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Table of Contents

Purpose of Dissertation3

Acknowledgments.....3

Dedication3

Introduction3

Abstract Viewed by Topics

Are You Called to Be a Missionary?8

Responsibilities of A Missionary18

Choosing Your Mission Field23

Assessing Needs and Prioritizing Requests for Help40

Preparing for International Travel42

Funding and Expenditures46

What to Expect When You Get There 57

Presentation Tools and Gadgets 60

Preparing A Presentation Upon Returning61

Conclusion 62

Bibliography65

Purpose of the Dissertation

The purpose of this dissertation is to help those who have been called or have the interest to work in the world missions field. This dissertation is meant to help equip those interested individuals who wish to become a servant to those whose everyday existence is a labor of survival compared to western living conditions that are taken for granted on a daily basis. The author realizes that it would be impossible to include every bit of information available on this subject, but also trusts that the “Holy Spirit can fill in the blanks and give guidance in those areas

that are not present within these writings. May the Lord bless your endeavors to help the less fortunate children of God in Jesus' mighty name.

Acknowledgments

I wish to thank my wife “Sherrie,” my children “Myron” and “Melody,” “Virgil and Linda Dodson,” and my deceased Pastor, Wes Weston, as well as many other angels God gave charge over me, who loved me when I was lost and could not love myself. I also thank the LORD JESUS for his sacrifice, in that while I was still a sinner, he died for me.” But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”.¹

Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to my God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to Jesus Christ, my savior, and the Holy Spirit who dwells within me. I also dedicate this dissertation to LJ Ehrlich who invited me along with him for my first mission trip to Uganda, Africa, in February of 2011. I would be remiss to not list all the wonderful and spirit-filled instructors who have taught me over the years at the “Great Commission Bible College,” as well as my brothers at the Men’s Next Level at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas who I have spent so much Bible Study time with over the last 12 years. Last, but not least, my understanding wife Sherrie, who has given so much to study and mission time so freely in our relationship.

¹ KJV Bible: Romans 5:8

Introduction

The first fundamental thing to understand about The Elements of World Missions in today's world is to understand that the reason that Missionary work exists today is because of the commandment Jesus Christ put forth in Matthew 28:18-20. The Great Commission is the end of a Gospel and the beginning of faith in action for all Christians. This command from Jesus is significant because it's a personal instruction for Christians to have a profound faith in Jesus Christ as indicated in verse 18. Let us begin to understand more fully where the authority and the reasoning of a commandment from Jesus of the "Great Commission" originated. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and on the earth.²In this statement, Jesus is claiming His position not only on the earth but also in the all-encompassing kingdom of GOD. "Authority" is translated from *exousia*, which has wide usage in the Greek language. It can be used to indicate jurisdiction, privilege, capacity, freedom, influence, force, and right, besides authority and power. Obviously, its usage is not restricted to sheer, brute strength. Jesus, then, is perfectly equipped to handle our needs in the widest variety of situations.

Notice that Jesus says the authority has been given to Him. For this to be true, a greater Being must be the Giver. In this vein, I Corinthians 15:25-28 transports us into the future, revealing the source of His powers:

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says, "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is accepted. Now when all

² Ibid: Matthew 28:19

things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

The Giver in Matthew 28:18 must be the Father, so the word "all" in that verse excludes the Father, who is supreme in authority. The resurrected Son is the channel through which the Father's every purpose and plan are being worked out. How extensive is Jesus' given authority? Colossians 1:14-19 explains some of His authority more specifically: In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him, all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him, all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him, all the fullness should dwell.³ Paul stresses Christ's positional authority, that is, where Christ stands in relation to all other beings, whether human or spirit. "Firstborn" in verses 15 and 18 does not refer to His being created, as other verses clearly show that He has eternally existed. Here, the word indicates the primacy of rank, since the apostle is showing Christ's status in relation to all other beings and institutions.⁴

In verse 18, the emphasis is on the word "all." His authority is no longer as it was when He was a man preaching in Galilee and Judea but is once again universal. It is "as it was when He was with the Father" before. He has died and been resurrected, and all authority is once again His. Therefore,

³ KJV Bible Colossians 1:14-19

⁴ Forerunner Commentary

His disciples are to understand that wherever they go, everything is subject to His authority. This is a good thing to remember: Everything is subject to Christ's authority.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Matthew 28:19⁵

As they go, they are to make disciples. Teaching and baptizing do not make a person a disciple, though they play a part. Just because a person is baptized does not mean he is converted. Nor does it mean he is a member of the church of God or part of the Family of God. Just because he has been taught the way of God does not mean that he has fully accepted and committed himself to what has been taught.

The process of obeying the God-given plan of replication is the only way there is for discipleship to succeed; therefore, the emphasis must be on "making disciples." Baptism and obedience to instruction will be a response a person will make who is being made a disciple.

The preaching of the gospel brings a person to faith, repentance, baptism, and seeking further instruction. These are outward responses. At this point, baptism is very important because it is the outward sign of something exceedingly more important than the fact that one has been "dunked." Baptism is the outward sign of commitment—of coming under the authority of the Father and the Son. Disciples are baptized into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is only when a person comes under or is committed to the authority of the Family of God that he is truly a disciple. This marks the difference between one who is truly a disciple and another who has only been dunked. Once a person has been truly baptized and has truly committed himself to be under

⁵ KJV Bible Matthew 28:19

the authority of the Family of God, the issue for the disciple is continued learning as a student and loyalty as a member of the Family—as a new creation to the One he has committed himself to.⁶

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:20⁷

In the later verses, though preaching as a witness is included within the scope of the commission, it actually places more emphasis upon the entire process of conversion, feeding, growing, and overcoming than merely witnessing, as in Matthew 24:14. The keyword here is "process." The word "teach" in Matthew 28:20 is the key to this understanding. Many Bibles have a marginal reference beside it: "make disciples." "Go you therefore into all the world and make disciples." "Teach" is not wrong as long as we understand that it implies a process. All the teaching required to make a disciple cannot occur merely in making a witness. There are major differences between the two. At best, preaching the gospel to the world begins the process of teaching. Disciples are created through steady feeding, a believing response in those who hear combined with overcoming.

The second factor appears in verse 20: "Observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." The key here is "all things." That cannot be done merely through a witness. As we are learning, observing all things is a lifelong project requiring the structure of a church. This is the reason why the church exists. What is being emphasized in verses 19-20, though witnessing is included in it, is the feeding of the flock because it is the called, the elect—God's children—who are His greatest

⁶ Forerunner Commentary

⁷ KJV Bible Matthew 28:20

concern. These are the ones who are being prepared for the Kingdom of God. It takes a great deal of feeding and experiences with God for Christ to be formed in us.

At this point, I wish to bring forward the dual importance of what the missionary candidate must have been able to experience up to this point, and the importance of this realization because of the importance of the message in verses 19 and 20 of the 28th chapter of Matthew. A person is incapable of transmitting anything that they are not in possession of, and that being physical, mental, or spiritual.

Are You Called to Be a Missionary?

The Bible teaches us that God is personal, that he created every one of us for a purpose, knows us, and wants the very best for us. Paul expresses it this way: "We are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life" (Ephesians 2:9-10)⁸. The biblical writers also describe that although some people received very concrete and definite direction, such as the Apostle Paul did when he had a vision (Acts 16:9), most people didn't. They had to ask God, trusting that he would guide them in his own way. For example, one writer said: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)⁹ This is usually a process. Turn from evil and do right away what we know God wants. (Proverbs 3:7)¹⁰

⁸ KJV Bible: Ephesians 2:9-10

⁹ Ibid: Proverbs 3:5-6

¹⁰ Ibid: Proverbs3:7

The better we come to know him, the more we will understand what pleases him. We will appreciate more and more his love for each individual and his longing for all peoples to know him, serve him, and enjoy his blessings. At the same time, we discover that he pushes us to grow in faith and will give us opportunities to obey him. As we seek God's will, it is helpful to analyze who we are: our abilities, our interests, our opportunities, the counsel of wise friends we respect, what gives us the greatest joy, and also the tug of our hearts. As we bring these resources before the Lord in prayer and get involved in serving him where we are, we can expect him to show us more and more clearly the next steps. When I was a teenager, and my father wanted the grass mowed before he came home from work that day, he never had a problem getting his expectations across to me. Now, I could have turned to my older mother and said, "You know, I think Dad may want me to mow the grass today, but I'm just not sure. How can I be certain of Dad's will on this matter?" But of course, my mother would have thought I had gone nuts to ask such a thing.

Is our heavenly Father, the Creator of heaven and earth, any less able than my earthly dad to communicate his will in clear and unmistakable terms? I think not. If you have to puzzle over a feeling or seek help in interpreting a sign, then it most likely is not directly from God. Those of us raised in the Church learned about God while we were young. Unfortunately, we often fail to know God. We must nurture a personal relationship with the Father in order to hear his voice or even to understand the proper context of that which we do hear from his Word. If, as a teenager, I had rebelled against my father, I very well might be confused about what his will was for me. If I stayed out late each night, coming home only after Dad had gone to bed, and if then I got up after Dad had left for work, I would never be in a position to hear him ask me to mow the grass.

If loud music was blaring in my ear, I could be in the same room with Dad and never hear his request. Before I ask about knowing God's will, I must ask how well I know God. Am I putting myself in a position to be in personal contact with him? Am I getting rid of those things in my life that keep me from hearing his voice? If I am walking close to God, I need not fear that he is unable to communicate with me in unmistakable ways of his choosing, and I will never have to ask if he is calling me to serve in a particular way or place. And there is nothing that can take away the joy of knowing that I am where he wants me to be, doing what he wants me to do¹¹.

