

CHECKLIST FOR BUILDING MISSIONS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- An Active Missions Team**
- An Annual Missions Convention with a Faith Promise Challenge**
- A Well-Planned Monthly Missions Sunday**
- Regular and Frequent Prayer for Missions and Missionaries**
- Frequent Missionary Speakers**

A digest of the Blueprint Series, produced by Assemblies of God World Missions, to be used as a text in missions workshops, assisting church leaders in building missions within their local congregations.

By Paul Brannan

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ASSEMBLIES of GOD WORLD MISSIONS

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CONTENTS

<i>Step 1</i> – Building Missions Leadership in the Local Church	4
<i>Step 2</i> – Building Missions Support with an Annual Missions Convention	8
<i>Step 3</i> – Building Missions Month by Month.....	13
<i>Step 4</i> – Building Missions Effectiveness Through Prayer.....	18
<i>Step 5</i> – Building Missions Partnership Through the Missionary Visit.....	21

INTRODUCTION

Reaching the world with the Gospel is not an impossibility. If it were, Jesus would never have given us the Great Commission. But it does require commitment to the task. Leading a congregation in assuming their responsibility to support missions is not really that difficult. It does, however, require consistency.

Through the years I have observed that in every church that excels in missions there are five elements that seem to be common to all. There are many things that are helpful in building missions but they may not be within the reach of every church so they cannot be considered essential.

These five elements are not unique to large churches and they are not out of reach for small churches. In other words, with these five steps, any size church can build a successful missions outreach!

With this in mind, I have prepared the Blueprint Series, consisting of five manuals which address the five essential elements for building missions. These volumes are prepared to assist the pastor and missions team with step by step information in each of these critical areas.

It became obvious that we could not use five manuals as a text for these workshops, thus the current manual was born. This manual is a digest of the five manuals, making it possible to distribute in workshops as a text for the classes offered.

The chapter headings for this digest are the actual titles of the five manuals which may be ordered from Assemblies of God World Missions, (800) 988-6568.

STEP 1

BUILDING MISSIONS LEADERSHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

PASTOR, YOU ARE THE KEY! The path you choose will determine where the congregation goes. Will your people become “Great Commission Christians”? It all depends on you!

A MISSIONS TEAM WILL HELP YOU... lead your congregation into obedience to Christ’s command, *“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation.”* It has been said that “no stream rises higher than its source” and it is true that few congregations will rise beyond their pastor in spiritual depth.

WHY CALL IT A TEAM?

- Because the word “committee” suggests people sitting at a table talking, talking, talking...
- The word “team” suggests:
 - Excitement and enthusiasm
 - Cooperation or working together
 - Winning or positive attitude
- That is what missions is all about!

WHY HAVE A MISSIONS TEAM?

- We accomplish more through delegation.
- More people get involved in God’s work.
- Criticism is minimized when people take ownership of the work.
- The church board cannot devote the necessary time to missions.

HOW LARGE SHOULD THE TEAM BE?

- It may be as small as three to five members.
- For many churches, this will be an ideal number.
- Quality is preferred over quantity.
- It will be easier to find a few qualified members even in the smaller church.
- The larger church will need more team members for the added responsibilities.
- It will be more difficult for all its members to meet at the same time.
- In this case, a small executive team should conduct monthly business.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEAM MEMBERS SHOULD BE:

- Church member in good standing
- Faithful in attendance and tithing
- Must be willing to devote 6-8 hours monthly
- Don’t overlook the youth – they will be leading tomorrow
- Include retirees – they typically have more free time

EACH MEMBER MUST HAVE A HEART THAT BEATS WITH A PASSION FOR THE LOST

- Do they love the lost?
- Do they love missions and missionaries?
- Are they consumed with missions?

A COOPERATIVE SPIRIT IS REQUIRED

- They must work as a team.
- There is no place for a “Lone Ranger.”
- Unity in the team sets an example for the congregation.

THEY MUST BE GENEROUS IN THEIR MISSIONS GIVING

- They must be regular in their monthly Faith Promise giving.
- Generous in other missions appeals.
- No one should make decisions concerning missions funds if they are not generous givers!

HOW SHOULD THE MEMBERS BE SELECTED?

- It could be by election
 - But this ends up being a popularity contest.
 - This could result in electing members who care little for missions.
- It may be voluntary
 - They may be enthusiastic at the moment but lack commitment.
 - That could result in members who lack the necessary qualifications.
- It may be by appointment
 - This is the best method and offers a number of advantages.
 - It allows choosing people who are committed to missions.

