Series: MFI Regional Conference  
Title: Breaking Ground 4x10

Speaker: JJ Rosener

**Message Key for media team slides:**

* Main Point or digital asset for main screen
* Scripture Slide
* Emphasize for speaker only (no Slide)

short line

# Bible Lesson

## Set up

(Matthew 13:3-9 NIV) Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

## BIG IDEA: good ground produces harvest

1. The seeds always work
2. The Soil does not

Our Job is not to change peoples lives but they should change.

Our job is not to make churches grow but they should grow.

# Story: Mary Ellen Garden

1. My aunt is a master gardener. She took a piece of land in northern MN and turned it from woods, weeds, and under brush into one of the most beautiful gardens you’ve ever seen. (Garden Pic) I asked her for advice when we moved into our house on what I should plant. She responded fix the dirt. If the soil is good it doesn’t matter what you plant it will flourish.

## Picture 1. Garden

# Death Valley

1. Death Valley looks like a desert (Desert Pic) most of the time but when the conditions become just right this happens (Super Bloom Pic): It isn’t dead it’s dormant. The seeds of potential were always there.

## Picture 2. Desert

## Picture 3. Super Bloom

1. The seeds of potential are still there for each of us.

### 

### 2 Times When we experience Breaking Ground

* + When Tilling/breaking up hard ground.
  + When a seed that’s been planted begins to sprout.
* One, your effort is required - One, is all the Lord. Your effort just gets in the way.
* You have to know the difference
  + Leader, your job is to know the condition of your soil
    - And Recognize that with enough effort and resources you can turn 435 into good soil.
  + God’s job is to give the increase.
* The purpose of Breaking Ground isn’t harvest it is preparing soil. It is creating the proper conditions to receive seed that always works.

(Luke 13:6-9 NIV ) Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. 7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ 8 “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

* Context of Crisis
* We’ve all been in crisis the last 2 yrs.
* How do we get through crisis? Bear fruit. Producing what we were created to produce. Fulfill calling/purpose. Don’t let them shelf their calling.
* The gardener had a vision for the future of that tree.
* The way to fulfill vision is to tend to the soil. Break ground.

# Fruit bearing environments require 4 ground breaking actions

## Resourcefulness and Initiative.

* 1. Fixing soil is work.
  2. You must discover that nobody is coming to save you. It’s you, Jesus and the people he’s brought to you.
     1. Be resourceful and take the initiative.
  3. You must answer the question, “Do I have another round in me?”

## Love people well.

* 1. Take care of your people and they will take care of you.
  2. Their hearts are the soil you are working with.
  3. Celebrate what you want to duplicate.

## Create environments for people to fulfill their calling/purpose.

* 1. Make room for their calling.
     1. Help them discover their calling/purpose
     2. Make room for their calling/purpose
     3. Find a way for them to bear fruit. It’s addictive.

## Challenge the status quo everyday.

* 1. Culture has a magnetic pull that will always pull away from calling.
  2. People left to themselves will make it about themselves.
  3. Challenge the status quo 3 ways:
     1. Develop calling/purpose language.
     2. Reject the when this, then that mentality.
     3. Set the bar a little higher. By doing less but better.

# CTA

## Breaking ground produces good soil and good soil produces Harvest.