

LESSON 12

PART I: PLANNING FOR MISSIONS

Introduction

As we move to the "how" section of our study, let us review the road over which we have come. From the very beginning of His creation, God made man in His image and developed a plan for him. Even when man sinned and became separated from God, the Lord had a redemptive plan for drawing man back to Himself. Man from the beginning has had a desire to find his own way to God. He has erected towers and created religions in trying to build his road to God.

Beginning with Genesis 12, we find God selecting one man, Abram, to be the forefather of a nation through which to bless all nations. God made a pact or covenant with Israel. The Israelites were to be His people in a special way and were to give Him absolute loyalty. God, in turn, promised to be their God and to bless them in a special way. They were to be God's missionary nation destined to bless all mankind. Israel became selfish, lost her vision. God moved on to establish a new covenant with the individual believers, the children of God in Jesus Christ.

The Incarnation contains a profound missionary message. The Son's incarnation demonstrates that God cares enough to come down into our world and limit Himself to humanity in order to reveal the Father and to redeem man. We, as Christians, are likewise called to show the love of God and Jesus Christ.

The Cross lies at the very heart of missions. It is both our dynamic and our message. Something about the love story of the Cross breaks men's hearts when nothing else will reach them. As Christians, we are called upon to take up our cross. Taking up our cross means death to self and living for Christ. Christ loves a whole world, and He wants to love that world through us. The Cross is a great dynamic for missions.

The Gospel account did not end with the crucifixion Good Friday afternoon but moved on to the resurrection of Easter Sunday. We do not serve a martyr who still hangs on the cross or lies in the tomb, but we serve a living Christ, who conquered death and rose from the tomb. The Resurrection was God's authentication of the act of the Cross. It puts the exclamation point at the end of the sentence!

The Christian faith is a historical faith, but it is not bound to a record of events of long ago, for the Holy Spirit is alive and active in our world. From the New Testament and from experience we know that He is a Comforter, a

Read all of the Introduction. Then summarize briefly God's effort to reach man.

The Cross is both the d _____ and the m _____ of missions.

To take up our cross means dying to _____ and living for _____.

Christ wants to love the world through _____.

(dynamic, message, self, Christ, us)

Christ's death on the cross was not that of a martyr because He conquered _____ and rose from the _____.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

The role of the Holy Spirit in missions is as C _____, G _____, T _____, and Divine Q _____. (Compare with the text. See next page for rest of paragraph.)

Guide, a Transformer and a Divine Quartermaster. He makes the Gospel message live today in the heart of the believer and applies it to the heart of the unbeliever.

The Church is God's agent for missions. The people of God are to be His ambassadors in our world today. We have sinned against God by so separating the laity and the clergy that some have lost the vision of their responsibility as the people of God. The recapturing of the place of the Church as the people of God and the priesthood of every believer can revitalize many stagnant churches.

We find a biblical dynamic to missions in a study of the last things. The knowledge that Jesus Christ is coming back to earth personally to judge and to fix the final state of people is a stimulus to "work while it is day." The knowledge of the heaven that awaits the believer inspires us to share this message with lost friends. The knowledge of the awfulness of hell also impels us to tell friends of the way to God so that they do not have to go there.

Beyond the biblical base, we examined the meaning of strategy. Because of the importance of the task and the limitation of our resources, we must plan in order to give priority to the supremely important tasks and to be good stewards. Several different schools of thought or strategy exist today. We must give our central emphasis to winning men and women to Jesus Christ and to establishing them in New Testament churches.

Missions is a divine enterprise, but it is carried on in human affairs and is influenced by cultural, political, economic, and other factors. Some guidelines can help us in discerning responsive areas.

Now we turn to some phases of strategy that are applicable to your church or missions.

The Priority of the Spiritual

We wholeheartedly concur with Melvin Hodges' statement:

We can study methods of church growth and write books about indigenous church principles, all of which is well and good; but we will never have anything like New Testament churches and New Testament growth until we get something like New Testament men with New Testament experience.¹

Our central task is spiritual; our equipment is spiritual. As we plan, we must ever seek the Holy Spirit's direction. We must not, however, do what Wagner describes as using "the Holy Spirit as a smokescreen" behind which we hide and refuse to evaluate or to take a cold, hard look at our task and at how we can improve what we are doing.

We must commit ourselves to the central task of winning men and women to Christ, of incorporating them

The Holy Spirit makes the Gospel message live in the heart of the _____ and applies it to the heart of the _____.
(Compare your answers with the text.)