DURING THE TEAMS FORMATION:

- The pastor could nominate the members.
- Those nominations could be approved by the church board.
- It might be advisable to keep the team small while in formation.
- Additional members can always be added later as needed.

ONCE THE TEAM HAS BEEN FORMED:

- The team could nominate future members.
- These nominations could be taken to the pastor and church board for final approval.

HOW LONG SHOULD EACH MEMBER SERVE?

- 1 year is too short.

- 2 to 3 years is more adequate with the possibility of serving successive terms.
- Terms should be staggered to insure that experienced members will always have a voice in decisions.

AS A TEAM THEY SHALL ADMINISTER ALL MISSIONS FUNDS

- Missions funds may be kept in a separate bank account or in the church's general bank account.
- A separate accounting of missions funds must always be maintained.
- These funds should never be borrowed or co-mingled with other funds.
- Decisions concerning monthly commitments for missionary support.
- Responses to urgent financial appeals for one-time assistance following floods, earthquakes, etc.
- Responses to cash appeals for projects for buildings, land, etc.
- Birthday and Christmas gifts to the missionaries being supported.
- Offerings at missions activities for missionaries and other speakers.
- The allocation of funds for an annual missions convention and related activities.
- Appointment of a missions treasurer to make all monthly disbursements of missions funds.

THE TEAM SERVES AS A LINK BETWEEN THE MISSIONARIES AND THE CONGREGATION

- They will communicate with the missionaries by e-mail, especially concerning prayer needs.
- They will create a file of each of the missionaries letters and information received.
- They will share the prayer needs with the congregation.

THE TEAM WILL MAINTAIN AN ATTRACTIVE MISSIONS DISPLAY

- It should be located in a well lighted, well trafficked area.
- Name one or two people, with artistic ability, to keep the display updated.
- Display curios collected from missionaries and overseas trips.
- Include a missions bulletin board.
- Display the certificates for missionaries supported by the church.

THE TEAM WILL PLAN THE MISSIONS CONVENTION

- Establish the dates.
- Plan the activities.
- Secure the speaker.
- Name the committees and sub-committees.

- Plan the promotions.
- Provide the finances to cover the cost of the convention.
- Remember – always in cooperation with the pastor!

THE TEAM WILL PLAN A MONTHLY MISSIONS SUNDAY

- They will present a well-planned missions “Window on the World” each month.
- The success of the Faith Promise giving depends on the work and prayer invested in this monthly presentation.
- This ‘Window on the World” will continue to educate, motivate and inspire the congregation for missions throughout the year.

WHAT ARE THE TEAM’S PRIMARY GOALS?

1. Create world vision.
2. Promote intercessory prayer for world needs.
3. Organize missions conventions.
4. Participate in monthly missions Sundays.
5. Plan short missions trips.
6. Help select candidates for short-term service.

THE TEAM’S PURPOSE IS...

- To be an extension of the pastor in promoting missions throughout the congregation.
- To make themselves (the team) available to every department in the church, providing resources and encouragement for promoting missions to every age group.

But the team’s primary purpose is to provide adequate opportunity for every believer to...

obey the Great Commission!

STEP 2

BUILDING MISSIONS SUPPORT WITH AN ANNUAL MISSIONS CONVENTION

HOW WILL A CHURCH BENEFIT FROM AN ANNUAL MISSIONS CONVENTION?

1. It is the most effective way to open the world to your congregation — This equips the Church to better pray, give, and go.
2. It will make your people more soul conscious — churches conducting conventions report 67% more converts than those without conventions.
3. The convention can give your people great joy and joyful Christians get along better with each other.
4. Working together in a convention will result in better unity because people working for a common goal seldom fight each other.
5. Faith Promise giving will generate more money for missions, usually more than double their previous missions giving, following their first convention.
6. This will allow for more disposable income in your general fund, since your missions commitments are now paid from Faith Promise income.
7. Faith Promise giving releases God's principle of multiplication, many times by increasing general fund income.
8. An annual convention gives opportunity to obey Christ's command.
9. An annual convention puts you and the church in agreement with God's purpose which is to redeem mankind.

