



BEST PRACTICES FOR CHURCH MISSIONS

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE AND IMPACTFUL
MISSIONS PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

Christ's mission was to establish the kingdom of God in the hearts, lives and relationships of all people in all the world. His purpose was world-embracing. His plans included all peoples. His mission was a universal one. This is the mission which the apostles understood Christ to have committed to them.

Mission is the good news of God's love, incarnated in the witness of a community, for the sake of the world.

David Bosch in "Transforming Mission"



*As I have loved you, so love one another...
[So] go into all the world and preach the good
news of the kingdom. – Jesus*

INTRODUCTION

God is on a Mission to the World.

Jesus has called us to be a part of a movement through his final words on earth, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel." Today, more so than at any other time in human history, churches can play an active and impacting role in this task on both a local and global level. Missions minded people who have this vision and passion are taking advantage of the opportunities, networking and resources so that they make a significant contribution in God's mission to the world.

With all of these opportunities it is easy to be overwhelmed. The number of mission resources and information available to churches has increased exponentially over the last few years. Options for church participation are unending with short term mission trips, volunteering with immigrants, global and local partnerships in cross-cultural ministries, specialized ministry concerns such as church planting or relief efforts, or the option to choose an unreached people group. All of this is in addition to the myriad responsibilities church mission teams have been given regarding support, prayer and promotion of the missionaries and mission projects that currently make up a part of the church program. The average missions team chairperson can quickly become frustrated and discouraged. Very few have the luxury of time to sort through the options and provide informed direction for the mission program of the church in a way that will excite and involve the whole congregation.

What is Missions?

"... the sending out of specially equipped disciple-makers who cross barriers of distance, culture and language in order to establish and strengthen the church in places beyond the normal sphere of influence of our members."

(Curt Dobbs)



***"Best Practices in Church missions"
can help you navigate the maze!***

This workshop is designed to help churches navigate the maze of mission opportunities so that they can become effective and strategic partners in God's mission to the world. The principles explored through this workshop address churches whose current missions program is not meeting its potential OR would like to sharpen their missions vision OR would like to introduce new members to their vision. The program is divided into 5 sessions that walk those responsible for the direction of missions in their church through a process of discovery and decision making that will result in clarity, purpose and an achievable plan towards effective and impacting mission participation.

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Workshop Overview

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- Overview
- Expectations
- Outcomes

SESSION 1 – UNDERSTANDING MISSIONS

- Defining missions
- Modern Missions Movement
- Acts 1:8 Portfolio: Assessing your Church's current missions portfolio
- Prayer

SESSION 2 – DETERMINING PRIORITIES IN YOUR ROLE

- Teaching Point: What on earth is God doing? (video)
- Church Leader Presentation: Vision and Mission of your church.
- Assessing the Church Missions Program
- Key Result Areas: Formulating the Role of your team
- Prayer

SESSION 3 – MISSION HEALTH ASSESSMENT

- APMC Map: Assessing the Health of Missions in Your Church
- Developing a Priority Focus
- Prayer

SESSION 4 – SETTING STRATEGIC GOALS

- Teaching Point: Motivating for Missions
- Church Survey Evaluation
- Brainstorming New Initiatives
- Project Evaluation
- Prayer

SESSION 5 – PLANNING AND ASSIGNING TASKS

- Teaching Point: Staying on Track
- S.M.A.R.T. Goal Criteria
- Prayer

APPENDIX – SESSION TOOLS, RESOURCES, & GLOSSARY

- Church Survey
- Session Summary
- Evaluation Tools
- Additional Resources

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Workshop Expectations

The workshop involves relevant participants who will set aside time to assess and clarify the role of the church missions team as it relates to their church's overall mission and to strategize for future involvement.

- Your group should include a member of the pastoral staff and no less than three other members of the church who are involved in the missions program. The potential for lasting effect increases when a significant number of influential people participate in this workshop.
- The member of the pastoral staff should be prepared to present a 10-minute overview of the mission and values of their church (i.e., describe the church's goals or mission statement).
- A brief missions survey should be conducted with the church congregation before attending the workshop. The survey is provided in paper and digital format (Survey Monkey).
- While the workbook is designed for each participant to take notes, one person should be designated as secretary to take comprehensive notes.

What is Missions?

“Missions is the worldwide Enterprise of making disciples of the nations that falls outside the normal outreach responsibilities of the local church”

(Church Missions Policy Handbook, APMC, 3rd Ed.)

Outcomes

The participants will:

- Understand how missions fits into their church's purpose
- Gain an understanding of how the congregation views their role in missions
- Assess their church's current missions trajectory
- Identify their role in facilitating missions in the church
- Clarify missions priorities by developing Key Result Areas
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the church's current missions program
- Develop a tighter missions vision with a clear focus
- Develop a clear goal and strategic plan concerning one of the key issues identified
- Develop the capacity for assessing, evaluating, and planning missions related projects
- Develop a sense of teamwork, cooperation and potential synergy
- Become excited about the potential for their church's involvement in missions

WHAT THIS WORKSHOP WILL NOT DO

1. Tell you what you should do
2. Overwhelm you with information
3. Convince you to adopt a particular missions focus
4. Motivate with a vision that will evaporate when met with the demands of other church activities
5. Make you feel inadequate for the task

WHAT THIS WORKSHOP WILL DO

1. Guide you in developing a missions focus that conforms to your church's mission statement
2. Walk you through important stages to establish key priorities
3. Help you develop a cooperative team vision supported by the pastoral staff and integrated with your church's vision
4. Energize you with a plan for missions that fits your passion, gifting and potential

**For More Information on Best Practices in Church Missions
email: Mobilize.CA@WorldTeam.org or call: 1-800-610-9788**

You may request Seminar Information alone, or discuss World Team facilitation options