The Church is God's agent for _____.
Every believer is God's _____.
(missions, ambassador)

To know Christ is _____ again and heaven awaits the _____ and to know the awfulness of _____ should stimulate, inspire, and impel us to share the message of Christ with everyone.
(coming, believer, hell)

Our central task is _____.
Our equipment is _____.
And we must seek _____ direction.
(spiritual, spiritual, spiritual)

¹ Donald McGavran, ed., *Church Growth and Christian Mission* (New York: Harper and Row, 1965), p. 32.

into the life of the church, and of teaching them to be spiritual reproducers. We must stand beside them as they learn to walk and grow in the Spirit.

The Call to the Task

One of the key tasks the Christian believer faces today is how to overcome the spirit of defeatism that prevails in so many Christian circles. We hear a great deal about the "post-Christian era," about closing doors, and about retrenchment. The truth of the matter is that there never was any "Christian era," if by that we mean that a majority of the world's population was personally committed to Jesus Christ. New Testament Christians were a minority in the past and still are today, but the Christian Church is advancing on many fronts of the world where people recapture New Testament faith and boldness. At the end of the colonial era in Africa, many prophets of doom predicted that all missions would cease in that great continent. With few exceptions, most of the African nations have turned to Christians to help them in building a self-respecting nation and a better tomorrow. Christians in lands south of the Sahara have grown in numbers in an unprecedented way. Today, for the first time in many centuries, they are outstripping the Moslem growth.

While certainly a number of doors have closed to the Gospel, there are probably now more open doors to missions than there have ever been in the history of Christianity. It is true, we can no longer assume that all of the missionaries will come from a few lands, but other nations that in times past received missionaries will rejoice that they too can become lighthouse nations, sending out their own official and unofficial missionaries to other nations.

The Importance of Planning

Because God has revealed His plans and since we have limited resources for doing a great task, we as Christians must plan. To fail to plan and to set goals and directions for action is comparable to playing basketball without any goals. There is a great deal of action, but you can never measure the effectiveness of that action.

Preparing for a trip, building a dam, or establishing new missions and churches are all activities that require planning. *Planning is a way of marshalling resources—human, financial, and physical—to accomplish an agreed upon objective or goal.* Planning is "the process of predetermining a course of action."

The nature of God and His universe calls for planning. Christians read in 1 Corinthians 14:33 that "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace . . ." and they realize that Christians should live according to plans.

There is no place for defeatism in missions:

New Testament Christians were the

m_____;

Christians today are still the

m_____.

However the Christian Church is advancing

where people have recaptured

New Testament f_____ and

b_____.

(minority, minority, faith, boldness)

Define planning. _____

(Compare your answer with the text.)

The Lord Jesus gave two illustrations concerning the importance of planning or thinking ahead. He mentioned one in Luke 14:31-32, stating that a king at war with 10,000 troops who meets one with 20,000 troops had better have either a strategic battle plan or see if it would not be wiser to sue for peace.

He drew a second illustration from construction by pointing out that a man should calculate the cost before building a tower. Whenever a builder plunges ahead and lays the foundation and discovers he does not have the required funds to finish it, he becomes the laughing stock of his neighbours (Luke 14:28-30).

Throughout the missionary journeys of the Book of Acts, beginning in chapter 13, we find Paul following a plan. He moved into new areas where the Gospel had not been preached. He changed his direction only when the Lord indicated closed and open doors.

Upon reaching a city, Paul sought out worshippers of the one God who had promised to send His Messiah. At times the great apostle found these people in the Jewish synagogue. They were of two classes: those who were Jews by birth and those who were Gentiles by birth but had abandoned their idols to serve the one God. In cities where the Jewish community was too small to have the ten heads of families required for a synagogue, Paul went by the riverside to seek the worshippers of God. It was in one of these open-air services that he found Lydia in Philippi (see Acts 16). After presenting the wonderful good news of a Messiah already come, Paul would find other sympathetic hearers among the Gentiles. If no other place was open for preaching and teaching, he went to the forum, as in the case of Mars Hill, or to the market. In each of these actions we find a plan and a pattern.

The Bible relates numerous occasions in which God used and blessed united efforts made possible by planning, good administration, and organization. Israel brought down the walls of Jericho after seven days of united marching (Josh. 6:20). Gideon followed God's plan in the organization of his 300 men (Judg. 7). Nehemiah motivated the people and led them in building the wall (Neh. 4:6).

