

THE FIRST REFORMATION RECOVERED with liberating clarity the truth of *how* we're made right with God, how we receive God's life and the guarantee of enjoying it forever. I suggest that the reformation needed in the church today would focus on *why* God gives us life, on the real reason that Jesus died. "It is not for your sake...that I am going to do these things," God said, "but for the sake of my holy name" (Ezekiel 36:22).

The Spirit would cut through our narcissistic nuttiness to make clear that God saved us in order for Him to receive glory, not to help us feel good about ourselves and lead exciting lives.

We were saved to glorify God. Realizing that one truth is the heart of the reformation that the modern church must experience. And our salvation provides us with all the resources we need to pull it off. That realization and learning how to draw on those resources will begin the revival. Our lives can actually be all about God and not about us. That's the coming revolution.

Think about it. Let your heart dream. From narcissists to worshipers. From people trying hard to make our lives more pleasing to us, to people who make it our priority to please God. Men would turn off their cable pornography. Lonely women would no longer date still-married men. People with limited means would be glad when their friends become rich. Children would spend time with their aging parents and count it a privilege to do so. We'd stop being so damnably selfish and actually be more concerned for others than for ourselves, even when the price is high. The church would shift from a fractious society of ego-driven competitors whose souls never meet to a gathering of broken, grateful saints ruled by the passion of grace. We'd become a *community*.

If the Spirit reforms our understanding of why God bothered to save us in the first place, if He revives our own immediate sense of well-being, a revolution will be set in motion. The church will be on its way to again being the church, never perfectly of course, but perhaps as substantially as in the days of Acts.

Larry Crabb



If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

In MICC, we are setting a course which will not let the daily ministry tasks of recruiting, planning, budgeting and managing crowd out our godly yearning for the vast and endless sea—the infinite glory of the eternal God.

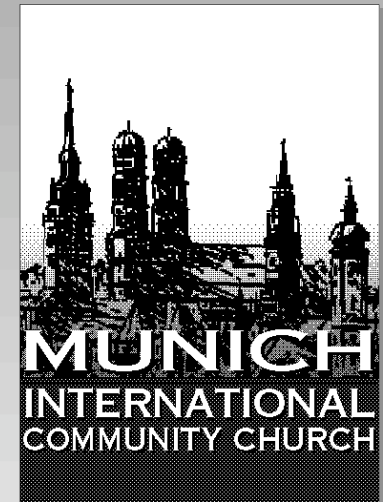
SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 4:00 PM

MOZARTSTRASSE 12 · CENTRAL MUNICH
IN THE FREIE EVANGELISCHE GEMEINDE
U3/U6 GOETHEPLATZ

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 089/59 99 28 33
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MUNICHURCH.DE

MISSION AND VISION IN MICC

GLORIFYING CHRIST
FOLLOWING HIS LEADERSHIP
FULFILLING HIS PURPOSE



Imagine for a moment that you walk out one morning to catch a tram so you can connect to the S-Bahn and get to work. At the stop, the tram pulls to a stop, you get on board, sit down and open up your reading material for the morning. Perhaps you do your devotions on the tram, perhaps you read the newspaper, or you get ready for a meeting in the morning. But this morning, you're sitting there just reading on the tram, and you realize you're not going anywhere. Hmm...

And so you sit there a few more minutes and you're still not going anywhere. Not many of us would just stay there, would we? We'd ask a few questions, we'd get up, we'd walk, and we'd try to find some way of getting to our destination.

Wouldn't it be odd, if on Monday you get on the tram at 7:40 and sit on it for 15 minutes and get off and then walk to the S-Bahn. And Tuesday, you board the tram again at 7:40, sit on it till 8:00 and get off and walk to the S-Bahn. Wednesday comes around and you say, "Well, got to go to the tram stop." So you go and sit on the tram for 20 minutes and then walk to the S-Bahn. Not many people like to get on buses or trams that aren't going anywhere, just for the experience of sitting on the bus.

Churches can also be like that. Every Sunday, they open up their doors and people get on. And they sit down. They occasionally ask themselves, "Where's it going?" and they say, "We don't know." Or they ask, "When's it moving?" And they tell themselves, "We haven't figured that out yet. Let's come back next week and see what happens."

There are a lot of places like that in this community and any community—old, historic, tram churches. Churches that have been around for many years, but don't have a sense of purpose, of direction, or of identity.

And so that's why it's important for us as a church family to take the time to ask and answer three very important questions.

Why are we here?

Where are we going?

How are we going to get there?

Answering these questions gives us confidence when we get on that "tram" with the bold sign on the front that says "MICC." We know that it's going somewhere, and that our involvement will make a significant contribution. We can have confidence that it really matters that we are on board.

MISSION: WHY ARE WE HERE?

Our founding documents state,

"We exist to glorify God through Jesus Christ as we help to meet the spiritual needs of English speakers in the international community."

We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. Colossians 1:28

If we had a flagpole, we would run up a flag that declares just that. Now that's our broad purpose, a broad sense of our mission. And that's why we are here.

But what does that really mean? How does that work out for us as we're gathered together in this international community?

It means that we encourage the worship of the Triune God.

It means that we draw people into the worship services and the experience of learning from His Word, and responding to His Word in worship, service and adoration.

It means that we seek to develop a caring community of followers of Jesus Christ.

It means that as a caring community, we seek to reach out to people who are in Munich's English speaking community and help them come to know Christ and grow in Christ.

It means that we seek to equip the saints so that each individual believer might grow to his full potential in Christ.

One of the unique features of our church is that we're made up of people from all over the world who have converged upon Munich, Germany. Many of us live here for a period of time and then move somewhere else. And if, as a believer, you've been equipped and challenged and you've grown in your time here, when you go someplace else—whether to your home country, or to another nation, then you go with a heart to extend God's fame in that place; you leave with a desire to extend His kingdom and rule and authority in your new home.

And so in this way we have a *huge* number of missionaries in our congregation—people who join with us for a while and then go taking the name of Christ with them.

Yet it also means that in doing all these things, we seek as first priority to glorify God and extend His fame. We are to declare His glory to the Munich community, to Germany, to Europe, and ultimately the world.

That's why we're here—that's our mission.

VISION: WHERE ARE WE GOING?

We believe that God's desire for us in Munich is this: to build a growing church that welcomes cultural and ethnic diversity, a place that is intentionally reaching out to people and drawing them into life in genuine community, a place where believers can introduce their friends, their co-workers and their neighbors to the gospel and to life in Jesus Christ.

We believe that God is calling us to be a significant, growing presence in this city. We believe He wants MICC to grow large enough to be a distinctive focal point for the gospel in this city. He wants us to be more than a small storefront church that exists and happens to hold meetings in English for expats; He wants us to be a place where people from Germany and other nations around the world come and worship and exalt the Lord Jesus together.

We believe that God desires MICC to be a genuine community, a place believers can call home, no matter where they've come from, a place where they can enjoy close fellowship. We want to be large enough to be a distinctive presence in the community, but also small enough through our small group ministries so that people have a place to connect and be involved. MICC is a place where those who join us can see that their lives matter to other believers.

We believe that God is calling us to be a developing, growing and equipping place. MICC is a training center where the members of this community are trained and equipped to effectively live and reproduce their lives in this community and in the other places in the world where God may send them so that His name might be made known.

We desire over the long term to glorify God through Jesus Christ by presenting to Him hundreds, even thousands of disciples that have come through the ministries of this church that have been blessed and have grown and then blessed and impacted others' lives as well.

We believe that God is calling us to a reproducing ministry. God wants to grow MICC in terms of our leadership, our strength and our worship, so that we might be instrumental in planting other churches in this community and elsewhere in the world.

And that's where we're going—our vision.

To find out how we are going to get there—how we believe God is equipping and calling us to achieve this vision, see the leaflet, "Worthy Treasures [Core Values] in MICC."