

Being a Safe Harbor:

How Churches Can Be a Space of Wholeness & Healing

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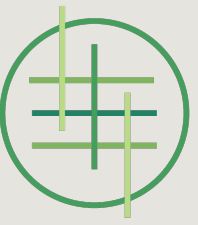
MA Spiritual Formation

Former cross-cultural worker, China



A Prayer Practice: Visio Divina





How is God a Safe Harbor?



*Who
needs a
safe
harbor?*



What does a harbor provide?

See Who We Are: Where do we find Jesus in our missionaries, in us?

We are get in the boat people because Jesus is in the boat.

The Good News is Christ with us, for us, and making his home in us.

Jesus doesn't just send us out, he gets in the boat. When we tend to our missionaries, we are tending to Jesus.



Mission is a Family Affair

Missions is the work of interdependency and community building through evangelistic peace-making.

It is a communal calling to be safe harbor people for each other and the world.

“The Church is to become a living embodiment of God’s peacemaking good news in Christ. Shalom (peace) means healing and wholeness, including with God and others, even the rest of the created order.”

Michael Gorman, *Becoming the Gospel*

Becoming Who We Are: Safe Harbor People

Spiritual Habits

- 1. Gratitude & Worship*
- 2. Prayer*
- 3. Fidelity & Commitment*
- 4. Hospitality & Generosity*
- 5. Confession, repentance, reconciliation*
- 6. Attentiveness & Awareness: God, self, and others*



Being Who We Are: When Boats Come to Harbor

1. **Tightly Anchor:** Be a secure, safe home for Sabbath and rest. Don't underestimate exhaustion, stress, and unrealistic expectations put on workers when they return. Be a safe landing spot: Offer hospitality and generosity.

2. **Unload the Cargo:** Assess by being a safe listener; no judgments, advice-giving, or personal stories. Ask open-ended, compassion-driven, curious questions. Let them unload their burdens. Offer the **ministry of presence**.

3. **Tend to major repairs:** What needs did you hear? Where do you notice pain, sin, bondage, fear, financial concern, or trauma? Gather the right tools to respond to wounds.



Being Who We Are: Safe Harbor People

4. **Check fluids:** What's clogging the heart and inner workings? Offer space and time for confession, prayer, and reconciliation. Consider spiritual direction, therapy, debriefing, or pastoral care.
5. **Tune-up, fuel-up:** What spiritual food, retreat, care, training, investment, and fuel is needed to build up and restore workers to be sent out again? What new cargo is needed?
6. **Wash, paint, polish, new sails:** Tend to the practical details- groceries, housing, vacation, or clothing. How can you be a friend and invite belonging? Hold gracious, realistic expectations.



Sending Vision

- Are they ready? Beware of premature returns.
- Have you done all you can do to restore Shalom?
- Reassess old commitments.
- How do you go with them? What new support can be given? What do you need from them? Recommit.
- Name the graces needed for next steps.
- Pray and trust God's sufficiency



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Free Additional Resources