The basic steps in planning are similar for any task. Here we are thinking in terms of missions. The steps are:

1. Pray for God's direction, leadership, and His mind.
2. Agree upon the purpose of winning lost people to Christ.
3. Establish objectives. Remember that an objective is a "specified end related to the purpose established for an indefinite length of time which may be translated into goals and actions."
4. Establish plans and actions for reaching these goals.

List two parables in which Jesus taught the importance of planning.

(Compare your answers with the first two paragraphs of the text.)

Paul went to areas where the Gospel had not been p_____.

He changed directions only when the Lord o_____ or c_____ doors.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

When Paul entered a new city, his plan was--

1. To seek out worshippers of the one God, usually in the _____ but sometimes by a river or some other meeting place;
2. To seek out interested _____ hearers.

(1. synagogue, 2. Gentile)

AS YOU READ THE BASIC STEPS IN PLANNING, LIST THEM.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

5. Develop a programme for accomplishing the goals.
6. Develop the organization necessary for the task.
7. Develop a budget of needs in personnel, funds, and equipment necessary to bring about the desired results.
8. Evaluate progress toward goals and make necessary changes.

CONTINUE LISTING STEPS IN PLANNING.

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Let us look at how a mission's outreach leader, a deacon, or a pastor might use this planning process.

Take, for example, a church that has ceased to grow because it is reaching only a portion of the children of its members and is no longer winning the lost outsiders in the community. A concerned group of Christians believe that there are opportunities to grow and begin earnestly to ask God's help and direction in this matter. They all agree on the basic purposes of their church: to win the lost to Christ, to incorporate them into the fellowship, to help them to grow in the Spirit, and to involve them in the witness and ministry of the church.

The group should establish objectives which will enable them to seek new forms of ministry to share the Gospel in their neighbourhood and to train Christians in witnessing.

But they should go beyond these general objectives to establish specific goals. Here is a sample goal —

Goal 1: To make a house-to-house survey of needs within a four block radius of our church building by January 31, 1978.

This is a good goal. It is practical. It is feasible. It is measurable, and it will help us to reach our objective. It needs something more to become a reality. The steps toward a goal are called "actions." It is important to assign an action, an actor, and a date for completing the actions. Here is the way an action plan to reach our goal should develop.

A good goal is *p* _____,
f _____,
m _____, and
 it helps in reaching the *o* _____.

(practical, feasible, measurable, objective)

<i>ACTION</i>	<i>ACTOR</i>	<i>DATE</i>
1. Agree upon a plan for finding needs of our neighbourhood in the yearly planning meeting.	The church	Oct. 31
2. Name chairman of the survey committee.	The church	Oct. 31
3. Develop questionnaire to be used in survey.	Chairman and pastor	Nov. 15
4. Meet three successive Saturdays to receive training and to carry out survey.	Sunday school teachers	Nov. 6, 13, 20
5. Tabulate results and prepare report.	Chairman	Nov. 30
6. Present report to church.	Chairman	Dec. 5
7. Develop appropriate ministries for meeting these needs.	Chairman and pastor	Dec. 12

Other goals and actions will emerge. The actions will be small, intermediate steps toward goals. The church should then develop its witness, seek the training, funds,

and the personnel needed to accomplish the task which God has laid on their hearts. Church members become excited when they know they are participating in something meaningful. Budgets and other resources will be forthcoming as we move toward a ministry that God has laid on our hearts.

The Place of Research

Many types of research are useful to the Christian in missions. Let us look at two types that are especially useful to the local church, although their use extends far beyond the local church. The first instrument has two parts and is designed for measuring and analyzing the growth of a church. This study will help to analyze what is happening, give the church a chance to think over the whys and whats of it. Chart 1 on the following page shows how to make a simple line graph that will act as a thermometer to show the growth or non-growth of membership and to see the growth pattern over the last ten years. It will also show the enrolment in the Sunday school or the "All Age Bible school" as it is sometimes called. There is often a relationship between the number of people who are enrolled in a systematic study of the Word of God and the future growth of a church.

The chart also shows the baptisms each year so that the church can see what it is doing in this important area of its responsibility.

Chart 2 gives a more detailed analysis of the source of growth or loss. Is the church baptizing only the children of its own believers? If so, it will eventually cease to grow. It must reach out into the world of the unchurched. A church in a city may be growing mainly from new members that are transferring to the church from the towns or older communities. Unless a church is experiencing a fair amount of conversions from the world, it will eventually cease to grow. These two charts fitted with the statistics from your own church can help you to analyze where you are. Once that is known, you should lay the matter before God and ask for His directions on the source of actions to take.

