

Philosophy of Missions

In order to be a true, Biblical church, a church must be involved in Missions. This class is to help lay out Biblical parameters and guidelines for having a Missions Program in your ministry.

This class will cover:

- Philosophy of why Missions MUST be an integral part of a church.
- Key elements of a Biblical Missions Program.
- Understanding how Missions works today.
- Understanding Missions agencies and boards.
- Understanding how to select Missionaries.
- Understanding how to support Missionaries.

Missions must not be a conscience-salving procedure, but rather a prepared, planned approach to getting Missionaries to the field of their calling.

I. Why Must Missions be an Integral Part of the Church?

A. Missions has been the heart of God since Creation.

1. Man was in the Garden – God came to Fellowship with him.

(Genesis 3:8) "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden."

2. Man sinned and broke the fellowship, God promised a Savior. Gen. 3:15

(Genesis 3:15) "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

B. Missions has been the heart of God since the coming of His Son.

(Isaiab 9:6) "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

(Luke 19:10) "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

C. Missions has been the heart of God for His church since He promised He would come again.

(Acts 1:11) "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

D. Missions is the central purpose of the church's cause for existence. The Great Commission is clear. The world must be evangelized. In each instance of the Commission, emphasis is placed on the five facets of Missions.

1. Notice the emphasis is on the **Purpose** of Missions.

(Matthew 28:19-20) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

2. Notice the emphasis is on the **Preaching** of Missions.

(Mark 16:15) "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

3. Notice the emphasis is on the **Proclamation** of Missions.

Luke 24:47-49 "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. {48} And ye are witnesses of these things. {49} And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

4. Notice the emphasis is on the **Power** for Missions.

(John 20:21) "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

5. Notice the emphasis is on the **Places** to do Missions.

(Acts 1:8) "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

E. The priority of a church is to evangelize their own community and to evangelize the uttermost parts of the earth.

F. Summary: A church may have Bible doctrine, Biblical separation, Fundamental positions, and a good ministry program for all ages; but if it does not have a Bible-

(Philippians 4:11-19) "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. {12} I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. {13} I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. {14} Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. {15} Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. {16} For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. {17} Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. {18} But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. {19} But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

based Missions ministry, it ceases to be a church. A church must be involved in local and global evangelization.

II. What are the Key Elements of a Biblical Missions Program?

A. You will need a Missionary.

B. You will need a Missions-hearted church that:

1. Will allow itself to feel the need of others. 14
2. Is willing to do what no other church is willing to do. 15
3. Is willing to be faithful. 16
4. Know its giving smells pleasant to God. 17
5. Knows that God will supply its needs as it supplies the needs of others. 19

C. You will need a strategy:

1. **The Jerusalem Phase:** Your church should be evangelizing the community around you.
2. **The Judaea Phase:** Your church should be evangelizing the state.
3. **The Samaria Phase:** Your church should be evangelizing the neighboring countries.
4. **The Uttermost Phase:** Your church must be actively reaching out to areas around the world.

D. You will need support.

1. This may come from the General Fund.
 - Some churches choose to deduct a set amount from their General Fund for Missions.
2. This may come from designated offerings.
 - Some Churches allow members who feel led of the Lord to designate in their weekly giving an amount to be given to Missions.
3. This may come from Faith Promise.
 - This is a Biblical method of giving that comes from the pattern of the Corinthian Church. Fellow believers were faced with a famine in Jerusalem. Paul instructed them to promise by faith an amount that they would give in one year's time. This principle seeks to involve the membership in a direct way.

III. A glimpse at Mission in at the end of this century.

A. The greatest days in world evangelism are now.

1. Men and Women are still saying yes to the call.
2. Getting to the field is easier than ever.

3. Communicating to the frontlines is instantaneous.
 4. There are more countries open to the gospel than closed.
- B. The Greatest Challenges lie before our Churches.
1. The challenge not to waver.
 - a. Not to waver in our commitment to the Word of the Commission.
 - b. Not to waver in our commitment to the Work of the Commission.
 - c. Not to waver in our commitment to the Will of the Commissioner.
 2. The challenge not to Weaken.
 - a. Our investment in the Harvest.
 - b. Our investment in the Harvesters.
 - c. Our Investment in Harvest Equipment.
- C. The lessons to learn from the past.
1. The GC requires a renewed commitment.
 - a. Of Pastors.
 - b. Of Missionaries.
 - c. Of Church Members.
 2. The GC requires Vision.
 - a. A Vision of Him on set down on the throne. Heb 12.2
 - b. A Vision of the Harvest NOW, not as it was yesterday.
 - c. A vision of His return and the responsibility to complete the task.
 3. The GC requires Effort.
 - a. Effort on the part of ALL generations.
 - b. Effort on the part of Pastors to keep Mission before the people.
 - c. Effort on the part of Missionaries to have high standards in ministry.

