

A Missionary Church

I. Foundations – What We mean by a Great Commission Church

II. What is Missions?

Is missions everything that the church does? Does it include social action, protecting the environment, teaching farming. Stephen Neill, “If everything is mission, then nothing is mission.”

“The most crucial issue in missions is the centrality of God in the life of the church. How can people who are not stunned by the greatness of God be sent with the ringing message, “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods” (Ps. 96:4)? Missions is not first and ultimate; God is.”

Piper, John. Let the Nations Be Glad!: The Supremacy of God in Missions (Kindle Locations 601-603). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Definition:

A missionary is a person who is sent out by local churches to intentionally spread the gospel, “... a missionary (is) someone identified and sent out by local churches to make the gospel known and to gather, serve and strengthen local churches across ethnic, linguistic, or geographic divides.”
Andy Johnson, p36

Illustration: 3 John 1-8

III. The Missionary

1. Character

Qualifications of an elder, 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9

2. Lifestyle: are they evangelizing now.

3. Knowledge: do they understand the Word of God and do they accurately communicate the gospel.

IV. The role of the local church:

Preach the gospel and equip the saints and send out missionaries and care for missionaries. Acts 13:3; Phil 4:15; 3 John 1-8

Regular communication

Elder visits

Sending short term help

V. Prioritization

Our focus: strengthening and planting local churches

VI. Application

"When he landed in 1848 there were no Christians here; when he left in 1872 there were no heathen." - said of John Geddie "At the moment I put the bread and wine into those dark hands, once stained with the blood of cannibalism, now stretched out to receive and partake the emblems and

seals of the Redeemer's love, I had a foretaste of the joy of glory that well nigh broke my heart to pieces. I shall never taste a deeper bliss, till I gaze on the glorified face of Jesus himself." - John G. Paton

"He must increase, but I must decrease." - John the Baptist "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." - C.T. Studd