A second type of research, hinted at earlier, is research on the nature and needs of the neighbourhood where your church is located. A church may carry out this plan singly or in conjunction with other churches of its neighbourhood or city. After prayer for God's guidance, turn to a map, locate on the map all the churches in the neighbourhood, and note the geographical sectors where there are no churches. This research will reveal neighbourhoods that are undergoing social change. Prayerfully, church leaders should seek information from the city planning authority to know in which direction the city will grow in the future. If new industries are to be

One type of research which is helpful to a church is to m _____ and
a _____ the growth
of the church.

(measure, analyze)

Another type of research which is helpful in planning for growth is to study the n _____
and n _____ of the neighbourhood where the
church is located.

(nature, needs)

CHART 1
GRAPH OF CHURCH GROWTH
INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
AND BAPTISMS.

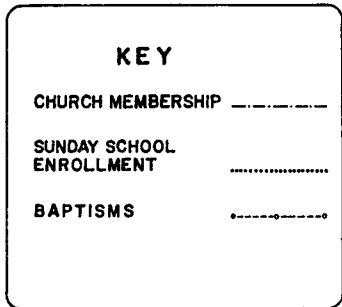
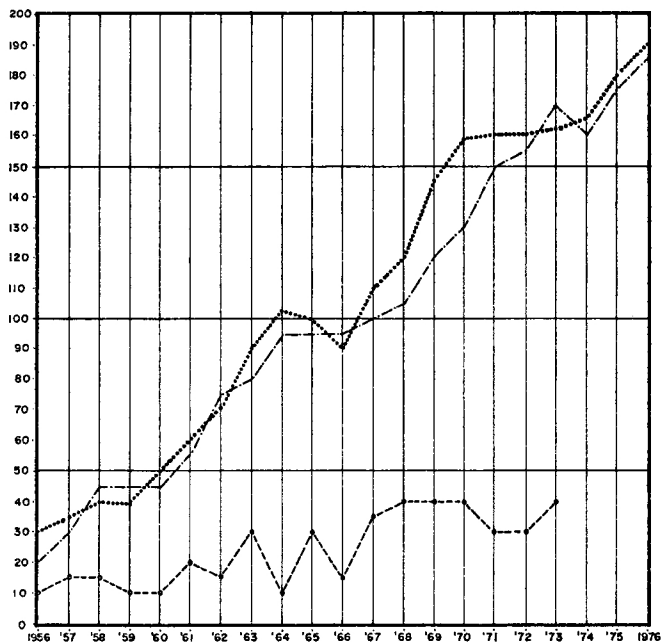
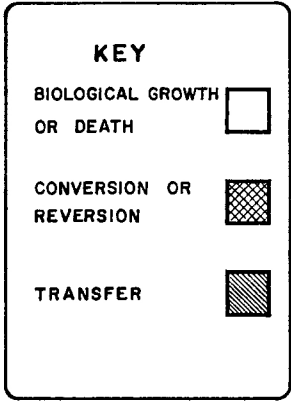
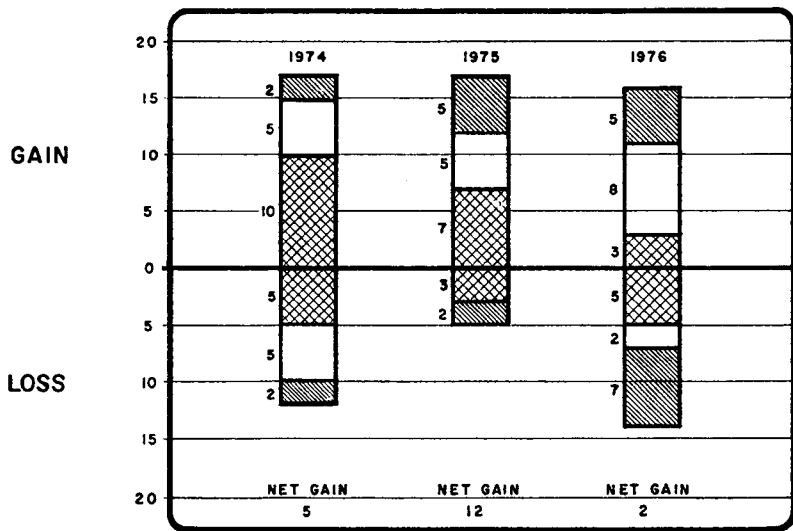


CHART 2
ANALYSIS OF TYPES OF
CHURCH GROWTH DURING
THREE YEARS



started the employees will seek nearby housing and thus will cause new residential areas to develop. These new neighbourhoods have proved to be especially responsive to the Gospel. Finally, the church will confer with other Christian groups and find out what methods God is using to harvest in our days.

