

Creating a Mission-minded Church
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PEFA Workshop
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“We are to ‘Love the Lord [our] God with all [our] heart and with all [our] soul and with all [our] mind’ (Matt. 22:37). This in turn leads to loving our neighbors as ourselves, including cross-cultural neighbors, as demonstrated in the parable of the Good Samaritan. The more we love God, the more we seek him. And the more we know God, the more we will feel a passion for what is on his heart – missions.”¹

OLD TESTAMENT: COMMISSIONING AND PROMISE

- Genesis 12:1-3 Every family will be blessed
- Genesis 18:18 Every nation will be blessed
- Genesis 22:18 Through Abraham’s seed

NEW TESTAMENT: FULFILLMENT

- Acts 3:24-26 The fulfillment of the promised blessing
- Galatians 3:26-29 Christians are Abraham’s seed through faith
- 1 Timothy 2:4 His desire for all to get saved
- 2 Peter 3:9 His patience and desire for men to repent

The destiny of Christians is to be part of blessing the nations and the families of the earth. Our calling is to shine our lights before men so that they see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). We are to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in many ways to neighbors, communities, and nations.

THE THREE MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH:

1. Worship = focus on God. (praise, prayer, communion)
2. Teaching = our focus upon ourselves (preaching, teaching, prophetic)
3. Missions = our focus on the lost (evangelism, prayer, giving)

BALANCE BETWEEN INWARD AND OUTWARD EMPHASIS:

1. Churches need to emphasize the inward:
 - a. If they do not feed themselves, they will become weak and lean.
 - b. If they do not bathe, they will become smelly.
 - c. If they do not have fun, they will become boring.
 - d. If they do not rest, they will become tired.

¹ Eric E. Wright, *A Practical Theology of Missions* (Malta: Gutenberg Press, 2010), 25.

- e. If they do not examine health problems, they will become sick.
2. Churches need to emphasize the outward:
- a. If they overeat, they become fat while the world starves
 - b. If they over emphasize cleanliness, they become paranoid.
 - c. If they major on fun, the hurting and wayward get overlooked.
 - d. If they sleep constantly, they are ineffective in an active world.
 - e. If they over emphasize health, they become recluse and separatists.

OLD TESTAMENT: GOD'S PLAN WAS FOR MISSIONS

- Genesis 12:1-3 Commission
- Genesis 22:18 Obedience
- Genesis 28:14 Every compass direction
- Exodus 19:4-6 A people "sold out and radical" for God
- Deut. 28:10 Called by the name of the Lord
- Psalm 67 Salvation to all nations
- Psalm 96:1-3 Great commission
- Isaiah 49:6 Salvation to the Gentiles
- Zech. 2:11 Nations joined to the Lord
- Malachi 1:11 God's name glorified among the nations

GOD USES VARIOUS MEANS TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL

- Acts 1:8 Commission
- Acts 8:1,4 Persecution scattered Christians
- Acts 8:5 Philip in Samaria
- Acts 8:26-39 Philip and Eunuch of Ethiopia
- Acts 10 Peter and Cornelius
- Acts 13:2 Paul and Barnabas
- Acts 16:6-10 The Macedonian Call

THE COMMISSION TO SOW SEEDS TELLS US OF THREE REALMS:

Acts 1:8 Concept = *witnessing is sowing seed but not necessarily harvesting.*

1. Witnesses in Jerusalem: Local evangelism. A person who wants to be a missionary in the foreign field should first show evangelistic effort locally.
2. Witnesses in Judea and Samaria: Regional cross-cultural witnessing and church planting.
3. Witnesses to the end of the earth: National cross-cultural witnessing and church planting.

THE HARVEST NEEDS LABORERS

Luke 10:1-2

Jesus sent them out two by two – strength in numbers

Prayer is what moved God’s hand to send out laborers

THE HARVEST IS READY

John 4:34-35 “white for harvest”

Matthew 13:39 “the harvest is the end of the age”

REAPING WHAT AND WHERE OTHERS HAVE SOWN

John 4:36-38

CHURCHES THAT SEND:

- A. Romans 10:8-13: The Scriptural format for salvation (present the Gospel)
- B. Romans 10:14-15 The Four Questions that compel churches to send:
 1. How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
 2. How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?
 3. How shall they hear without a preacher?
 4. How shall they preach unless they are sent?

EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES FOR CREATING A MISSIONS-MINDED CONGREGATION

- A. Preaching: Birth a desire for both local and foreign missions by creating a teaching series on missions. Teach about God’s missionary desire for people. Use biblical examples like

Paul and Barnabas. Challenge people to be involved in missions at some level, giving to missions, praying for missionaries, or being part of a mission.

B. Prayer: Hold a prayer night to pray for the nations:

1. Quote about the power of prayer for the nations: “A man may go aside today, and shut his door, and . . . as really spend a half hour of his life in India for God as though he were there in person. Is that true? If it be true, surely you and I must get more half-hours for this secret service. Without any doubt he may turn a key and be for a bit of time as potentially in China by the power of prayer, as though there in actual bodily form. I say potentially present. Of course not consciously present. But in the power exerted upon men he may be truly present at the objective point of his prayer. He may give a new meaning to the printed page being read by some native in Africa. He may give a new tongue of flame to the preacher or teacher. He may make it easier for men to accept the story of Jesus, and then to yield themselves to Jesus . . . men swept and swayed by evil spirits, and by prejudices for generations – make it easier for them to accept the story, and, if need be, to cut with loved ones, and step out and up into a new life.” – S. D. Gordon²

C. Organizers: Create a committee that helps to organize local missions

D. Outreach mission: Annually, target one non-local community in which to do an outreach mission.

E. Examples of local missions:

1. Plan a local street revival with worship and preaching. Pass out Christian tracks and brochures about your church.
2. Get permission to set up a prayer booth in conjunction with one of the events of your community. Offer prayer for any who want it. People often hope that someone will pray with them but are too afraid to ask.
3. Begin a soup kitchen once a week for the poor. Share the love of Jesus with those who come.
4. Put on a fun carnival type of event at your church and invite the children of the community to come with their parents. Make the games and activities fun and Christian oriented.
5. Plan an event around Easter or Christmas for the community. It might be a community Easter egg hunt, a play about the birth or resurrection of Christ, a special candle light service, etc.

F. Personal examples of foreign missions: (House of the Lord and Gate Breaker Ministries)

² S. D. Gordon, *Quiet Talks on Prayer* (New York, NY: Grosset & Dunlap (Fleming H. Revell), 1941), 15-16

1. Short-term missions
2. Sending missionaries to Mexico and Ireland
3. Sewing centers and church planting in Pakistan

G. Dr. Evans Baiya started Expansion International

H. Capital Christian Center's involvement in missions:

1. Financially supporting missions and missionaries
2. National Prayer Center
3. Kenya College of Ministry
4. Short-term missions

I. Resources: Numerous Mission organizations that focus on short-term missions

1. One example is Youth with a Mission (YWAM)
2. You tube shows various short dramas that teenagers can learn for outreaches.
3. Christian mission agencies often have resources on their websites.

J. Church planting: This is the most effective method of evangelism. Starting a new church or outreach church should be planned as much as possible. There is always some risk but the outcome can be very beneficial to people and to the Kingdom of God.

K. Other mission ideas: television, radio, internet, mass mailings, networking, schools, etc.

THREE STEPS FOR HEARING GOD

Loren Cunningham, the man who started YWAM, wrote that there are three steps to hearing god regarding missions:

1. Take the authority of Christ to silence the enemy.
2. Ask the Lord to clear your mind of any presumptions and preconceived ideas.
3. To wait and believe God will speak in His way and at His time.³

HEALING FOR THE NATIONS

Ezekiel 47:1-12 – mission involvement is like getting in the river

Revelation 22 – tree in the midst of the garden

³ Loren Cunningham, *Is That Really You, God?* (Seattle, WA: YWAM Publishing, 1984), 116.