When I was 5 years old, according to my mother, I started attending The First Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Texas. I was able to read many scripture verses out of the Bible when I started the first grade. At the tender young age of 61, I am still able to bring to mind many happy memories of those young, carefree days that I experienced. At the age of 11, I started band in school, having been in choir class before and also began learning guitar. Music became a big part of my life. The main thing I know that I have retained over the years is that I never experienced adverse reactions from other people when asking them if they knew of the scripture verse of John 3:16, or the song of “Jesus loves me this I know until I was in about the 7th grade. At that point in my life I became disheartened about the responses I received from peers and many people I approached at work. As a young cub scout, later an Eagle Scout, and eventually a fireman and rescue leader, biblical principles and being a servant to others became an integrated doctrine in my life. “Honor thy father and mother.”, Thou shalt not kill.”, Thou shalt not steal.”, Thou shalt not covet.”¹², “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you¹³,” and “Turn the other

¹¹ www.askamissionary.com

¹² KJV Bible: Exodus 20

¹³ Ibid: Luke 6:31

cheek”¹⁴ were not only memory verses but also important encouragement for others who came to me with problems even though I was not seen in the house of the Lord very often. Between the years 1977 and 1991, the only time I set my feet inside any church meeting was to attend a funeral, a confirmation, or a wedding. At this point in my life, I lived in shame and guilt, not being able to face other Christians. I had succumbed to the deceiving spirits of alcohol, and had become a drunkard, divorced from my wife, and had lost all hope of ever returning to fellowship with the type of people I had been raised with. My life was a mixture of the story of the prodigal son and the story of the conversion of the apostle Paul. I felt totally estranged from God and unable to bring myself to His presence again. I thank the Lord to this day that during that time, as I found out later, many people were and had been praying for me. Once I had survived this horrible ordeal, had repented, and sought forgiveness through the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God restored me physically, mentally, and spiritually. I had a renewed hunger for the Word of God, and it was then I knew I had been given a gift that must be shared with many. My early training in Sunday school and Bible school, as well as Royal Ambassadors, had now led me back to my first love, Jesus Christ. “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6.¹⁵

By 2004, the Call of the Lord was in my heart, soul, and mind. I knew that I knew, that I knew, I was to continue in studying God’s Word and to share this precious gift many people, wherever I went, and anytime I could. I knew that I had been given the same call as was handed to Jesus in the 18th & 19th verse of Luke. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to

¹⁴ Ibid: Matthew 5:39

¹⁵ Ibid: Proverbs22:6

preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”¹⁶

As a young man, I had learned many things about compass reading, mapping, cross-country navigation, survival training, trapping, building, plumbing, electricity, small engine repair, automotive repair, and 12volt electrical systems from my father and troop leaders in boy scouts. As I attended fire and rescue school at Texas A&M University in 1978, I learned many useful things about not only firefighting, avoiding catastrophes and emergency medical treatment, but also much useful information about water, including the study of hydraulics and water storage. Beginning carpentry in 1977 was a new experience in learning also as I had many mentors who educated me in the full trades of residential and commercial concrete installation, residential and commercial framing, Roofing, Ventilation, Electrical wiring, installing solar panels-solar pumps, building meter loops and circuit breaker boxes as well as hands-on training in finish work including cabinet building and coloring, staining and finishing wood, Formica installation, sheetrock installation, finishing and texturing, flooring, and masonry work.

I became an ordained minister in 2004. The Word was now the biggest part of my life, and the hunger of it lead to long hours of study and prayer with the Lord about direction and vision. My prayer was, “Lord, please show me what to do, and I will do my best to do your will.”¹⁷

Amy Carmichael was the founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship in India. When people wrote to her suggesting that they might like to come and work in India, she would ask three questions:

¹⁶ KJV Bible: Luke 4:18

¹⁷ Pastor Michael Fiedler

1. Do you truly desire to live a crucified life? 2. Does the thought of hardness draw you or repel you? 3. Are you willing to do whatever helps most? Amy established a wonderful home for children who otherwise would have been consigned to temple prostitution. Don't make up your mind that you are going to Africa or to China or to India to do a specific kind of work. In my experience, virtually all missionaries are asked to do many things, not in their job description.¹⁸

"Ask yourself the hard questions. "Answer from Elisabeth Elliot, who worked with her husband Jim Elliot on translating the New Testament into the language of the Quichua Indians in Ecuador. Later, as a widow, she lived and worked among the Aucas. When Jim Elliot was considering missions, he didn't know where to go or what to do. But he did have two ideas. So, he started corresponding with one missionary in India and another in Ecuador. In view of the information he received, he made a choice: Ecuador. But before deciding, he first did a lot of thinking and praying. It wasn't a wild guess but an act of faith in the God who promises to guide. Jim used to say, "you can't steer a parked car." It makes sense to move in the direction you believe God is leading, trusting him as a faithful shepherd to lead you in paths of righteousness. "Consider the different ways that God leads to different people."¹⁹

Answer from Bill Taylor, a veteran missionary from Central America who also grew up on the mission field, and co-author of Send Me! Your Journey to the Nations. Here are excerpts from that book. Unfortunately, there's a lot of confusing and sometimes contradictory talk going out about the "missionary call." Beware of the extremes! Some require you to have had your own mystical "call" or voice from God. I don't deny this happens, but don't let others over-spiritualize

¹⁸ Amy Carmichael, founder Dohnavur Fellowship

¹⁹ Elisabeth & Jim Elliot Missionaries

the process and force it on you as normative. Other Christians approach it from an overly rational, dry, mathematical model that gathers the facts, prays, and then makes a logical decision.

What are some of the ways that God leads people into missions?

Path 1: A few people really will have some kind of personalized call, vision, powerful encounter, or voice from the Lord.

Path 2: Other friends tell me theirs is not a matter of a "personalized call" to missions. It's more a matter of obedience to God. In some cases, the wife saw that her primary call of God was to marry this man, knowing that he was (and therefore, they were) going into missions.

Path 3: Still others find that they end up in missions after a serious evaluation of prime factors: deep commitment and obedience to Christ, plus a personal assessment of interests, gifts, experience, and dreams, combined with a heart of compassion for the lost and the poor, and an opportunity to serve and to make a difference in the world. These all converge to form a path into missions.

Path 4: Some report that the prime factors leading them into missions were rather simple: a radical obedience to Christ that meant a willingness to do anything, go anywhere, pay any price, plus an identification of their gifts and others' needs.²⁰

"Ask God, explore options, and rest in him." Answer from Kari, a Missouri Synod Lutheran church planter who has served Vietnamese immigrants in St. Louis for fourteen years. Ask him. If he wants you in cross-cultural mission, he will let you know. If you're ambivalent about it for any reason (fear, etc.), tell him that, too, and then trust him to deal with it. Our Lord is compassionate and will supply us with whatever attitudes he wants us to have. He doesn't expect

²⁰ Bill Taylor Missionary, co-author Send Me! Your Journey to the Nations

us to somehow create them on our own. Do a little exploring. Read, visit nearby cross-cultural churches/ministries/areas, and get to know someone from another culture. I found myself teaching Bible classes among the Vietnamese to help a friend. Two years later, I woke up and realized that this was a cross-cultural mission. God had called me years before, but I imagined something very different, something much scarier and more difficult. Relax! God's will is not some hidden riddle that we have to figure out by trying with all our might. He knows that spiritually speaking, most of us couldn't find our way out of a paper bag with a road map and a GPS system. He will bring you where he wants you. Just trust him. He will take you there. Don't wait for complete confirmation. Step out in faith."²¹

Answer from Juhani and his wife Sari, from Finland. I thought that God would just let us know what to do, so I did not do anything about it for several months. I wondered, "What if I make the wrong choices?" Or "Is it just our own idea to go into missions? Maybe it was not God who asked us to go." All kinds of doubts discouraged us almost daily. Both of us had a strong desire to go, but we did not share this with other believers for a long time. I had a narrow view of missions and the way God directs his people. I was waiting for some clear signs, like Gideon, with his fleece²². Some teaching about God's guidance would have been helpful for us at that time. Still we felt that this vision was from God, and we should pursue it no matter what the cost. Sari urged me to take a step of faith and start contacting mission agencies about possibilities, but I was hesitant. I was still afraid to make decisions. Finally, I took action and phoned a few mission organizations. Some of our contacts were very discouraging. They only asked about our

²¹ Kari, Missouri Synod Church Planter

²² KJV Bible: Judges 6:36-40

occupations and nothing about our faith or gifts. We were dismayed and astonished that the mission agencies were more interested in our occupations than our spiritual life. But one particular organization seemed more encouraging, especially when I mentioned our interest in Israel. They promised to find out more from the field in Israel and get back to us. Eventually, we got the green light to go. We were so excited about how God confirmed his calling, and we were finally ready to start! We are thankful to God that we stepped out in faith and went, even though we did not know all the details. I think that I was almost like a puppet, just waiting for God to make me move and do everything for me. I learned that I had to take steps of faith and do my part. It is like driving a car: it can only be steered while it's moving. It required obedience and an act of my will, sometimes overruling my feelings and emotions. The confirmation and guidance came only after I started to do my part with faith, and God would do his!²³ Excerpted from the book *Scaling the Wall: Overcoming Obstacles to Missions Involvement*, by Kathy Hicks.

"Recognize the need. Realize that God has especially equipped you."

Here is an answer from David, who served eleven years at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya with World Medical Mission. David serves as CEO of the Christian Medical and Dental Associations. When I was trying to decide what to do with my life, I began to pray and meditate. But I didn't hear a voice, and I didn't see a verse jump out of my Bible. I simply received a growing realization that God was leading me to be a missionary. I think some make too much out of the concept of special direction to be a missionary. Guidance is seeing a need and realizing that God has specially equipped you to meet that need. You discover a growing desire in your heart. And as you pursue that desire, you find a peace that surpasses understanding. His direction is

²³ Juhani and his wife Sari, from Finland, excerpted from the book *Scaling the Wall: Overcoming Obstacles to Missions Involvement*, by Kathy Hick

confirmed as he opens the door, and you walk through it. When you follow God unreservedly, you give up control. Whatever it costs, boldly do whatever God wants you to do. The bottom line is not where you'll serve but if you'll go when he directs. God doesn't interview applicants for the position of a missionary, and he drafts them. "Ask God to use you and watch him open doors."²⁴

Answer from David, director of mobilization with WEC International. David has been a missionary for twenty-five years as a field worker in West Africa and at the WEC USA headquarters. Guidance is very personal. At a Christian university, I began to learn about missions, and felt, like Paul, a strong desire to take the gospel where it had never been (Romans 15:20). Therefore, I asked God if I could become a missionary. While I didn't feel supernatural guidance, the interest certainly must have come from God. After asking if I could be a missionary, I felt no negative response. So, I simply began heading that way, and God opened doors. Over the next four years, I obtained the appropriate education and practical ministry experience, and then I joined a mission.²⁵

In 2008, my pastor at Sonlight Chapel Full Gospel Church in Center Point, Texas, Wes Weston came home from a camp meeting in Rock Island, Texas. He gave us a report on his trip and mentioned meeting a brother in Christ who had started an online Bible college. That brother in Christ, whom he met, was L.J Ehrlich. He is now the Chancellor of "The Great Commission Bible College." My pastor announced that brochures were available with information on enrolling in the college. I enrolled in 2008 on the 10th day of February. Already, God was doing

²⁴ David, served eleven years at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya with World Medical Mission. David serves as CEO of the Christian Medical and Dental Associations.

²⁵ David, director of mobilization with WEC International

more to equip me and helping me to “study to show myself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”²⁶

Responsibilities of A Missionary

Let us first look at biblical responsibilities. The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines responsibility as **1:** the quality or state of being responsible: such as **a:** moral, legal, or mental accountability, **b:** RELIABILITY, TRUSTWORTHINESS **2:** something for which one is responsible: BURDEN.²⁷ God has entrusted humankind, both individually and collectively, with responsibility. Humankind is, therefore, answerable to God. Initially, God gave humans the responsibility of multiplying, subduing the earth and having dominion over creation (Genesis 1:28). As God revealed more of himself to man, man was given greater responsibility and thus became more accountable. Jesus told several parables in which responsibility and accountability are at the center. Illustrative is the parable of the talents. Before a man went on a journey, he entrusted money to his servants. When he returned, each servant had to give an answer for what he had done with the money assigned to him. To those who doubled their money, the master exclaimed, "Well done!" However, the one who hid the money in the ground was severely judged for his irresponsibility (Matthew 25:14-30); see also Luke 19:11-27).