Roger Greenway, who has had the cities on his heart, summarized steps in securing this type of information:

1. Where are other evangelical churches located and working?
2. Where are the receptive classes located?
3. Where is the city expected to grow? Where are the new neighbourhoods?
4. What methods is God using to bring people into the Kingdom in our nation and our city?

Another type of information that is important to consider in locating those whom God has prepared for the Gospel is social and ethnic backgrounds. Is there, for instance, in an English-speaking nation a minority colony of Spanish- or French-speaking people? Is there a special cultural background group? By working with friends and families of the same cultural group, the church will be more effective than merely by planning its work on the basis of geographical factors only.

One missionary in Guatemala had a vision from the Lord that illustrates this principle. He noted that in Spanish-speaking Guatemala many from distinct Indian tribes frequently move to Guatemala City. Many others cluster around the great market and bus terminal, at least temporarily. He enlisted some friends who spoke the important Quiché dialect, and they went to a plaza where the buses park. There they began to sing in the Quiché dialect. Soon people, like those on the day of Pentecost who heard the words in their own tongue, gathered to hear what was being said. The point is that the church should be alert to these groupings and plan special ways of reaching them for Christ.

Ronald Boswell, a missionary in the thriving city of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, says that a church in developing its witness and ministry should include two phases: that of investigation, and that of planning. The first phase would naturally eventuate in action. He outlines the investigation and planning stages a church could follow in developing its outreach programme.

1. The preparation or investigation phase
 - a. Where do the people live?
 - b. Where are they from?
 - c. What are their dreams?
 - d. What is the spiritual environment of the neighbourhood?

According to Greenway, the following questions should be asked in planning for church growth:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Information concerning s _____ and e _____ backgrounds should be compiled in order to locate those in need of the Gospel.

(social, ethnic)

2. The planning phase: seeking a solution to problems and needs found in the investigation
 - a. Plan a strategy based on data from the studies.
 - b. Develop a plan with goals.
 - c. Do an area study with a group of churches on where to plant a new mission.
 - d. Plan to use available resources to reach goals.
 - e. Set long-range and intermediate goals.
 - f. Set action plans to reach goals.

Plans of Action

Peter Wagner lists six steps for multiplying urban churches:²

1. Discover the areas of fertile soil. Newer working class neighbourhoods have proved responsive.
2. Set realistic goals.
3. Prepare to sacrifice: people, time, money, identification, and prayer.
4. Apply church growth principles.
 - Prayer as the base
 - Culture as providing an insight and a contact
 - Family units as natural bridges
 - Homogeneous units
5. Build a good follow-up programme.
 - After open air meetings, have a system of follow-up that will lead to membership.
6. Be mobile and flexible.

Summary

As a base to planning, we reviewed the biblical foundation of missions as described in Unit I of the text. All Christian planning must give priority to the spiritual in which biblical principles will be considered and the Spirit's leadership will be sought through prayer.

Planning is in harmony with the purposes of God because God has ordained an orderly universe. Jesus taught specific instances of planning through His parables. Paul followed a plan and pattern in his missionary journeys. In his planning he remained flexible and open to the Holy Spirit's leadership.

A local church can employ good planning procedures in solving particular problems and in initiating new ministries. Action plans provide intermediate steps for reaching goals.

Research has an important place in planning. Through research, we can learn something of the growth pattern of our church. Research can also help in determining the place to establish new congregations.

² Peter Wagner, *Frontiers in Missionary Strategy* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1971), pp. 189-196.

List briefly and in your own words Wagner's six steps for multiplying urban churches.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

List three whose examples we should follow in planning.

(God, Jesus, Paul)

PART 2: CONDUCTING MISSIONS: THE CALL TO ACTION

Introduction

In a broad sweep, we have seen the biblical base for missions. We have seen some elements for developing strategy, and now we move to missions as it affects you, the student, your church, and your world; missions is world-wide in its scope. During the Middle Ages, and even in relatively modern times, anti-missionary forces existed in Christendom. Even recent spiraling inflationary costs have induced some persons within churches to question the value of missions beyond their own locality. But to be true to the Christian faith, one must be missionary, and his vision must embrace the entire earth. God has repeatedly blessed those churches and denominations which have steadfastly refused to fall into the trap of looking after their own needs only and have tried to discharge their missionary calling to the world as their resources permitted.

