing way, it always leads to missional previval. From Jesus’ first followers to the present, that is what has happened when folks get a taste of God’s goodness and decide to live as citizens in His Kingdom. As such, “previved” Christians are not content to just sit in church on Sunday mornings, they want to be the church in the world. This week, we will spend some time talking about how our lives are changed when we experience “missional previval.”

**Digging Deeper**

**We experience “missional previval” when we....**

**CARE about the world.**

- “Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care.” (Theodore Roosevelt)  
We know about the depth of God’s love for us because He sent His Son on a mission to dwell among us and ultimately die for us in order to restore our broken relationship. But how do we know if really care about another person? Have you been convicted in a meaningful way after witnessing the intolerable conditions of others? Conviction is a fire starter, but changes nothing unless followed up by some kind of action. How do you express your concern for others? What might we see if we were to ask God to give us His eyes for just one second? We must let the hurts of others penetrate our hearts so that we can truly see them as God sees them.

**DARE to change the world.**

- Stepping out of your comfort zone to try to make a difference in the world can be an intimidating prospect. Maybe you’ve never even stepped outside your own zip code! But hey, if it were easy, everyone would be doing it! However, when we consider the eternal reward at hand, we must put on the full armor of God and press forward. Have you ever stopped to ask yourself, “When I get to heaven, will anyone be there because of me?” How does this question motivate you to become daring for the advancement of God’s Kingdom?
- Have you even been so powerfully impacted by the needs of others that it put your feet in motion? Do you feel called to local, regional or even international missionary work? There are many ways you can support the missions of our church right here in Bay County, or on the other side of the world. Contact Katie Fanning at [Katie@mylhumc.net](mailto:Katie@mylhumc.net) to learn more.

**We must SHARE with the world.**

- “Previved” Christians realize that the church is the only institution in the world that exists, not for the benefit of its members, but for those outside the fellowship. What are you doing to share what the Lord has blessed you with in terms of your time, talents, and treasures to meet the needs of others and communicate the love of Christ?
- When we give of our resources, others are surely blessed. But when we give of ourselves we demonstrate that our hearts are as big (or bigger) than our checkbooks. What are some things you can do every day to share your God given abilities with the people you encounter?

**Conclusion**

When we are renewed by God’s Spirit and experience previval, we won’t be content to sit in our nice, comfortable, familiar surroundings. Instead, we’ll be compelled to move beyond the walls of the church because we’ll realize that, just as Jesus was sent by His Father into the world, we too have been given a mission in the world. We’ll complete our mission only to the extent we care about the world, dare to get involved in the world, and share what we have with the world. That is missional previval and enables us (and others) to taste a little bit of heaven on earth.