The Bible continually emphasizes the fact that the greater the privilege, the greater the responsibility or accountability. Jesus concluded the teaching of a parable with the statement, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12:48). Peter noted that judgment begins with the family of God (1 Peter 4:17). The Lord revealed to Ezekiel what he expected of

²⁶ KJV Bibles: 2 Timothy 2:15

²⁷ Merriam Webster Dictionary

his people and the dangers of disobedience. The prophet is a watchman who is accountable to warn the people when danger comes (Ezekiel 3:18 Ezekiel 3:20; Ezekiel 33:6 Ezekiel 33:8). On another occasion, the Lord spoke to Israel, "You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore, I will punish you for all your sins" (Amos 3:2). This verse has been dubbed the greatest "therefore" in Scripture. You cannot be all things to all men, but the things that you are must be as unto the Lord if you are to take them to God's children in all parts of the world.

The sin-nature in man seeks to shirk responsibility and to blame others for failures. There is no room for this when you, as a missionary, have traveled half-way across the world, and you are the only person standing there. Missionaries are human and will make mistakes. The important thing is that as we make mistakes, we take the proper actions to rectify them, thereby setting an example for the people around us who are perhaps learning a new walk with Christ. The Gospel of Jesus Christ will diminish the effects of the "sin nature" and a living example will provide the people you are ministering to a double portion. There are a number of illustrations in Scripture in which a person attempted to shift responsibility for an action onto others. Adam pointed to Eve, and ultimately to the Lord, for the sin in which he found himself. Likewise, Eve sought to lay the blame on the serpent (Genesis 3). Sarah became upset with Abraham when Hagar bore him a child, even though Abraham was following Sarah's advice (Genesis 16:1-5). Esau complained that Jacob "deceived" him and got the birthright, when in fact he had sold it to his brother (compare Gen 27:36); with Gen 25:27-34). Aaron would not own up to the fact that he had formed the golden calf (Exodus 32:21-24). Pilate wanted to wash his hands of Jesus' death (Matthew 27:24). The Bible teaches both corporate and individual accountability. Solidarity in accountability is seen early in Scripture. For example, at Sinai, the Lord commanded the people

not to make an idol to worship. If they did, he would punish the children for the idolatry of the fathers "to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, " but he would show "love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments" (Exodus 20:5); Deuteronomy 5:9). Likewise, in the wilderness, Moses affirmed that although the Lord is slow to anger, "he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation" (Numbers 14:18). One sees how this principle worked its way out in a historical setting at Jericho. Not only was Achan held accountable for his misdeeds; so were the other family members (Joshua 7:24-25). On the other hand, Moses specifically commands that parents should not be held accountable for their children's sins, nor should children suffer the consequences of their parents' sin; "each is to die for his own sin" (Deuteronomy 24:16). During the Babylonian exile, Ezekiel amplified the ramifications of this latter verse, arguing that it was not the sins of the fathers but the sin of his generation that was being judged. He quoted a proverb: "The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge" (Ezekiel 18:2; 31:29). Ezekiel commanded them to quit hiding behind the proverb; they were also accountable. Instead, he had them focus on the truth that "The soul who sins is the one who will die" (v. 4) and "The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him" (v. 20).

Of all of the writers of Scripture, Paul addressed the issue of accountability most extensively in the Book of Romans. He affirmed that God is righteous and his judgment is based on truth (Romans 2:2). Each person individually will give an account to God (Romans 14:12).

Humankind rejected the truth, choosing instead to follow a lie and worship created things rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25). To the Israelites, God gave the Law; it brought privilege but also greater responsibility (Romans 2:9). In various ways, the Israelites demonstrated that they

were opposed to God. Paul affirmed that no one was righteous; all had sinned and fell short of the glory of God (Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23). The whole world is accountable to God (Romans 3:19). However, God has revealed a righteousness that comes through faith to all who believe in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22). Jews, as well as Gentiles, must acknowledge their sinfulness and repent, trusting in Christ's finished work on the cross (Romans 5:9).²⁸

A Christian missionary is commissioned by the Lord to make disciples and followers of Christ. Jesus commands all Christians regardless of their position in the body of Christ to share the Gospel, which explains the message of His death and resurrection that conquered the penalty and power of sin. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Matthew 28:19-20²⁹ Each missionary that seeks a vision from God must have received a call to perform an act for God. God calls them to set aside personal ambitions in order to be witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Like Isaiah, a missionary gladly responds, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.!" (Isaiah 6:8). In your Bible, you will see that God sends a missionary to a particular group of people, just as Paul was sent to the unreached Gentiles and yet God chose to send Peter to the Jews. (Galatians 2:7-8) But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the

²⁸ Glenn E. Schaefer, Elwell, Walter A. "Entry for 'Responsibility'". "Evangelical Dictionary of Theology 1997." ²⁹ Ibid: Matthew 28:19-20

Gentiles:.)Although technically a Christian missionary is one specifically called by God and sent out by the local church, every Christian has a mission to make disciples.²⁹

Jesus made it clear that Missionaries and Christians both are to reach out to “all the nations” (Matthew 28:19), especially those ethnic groups who have not received a Gospel witness.

Unreached people like lost tribes who reside outside of the known boundaries, are still waiting for the way, truth, and life found in Christ “Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: But as it is written, to whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.”

(Romans 15:20).³⁰ But Christians at home should be missionaries to surrounding areas as well as in their own communities, doing personal and group evangelism. (Acts 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that, the Holy Ghost comes 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.³¹

Worldwide missionaries do more than just specialize in evangelism. The Great Commission was to make disciples, not make or produce large groups of immature believers. This means that a Christian missionary’s outreach involves not only evangelism, but also discipleship, and church planting. These main goals are accomplished in a variety of ways: street preaching, tract handouts, church building, Bible studies, teaching English as a second language, relief projects, children’s clubs, mountain trekking, literacy teaching, radio broadcasting, and many other unique activities that are designed culturally specific to a researched area of operation. As you seek the Holy Spirit on a minute to minute, hour by hour, day by day, basis during your life, it matters not if you are at home , church, work, or on the mission field, your responsibility is to have faith to

²⁹ KJV Bible: Galatians 2:7-8

³⁰ Ibid: Romans 15:20

³¹ Ibid: Acts 1:8

move forward, planting the seed you have been given, believing wholeheartedly that God will water that seed and give the increase!

Choosing Your Mission Field

I would be the first to admit that in 2011 when Dr. LJ Ehrlich invited me to accompany him on my first mission trip to Uganda, that as I told him, I would pray and think about accepting his invitation, a great hunger began to grow inside of me. I did research about the area we would visit. I saw many good stories about missions. Some had what the flesh calls good outcomes, and some had bad outcomes. As for my understanding of “Good” or “Bad,” at that time in my life, it was the same then as now. God has the ability to paint all things with a large brush. I believe Romans 8:28 defines this heavenly ability of the Lord. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”³² On this trip we were to preach, share testimony, share music, check the installation of a submersible pump along with electrical connections. and help with the construction of buildings to house a group of orphans and to have classrooms for the school children that had already begun to teach students. What I knew in my heart is that I could put a checkmark next to each of these needs as God had prepared me long ago in each of these areas! After much prayer, heart to heart talks with my wife, considering travel warnings there and the political strife there at the time, finances, counsel with my pastor I accepted Dr. Ehrlich’s invitation. As you can see, this decision could not be taken lightly, for it concerned many people that depended on me. The enemy will put all sorts of excuses before you not to complete a task that the Lord has set before you. Take heart when this occurs because God’s Word has already made a way of victory

³² KJV Bible: Romans 8:28

through such an attack on a good work that He wants you to complete. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. "World missions is not a field for every missionary. You must be responsible for all of the same things at home that you are responsible for taking across the Oceans. Praying for God to give you discernment in the name of Jesus is always a good investment of your time that will bless many. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)³³

Following is an article that can help you answer the important question of "What Mission Field Do I Choose"? A sermon August Hopkins Strong, before the American Baptist Missionary Union, at its annual meeting, Indianapolis. Matthew 18:12" Doth he not leave the ninety and nine?"³⁴

LEAVING THE NINETY AND NINE

The early Christians delighted to picture Christ as the Good Shepherd. In Tertullian's time, they painted him thus upon the cup used at the Lord's Supper; and, a little later, they lightened the gloom of the Catacombs by representations of one who had snatched the lost sheep from the lion's jaws, and who bore it back to the fold with rejoicing. Unlike many of the devices of ecclesiastical art, this one has full warrant in Scripture. The text tells the story more pathetically than any statue or fresco possibly can. The one sheep wandering from the rest, and unable of itself to find its way back to the fold; the shepherd taking no pleasure in the multitude of his

³³ Ibid: 2 Peter 3:9

³⁴ Pastor Michael Fiedler

flock that feed unharmed about him, so long as that one erring is exposed to death; the girding of himself for his departure, and the long, anxious search over the dark mountains for the lost; the perseverance that gives itself no rest until he finds it, even though the shepherd's feet and bauds are pierced with bitter thorns along the way; the joy of the return, when he brings back upon his shoulders the rescued one, who even now has not strength enough to walk alone, these are features of the parable that touch our inmost hearts. But, of all the strokes that give impressiveness and pathos to the picture, I know of none so masterly and so divine as the question: "Doth he not leave the ninety and nine?"

There have been many interpretations of it. The ancient expositors saw in it an allusion to that condescension of the eternal Son which led him to leave the many mansions of his Father's house on high, with their myriads of unfallen intelligences, that he might quench his light in the darkness of this little sphere, and so restore this one wandering world to its true place in the great system of God. There were ninety and nine loyal planets that revolved around the central sun. But one had forgotten its allegiance and had shot off like a comet into the distant night. He who once spoke them all into being now follows, and from the very night of death recovers the one lost world by passing into that night of death himself. In modern times, we have been accustomed to applying the parable, not to the one world that is lost, while though many races of God's great universe still render joyful obedience, but to the one soul that has gone astray, and has become a prey to Satan. What does it matter to the tender Shepherd that such a multitude are safe within the fold, so long as one poor sinner is involved in the misery and guilt of sin, and is in danger of everlasting death? To bring one such sinner back, he thinks it none too great a sacrifice to lay down his life.

These are the common interpretations. I make no doubt that both of them are true. There is a principle here that may have a great variety of applications. It is the principle that the weakest, the neediest, the most miserable, are in a true sense nearest to the Savior's heart. His compassion is measured only by the depth of man's want. And so, I bring you still another interpretation of the parable, equally true with the others, this, namely: That Christ yearns over the heathen more than he does over the Christian lands, and that his Spirit moves the church to leave the ninety and nine that are safe within the fold of Christendom, and to go out after those who are perishing in their pagan depravity and wretchedness, until she finds them, and brings them back to God.

