
The Missions Minded Church

- I. THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN MISSIONS (Acts 13:1-4; Acts 14:26-28)
 - A. The Church is Headquarters for World Missions
 - B. The Church is the Instrument God Has Chosen for World Missions

- II. PRESENTING MISSIONS IN THE CHURCH
 - A. Developing a Heart for Missions
 - 1. Expose the members to world missions
 - a. Have missionaries present their work
 - 1) Returning missionaries that you already support
 - 2) New missionaries who are on deputation
 - 3) Missionaries on furlough who you do not support
 - b. Make missions visible in the church building
 - 1) Put up missionary letters
 - 2) Put up a missionary map
 - 3) Use other displays
 - i. Interactive displays
 - ii. Flags of each country represented
 - iii. Etc.
 - 2. Present Missions to the People
 - a. Teach and preach about missions
 - b. Pray for your missionaries
 - c. Have a missionary spotlight
 - d. Have a missionary conference or a missionary emphasis month

B. Having Missionaries Present Their Work

1. Before the Presentation

- a. Find out where the missionary will be driving in from
- b. Find out their lodging needs
 - 1) This is an area that I believe churches have failed missionaries, evangelist and visiting preachers alike
 - 2) Make sure that you have comfortable accommodations for your visiting speaker and his family

Note: This does not mean that it must be the 4- or 5-star hotel in town, however far to often folks have thought the church basement or Sister Susie's extra room is all that the missionary with his wife and 5 children need. Also, it would be good that the church that has an arrangement with the local hotel check on the quality of the facility annually and randomly.

3) In some cases, the missionary may have an RV or similar. It would be good for the church to either have partial hookups for these, or have a rate worked out with the nearest RV park.

c. What are some specific needs the missionary and his family may have

- 1) You might have a specific person in your church that can handle talking with the missionary to see if there are any needs they have.
 - 2) Specifically, do they have any automobile needs, things they stand in need of.
- d. Have someone at the church to meet the missionary before service
- 1) This will allow the missionary time to setup before the service
 - 2) This will also give him time to meet folks with prayer cards, and his display

2. The Presentation

- a. Give the missionary ample time to present
- b. Open it up for Q & A if possible
- c. Will the missionary sing, present, and preach?
- d. Be clear in what you expect of him

3. After Presentation

- a. Opportunity to mingle and learn
 - 1) Give the missionary time to speak to folks after the service
 - i. This will be good for him and your people
 - ii. This will help the people to form a bond with the missionary and the missionary to the people.
 - 2) Give the opportunity for your people to learn
 - i. This will be a good time for your folks to make a better decision on the missionary
 - ii. This time could be what helps your people to decide if they would want to support this missionary later.

III. SUPPORTING MISSIONS IN THE CHURCH

A. Missionary Projects

- 1. Take up special offerings for projects
- 2. If a missionary needs something
 - a. You could take up a special offering or do a drive for that specific need
 - b. I have seen where the church will get the small children involved with a coin/penny drive

B. Taking Missionaries on for Regular Support

- 1. Keep the church informed on where the missions giving level is
- 2. Encourage your folks to give to missions when possible
- 3. Assure them that missions is an extension of the church

C. Sending Your Own (Acts 11:26)

- 1. Recognize that missionaries come from local churches
- 2. Pray that God would send some from your own church
- 3. Prepare your youth for possible work in missions
 - a. By teaching about missions
 - b. By exposing them to missions
 - c. By challenging them to the needs of missions
 - d. By taking them on mission's trips
- 4. Be ready to train those who have surrendered to missions in the church

5. Help support missionaries sent out from your church
6. Recognize that the missionaries out of your own church are an extension of your church
 - a. They are still members of your church as an extension of your own church's work and ministry
 - b. Initially, those they baptize are technically baptized into your own church
 - c. Churches planted by your missionary are churches planted by your church
 - d. This should create a very special relationship between the sending church, pastor and the missionary. Unfortunately, this relationship is many times ignored.
7. Continue to pray for your missionaries

D. Encouraging Missionaries

1. Encourage and help your members who surrender to the mission field
2. Be willing to be a sending church
 - a. Commission and/or ordain the missionary
 - b. Support them at a greater level/amount than you do others
 - c. Do not forget them when they get to the field
3. Send letters and packets to them
 - a. These contacts can mean a lot; remember them for their birthdays, anniversaries and American holidays.
 - b. Visit them

E. The Source of Missionary Money

1. Have a special/separate checking account set up for your missions giving
2. Have a special time of giving to missions
3. Have drives for specific needs from missionaries