The Father is not willing that anyone be lost. (2 Peter 3:9)

The Son came to seek and to save all who are lost. (Luke 19:10)

The Holy Spirit came to convict the world of sin and to draw all men to Christ. (John 16:8)

BUT WON'T THREE OR FOUR MISSIONARY SERVICES EACH YEAR ACCOMPLISH THE SAME THING? NO. HERE'S WHY.

SERVICE	CONVENTION
Presents a service	Presents a strategy
Involves the missionary	Involves everyone
Presents the call of one	Presents the call to all
Results in emotional giving	Results in consistent personal giving
Results in one time offering	Results in monthly faith promise giving
Assists one missionary budget	Supports the entire missions budget

SO WHAT IS A MISSIONS CONVENTION?

- It is an organized activity dedicated to promoting:
 - An awareness of spiritual need throughout the world
 - The individual believers responsibility to help reach the lost with the gospel

- It should be informative:
 - Exposing the congregation to the work of Assemblies of God World Missions
- It should be inspirational:
 - Our emotions must be touched before we will respond willingly.
 - We should seek the Spirits anointing on every plan and person who participates.
- It should be motivational:
 - The goal is to get everyone to pray and give, and some to go.

WHAT ARE THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION?

1. A series of services, conducted at least annually, that focus on missions
2. A missions speaker
3. A Faith Promise challenge to every believer

No series of services should be considered a missions convention unless Faith Promises are received! The Great Commission is given to every believer and they must be given the opportunity to become personally involved!

HOW LONG SHOULD A CONVENTION LAST?

- The weekend convention is the most common
 - Saturday night banquet
 - Sunday AM – Faith Promises
 - Sunday PM – personal commitment
- An eight day convention is effective
 - Two Sundays, Wednesday evening and a Saturday banquet

WHATEVER FORMAT YOU CHOOSE:

- The pastor should preach on missions on the Sunday prior to the convention.
- It is critical that the congregation sees and hears the pastor's passion for the lost.
- Distribute the brochure *What is a Faith Promise?* at the close of this service.

SET A DATE

- Begin your convention planning at least six months in advance.
- Plan your convention for the same month each year.
- Schedule the convention when most of your people can attend.
- Peak months are September through November and March through May.
- Avoid holiday weekends and dates when special school or community activities are scheduled each year.

- Take weather, vacation time and other special work schedules into consideration.
- Keep the date clear of competing activities — don't plan any church activity during your convention week that would compete or distract from the focus of missions!

ESTABLISH A CONVENTION BUDGET WHICH WILL INCLUDE:

- Promotional expenses
- Decorations
- Banquet
- Speakers expenses
 - Hotel and food
 - Fares or mileage
 - Honoraria or free-will offerings

SCHEDULE YOUR SPEAKERS

- You may invite:
 - Missionaries
 - District leadership
 - World and U.S. Missions administrative personnel
- Select a speaker who:
 - Will present a worldview of missions rather than a country
 - Is capable of presenting the Faith Promise plan and inspiring your people to action

HOW MANY SPEAKERS DO WE NEED? THIS WILL DEPEND ON:

- The number of activities planned
- The availability of qualified speakers
- The amount of funds available to cover speakers expenses:
 - For missionaries — a generous free-will offering
 - World/U.S. Missions staff and district personnel — travel expenses and honorarium
 - Hotel and food for all speakers

UTILIZE THE MISSIONS TEAM

- Don't try to do it all yourself.
- Allow your people to take ownership.
- Give your team members the opportunity to dream big dreams for reaching a lost world.

GET EVERYONE INVOLVED

- Parades with children, youth and adults
- Skits — youth promoting the convention
- Special music

- Banquets for all ages
- Booths and displays

SET A GOAL

- You may set a percentage of participation or a dollar goal.
- Set a goal that is larger than last year and requires faith.
- Present a goal that will encourage the congregation to reach beyond anything ever done before.

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER MATERIALS

- Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.
- Order sufficient banners and posters.
- Be sure to order the theme video.
- Faith Promise cards are a must!
- The brochure, *What is a Faith Promise?*, should be ordered in sufficient quantity to give to every family.

PREPARE THE CONGREGATION

- Begin promoting the convention at least two months in advance.
- Begin teaching about faith promises.
- Share the Faith Promise goal.
- Create excitement and anticipation.

Faith Promise Sunday should be the most important day of the year in the activities of the church!

PROMOTE PRAYER

- Distribute a list of requests for the convention and missionaries supported by the church.
- Conduct a special prayer meeting to pray for the convention and to intercede for a lost world.