I am well aware that such an application as this runs directly counter to the current of popular opinion in our day. Modern objections to missions have changed their form, but they are subtler, and with a large class of persons, they are more powerful than ever before. Christian people feel them, even if they do not urge them. We do not deny the needs of the heathen, nor the duty of evangelizing the world. But we are inclined to choose our methods, and to consult the natural laws of civilization and progress, more than we consult the commission of Christ and the promise of his Spirit. We are bidden to distinguish between the advancing and the decaying races and to confine our efforts to those which still have the stamina and inherent powers of growth. What hope, we are asked, what hope of permanent success among a people already on the verge of extinction, like the North American Indians, or dying of their vices, like the islanders of the South Seas? Of what use was it for John Eliot to give his life to translating the Bible into an Indian tongue, when there does not now remain a single living Indian who can read it? Tribes without a history are not worth the saving, say the critics. The stuff is too soft to take a stamp or to give a stamp to others. The Hottentots of Africa are of as little account, so far as mental vigor and influence upon the world are concerned, as the swarming ants of one of their own ant hills;

and there have not been wanting philosophers who could coolly say that we should do with them just what we do with an ant-hill, namely, stamp on them, and stamp them out of existence.

This reasoning is supported, moreover, by an appeal to apostolic labors. The first disciples did not scatter themselves among the Gentiles, we are told: they were commanded to tarry at Jerusalem, the central stronghold of Judaism. Then they seized upon Antioch, the great commercial entrepot between East and West. Paul did not waste his time in country towns. He betook himself to Ephesus and Corinth, as strategic points from which whole provinces might be invaded and subdued. He garrisoned the capitals for Christ and trusted that from them, the gospel would move upon the great outlying regions which they commanded. In fact, nothing would satisfy him but to preach the gospel in Rome. He would make the masters of the world acknowledge the mastership of Christ, knowing that, when the strength of Rome had enlisted the church under the Savior's banner, the weaker nations would follow her lead. So, our new guides would have us devote ourselves to the strong races. Preach the gospel to the Caucasian, who has mind enough to appreciate it and force enough to propagate it. Be sure not to underrate the Anglo-Saxon race and that special portion of it which we ourselves represent. In short, American soil furnishes the proper field for the gospel. If you would reach other nations, you will find the best specimens of them here. God has sifted the races of the earth and brought the elite of them all to our shores. We can best evangelize China, by preaching to the Chinese in California; Africa, by teaching the negroes at the South; Germany, by missions among the Germans of Milwaukee and Kansas. Do your foreign work at home. Educate and Christianize yourselves; and, by the same rule, confine your chief attention to the most promising classes within your own borders. Aim at the talent and culture of the land. Let the degraded and the ignorant die out,

or at least shift for themselves. The best way to pervade a nation with truth and righteousness is to raise up an intellectual and spiritual aristocracy. Not a farthing-caudle in myriads of houses, but the kindling here and there of electric lamps that shall shine like suns. So to him that hath shall be given, and from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

It is, of course, a *redo ad absurdum*; but, since many of these notions are prevalent, and wherever they prevail in paralyzing missionary zeal, it may be well to consider carefully the grain of truth that is in them, and also the deadly error. The element of truth is simply this: God's providential arrangement of nations, and of influential centers in those nations, is to be consulted in our evangelistic plans. Other things being equal, it is a duty to avail ourselves of the natural currents of commerce and literature, to seize upon political strongholds, and upon the strong men who offer themselves for the service of the gospel. The field is the world, and the world includes America as well as Hindustan. There are many sorts of places, for many sorts of men. Some are truly called to serve Christ at home as others are to serve him abroad. There are talents and endowments which distinctly mark men for work of teaching and leadership in this land. There are tasks and impulses which as distinctly mark men for pioneer enterprises in Africa, or for Bible translation in China. Then, too, we must go wherever we can go. God opens the door, and we must enter it. We must follow in the line of geographical exploration and tread the highways of commerce. We owe more to Africa than we did before Livingston had reached Lake Nyasia, and Stanley had traced the course of the Congo. Fifty years ago, we might have been better pardoned for not attempting missions to Japan, than now, when the ancient wall of Japanese exclusiveness is beaten down. And so, with regard to castes and classes, we must take what God sends. If he does not first give us access to the proud and cultivated Burman, we must welcome the conversion of the Karnes. If the Telugu Brahmins do not embrace the gospel, thousands of

the Pariahs will. We must work in the lieu of God's providences, remembering that there is a supernatural element in missions, and a wisdom not of this world, which chooses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise, and weak things of this world to confound the mighty, and base things of this world, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are, that no flesh should glory in his presence.³⁵

So, we may answer objectors to our plan of distant work among races and classes that do not lead the advance of civilization, answer them by saying that we are men under authority, with marching orders to go into all the world, to enter every open door, to preach to every creature who is willing to hear, trusting results to him who sends us. But there is much more than this to be said. I wish to show not only that we must do this, but that we ought to do it; not only that God has shut none up to this course, but that his ways are justifiable even to human reason. In place of the policy of repression and confinement, what we may call the dark-lantern theory of missions, the keeping of our light to ourselves, concentration of effort upon the favored and the strong, I urge the leaving of the ninety and nine, and the seeking out of the weak and the lost. And this for four reasons: first, that this is the irrepressible instinct of Christian love. You cannot narrow down its regards if you would. Love is not calculating. It does not bargain for just so much success in its efforts before it puts them forth. It does not graduate itself by the present worth, but only by the present need, of its object. Self-interest and self-gratulation work in order to get, love works in order to give. Its natural impulse is toward the weakest. The true mother will love most of all the child that is deformed or blind, and strange to say, the gleams of sense that now and then cross the mental darkness of her half-idiotic boy will waken thrills of

³⁵ KJV Bible: 1 Corinthians 1:27

sympathetic and compassionate joy in that mother's heart, that she never feels at the triumphs of her gifted sons. And to say that Christian love has like feelings toward the outcast and those for whom no others care is only to say that it is love. What! let the illiterate and the drunkard go their way because the educated and the temperate are so much more worthy of our efforts? Ah, that is just what Christian love cannot do! The ignorant and the self-despairing shall be the very objects of the Christian's regard.

That was a very safe test by which Professor Tyndall proposed to gauge the results of prayer. The whole Christian world was invited to concentrate their petitions upon one ward of a certain hospital, while they left the other wards unprayed for. Then it could be ascertained whether prayer accomplished anything. Professor Tyndall forgot that the thought of that ward for which nobody cared would set thousands of Christian people praying for its inmates so that the proposed test would test nothing. Paul does not graduate his love for his converts by the love he gets from them in return. He will love them the more, the less he is loved. No, we might as well acknowledge it, Christian love is very different from mere prudence. Its very essence is self-sacrifice. It lives by dying, as Christ did. In fact, Christian love is nothing but the Christ in us, repeating his disinterested devotion of himself to the uplifting of the fallen and the rescue of the lost.

Missions to the inert and degraded races, then, are not a hard compulsion put upon the church. They are a carrying out of the innermost impulse of the Christian heart. Morrison thanks God when he is sent to China, because he considers it an answer to his prayer for a place to work where the needs are the greatest, and where, regarded from a human point of view, there is less chance of success. Is this wisdom? Still, I maintain that it is; and I urge, as a second reason for leaving the ninety and nine," that this has proved historically to be the method of success. The

beginnings of Christianity were not in a growing nation, nor among the Caucasian race. It was among the Semitic stock, and in an Asiatic land, that its preparation and inception took place.

The Jew seemed to have run his course and to have succumbed to the common fate of Orientals, political despotism, physical stagnation, intellectual bigotry. "Credat Judceus Apolla" indicated the narrow credulity everywhere attributed to him. He had had no king of his own race for five centuries. Rome had put her foot upon his neck. The conquering race was at the West. The Caesars had come, and the world was bowing beneath their sway. Where shall Christianity inaugurate her mission? Surely, it will be in the emperor's palace, or at least under the shadow of the Capitoline Hill. But no, it is to a continent from which the rod of empire has forever passed away, to a race that is to make no more figure in political history, to a people enslaved and scattered, to a town that has become a by-word and a hissing, that Jesus comes to begin his redeeming work. He passes by Rome, and he begins at Nazareth. He leaves the advancing, and he takes the decaying, race. From that race of Jews, he chooses his apostles yes, his chiefest apostles, so that Paul becomes the apostle of the Gentiles, and Peter comes to be the patron saint of Rome. The Jew conquers the Roman; the decaying race subdues its masters.

Was there cold-blooded neglect of the insignificant country towns, in the apostolic labors? What were Derbe, Iconium, and Lystra but rude, provincial places, with a heathenish jargon of a language which the apostles could not understand? Did Paul stop with Rome, or did he go, after his first imprisonment, to the regions beyond? Surely, the perils of robbers and of the deep, through which he passed, were not all incurred in civilized lands. And why is it that we know so little of the labors of the eleven apostles? No answer can be given, but this: Their lives were missionary lives, spent in comparative obscurity for the most part, and the record of them

written, not on earth, but on high. So, Christianity made its beginnings. And so, has been its subsequent history. Where should we be, in the scale of civilization or religion to-day, if Augustine, the Roman abbot in the sixth century, had confined his Christian zeal to efforts on behalf of the ruling race, instead of undertaking that mission to Britain and to those barbarous English ancestors of ours? Thirteen hundred years of history have justified that leaving of the ninety and nine, to who belonged the strength and culture of the world, and that seeking after the sheep that were lost. Christianity has recreated that English race and has given it an empire more noble and spiritual than Rome ever knew. And now, when missions have made us what we are, shall we turn coldly away from the nations which stand where we then stood? I know that it takes time to work these wonders. "Providence," it has been said, "moves through time as the gods of Homer moved through space: it takes one step, and ages have passed away." The gospel can recreate nations, as well as individuals; but in the lifetime of a nation, not in the lifetime of an individual, shall the change be wrought. Let us give God time to show what he can do. The single century of modern missions affords but small basis for a theory which contradicts nineteen hundred years of history and the teaching of the whole word of God.

I advocate the opposite theory of missions, the theory of leaving the strong and going out after the weak, upon the ground, thirdly, that this theory best accords with the great doctrinal truth of the unity and solidarity of the race. God has made of one blood all nations. They are bound together by a common descent from the first Adam, but equally by a common relationship to the second Adam,³⁶ who joined himself to humanity to save it. Sin is self-isolating and ignores this relationship. Christ's spirit gives us the feeling of brotherhood once more. Sin says, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Christ's spirit says, "I am a debtor both to the Greeks and to the barbarians."