IV. Understanding Missions Agencies and Boards.

A. Missions and The Mission Board –

1. From the late 1800's until the present Missionaries applied to a board for approval.
2. The board chooses to send the Missionary to where there is a need.
3. People support the board and the missionary to send them out to fields of service.
4. All matters of operation belong to a stateside council or field councils.
5. This type of Missions Board is typified in Wycliffe Bible Translators, New Tribes, etc.

B. The Mission Agency –

1. The Mission Agencies came to being as churches grew weary of being servant to the boards.
2. Pastors began to feel the frustration of sending their missionaries and money but felt they had no control of the missionary.
3. A scriptural relationship between Sending Church and Supporting Church and Missionaries must be one as follows.
 - a. The Spirit calls out the missionary. Acts 13
 - b. The congregation sends out the missionary. Acts 13
 - c. The church is the authority over the missionary. Acts 13.
 - d. A Missions Agency can exist only as a helper to the church.
 - (1) It can help in the recognition of National Identification for sister churches.
 - (2) It can help in the logistics of handling gifts, receipting churches and conducting business for missionaries.
 - (3) It can help in the international identification to foreign governments.
 - (4) It can help with a network of churches of like faith and order.
 - (5) It can help with having a representative visit the field on behalf of churches.
 - e. It serves in areas of accountability.

C. The Local Church –

1. The church must be the boss in missions.
2. If the church abdicates its responsibility to a board/agency it is wrong.
3. The church must have the final say so in the missionary's ministry.
 - a. In support.
 - b. In supporting churches.
 - c. In service on the field.
 - d. In discipline.

V. Understanding how to select Missionaries. Phil. 4

- A. He must be God-called.
- B. He must be God-sent.
- C. He must have a consuming passion to get people the Gospel.
Romans 9:3 "For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:"
- D. He must be adaptable. 12
- E. He must know that the job can get done. 13

VI. Understanding how to support Missionaries.

The Bible does not leave us without an example of how to support a Missionary. Many times churches fail in thinking if it can not send money they can not offer support. Consider this simple study in Acts that helps you determine methods to support missionaries.

A. In this setting the church united itself in prayer to God for boldness for their missionaries. Acts 4:29 **Prayer Support.**

1. Prayed for boldness for the servants.
2. Prayed for power for ministry.
3. Prayed for fruits for their work.

B. In this setting we see a church taking care of the needs. 4:34 **Sacrificial Support**

1. Needs were met by the selling of houses.
2. Needs were met by the selling of property.

C. In this setting the church at Jerusalem gets word about the work of Phillip in Samaria, so they send Peter and John to check on things and report back so as what they could do. Acts 8:14 **Survey Trip Support**

1. How can a church blow it when a missionary comes to their church? 9:26
 - a. Discourage yourself about him by what you have heard.
 - b. Distance himself from him by what you might fear.
 - c. Doubt Him, His calling and His salvation.

(1) Avoid blowing it.

(a) Get a Barnabas that will calm fears of both missionary and church. 9:27

(b) Get a Barnabas that will bring you missionaries of caliber. 9:27

D. In this setting we see a church needs to help get to where he needs to be. **Travel Support**

1. They lead him down to his place of departure. Friendship
2. Then they provided him a means of getting there. Finances

E. In this setting a church member supports a missionary (Peter) by opening his home and allowing them to stay there. 9:43 **Hospitality Support**

F. In this setting we see a church interested in the spread of the gospel, sending ambassadors to see the extent of it and how they could help. 11:22 **Survey Support**

1. Giving him the mission to do.
2. Giving him the money to get there.

G. In this setting we see a church sending Relief for a physical need of brethren. 11:29 **Relief Ministry**

H. In this setting we see a church with the knowledge that one of one of their

missionaries of their church was in trouble, offered 24 hour a day prayer vigil for him.12:5 **Intercessory Prayer support**

I.In this setting after a time of prayer and fasting we see a church, in obedience to the Lord, releasing Barnabas and Saul to work for the Lord.13:3 **Prayer and Fasting support.**

- 1.This sending away was a freeing up to go.
- 2.Perhaps even a making it possible for them to go.

