

SON'S MISSIONS VALUES AND POLICIES

May, 2008

DEVELOPING THE SERVANT'S MISSIONS VISION

1. WHAT DO MISSIONS MEAN?

Missions in the Gospels: lived out by Jesus and His disciples (cities of Israel) -
The 1st Missions Mandate to the disciples: Luke 9:1-6;

Missions in Acts: lived out by the first apostles and the church: to the Jews and to the Gentiles: 2nd Missions Mandate to the church: Mat. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21-23; Mat. 16:18-19;

Missions by the Apostles & the first church: to Jews and Gentiles: Gal. 2:71; the full Gospel of the Living Christ: 1 Cor.15:1-6

2. DEFINITIONS IN CHRISTIAN MISSIONS:

Christian Missions has been widely defined, since the Worldwide Evangelical LAUSANNE CONGRESS of 1974, as that which is designed "to form a viable indigenous church-planting movement."

This definition is motivated by an imperative theme of the Bible **to make God known everywhere. (Romans 15:20; 2 Cor.10:16; Mat.24:14)**

The definition is claimed to summarize **the acts of Jesus' ministry**, which is taken as a model motivation for all ministries.

The Christian missionary movement seeks to implement churches after the pattern of the first century Apostles. The process of forming disciples is part of this movement.

However, Christian missions can more broadly mean any activity in which Christians are involved for world evangelization. In addition to preaching the good news of the Gospel, many missionaries promote economic development, literacy, education, health care and orphanages believing and hoping that these causes advance the glory of God and also open doors for the preaching of the Gospel. Christian doctrines (such as the "Doctrine of Love" professed by many missions) may permit the provision of aid without requiring religious conversion.

In order to enter in religious closed region missionaries sometimes will strategically go as professionals such as medical doctors, nurses, economists, engineers, etc. These types of missionaries are usually known as

Church should be understood in the widest sense, as an organization of believers rather than simply a building. In the cell movement a church usually starts by meeting in small groups usually in houses.

Missionaries are **sent out** (apostolos) by the church to preach the Gospel outside of their local churches; they cross local barriers to preach to people who have not heard about Jesus yet. When they cross cultural and language barriers they are called cross-cultural missionaries. To be sent out is required to be a missionary.

Cross-cultural missionaries are persons who accept church-planting calling and duties go to people outside their culture, as Christ commanded in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). They are sent out by their church of origin. Church planting by cross-cultural missionaries leads to the establishment of assemblies of believers that usually will relate to the sending church.

3. STRATEGY FOR MISSIONS:

The church is God's strategy for Missions: Eph. 3:10; 1 Pet. 1:12

The Holy Spirit empowers the missionary teams (Acts 1:8)

How will we do Missions at the SON? THE **SSS**

Sent out by the church: Acts 13:1: appointed by the Holy Spirit, confirmed and sent out by the church.

To plant cells

1st phase: Form planting cells in Houston as training- every person who feels called to do missions in another

country, should first be part of a planting cell in the country he/ she is called to in Houston;

2nd phase: The potential missionary must prove he/she is effective in planting and leading a cell before he/she will be sent out to plant and lead a cell in a different country;

3rd phase: Approved potential missionaries will be sent out by the church to plant cell in teams;

Missionary planting teams will be formed when the following conditions are in place:

The Lord spoke with someone or with a church leader about a mission target (a group, a village, a city, a country);

The person who received the revelation presents it to the mission's team and church leadership seeking for confirmation and for prayer;

After confirmation is received, the person & the MT should share the opportunity with the church with the goal of forming a prayer cell about that mission purpose;

A missionary prayer cell (MPC) is formed with the people the Lord confirms the revelation or the opportunity to either pray or go in a mission;

The MPC will research about the needs, conditions, and opportunities for missions in that specific target location;

The MPC will record the revelations and directions the Lord gives to the cell;

When there is a project or plan developed by the cell, it should be presented to the MT and to the church leadership;

When approved, the plan should be prayed by the church and be developed or implemented.

Supported by the Church

We believe the Lord will provide support to the mission's projects *primarily* through the sending church; (1 Cor.9:14)

Other churches can join the projects as God leads them, especially for special field challenges, but the primary responsibility to support the missionaries in the mission fields belongs to the sending church; (Phil. 4:18)

The sending church will send out missionary teams that are called, trained, qualified, and with financial support in place;

Missionary Teams will not be sent out without the proper training and financial support.

Serving the church & the world

The missionary vision in the mission field will be to serve the people of the nation in their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs; the teams will be sent out to make Christ known as the ultimate purpose.

The primary strategy in the mission field will be to form strategic cells according to the Holy Spirit's directions and the people's needs;

MISSIONARY QUALIFICATIONS:

Calling- God will communicate His call, vision, and compassion for the missionary work to those he has chosen.

Training- any person feeling called to be part of a missionary project will be trained before being sent out. The church will offer biblical and theological missionary training as well as practical on the job training;

Empowered- any person been trained for a missionary project should be baptized and empowered by the Holy Spirit before being sent out.

Experience- any person feeling called to be part of a missionary project will be part of a planting cell to a nation in Houston, and will prove to be effective in Houston before is sent out.

Commitment- the minimum commitment in a mission field will be of 2 years, which will be the minimum period necessary for the first phase of a church planting project.

Language- the learning of the language spoken in the target mission field should be initiated during the training in Houston.

OTHER TYPES OF MISSIONARY TRIPS

SHORT TERM TRIPS:

WHAT are these trips and what are their objectives?

These are short term trips that may last between 1 to 4 weeks and have a goal to be achieved within that period;

Usually these trips are organized to serve churches and missions agencies already at work in the mission field;

They may be organized as part of the missionary training of the church.

WHERE?

United States;

Countries of Central America;

Canada;

Places geographically close and politically open for missions

WHO should go?

Those interested in having a missionary experience for a short period during some vacation or time off;

Those been trained for church planting trips, as part of their missionary training;

Cells that would like to experience doing missions together and have a special direction of God about that;

Professional people who would like to use their skills to serve temporarily in a mission trip.

HOW will they go?

In teams put together for that purpose;

In cells already in existence;

In association with USA churches or churches in the countries to be visited, or missionary groups or missionary agencies;

WHEN?

Any time; all year around;

Vacations and school breaks;

When an invitation or need becomes available.

HOW will the financial support be provided?

The support should be a combination of funds taken from the Mission's funds budget, funds raised for that specific project, and the participants' funds;

Careful study of the financial needs and of the strategy to raise them should be done before announcing and planning the trip.

EMERGENCIAL MISSION'S TRIPS:

Teams could be formed to respond to an emergency crisis in the city or in a different region. The church will listen to the Holy Spirit's directions in how to proceed about the strategy. But normally, most of the conditions established for the CHURCH PLANTING TEAMS should be considered.