³⁶ KJV Bible:1 Corinthians 15:47

Sin looks upon mankind as segregated atoms, disconnected individuals. The spirit of Christ regards humanity as an organism, pervaded with one life. Sin counts as foreigners and enemies, all who are not demonstrably of our particular family. The spirit of Christ sees in every Greenlander, a soul for which the Redeemer died, and in the Malayan and Patagonian, members of a common humanity with ourselves — a humanity capable of indefinite progress, and with such claims upon our sympathy and help, that for them we should be willing to lay down our lives. See what provision God has made for breadth, as well as for intensity, in our missionary zeal. We are guarded against apathy by the thought that every single soul has in its capacities of infinite expansion. We are guarded against narrowness by the thought that every such soul is only the infinitesimal part of a grander unity. The greatness of the race looms up before us; the mass of its guilt and degradation appalls us; we see what crushed the soul of Christ in Gethsemane and broke his heart on Calvary. As we get nearer to Christ in our personal experience, the sense of this oneness grows upon us, until we see that all the nations together constitute the humanity which he died to save.

Away then, with that proud idolatry of race, which would count the Anglo-Saxon only as the elect of God! Humanity is greater than we know. There are many aspects of the rounded sphere. Races come and go in history. Greek beauty and Roman organization have had their day. How do we know that the constitutional freedom of the Anglo-Saxon shall be more lasting? The newly emerging civilization of the Sandwich Islands, and the presence of the negro in the United States

Senate chambers show that there are capacities not yet developed, nations yet to come to the front. The Book of Revelation assures us that on the head of the conquering Christ there are to be

many crowns. Many nations shall call him Lord. The new song of redeemed humanity shall be, not a song of one part only, which all shall sing in unison, but a song of many parts, each transformed race, and tribe and kindred and nation of men furnishing its peculiar and inimitable and indispensable element in the grand harmony. We have no more right to despair of a nation than we have to despair of an individual. God is able to turn back the tide of corruption in a nation, as well as in an individual, and begin a new development, as at the Reformation. So, shall they "build the old wastes: they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations." As we see in every human soul the possibilities of kingship and priesthood to God, so let us see in every tribe upon the footstool, the possibilities of an illimitable progress in intellectual and spiritual power, and all tending to the triumphs of that day when the philosophic mind of the Orient and the practical vigor of the West shall in all their phases and varieties be given to Christ. Is no other race valuable but ours? Ah, one, the race most desperately sunk in superstition and idolatry today may in the long tomorrow place the brightest crown of all upon the brow of the Redeemer. We are bound to leave the ninety and nine, and go out after the benighted races, because humanity everywhere is one, and the work of the church is nothing less than to bring this whole humanity to the feet of its common Lord.

But I argue this view, fourthly, from the poor economic consideration that, only as we thus in utter self-abandonment seek the salvation of the lowest and worst abroad, can we reach the highest and the best in character and activity at home. Here is the Christian paradox: "Give, if you would get; scatter, if you would increase; die if you would live." Christ followed this rule, leaving heaven for earth, and conquering through death. And he came to diffuse his spirit through humanity. He did not point to his miracles as furnishing the chief evidence that he came

from God. The blind were made to see, and the deaf to hear, indeed; demons were cast out, and the dead were raised. But the climax was this: the poor have the gospel preached to them. With a divine radicalism, Christianity goes down to the deepest depth of human corruption and guilt, and, putting its mighty shoulders of love under the whole mass of man's shame and sin, lifts it up to purity and to God. Christianity works from below, upward. Only the self-devotion that is willing to give its efforts on behalf of the meanest will ever succeed in reaching the noblest, and in general it will reach the influential and the rich only after it has proved its disinterestedness by laboring for the weak and the poor. I speak, of course not of a mock-gospel that gathers people of wealth and fashion into places of show and dignifies its altar-parades with the name of worship. I speak of the real conversion of the rich to Christ. That, you may be sure, never takes place under the ministry of those whose aim is simply to bring riches into the church, but only as the result of labor for the souls of men, irrespective of their temporal station. And so, seeking the lost abroad is the best means of stirring up effort at home.

I do not know when Christ will come. I do not know whether the preaching of the gospel in all the world, which is to precede his coming involves the hearing of it by every human being individually, or by each nation in the world. But this I do know, that the preaching of the gospel, which shall usher in the time of the end, will be a heart-service, on the part of the church, which shall labor by preference for the most desolate and downtrodden portions of mankind. What Christ wants is the throwing of ourselves into the breach, not the quantitative estimate of our work, but the qualitative, not how many have been won, but how much has been sacrificed. God has justified many an enterprise that seemed absolutely foolhardy. The forlorn hope has often turned the tide of battle. Do not think that such victories abroad will ever involve loss at home.

The reflex influence of them upon Christian character in Christian lands is worth all the cost. The stuttering of the Judson's at Oung-Pen-La has added heroism to thousands of Christian hearts in America, that could have been stirred in no other way so well. Let us remember that our Home Mission Societies trace their descent from the Foreign, and not the Foreign from the Home. It is my firm conviction that if every Christian preacher should go abroad, and the whole Christian church should precipitate itself upon heathendom as in the -days of the Crusades Europe precipitated itself upon Asia, there not only would be no ultimate loss, but the home field would flourish as never before, aye, the mighty angel of the Apocalypse would soon bind Satan and the millennial era dawn. I counsel no fanaticism. I recognize the fact that Providence puts obstacles in the way of some, which it would be criminal to disregard. But the danger of our day is not the danger of overstrained enthusiasm: it is the danger of self-indulgence and of unconscientiousness. We need the rousing of the martyr-spirit once more; the resurrection of the church to a new life, of which we read in the twentieth chapter of the book of Revelation; the choosing of the hard instead of the easy; the leaving of the ninety and nine, for whom others will care, and then going out into the wilderness after the lost. In this course lies the only safety of the church; for the church as well as for the individual it is true, that whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for Christ's sake shall find it.

Thus, I have urged upon you a theory of missions which human wisdom would never have suggested, but which, when once acted upon, proves itself to be the wisdom of God. I have urged the undertaking of the difficult, the seeking of the far away, the rescue of the tribes, and the men that are vile and ready to die. I have urged this upon the ground: first, that this is the irrepressible instinct of Christian love; secondly, that this is proved historically to be the method of success; thirdly, that this best accord, with the great doctrinal truth of the unity and solidarity of the race;

and, fourthly, that only this method will secure the highest development of Christian character and activity at home. But there is a sublime and more conclusive reason still, it is the fifth and last that I shall mention: this plan is the plan that gives most glory to Christ, our Redeemer, and our King. That which most reveals Christ most glorifies him; for to glorify him is nothing more nor less than to make known his glory. This plan of missions most glorifies Christ, because it most closely follows the method of his own work as our Redeemer; it most absolutely casts itself upon his power and promise as our King. Why does not Christ hasten his coming and his kingdom? Why do the isles yet wait for his law? Why has Calvin's motto, *Domine, quousque?* "O Lord, how long?" been for so many centuries the cry of the church? The heart of God yearns over the apostate race. Surely there must be yet some obstacle to his bestowal of full favor upon it. Do you say that the atonement of Christ removed that obstacle forever? Yes, so far as to make it consistent with his holiness to give pardon to the penitent. But he has power to make men penitent. Why does he not more widely and gloriously exert that power? I know of no answer but this: It is his purpose to join the church with Christ in this great work of saving men, and the full tide of grace is restrained, and God will not assume his full dominion in the earth until his people shall present themselves as freewill offerings to his service.

Brethren, in our weak fear of anthropomorphic representations of God, let us not deny that God has a heart and that that heart is moved by the sacrifices and the deaths of his servants. Why the ungodly world is moved by them! When it sees that missionary mother, kneeling on a heathen strand and gazing with straining eyes upon the vanishing ship that takes her children from her forever, and then hears her cry with uplifted hands, "This I do for thee, Lord Jesus!" there is something in that more than martyr-like self-sacrifice that touches its heart also. The proud, hard,

cold world is made to feel, when it sees Christ evidently crucified before it, in the uncompromising and unsparing self-sacrifice of his followers. So, Christ lifted up in the self-devotion of Christians, shall draw all men unto him. But, if the church's love for souls touches the heart even of the ungodly world, how it must move the heart of God! He sees in it the reflection and reproduction of that love which led his Son to leave his bosom and to endure even his forsaking. He sees in it the entrance of his redeemed people upon his own divine work of healing and salvation. It is the one way by which the church can reveal the mind and heart of God, and so make known his glory. And so, the world shall not be brought back to God, until we who love him fill up that which is behind of the sufferings of Christ, for his body's sake, which is the church. Thus, suffering with him, we shall reign with him, and shall be partakers in his saving power. So, working greater spiritual wonders in the regeneration of men than even Christ wrought when he was here in the flesh, we shall hasten the coming of the day of God.

When the church shall give herself to the work of men's salvation, and, trusting only in God's power, shall hurl herself upon the stoutest and most bitter of God's foes, then God can have the glory, then God will begin to work as the world has never seen him work, then the Messenger of the covenant shall suddenly come to the defiled and ruined temple of humanity, then the darkness shall give place to light, and the glories of the latter day begin to dawn.

I remember some years ago pressing my way up a remote and desolate Swiss valley until I reached almost the boundary of everlasting snow. Gradually, the sky darkened, and a hurricane of wind and rain swept down from the glaciers. The roaring of the mountain-torrents and the crashing of the storm seemed almost to betoken the breaking-up of the foundations of the world. It was as if night had suddenly set in, and as if we, wrapped in clouds and darkness, were being seized and hurried away from a dissolving universe. Then, just as I was about to despair of

safety, the dense black veil of driving cloud and storm parted in an instant, and through the rift there shone down upon me the vision of a dazzling mountain-peak of snow, serene in sunshine, against a sky of cloudless blue; around, the furious, hellish rush of dark and blinding and contending elements; above, the majesty of a spotless purity, and the beauty of an ineffable calm. So, the power of God will be made known to the church and to the generation that seeks his glory through the dark path of self-sacrificing devotion to the fallen and the lost. May God give us all this spirit, whether we go beyond the sea or stay with the ninety and nine at home! So, shall the time come when the sign of the Son of Man shall indeed appear in the heavens when Christ shall come in power and great glory when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ!³⁷

I hesitated to include this sermon because it was so lengthy, but it touched my heart and illustrated things with words, that the Holy Spirit had put in my heart, but I had not yet been able to express in writing as eloquently as the author.