As a church member and as an individual Christian, you have a responsibility to the world, your nation, and your local community. Looking at the outer rim of the concentric circles radiating from Acts 1:8, you and your church have a Christian responsibility to the world. You begin to fulfil your responsibility in this realm as you heed the Lord's injunction: "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:38). The Christian also has the responsibility to be informed concerning the movement of Christianity on a world-wide scale in order to pray intelligently for the advance of the cause of Christ. Many denominations have world-wide organizations through which one can contribute financially to the spread of the Gospel as well as to disaster relief. A Christian often carries on correspondence with a family member in another part of the globe and can use correspondence to witness for Christ. During travels, foreign assignments, and business trips, each Christian should look for the opportunity to be a witness for Christ. In the providence of God, the student may have the opportunity to prepare himself for missionary service in another nation, on another island, or in some distant place. If that opportunity comes and is accompanied by the call of God, like Isaiah of old he should respond with, "Here am I, send me" (Isa. 6:8b).

Moving closer to the home base, the church has a responsibility to its own nation, state, province or county. In the Commission that Jesus gave in Acts 1:8, this area would correspond to "Judaea and Samaria." Here the churches of a denomination can work together to project new congregations where none exists, and, perhaps, to send a home missionary to these areas to aid in getting the work started. Church leaders should take into account the

Spiraling *i* _____ costs and the responsibility of looking after their own *n* _____ have made many churches question the value of missions beyond their locality.

However, to receive God's blessings and to be true to the Christian faith, one must be *m* _____, and his *v* _____ must embrace the entire *e* _____.

(inflationary, needs, missionary, vision, earth)

Christians can participate in missions by--

P _____,

Being *i* _____,

Using correspondence to *w* _____,

Personally *w* _____, and

Being a *m* _____.

(Praying, informed, witnessing, witnessing, missionary)

"Judaea and Samaria" in Acts 1:8 are the Christian's *n* _____, *s* _____, province of *c* _____.

(nation, state, county)

missionary principles mentioned earlier. The plans used in establishing churches should permit them to develop their own patterns to conform to their culture and economic and personnel resources. Some Christian groups have developed an effective plan in which a Christian family is encouraged and assisted in moving into a community where there is no Christian work so that a congregation might be started. The Christian family could open its home to Bible study and worship while carrying on the ordinary business of family living.

All missions begin in our Jerusalem—the place where we live. Indeed, a woman missionary to Indonesia several years ago spoke a great truth when she said, “I went to the ends of the earth, but when I reached the ends of the earth I discovered that the ends of the earth became my Jerusalem.” Our first step in participation in world missions is to carry out the missionary calling in our own community. This ministry, of course, is very close to what we usually call evangelism. What is missions but evangelism projected to the farthest corners of the earth?

Training for Outreach

In recent years, New Testament scholars have given much emphasis to the pastor’s role as equipper. They have pointed out frequently the similarity of his role to that of a coach. Ephesians 4:11-12 has received special emphasis. Most recent versions of the Bible emphasize the pastor-teacher’s role as equipper. Williams is an example: “And He has given some men to be . . . pastors and teachers, for the immediate equipment of God’s people for the work of service, for the ultimate building up of the body of Christ. . . .”

The key thing a pastor or any other Christian leader can teach his people is dependence on God. He will do this first of all by his own life. A famous poem stated, “What you are speaks so loudly I cannot hear what you say.” It was after hearing Jesus pray that the disciples said, “Teach us to pray.” In witnessing, the members will do what the pastor *does* much more often than what he *says*. The local church should become a seminary in miniature where members learn great Bible doctrines, are trained in witnessing, and receive information about missions. They will become concerned about the lost of the world when they are more deeply concerned about their neighbour next door.

Witness Involvement Now

The Witness Involvement Now programme, known under an abbreviated title as WIN, is designed for training laymen for witnessing within the context of the local church. With a full range of materials, it has certain objectives for the Christians:

The first step in participating in world missions is to carry out the missionary calling in one's own _____; this is _____.

(community, evangelism)

One of the pastor's primary roles is as trainer, or _____, of God's people.

(equipper)

List some things the pastor should teach his flock.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

1. To deepen the spiritual life, insure a clear understanding of the believer's own new life in Christ, and lead him to commit himself to the Spirit's control in his life.
2. To learn to share his testimony of what Christ has done in his own life in clear, concise terms.
3. To develop skill in presenting a booklet, written in non-technical terms, that uses Scripture to lead a person to become a child of God.
4. To learn by practice how to lead a person to trust Christ.
5. To grow in skills of helping a new believer grow in the Christian life.

