

Church on the Road

Steve Baker

“The Organic Church is more of a lifestyle than a church”, said Steve Baker the director for the Nazarene Border Initiative. He went on to say “If the church were organic 24/7 it would transform the world”. What is he talking about? He is referring to the driving principles of the organic church network and the idea of being the church versus going to church.

Whether you are part of a conventional church, emerging church, or organic church isn't so much the question. The question is about who you are - not where do you go to church. Who are you at the coffee shop where you buy your favorite coffee drink? Who are you at the park where you take your kids to play? Who are you in your neighborhood? Who are you on the road? And when you are on the road does the church go with you? And are you living intentionally when you are out and about?

Steve and Debbie Baker are models for the traveling Organic Church lifestyle.

When I first connected with Paul and Kathy MacLearn they started telling me about their son, Darrell, who was starting this Nazarene Organic Network. As Paul shared with me about the organic church my first thought was that it sounded very much like the book of Acts. I was then able to meet Darrell and hear in more detail. Debbie and I were both excited. We invited Darrell to come to Mexico and give our missionaries the organic training. Several months have gone by and I am more convinced that every Christian needs to have an organic heart. It has changed the way we think about church. It makes us aware that we are the church in every situation and in every encounter with people around us. We are able to be the church in a restaurant or at a rest stop.

On our way driving from Mexico to Orlando, Florida we stopped at a Golden Corral to eat. I overheard a conversation between the tables beside us about how good the cat fish was at Golden Corral. I entered into the conversation, and then went and got some of the fish. When I got back Debbie had already found out that the families at the two other tables were Christians. Well, everyone started sharing scripture and we all started getting blessed. There was a young couple seated behind Debbie and she turned around to ask them if they were Christians. The husband said no. We kept having our organic church and finally Debbie asked this couple if they wanted to pray for their salvation. They said yes and we all started praying. That couple was saved and we were blessed. We had church in Golden Corral.

Some may say that you do not have church unless there is an offering. Well, the one man who started sharing about the cat fish had left by now, but on his way out he left something with our waitress. The waitress came to our table with a \$50 check for us. So there was an offering taken and we did have church; church on the road.

It makes me think... “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there” with them at Golden Corral. Organic is an intentional incarnational lifestyle that travels with you down the road of life. Steve Baker asks, “What would happen if every believer had an organic heart?”