My heart was touched in a way that is described in this sermon by a young crippled child on the first mission trip I took to Uganda. I was walking with a local preacher to look at some land that he wanted to acquire. I saw the scantily clad 9 to a 10-year-old boy, who was clearly disabled. I reached in my pocket, pulled out some shillings, and reached to hand them to him, but to my amazement, the preacher grabbed my arm and said, “Don’t worry about him. He has always been like that. Let us go view the land!” I jerked my arm from him. I handed the boy the money, patted him on the head, and then went along with the preacher. I could not judge the preacher as

³⁷ A sermon August Hopkins Strong

he thought he was protecting me and he could not see the world he lived in as I could see it. I did feel the tug of the Holy Spirit in my heart that day and resolved in my heart that I would go to help those who were forgotten and left behind. To date I have been privileged to take God's Word and love to Uganda Africa 3 times, Cameroon Africa 2 times, Ethiopia Africa 2 times, Kenya Africa 1 time, Port Au Prince, Haiti, and 7 trips to Mexico.³⁸

Assessing Needs and Prioritizing Requests for Help

Once a ministry is established in missions with signs of success in providing for the needs of others, many people from many different countries hear of the good things that have been done for others through the work of that mission group and inquiries become a part of life. We are told in the book of Matthew, 7:7-8 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."⁴⁰ This is exactly what these people from 3rd world countries are doing. They are following the directions Jesus gave them, walking by faith, and not by sight, as they reach out to someone that they have divinely been directed to. It is such a blessing to be privileged and provisioned by the Lord to help so many who are unable to help themselves to the extent that they are finally able to help themselves out of problem areas of life. These problem areas in the lives of these children of God are not always the fault of an individual, a tribe, a city, a government, a ruler, or a culture, but many times it is a combination of some or all of these. Our duty, as servants to the children of God is not to involve ourselves in the affairs of governments or ruling entities, but first and foremost provide the people we encounter, with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prioritize medical emergencies that are a matter of life and death, secondly, to make sure the people we help, have a source of clean water for

³⁸ Pastor Michael Fiedler

themselves, third, make sure they have adequate shelter, and fourth to teach these people to be able to feed themselves. Many requests will flow through our emails, telephones, and pastors from all over the world, and we must be up to the task of assessing and prioritizing needs to be effective with the tools God has granted us to use. In the 7 years I have been organizing missions, God had sent many people from many walks to help share experience, testimony and listen to me when I had to decide if the call to a mission trip was in the best interest of all who would be involved in provisioning, the welfare of my church and the interests of the people we³⁹would be helping. The greatest help in all of the decision making has been prayer to God, asking him with a clean heart to let the Holy Spirit minister to me and to help me make the right decisions. This is how I am called to obtain and use” Discernment.”⁴⁰

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' (Galatians 4:6)”⁴¹ Because we have been adopted, because God has redeemed us from our former father or owner, He gave us a measure of the same Spirit, that vital, animating essence that He and the Son share. But when the Comforter has come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (John 15:26). The Holy Spirit links our minds to God's mind. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God: (Romans 8:16); But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the

³⁹ KJV Bible: Matthew 7:7-8

⁴⁰ Pastor Michael Fiedler

⁴¹ KJV Bible: Galatians 4:6

world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth, not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ. (I Corinthians 2:10-16)⁴² Discernment allows us to begin to see things as He sees them—to discern spiritually.⁴³

My prayer for the person reading this, is that God equips you as well as he has equipped many of us who have made the statement, “Send Me”, so that you too will know the complete surrender to the Holy Spirit that you will experience when you find yourself in the middle of such a great task that you could never complete if it was up to just you. Yet as you “Trust and Obey”, God leads you through decision making that you could never have arrived at on your own. He will never leave you or forsake you.^{44/45}

Preparing for International Travel

The decision of who we are going to help has now been made and now it is time to consider how we can best respond to their needs Through prayer and seeking the discernment given to us from the Holy Spirit we have now arrived at knowing who we will be helping, where they are located and begin putting together a list so that we have a basic map to follow in preparing in all areas that we are required to meet certain date limits and requirements for correspondence to

⁴² Ibid: 1 Corinthians2:10-16

⁴³ David C. Grabbe, Bible Tools.org

⁴⁴ Ibid: Deuteronomy 31:6

⁴⁵ Pastor Michael Fiedler

foreign countries. Call different missionary travel agencies for the best airfare. If 10 or more participants are expected, go with a group contract now for approximately \$100-150 deposit per person. Ask the travel professional about options and individual missionary ticket discounts if less than 10 passengers. Team members should all be responsible for their own possessions and luggage.

6 Months Before Departure Unless Returning an Established Destination

Make air reservations – whether purchasing in full with names now or just reserving a block of space with an estimated number of participants, this is a priority as everything hinges on your transportation to and from your destination country.

Notify the contacts at the destination of your arrival and departure plans, to coordinate meetings and scheduled activities. This is of the utmost importance, especially if someone is meeting you! They need to know how many people to expect to be able to arrange transportation for all people concerned.

APPLY FOR PASSPORTS:

After you submit your application, photos, and identification documents, passport issuance usually takes a minimum of one week with rushed service and can be very expensive. Be sure all existing passports are valid for at least 6 months after the return of planned travel. Many countries now require this so don't be caught off guard. Keep two photos of yourself and a photocopy of your passport information page separate from your passport in case it's lost or stolen. (See the U.S. State Department's site for passport application forms, instructions, and fee schedules.

CHECK VISA INFORMATION:

Check with the embassy of the country in which you live that is located in your destination country about visa requirements of your destination country. Get needed forms. State Department web sites are very helpful as most visas can be acquired online now or purchased upon arrival in your destination country.

SEEK LOW-COST ACCOMMODATIONS

Will the host provide lodging for you? If so, ask very open questions about the accommodations and bathroom facilities as different cultures have different ideas on what adequate housing consists of. You can check with Christian travel agencies in your country to possibly reserve budget lodging for your group through their many sources.

CHECK IMMUNIZATION SUGGESTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

Call or contact the Centers for Disease Control (800-232-4636) to find out which immunizations are necessary. Take care of these early, so you are not traveling in case of side effects.

Consult the nearest International Travel Clinic for medical advice and services. Receive needed immunizations. Allow time between vaccinations if multiple shots are needed and especially if you need them as proof for obtaining visas. Ask if updated immunizations for diphtheria/tetanus, polio, or measles/mumps/rubella are advised. Depending on where you are going, typhoid fever or gamma globulin (for Hepatitis A) vaccinations may also be recommended. Also, ask about anti-malarial medication. If necessary, have all immunizations listed on a card from the World Health Organization. Check for other useful travel advice and links to popular Travel Resources.

UP TO 3 MONTHS AHEAD:

Have team members check their current medical policies for overseas coverage. Many US policies do not offer international coverage. Make sure the policies provide evacuation services

to come home due to illness or injury. Suggest that team members buy supplementary travel accident and sickness insurance, plus evacuation services, if their policies don't cover these, your missionary travel agency may be able to suggest reliable carriers.

PLAN AND RESEARCH BAGGAGE REGULATIONS FOR THE AIRLINE YOU ARE FLYING.

Go to the airline website directly (usually under baggage/luggage link). Ask the airline or your mission travel agent. They can tell you the maximum free allowance per person and fee for excess bags. If purchasing as individual tickets, a few mission travel agencies still have exclusive contracts with some airlines for extra free luggage. Ask your travel professional for details. Remind your travelers of any items excluded from import into your destination country. Buy airline tickets ideally no later than 3 months prior to departure. Your missionary travel agency can tell you when your tickets must be issued to retain the lowest fare. (Unless your fare is an "instant purchase," you should have reserved your tickets prior to this, up six months ahead.) **UP TO 2 WEEKS AHEAD:**

ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION To AIRPORT.

Make sure each team member has in their possession:

Airline e-ticket confirmation

Passport with visas

Vaccinations and WHO Card (if needed)

Anti-malarial medication (if needed)

Supplemental travel insurance

CONFIRM WITH YOUR DESTINATION COUNTRY HOSTS OR FIELD OFFICE OF YOUR ARRIVAL.

Obtain the address and phone number of the U.S. Embassies or Consulates in your country or countries of travel. These are available from the U.S. Department of State

3 DAYS AHEAD:

CHECK WEBSITE OR CALL THE AIRLINE(S) TO CONFIRM YOUR FLIGHTS, TIMES, GATES, ETC.

Be sure to do this 2-3 days prior to your return flights also.

ON DEPARTURE DAY:

TEAM MEMBERS SHOULD REVIEW DOCUMENTATION

Passport with visas & immunization cards (if needed)

Airline e-ticket confirmations

Tag Your Luggage. Use similar or brightly colored tags to identify your group.

TEAM MEMBERS SHOULD HANDLE THEIR OWN CHECKED LUGGAGE TO REDUCE CONFUSION. CHECK-IN, BOARD, FLY & SERVE!⁴⁶

Funding and Expenditures

As with the rest of your life, constant contact with prayer to God in the name of Jesus has brought you this far in implementing the plan of a vision God has given you that will certainly be an answer to the prayer that the people you are going to help, have been praying to God long before they ever knew your name. God's children that you will be helping are wanting to learn more of Him, to learn more of the Gospel of Jesus, needing more provision of food and clothing,

⁴⁶ missiontravel.org/mission-trip-leaders-checklist

clean water, and ways to feed themselves and care for others. Now is the time when we will consider fundraising for what we have put in place.⁴⁷

Talking about money at church has become a taboo subject for most of us. We've seen it done so badly for so long, we've decided we're better off not mentioning at all. Here's the problem with that. If you don't mention money, people assume you don't need any. Remember, church members are targeted every day by countless non-profits and other ministries for their financial support. A lot of our members respond to these appeals. Yes, I know it shouldn't be this way, but it is. The younger the person is, the more likely they are to be "issue" driven. This will have a huge impact on traditional giving, but we'll have to talk about that later. In this article, I want to talk about the three parts of ANY successful appeal for funds.

YOU HAVE TO HAVE A VISION.

This can't be just any vision. It has to be a vision that makes people's mouths fall open when you talk about it. The vision has to be connected to a real-life change in real people in real situations. Vision isn't about just shooting at the moon. Vision is talking about why you have to go to the moon or die trying.

⁴⁷ Pastor Michael Fiedler

SECOND, THE VISION MUST HAVE A WORKABLE STRATEGY

Visions are a dime a dozen. Everyone's got a dream; everyone's going to write a book – but no one has a plan. Finding a workable plan is even rarer. You have to be able to tell anyone at any time what you're doing and the way you're doing it. The vision can be as big as you want, but your strategy has to be practical and realistic. You have to know each step of the process before you ever go public with your vision. If you don't have a workable strategy, you'll be dismissed as just another out of touch dreamer.

