

MISSIONS AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

A. The PRINCIPLES. (Acts 13:1-5)

1. The _____ ("they preached the Word of God") is of _____; otherwise you have nothing more than the Peace Corps. A missionary endeavor is not an end in itself, but a means to a greater end – reaching the lost with the Gospel, disciplining believers, and planting churches via sound doctrine.

2. Regarding the selection of these missionaries...

- God chose believers who were _____ the Lord in their _____. (Acts 13:1-2a)

- the _____ ultimately directed the selection by making it obvious to the local church _____. (13:2)

- the local church leadership _____ about this and _____ this as being from the Lord. (13:3)

3. Regarding the qualifications and training of these missionaries...

- the _____ of the missionary team were at least deacon qualified, and probably elders in their local church. (13:1)

- those _____ were doctrinally accurate, had relative personal maturity, spiritually gifted, and practically equipped right within their home church.

- their qualifications, giftedness, and faithfulness were well-tested and proven within their own local church _____ being involved in missions. (16:1-3)

4. Regarding the support of these missionaries...

- it appears to have come primarily via their _____. (Antioch)

- it involved them having to act as _____, etc. at times. (Acts 18:3)

- it also included support from other _____. (Phil. 4:14-18)

- it ultimately came from _____. (Phil. 4:19)

5. Regarding the accountability of these missionaries...

- they were sent out by their _____. (Acts 13:3-4, 14:26)

- they were allowed _____ as the Holy Spirit led them. (Acts 16:6-11)

- they gave an account back to their _____ by rehearsing all that God had done with them. (Acts 14:27)

6. Regarding furlough...they stayed in Antioch at their _____ as "they stayed there a long time with the disciples." (Acts 14:28)

B. The CONCLUSIONS.

1. These missionaries were...
 - selected from their local church
 - serving in their local church
 - sent out by their local church
 - supported primarily by their local church
 - specifically accountable to their local church
 - spiritually refreshed back in their local church

2. Thus, it is clear from Scripture that God has chosen _____ as the focal point of His ministry today (Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Timothy 3:15), including missions. Any missionary agency following this biblical blueprint must view itself as a servant and not sovereign to those churches. The mission's existence must serve to enhance and facilitate this divine model and mandate given to the local church, not vice-versa.

C. MISSIONS AND DBC IN EL SALVADOR

1. We have sought to remember that _____ said, "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH", so as to cooperate and not compete with Him.

2. Our strategy was to _____ in the Lord with a _____ and allow Him to divinely direct us as we targeted the _____ in eastern ES.

3. Our confidence was in the power of the _____ and the clear, accurate, systematic, verse by verse _____ from a grace perspective.

4. We have sought to bring the teaching / training to anyone interested in studying the Scriptures by providing for them various _____ with _____ that were _____ for use in their local churches, as well as doctrinally sound materials – all free of charge.

5. We have sought important _____ support from DBC and our sister churches.

6. We have financed these many missionary endeavors by the _____ and wise _____ as God directed and provided, believing that the 3 things that eternally matter are Jesus Christ, the WOG, and people.

7. We have been mindful of the _____ and _____ with the intent of ultimately turning over the ministry in any given area over to _____ to continue the work independent of DBC.

8. We have desired that the name of _____ be glorified and not our church or any person.