

CONCEPT PAPER OF THE FOOTHILL MISSION SOCIETY
Submitted to the CNH District Northern Region MAC 2007 Grant

In Jesus' parable of the "Barren Fig Tree", the vinedresser said to the owner of the vineyard, "*Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then, if it should bear fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.*" (St. Luke 13:8-9)

Among the final words of Jesus before ascending, He said, "*Go!... and having gone... make disciples of all nations.*" (St. Matthew 28:19) This tension between "Go!"... and... "having gone"... is a challenge for most Christian congregations and missions. It is no different for the Foothill Mission Society.

FOR THE LORD'S VINEYARD IN JACKSON, CA, we have had a couple of years of "*digging and fertilizing*" and The Lord has produced "fruit". With limited resources and people, the Jackson Lutheran Mission (JLM) has decided to focus in on a single market—SENIOR ADULTS—with the anticipation of The Lord also blessing us with the "fruit" of other markets.

Our SENIOR ADULTS focus will be on "evangelism" and "spiritual/physical care" by:

- On-the-job training of the laity in a "ministry of encouragement/consolation" with shut-in communion, phone calls, and cards.
- Conducting nursing/care homes worship services and visits
- Every other month social events
- On-the-job evangelism training ("Evangelism Explosion") to involve the training of 2 trainees who when trained will each train 2 others
- Mid-week care groups
- Formal Prayer Group that meets weekly
- Raising up "Servants for a day" to those in need

FOR THE LORD'S VINEYARD IN VALLEY SPRINGS, CA, we have also had a couple of years of "*digging and fertilizing*" and the Lord is beginning to produce "fruit". For the next year we want to focus on:

- On-the-job evangelism training ("Evangelism Explosion") to involve the training of 2 trainees who when trained will each train 2 others
- Twice a month "Junior/Senior Youth Ministry" with a goal of involving 30 youth and follow up with their parents
- To conduct another successful VBS with a goal of reaching 50 children and follow up with their parents