THIRD YOU NEED TO HAVE A PLACE FOR EVERY PERSON TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR PROCESS EITHER FINANCIALLY OR EXPERIENTIALLY

It really doesn't matter which one comes first. Involved people give more. Giving people are involved more. You can start at either place and reach the same destination. You should always be talking about the vision, the strategy, and where people can connect. these three components, you'll fail to engage people in the vision, and this failure of engagement will frustrate your fundraising. So, do you have the vision? you have a strategy to get you there?⁴⁸

Having raised funds for international missions since 2011, my wife and I have experienced the provision of God and have learned to come before Him, who has seen to our needs throughout our whole life, with expectation. Praying to Him always and asking for wisdom and help has been the mainstay of our ability to thrive in situations where the worldly would never expect a victory. It has been quite the opposite for us. God has made ways for us, wherein man's eyes, there was no way. He has sent money to help when there was no money. He has shown us that "Faith without works is dead." At times the mere explanation to concerned pastors about a

⁴⁸ Mike Glenn

planned mission trip and the need that existed being explained has garnered the support of many churches who did not have active missionaries but did wish to sow into a work of Christ's commandment of "The Great Commission."⁴⁹ Other times we have announced that we would be having a large "Rummage Sale" and the donations of items such as clothes, appliances, washers, dryers, and other assorted linens and kitchenware have brought enough to pay for more than half of the expenses of a planned trip. God has never left us destitute in any way, and we do not believe He will do that now. We have a Facebook account and post information about upcoming mission trips, and we also use Go Fund Me to raise money also for foreign missions. The following are some more ideas put forth by an experienced company called "Reach Mission Trips." It is my hope these will also be useful as you consider different ways to finance whatever type of work you have been called to help the Lord with.⁵⁰

Fundraising Ideas

Home/Camp Forms/Fundraising Ideas

Family Movie Night

Have a family movie night! You can show the movie in your own building or look into renting a gym, local theater, or even an outdoor screen if the weather is warm enough. Be sure to mention your purpose in renting, and you may receive a donation or price break from the rental company!

⁴⁹ KJV Bible: Matthew 28:18-20

⁵⁰ Pastor Michael Fiedler

Be sure to rent a movie that is good for the whole family, and it's usually cheaper to rent movies that are not in their opening weeks. You could even use a movie that is not a new release and tie it into nearby holidays (i.e., a romance for Valentine's Day, Christmas classic, etc.) It is even a good idea to show a movie that can be tied into your trip.

Set up a concession stand to sell goodies before and during the movie (make sure that food and drink are allowed in the rented space). Make sure you have a cleaning crew for after the movie. You can try to sell tickets for this event, or you can simply ask for donations from the attendees. It's a good idea to have your pastor or youth pastor give a brief presentation about the missions trip and explain why the funds are being raised.

Competition

Make an appeal to people's competitive nature! Hold any kind of contest with an entry fee and grand prize. Think about your town and how you could tie its uniqueness into a competition. A town called Frankfurt could have a hotdog eating contest, and a Baltimore group could have an eating contest with crabs.

Also, consider "treasure" hunts around your neighborhood. Have people compete as families to compete in a scavenger hunt. One variation of this is to have the teams take digital pictures of objects to prove that they were found. Use your imagination to think of different objects, and don't make them too obscure. Using historical landmarks around town is a good idea because the objects are permanent, fairly well-known, and promote education about the community!

Restaurant night

Many restaurants are willing to sponsor missions trip by contributing 10 to 20 percent of their profits from a certain night. This allows you to raise some funds by only advertising and helps the restaurant

advertise and bring in some business they may not have had otherwise. If a restaurant agrees to donate to your group, make sure that you are present and ready to answer anyone's questions about what your group is doing. You may even receive additional donations this way!

That's a wrap

Around Christmas time, many people like to have their presents wrapped at the store, so offer to do so for a small fee. Set up a table in a mall or large bookstore and recruit some volunteers with wrapping skills! Make sure that you have the permission of the businesses before you set up a table on their turf! Be ready with a variety of wrapping paper, tape, scissors, ribbons & bows, and tags. Don't forget to have information about your trip to the table so that people know what their fee is going to. They could become long-term supporters! Don't forget to give a special thank you to the managers that allow you to do this fundraiser!

Keep the Change

Spare change is a small thing that adds up quick! Many people are willing to let their loose change go, so ask local businesses if you can set a jar or can to collect customers' loose change. Be ready to explain the trip that your youth group is raising! Make sure that you follow up with the cans after you've placed them. It becomes a nuisance to store owners if the cans are not constantly collected and kept presentable. The appearance of your cans will reflect upon your church, so be sure they are not an eyesore. Have contact information on the can so that people can find out more about what the youth group is doing. A few cans of change can go a long way!

You can also ask the families of your congregation to set up jars or cans in their homes and collect their loose change for a certain period of time. This allows parents and children to get involved in helping the

youth group. Encourage the teens in your youth group to set up a jar for themselves! They may be surprised at how much they can donate.

Throw a party

The avenues that you could take with this are innumerable. Parties can range from New Year's celebrations to barbeques to fancy, romantic affairs. When planning a party, keep in mind the reason for the celebration and the time of year. Kick-off the summer with a carnival/cookout. Have carnival games and concessions for sale. Ask for volunteers to run the games and cook or donate the food. You can sell BBQ chicken, popcorn, funnel cakes, etc. A carnival can be as big or as small as you want it. Invite the whole community, or just invite your church. The bigger the carnival, the greater the opportunity for funds to be raised.

Consider a fancy, romantic evening for around Valentine's Day. Sell tickets and offer to babysit for couples with children, free of charge. Have the youth group kids wear nice clothes and be the waiting staff (and the babysitters). Is there someone in your congregation who could provide ambient guitar or piano music? Don't forget to decorate the room and tables. Is someone in your congregation willing to cook the food? Make sure he or she has all the help and supplies he or she needs!

It's a Match!

Many local businesses make room in their budget for donating to different organizations, and your youth group's missions trip may qualify! Once you've settled on a fundraiser, find out if a business in your neighborhood would be willing to match your earnings up to a certain amount. Don't forget to thank this business profusely. Make their generosity known among the fundraiser participants.

Car Wash

Having a car wash is one of the most well-known fundraising techniques, mostly because it works! A car wash is a great way to raise some funds with little more than soap, water, and some able hands. It's a good idea for you to begin advertising before the Saturday that you actually plan on holding the event.

Make your carwash stand out by adding a theme! Have a Hawaiian theme by wearing tropical shirts and playing island music. Don't be afraid to decorate and serve snacks and drinks that have a Hawaiian theme (Hawaiian Punch, anyone?) for a donation! Hand out leis to everyone who makes a donation!

Coffee House

Got talent in your youth group? Time to make it known! Host a coffee house in your church's gym or at a local venue where the youth can display their talents. They can play an instrument, sing a song, or just read a poem that they wrote. This coffeehouse could be themed for the time of year, like Christmas or Valentine's Day. If you don't have a very large youth group, maybe some talented church members or children would volunteer some of their skills.

This event can be as simple or complex as you like. Have people in your church volunteer to bake and bring goodies for the night. Of course, it wouldn't be a coffee house without coffee! Have a few different flavors of coffee and creamers available for purchase. Does someone own a cappuccino maker they could lend you? Does someone work at Starbucks and know a thing or two about coffee? You may be able to sign them up to help make individual drinks! Don't forget to take a moment to explain what you're raising funds for! Check out some coffee fundraising companies and see if you can combine that with your coffee house!

Team Up

Sometimes the easiest way to raise money is to team up with another organization doing fundraisers. Check with local organizations, like animal shelters, the YMCA, schools, or even the police or fire department. By joining forces, you can increase the volunteers willing to help out, which leads to a bigger event! You also greatly expand the skills and talents that can be applied to your event! All you need to do is agree to split the donations that come in. You'd be surprised how many organizations would be willing to team up!

Example: In Brookfield, IL, the police and fire departments played the high school softball team. Proceeds went to benefit the high school's softball program and to a shelter for victims of domestic violence. By teaming up, they did something that they could not have done on their own. They generated interest and were able to help two causes!

Church Punch Card

This is a great fundraiser because it doesn't require a lot of volunteers to run! Create a giant grid with dollar amounts ranging from \$1 to \$100 in each square (See below). Ask for church members to donate certain amounts and cross them off as they are donated. The idea is to get one donation for each dollar amount.

This idea will allow almost everyone to get involved, as there is probably an affordable amount for everyone! Kids can even help out with some of the smaller amounts. If each square is donated, then you will have raised over \$5,000.00!! Your youth group's biggest role in this one is to generate enthusiasm in your church body!

Work Auction

If you convinced a bunch of high schoolers to spend a week of their summer working hard, why not convince them to donate a Saturday to earn some money for the trip? Organize an auction where members of the church can bid on individuals, pairs, or small groups for different manual labor tasks. The tasks can be anything from raking to mowing to painting! If it's around a holiday, the students can even help put up or take down decorations. This is a good way to get the church involved and raise some money with very minimal cost to your youth group! Church members are able to donate to the trip while getting some labor for much less than they'd pay a professional. Consider offering specific services, such as yard work, cleaning, babysitting, tutoring, artwork, there's no limit!

This type of fundraiser usually seems to work best at smaller churches, where the church body is familiar. For safety at larger churches, you may want to create small groups to auction off and send an adult with them to do the work. To make this event successful, you need to have a good number of people ready to bid on workers. Try making this a combo event by serving a spaghetti dinner to draw people in!

Old fashioned Sale

A tried and true method for fundraising is selling something from a fundraising company. One method that worked for my youth group was selling from those cases of Hershey's Candy Bars. You bought the cases from Hershey and then sold each bar for a dollar. Since then, numerous companies have developed ways for you to sell their product and earn money for your group. I've been told of groups selling coffee, candy, pizzas, popcorn, cookies, candles, and the list goes on. Search the internet and find a fundraising company that sells something that appeals to your church body and your local town (personally, I'm going with candy. It's universal!)

This fundraiser requires an initial purchase for the products you will sell but is usually low maintenance and easy to do for extended periods of time.

Sell Gourmet Chocolate Covered Pretzel Rods

Sell gourmet chocolate covered pretzels to family, friends, classmates, and church members. Purchase a case of pretzels (240) for \$144 (.60/each) and sell them for up to \$480 (\$2/each). Your profit margin will be up to 70%. If you are interested in finding out more information or purchasing pretzels, please email sweetprofit.org@gmail.com or visit our website at www.kampforkids.org. Their mission is to ensure that all kids have an opportunity to attend a Christian Camp and that financial barriers and other barriers are removed to make it possible.

Host a Concert

A concert is a great way to raise some funds! The size of the concert mainly depends on how much you're willing and able to invest. Some churches have been able to bring in big-name bands and speakers to draw in a lot of people. To do this, the church would obviously have to have a lot of cash in its budget already!

A more practical way may be to recruit local bands or musicians from your area or congregation. Be ready to pay them, but some may be willing to donate their talent for your cause! Try to pick bands that will appeal to a greater number of people in your community, and not just your church (but remember that these bands will reflect on your church!). You can charge for tickets, and for bigger bands, you may be able to charge for parking too! A big part of making this event a success will be advertising. Make sure you get your name out there through newspapers, flyers, and maybe even a radio spot!

Yard Sale

Yard Sales are a great way to get the entire church involved! Pick a Saturday with a good forecast and start gathering together some stuff to sell! Churches will often have things donated that they are unable to use, so check with the church leaders to find out if there are things in the storage room that you can sell.

