

Religious Education Congress 2017
Fr. Anthony J. Gittins
MISSIONAL DISCIPLESHIP AS AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY
Session 5-14

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1. AN UNEQUIVOCAL CHALLENGE

- *“There is a disturbing quality about the urgency of Jesus’ call – a shaking of the foundations – that those who want a quiet life are bound to resent and resist.” (J. Dunn).*
- **“DISTURBING”**: No question about the call to risk leaving comfort-zone.
 - *The example of Jesus: Matt 8:20; Mk 10:22; Jn 6:68.*
 - *Dorothy Day; St Teresa of Avila.*
- **“URGENCY”**
 - *Peter vs Jesus: Mk 1:35.*
 - *“I have come to bring fire, and I wish it were blazing NOW.” (Lk 12:49).*
 - *“Now is the acceptable time. This is the day of salvation.” (2 Cor. 6:2).*
- **“SHAKING FOUNDATIONS”**
 - *The call is not for cosmetic changes; “multi-tasking” not permitted!*
 - *Jesus’ call is radical – from the roots upward and outward.*
- **“QUIET LIFE”**
 - *We ALL want a quiet life sometimes! But where is your heart? (Matt 6:21).*
 - *“We have no abiding city on earth ...; but we SEEK one (Heb 13:14).*
- **“RESENT AND RESIST”**
 - *RESENTMENT: bitterness; RESISTANCE: active opposition, force.*
 - *EXIST, INSIST, RESIST -- or ASSIST: we are called to assist, not resist.*

2. MISSIONAL

- *Presbyterians: the word “missional.”*
- *Pope Francis: “missionary discipleship” (EG 25, 27, 40, 119, 120).*
- *Seeking ‘otherness’ and the dignity of difference.*

3. DISCIPLESHIP

- *Impossible? With persecutions; With service (Mk 10: 23, 27, 30, 42-45).*

4. THE METHOD: OUTREACH AND ENCOUNTER.

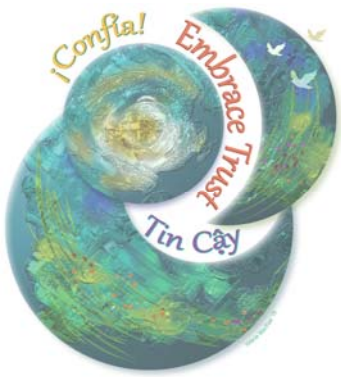
- *Pope Francis: encounter (EG 3, 7, 264).*

5. THE PURPOSE:

- *“To convince the poor that God loves them.” (G. Gutierrez).*
- *To announce that the Kingdom, though ‘not yet,’ is also ‘already’ here.*

6. ADULT CHRISTIANS IN 2017

- *Witness to God’s love and mighty acts. Early Christians.*
- *Eliza Doolittle (My Fair Lady); “Les Miserables.”*



7. A QUIET LIFE – OR A MEANINGFUL LIFE?

- *What will be your legacy?*
- *Discipleship “costs not less than everything”*
- *No cheap grace (Bonhoeffer)*
- *St. Augustine, “visible” and “invisible” church. 5%*
- *“I want to be there when the saints come marchin’ in!”*

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