To reach these goals, the WIN programme has developed specific materials that are biblical, simple, adaptable, inspiring, and above all, Christ-centred.

One of the values of the WIN training in comparison with some other excellent training programmes is that it is conducted within the context of the local church. Its purpose is to develop evangelism as a permanent activity in the life of the church.

If these materials cannot be secured locally in your country, they are available through the Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tennessee 37234.

The WIN materials have been adapted into Spanish and have been used of the Lord to produce some exciting results. Here are a few examples: In Cali, Colombia, in July 1972, a young man participating in a class called the teacher aside to say, "Here is a young man who is interested in accepting Christ. Will you help him." As the teacher talked to him, he realized that the student had already won him to the Lord, and he just needed to know the first steps of growth in the Christian life. In the same school a man of humble dress sat next to a nattily dressed man of about twenty-five. As the two practised the sharing of the pamphlet, "How to Have an Abundant and Meaningful Life," the young man gave his heart to Jesus. Later, the delighted older man admitted, "Why, I thought he was a fellow Christian, or even a preacher, or I might never have had the courage to witness to him."

In September 1972, three months before an earthquake, Baptists from Central America held a WIN school in the First Baptist Church of Managua. During the Thursday night visitation, members of the church joined visiting friends in witnessing. When they returned an hour and a half later, they had not only won twenty people to Christ but were bubbling over with happiness. Similar testimonies have come from throughout Central and South America as well as from North America.

List the five objectives of WIN.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The Master Plan

Robert Coleman has written a small book called *The Master Plan*. Its basic thesis is that as the time approached for Jesus to leave His earthly ministry to return to the Father, He spent more and more time with the disciples, teaching them to reach the multitudes. He lists the training methods of Jesus under the following chapter titles:

1. Selection
2. Association
3. Consecration
4. Communication
5. Demonstration
6. Delegation
7. Supervision
8. Reproduction

Jesus drew them to His heart, warmed them there, and sent them out to win a world. His thesis reminds us that Billy Graham has said that if he were pastor of a church, he would draw aside a few individuals and teach them to be winners of men.

Using Innovative Methods

Edward Murphy gives some suggestions for planting congregations in an urban context.

Four basic methods are bringing good results: evangelistic crusades, visitation evangelism, the extension program of existing churches, and planting by the students of Bible institutes and seminaries.³

Other studies corroborate these insights. In interviews with 1200 pastors, missionaries, and laymen interested in evangelism, a survey committee found that the most effective way of evangelism today is personal visitation. The second largest number of people brought to Christ and into membership in the churches is through evangelistic campaigns. In one Central American country, eighty per cent of the churches were brought into being through Bible studies and preaching services begun in the homes of believers.

Roger Greenway, in his book *An Urban Strategy for Latin America*, details the experience of one Christian group in opening new preaching centres, Bible studies, and missions with the help of seminary students.

The house church

In writing to Philemon, Paul sends greetings to him, to other friends, and "to the church that meets at your house . . ." (Philem. v. 2). During the first three centuries of the life of Christianity, there were few, if any, buildings

List some of Jesus' methods of training His disciples.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Some methods which have brought good results in urban church planting are _____ crusades, visitation _____, _____ programmes of existing _____, and planting by students of Bible _____ and _____.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

In the words of Philemon, verse 2, a house church is "the _____ that meets at your _____."

(church, house)

³ Donald McGavran, ed., *Crucial Issues in Missions Tomorrow*, p. 258.

that belonged to the churches themselves. It was during this same period that Christianity experienced a notable expansion.

The spiraling cost of property and other considerations are again making attractive the house church. Such a church often begins as a Bible study group and grows until it becomes a church. Although a goodly number of these churches eventually come to own their own buildings, some never do. More people are often converted in these smaller intimate fellowships than in a larger, more formal church with an elaborate building. Many times people prejudiced against the institutional church can be won in the loving, small fellowship of a house church. Some of these will grow into larger units; others will remain as they are. They offer a creative opportunity for the growth of Christian units even where property is not available.

Street preaching

Open air preaching in the parks and plazas of Chile has been one of the principal means of expansion of the Methodist Pentecostal and other Pentecostal groups. Christians of many denominations practise street preaching in Brazil. In countries where these activities are not prohibited by law, such preaching develops a boldness in Christians that serves them well in missionary expansion.