Tell all of the parishioners to start cleaning out their garages and bringing things to the church well in advance (just make sure you have somewhere to store everything!). Have your students organize things and put price tags on everything. Make sure that the prices are appropriate for each item – it doesn't do you any good if you don't sell the item! If any electronics or appliances are donated (TVs, microwaves, Gameboys, etc.), try to take time to be sure they work. It's much easier to sell a device if you can assure the customer that it's in working order!

On the day of the Yard Sale, you'll need a lot of manpower, so make sure that all of your students can make it, and then recruit some adults as well. Serious yard sellers start their search very early in the morning, so the earlier you can start, the better. If you live in a safer neighborhood, you may be able to set things up on Friday night. Some churches even have the sale inside the gymnasium!

Advertising will be key, especially if you choose to hold your sale indoors. Put up plenty of signs indicating when and where your Yard Sale will be held. It might not be a bad idea to put an ad in your local newspaper. To maximize the full potential of your Yard Sale, look to combine it with some other fundraisers, like a car wash or bake sale!

Shop & Drop

Submitted by an anonymous workcamper

Around Christmastime, things can get pretty hectic, and trying to shop with your children can be one of the more difficult tasks – especially if you’re shopping for them! A great way to raise some cash for your youth group is by offering a group babysitting service! Offer parents in the area an afternoon where they can drop off their kids and go out and get some things done! Gather your youth together and get them ready to do some babysitting.

Once you have the kids, you’ll need some things to keep them entertained. You can do this through games, snacks, movies, arts & crafts, and the possibilities are endless! Make your students be creative!

Any time that you are watching over children, you should be aware of liability issues. You may want to only offer this service for church members so that you can be familiar with the children coming. Should you choose to offer the service to the community, be sure that you have adequate contact information for each parent. Be sure to discuss the time of pick up and who will be picking the child up. Many preschools will use a ticketing/numbering system to be sure that each child goes back to the correct parent. If your church already has a nursery, ask the nursery workers to help organize the drop off/pickup. Why stop at Christmastime? You can offer this service on Valentine’s Day, Black Friday, or any other days.⁵¹

What to Expect When You Get There

Praise the Lord! Once again, faith, prayer, and trusting the Lord has taken you a long distance in a very short time. You have now arrived at your destination airport, and everything looks about the same as the airport that you left. First things first! You are now in a foreign country, and you cannot drink water now unless it is bottled. Your body is not equipped to handle the different microbes of the local water. This will help you avoid many complications such as upset stomach

⁵¹ Reach Mission Trips

and diarrhea. Never eat any raw meat or fish. You are in for many surprises. After you gather all your luggage it is time to go to where you will be staying to begin your mission.

The first thing you will notice after you leave the interior of the airport is that things do not smell the same as where you have come from. Traffic patterns are totally different from those that you might be used to in your home country. Traffic direction on the right and left sides of the road differs from country to country. In most 3rd world countries, the largest vehicle, with the loudest horn, generally dictates how traffic will flow. Your transportation from the airport to your mission specific destination will sometimes be very surprising to you. In Mexico, we have traveled on the back of a pickup with our luggage, and in Haiti, the mission team traveled in an enclosed cattle truck to different areas.

Sometimes on longer flight distances, you are eating when you can, your adrenaline is at an all-time high, you are taking catnaps, dozing when you can, and your normal sleep pattern is disrupted. I have had trips where there were up to 3 stops on the way to my destination and layovers lasting for as much as 6 hours. This can result in a trip lasting up to 32 hours and in my experience, it leads to a condition known as jet lag. Merriam Webster Dictionary defines jet lag as a condition that is characterized by various psychological and physiological effects (such as fatigue and irritability), occurs following long flight through several time zones, and probably results from disruption of circadian rhythms in the human body.⁵² You must give yourself a day to recover from your trip so that you will be rested, fully energized, and thinking straight as you begin your task of completing the important work that God has placed before you.

⁵² Merriam Webster Dictionary

In many countries, toilet paper is not a luxury, and the areas that you are directed to relieve yourself may vary from very nice restrooms that are hygienically clean, to a private area in the jungle without a hole in the ground. Many 3rd world countries have privacy stalls built over septic tanks, with a 4” inch x 8” inch hole in the floor, over which you will squat as there is no commode as most people are used to. Once again, there is no toilet paper on the wall, and in many areas, there are many mosquitos and gnats emanating from the hole in the floor, so you would do well to protect yourself with a reliable insect repellent.

Once again, water is not wasted in these rural areas, and people often do not wash their hands as they should. When you extend your hand as a gesture of friendship, the person you are speaking with may offer you his arm instead of his hand. They do this to protect you as they have not yet disinfected their hands. If you are staying in a hotel or a mission team dwelling in the destination country, many of these things will not be encountered. Local Christians there will be glad to enlighten you on local customs, things to watch for, and a basic understanding of the local culture.

You are now in a strange land, just as many other missionaries are and the thing to remember is that your greatest testimony to the people you are ministering to is the love that you show each other as you embrace this new experience that you have accepted as a servant of the highest God for His children. As a believer, just saying the name “JESUS” will put a smile on your face during very trying times. A smile is a universal sign of love that is understood in any nation on this planet. This day, you are making memories for yourself and many others. Let them all be blessed memories by continually praying for God’s guidance in the name of Jesus.

Presentation Tools and Gadgets

One of the most important tools you will need for your trip is an electrical adapter to fit the electrical plugs of your destination country. This will allow you to develop a blog of all activities and to keep track of experiences day to day, including storing pictures from your camera, on your I-Pad or Lap-Top. These are usually available at Wal-Mart stores in the US and on Amazon or E-bay.

In today's modern world, technology has made it possible to get out so much more information in a very short time as compared to 50 years ago. One of the greatest tools available to date that I have encountered is known as a Solar Kit. We obtained one of these units from Good News Productions International, which is located in Joplin, Missouri, USA⁵³, the location of their main headquarters. I was privileged to meet the Founder, Zidan Nutt, and his son, Tom Nutt.

This unit has been and is now in use, since November of 2016, and is still testifying to many people in southern Uganda, Tanzania, and Burundi. It comes with a solar collector that can be mounted on the backside of a backpack. The solar collector is connected to a storage battery that will power the PowerPoint projector along with the high output miniature speakers for up to 4 hours. The battery also has USB receptacles, which can be used for other accessories such as cell phones or GPS units. The unit comes with a miniature SD card and contains movies of the Story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as an everyday Christian life movie that shows how God's Word leads people and their families out of the bondage of sin. This has been the most effective multi-media device that we have used on the continent of Africa since 2011.⁵⁴

⁵³ Good News Productions International

⁵⁴ Pastor Michael Fiedler

A Good Platform among Muslims: Christian workers in Tanzania write,

Here is a testimony from a Christian brother in Tanzania. “Praise the Lord! We are grateful for the Solar Kit, which has been instrumental in proclaiming the Gospel in a Muslim- dominated school. The school has 431 pupils, and only six pupils are Christians. The headmaster allows us to show films to the pupils. The entire school has been turning out on Wednesday and Friday afternoons to watch the Old Testament movies. This has given us a good platform to share with these children without resistance. After the films, we give our conclusion and explain where those biblical principles are found in Scripture. We believe the Word of God is being sown in these young souls, and we expect to obtain a great harvest in the future. We also believe God will give us favor in other schools and open more doors to reach out to those who don’t know Christ.” many places where GNPI works, limited or no access to electricity significantly impairs the ability of nationals and missionaries to use media resources that could enhance their efforts. In order to meet that need, GNPI provides Solar Kits – lightweight, easily portable projectors powered by the sun. With the use of these tools, the Gospel can go to places never before thought possible.⁵⁵

Preparing A Presentation Upon Returning

A presentation of the mission will educate and answer any questions if it is done soon after the mission is completed. We can hear these words in our ears if we are willing to document our mission experience in words and pictures. “Congratulations on a successful mission.” This will be especially important to share with your church and all contributors that have sowed into

⁵⁵ Good News Productions

God's plan of salvation for the world. Nothing in this life will stir the hearts of men, women, and children, as will the words and pictures that will show them the fruits of their labors. They are the ones that prayed as they stayed, so they could pay. It takes the Word of God to give you the heart for missions. It takes you to give the time for training and the time to go. It takes every contribution from every person who contributed in some way. God is most certainly the great motivator and orchestrator without a doubt. Not only will your presentation be a catalyst for future missions, but it will also instill the integrity needed when people see what their investment in God's kingdom has sown.

Conclusion

To review some basics, let us review the question, "What does it take to be a missionary? This is one of the many questions we run into when thinking or talking about missions work and what it takes. Here are a couple of the key tools every missionary needs when it comes to preparing for an outreach!

Relationship with God

The most important tool for any missionary to have is an intimate relationship with God. To be in constant fellowship with the Holy Spirit leads to God sharing His heart with us. If we do not fully know and understand how great we are loved by the Lord, how can we love anybody else? Any kind of outreach or mission work that we could do is simply an overflow of God's love for us. It is only through our understanding of that love, which comes from having a deep and personal relationship with the Lord, that we will be able to understand God's heart for other

people. The stronger our relationship with God, the more we will want to share with others what He has done for each one of us.

Truth

What does it mean to overflow with the truth? It means to be so full of and so buried in the Word of God that whenever you open your mouth to speak, the truth of the Lord is what comes out! If we don't know what God's Word says, we can't live by it. We can't put it into action. In John 8:31-32, Jesus says to his disciples, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." If the truth is what ultimately sets us free, we MUST truly know the truth in order to lead people to the freedom that is found in the truth of Christ.

Willingness to Serve

Being a servant is what God has called us to do. He calls us to put others first and to serve them at all times. Having a servant's heart and putting the needs of others before your own isn't always easy, but when we serve in this way, we get a glimpse into how Jesus lived His life on earth. He gave the ultimate demonstration of what it means to be a servant by laying down His life for us. He chose to die on a cross so that we might be set free. That is the greatest example of servanthood we could ever have, for "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Prayer

Prayer is communication with God on behalf of others or yourself. It is to ask God for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven! Prayer is one of the most crucial tools to carry with us at all times because it connects us directly with the heart of God. It is the greatest weapon we have to wield against any attack of the Enemy. It allows us to connect with and fight for the people we have come to serve and to reach. It is our direct line to the Lord, and to knowing His plans for us. Not only is it necessary to be in a constant state of prayer ourselves, it is also very important to have other people praying on our behalf. This makes way for grace upon grace to cover us, giving us the power to walk out difficult situations, even when we don't feel like we can, or when being obedient to what the Lord is asking of us doesn't seem to make sense.

These are just four of the many tools that every missionary should take with them wherever they go. Every tool that we take with us onto the mission field should be all about our relationship with God overflowing into a lifestyle of being a light for Him everywhere we go.⁵⁶

Blessing to Missionaries Who Obey the “Great Commission”

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Youth with a Mission

⁵⁷ KJV Bible: Psalm 1:1-3

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