

Example of integral mission in northeast Brazil

A man in the village of Caroá in northeast Brazil heard about Jesus on radio programmes broadcast by Ação Evangélica (ACEV). He invited two pastors to speak in his village and as a result, 16 people became Christians.



As ACEV began to establish a church there, they saw that people needed access to safe water. Building a well posed a challenge – it was a new venture for ACEV's evangelists. Yet they found that their practical work complemented their spiritual work. One community member commented, 'The well started everything. It shows us that God loves us, and that through brothers and sisters in Christ, he blesses us.'

Since then, there have been many changes in the community, including an animal loan scheme, and government provision of a reservoir after advocacy work by the community. Now around half of the community members are Christians.

Example of integral mission in the UK

In the UK, where the extended family is not as valued as elsewhere in the world, many elderly people feel lonely and isolated. Some are unable to go out due to illness, disability or age and therefore rarely have an opportunity to talk to other people.



Mount Florida Parish Church in Scotland went through Tearfund's Church, Community and Change process, which mobilises local churches in the UK to carry out integral mission. At the end of the process, it emerged that a key issue in Mount Florida was the loneliness of elderly people. The church therefore set up a 'befriending service' where volunteers regularly visit elderly people in their homes and, if appropriate, take them on outings.

This has helped to inspire self-worth and confidence in the elderly people.

One person said, 'The rest of the day I am on my own, so it's good to get somebody to talk to ... to cheer me up.' Another person, who had been suffering from depression, found that being visited gave him a new interest in living and he began to ask the volunteer about her Christian faith.

Example of integral mission in Mali

The small town of Diré in Mali has experienced desertification over the last few decades. A local Baptist church has taken action to fight the encroaching desert and ensure that some of the land remains cultivated. The church, with just 15 members, calls this the 'Good SEED' project. The ten-hectare plot of land is shared between eight local people who grow rice, millet, melons and vegetables.

In addition to enabling people to feed their families, the church hopes that the project will complement its evangelism by showing local people what Christians are really like. The Project Coordinator says, 'We are happy to share this land with other people because we love them... People believe false things about us... If they can work alongside us in the fields they find out what we are really like and what we really believe.' One community member commented, 'I am not yet a Christian myself, but my impression is that they are very good people, and what they teach is true.'

Example of integral mission in the Philippines

Peace and order was a big problem in one neighbourhood of Quezon City. Each day there were up to five killings among rival gangs of teenagers. A pastor decided to move into the dangerous area of the neighbourhood and live among the gangs. This was an initiative by the LIFE Project, which is a partnership between the local Batasan Bible Church and ISAAC, a Christian non-governmental organisation.



Gradually, as the pastor shared his life with the teenagers, they began to share their lives with him. The lives of many have been transformed. One ex-gang member says, 'The pastor modelled to us a better life. He was a mentor to us, teaching what was good and bad and we were filled with the Word of God.' Many of the teenagers did not attend school. Batasan Bible Church has helped them to study and gain diplomas. Before the project, the local shops would shut by six o'clock in the evening because of gang fighting at night. Now the shops stay open much later because the neighbourhood is so much more peaceful.

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