J.In this setting we have a church in Iconium providing a unique kind of support. They provided a place for the missionaries to come to and find the power of God.13:52 **Refreshing Support**

- 1.Note that they were filled with Joy.
- 2.Note that they were filled with the Holy Ghost
- 3.Imagine if a church could be a place that when the missionary comes they can find their needed refreshing after having been through an emotionally tough time.

K.In this setting we have a missionary that has been stoned and we see the church providing a different kind of support.14:20 **Encircling Support.**

- 1.A missionary has just been stoned they encircle him in his time of crisis.
- 2.They form a circle around him.
 - a.A circle of Concern.
 - b.A circle of Compassion.
 - c.A circle of Calling on God.
 - d.A circle of Faith. Conviction
 - e.A circle of Strength Courage

L.In this setting we see the church at Antioch providing lodging and meals on a long term basis to Paul and Barnabas.14:28 **Long term Housing Support.**

- 1.This support was given for a specific period of time.
- 2.This support was given for the servants who had traveled.

M.In this setting we see the church at Antioch involved in a special support ministry. 15:40 **Recommendation Support.**

- 1.This is a special support for the church to give a missionary.
- 2.Let it not be thought that this is reserved only for the missionary's home sending church.
- 3.This is a ministry for every church, for each church that involves itself in a missionary's ministry should involve it self in this support for it truly is a blessing to the missionary.
- 4.This support is the unified effort made by the church on the missionary's behalf to God.
- 5.It is similar to the act of turning in someone to the police for incarceration.
- 6.The missionary, by an act of prayer, is turned over to God's grace on their

behalf and the missionary in turn is blessed and encouraged by it.

N. In this setting we see a church during a life threatening situation in their missionaries life, their placing their own life in danger and making sure he is secure. 17:9 **Security Support.** (Jason made his missionaries feel safe, at the risk of his own safety and security.)

O. In this setting we see several churches involving themselves in the area of **Sending Support.** 17:

1.v.10 The church at Berea sent them on their way.

2.v.1415 The church at Thessalonica sent away Paul. It even recorded that they conducted him.

3. It seems that the word when it is translated carries with it the idea that the one being sent is being dispatched to carry out an assignment as spelled out by the church.

4. When we send somebody to do something for us we give them tools they need to do it.

5. When we send somebody to do something for us we give them funds they need to carry out the job we are sending them to do.

6. When we send somebody to do something for us we give them the authority to get the job done.

7. When we send somebody to do something for us we give them the mission they are to carry out for us.

P. In this setting we see the church at Corinth involved themselves in **Referral Support.** 18:27

1. Because Paul, their missionary, had proven himself to the church upon learning that Paul had the desire to go to Achaia, wrote to the people they knew and put their reputation on the line for Paul, because Paul was God's man.

Q. The church at Ephesus was found offering **Security support** for Paul in their city. 19:30

1. Paul expressed a desire to do one thing yet the disciples at Ephesus expressed their concern.

R. The church at Ephesus is found offering **Friendly Support.** 20:38

1. Paul was leaving. They were losing a friend.

2. Yet they went with them to see them off.

S. The church at Caesarea had some people take off from their jobs and homes and went with the missionaries and also provided lodging. 21:16 **Travel and Housing Support**

T. The church at Caesarea, was known to be a caring church. **Care Support.** 24:23

1. For Felix said to allow Paul to be cared for.

U. The Church at Thessalonica was involved in two areas of support.

1. Their work of faith.

a. This could be viewed as giving support.

b. This could be viewed as something they committed to do and completed for him.

2. Their labour of Love.

a. Deeds performed solely because of their love for the Lord.

b. This could have been traveling companionship.

c. This could have been sacrificial involvement in his ministry.

d. 1 Thessalonians 1:3 "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;"

V. Summary: