

What People are Writing about MCiM



One of the most important writers about mission and ministry for the MCiM movement is the nineteenth century Anglican missionary in China, **Roland Allen**. He suggested,

1. A Christian community which has come into being as the result of the preaching of the Gospel should have "handed over to it" the Bible, creed, ministry and sacraments.
2. It is then responsible, with the bishop, for recognizing the spiritual gifts and needs in its membership and for calling into service priests to preside at the Eucharist and to be responsible for the word and for pastoral care.
3. A Christian community is also required to share the message and the life with its neighbouring communities not yet evangelized.
4. The Holy Spirit working on the human endowment of the community's leaders are sufficient for its life. Don't "train" them too much. Don't import from the outside.
5. A Christian community that cannot do these things is not yet a CHURCH; it is a mission field.
6. The bishop and his staff (Timothy, Titus etc) are crucial.

Bishop **Wesley Frensdorff** developed these ideas, under the title Total Ministry, between 1972 and 1985, when he was Bishop of Nevada. He proposed that

1. Each congregation is to be a "ministering community" rather than a community gathered around a minister, sufficient in ministry from within its own membership, including local deacons and priests wherever possible.
2. Each member of the church will have the opportunity to serve our Lord in church and world, through ministries which will vary greatly according to gifts, available time and opportunity.
3. Seminary-trained clergy and laity will increasingly be trainers, enablers, supervisors and pastors of trainees. Congregations will become less dependant on seminary-trained clergy as the doers of ministry.
4. The diocese, as the primary unit of interdependence in the life of the church, is the support system. The diocese will provide training and support for the various forms that ministry can take, including local priests and deacons.

As Total Ministry was explored in Australian Dioceses, participants at various gatherings began to emphasize the importance of mission. **Bishop Brian Farran** suggests that a missional church must:

1. Be a proclaiming church
2. Be attuned to its locality, to its context
3. Appreciate that God is a sending God
4. Recognise the deep socialization required for people to stay Christian
5. Enable social space in which Jesus Christ is to be encountered.