We might say the same thing about missions that Keith Parks said about God's love, since missions is God's love plan.

God's love is humanity-wide, heaven-high, hell-deep, and eternity-long. When we are controlled by love, our task will have those same dimensions. If ever our involvement and commitments are limited by geography, nation, race, or any other man-made distinction, God's love has been diluted, perverted, and corrupted.

From God's original purpose from eternity, we have moved to a practical application that you, the student, can make in your own life and community. By being faithful to the missionary task, the Christian can look for the commendation from the returning Saviour, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. . . ."

The house church is effective in urban evangelism because--

1. *The meeting place is not _____.*
2. *Many are reached by the less _____, more _____ gatherings.*
3. *Such fellowships often overcome the prejudice of some against the _____ church.*

(1. expensive; 2. formal, intimate; 3. institutional)

Street preaching often reaches the masses, and it develops _____ in Christians.

(boldness)

Home Study Exercise

Basic activity (Levels 1, 2, and 3)

After reading the study guide text, answer the following questions based on Part I.

1. Give a brief summary of God's effort to reach man. _____

2. What is the relation of the Cross to missions? _____

3. Why do we say that Jesus' death on the cross was not that of a martyr? _____

4. Summarize the role of the Holy Spirit in missions. _____

5. What is the role of the Church in missions? _____

6. Why is the spirit of defeatism a deterrent to the advance of missions? _____

7. Define planning. _____

8. What two parables did Jesus give that taught the importance of planning? _____

9. What plan did Paul seem to follow on his missionary journeys? _____

10. In the briefest form possible list eight steps in planning. _____

11. What are the characteristics of a good goal? _____

12. Using Chart 1 as a guide, find out the growth or non-growth of your church for the last five or ten years and make a graph. _____

13. What are two types of research that can help a church in planning for growth? _____

Answer the following questions based on Part II.

1. What are some current problems that cause some to question the value of missions? _____

2. What is the Christian answer to these critics? _____

3. What are modern counterparts to Judaea and Samaria of Acts 1:8? _____

4. What are some of the ways in which every Christian can participate in missions? _____

5. What special role does a pastor have in training? _____

6. What are the objectives of Witness Involvement Now? _____

7. What were the guidelines Jesus used in preparing His disciples to reach a lost world? _____

8. What are four methods that have brought good results in urban church planting? _____

9. Define the house church and its effectiveness in urban evangelism. _____

10. What are some of the values of street preaching? _____

11. What do you propose to do personally in extending Christ's Kingdom? _____

Supplementary activity (Level 2)

Read pages 161-178 in *Frontiers in Missionary Strategy* and answer the following questions.

1. What are the three signs of a mature church?
2. What are the dangers of excessive attention to church development?
3. What sort of missionary does Wagner say will continue to have a role?
4. What is the central question on the relation of churches and missions?

Read pages 122-138 in *Frontiers in Missionary Strategy* and answer the following questions.

1. What were some "green sprouts" that spoke of a new day for the Church in the seventies?
2. What is "Evangelism in Depth"?
3. List three divergent approaches to evangelism.
4. What is saturation evangelism?

Advanced activity (Level 3)

Read pages 161-178 in *Frontiers in Missionary Strategy* and answer the following questions.

1. What is meant by the "emerging church"?
2. List the three signs of a mature church.
3. How can church development become the enemy of church outreach?
4. Following example two in your study guide text, make a chart analyzing the growth and loss in your church for the last four to five years.
5. What kind of missionaries will be needed now and in the future?
6. Trace the steps from mission to church to mission.

Read pages 122-160 in *Frontier in Missionary Strategy* and answer the following questions.

1. What were the discouraging and encouraging aspects of evangelism in the 1960's?
2. Describe and evaluate "Evangelism in Depth."
3. Define and discuss the presence, proclamation, and persuasion theories of evangelism.
4. Discuss the need for perennial evangelism and the planting of churches.

Seminar Discussion

1. Look at graphs brought by students, seek to analyze periods of growth or loss, and seek to find the causes.
2. Locate churches of students on a map, other Christian churches, and seek to find areas where new missions should be established.
3. Devise a plan for starting a Bible study or establishing a preaching point in an unchurched area.
4. Study Acts 1:8 and compare the geographical regions to those of your own political entity.
5. Examine samples of WIN materials and consider how this programme could be used to start new preaching points.
6. Have a prayer time for the advancement of the Gospel. This study should be more than an academic exercise. It should result in the starting of new work.

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