CREATE EXCITEMENT FOR FAITH PROMISE SUNDAY

- Provide a table with literature of AG Missions Ministries.
- Feature missions in each Sunday School class for the day.
- Decorate the sanctuary with flags, posters and banners.

PLAN THE FAITH PROMISE SERVICE

- Build the program, music, etc. around missions, eliminating all unnecessary announcements.
- Plan baby dedications, reception of members, etc. for another time.
- Prepare the ushers and tabulators for their duties.
- Give the speaker at least 45 minutes to preach and raise Faith Promises.

EVALUATE YOUR FINANCIAL BASE

- Review the Faith Promises received.
- Estimate the amount of solid income for the next year.
- Subtract the current missions obligations to determine the amount of new income.

SET YOUR ANNUAL MISSIONS BUDGET

- Leave a margin of safety as well as for unexpected urgent appeals
- Designate a portion each month to a fund for:
 - Visiting missionary speakers
 - Next year's convention
- Now, determine which missionaries the church will pick up for monthly support.

EVALUATE YOUR CONVENTION

- What did we do right?
- What did we do wrong?
- What did we not do but should have done?
- What could we do better?
- What dates will we set for next year's convention
- Who will we invite as our speaker(s)?

We can count on God's blessings while we faithfully hold the rope supporting the missionaries because we are following after God's own heart!

STEP 3

BUILDING MISSIONS MONTH BY MONTH

It is not enough to have a successful Faith Promise response from your congregation. The challenge of missions must be kept fresh throughout the year. Let's look at some steps that will keep your congregation involved in missions 52 weeks of every year!

A monthly missions Sunday is the cornerstone to building missions vision once the convention is over. There are many other elements, but you can't build missions effectively without missions Sunday.

SO PLAN IT CAREFULLY, SUCCESS DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN

- Give this monthly missions slot a name, such as "Window on the World."
- Each Sunday's presentation may vary from 3 to 10 minutes.

*Take a look at some of the things you might
plan for missions Sunday.*

UTILIZE THE *PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL*

- Coordinate "Window on the World" with the world edition of the *Pentecostal Evangel* released on the first Sunday of each month.

USE MONTHLY DVDS

- These are available by annual subscription from World Missions for \$48. Each monthly DVD contains a clip for each age group:
- Adults — *Newsbreak* (a Spanish clip is included each month)
- Youth — *WorldBeat*
- Children — *go 360*

PRAY AROUND THE WORLD

- There are six geographical areas in World Missions plus International Ministries
 1. Africa
 2. Asia Pacific
 3. Eurasia
 4. Europe
 5. Latin America and the Caribbean
 6. Northern Asia
 7. International Ministries
- Share a prayer request from each area and have corporate prayer.
- Publish these requests in the bulletin on missions Sunday.

USE FLAGS FOR EMPHASIS

- Purchase a flag for each country where you support missionaries.

- Display a flag every missions Sunday.
- Display that flag when the missionary visits for a service or when prayer is being offered for that country.

CALL A MISSIONARY

- Call prior to Sunday and set up an appointment by phone.
- Amplify the conversation through your system and interview the family during the service.
- Get their prayer needs and have the congregation pray while they are on the line.

INCLUDE MUSIC AND DRAMA

- Use skits with a missions theme.
- Present human videos with a missions song.
- Don't forget mime.
- The more people involved, the more successful your effort to build passion for the lost of the world.

SHARE EXCERPTS FROM MISSIONARIES LETTERS

- This should be done on a limited basis.
- Only when the content is so exciting or so urgent that it should not be ignored.
- All missionary newsletters should be posted on your "World Harvest" bulletin board.

GIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

- Share a testimony from a member who has experienced divine blessing and provision resulting from making a Faith Promise.
- The congregation will better identify with the pew than with the pulpit.
- Others will be inspired.

KEEP THE CONGREGATION INFORMED ABOUT FAITH PROMISE GIVING ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- Share faith building words to encourage the continued support for missions.
- Publish missions giving in the church bulletin.

Faith Promise total.... \$24,000

Due to date.... \$6,000

Received to date.... \$6,500

Praise God for victory!

or

Faith Promise total.... \$24,000

Due to date.... \$6,000

Received to date.... \$4,750

Pray! Pray! Pray!

SINCE YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL HAVE 12 “WINDOWS ON THE WORLD” EACH YEAR, PLAN AHEAD. YOUR SCHEDULE MIGHT LOOK LIKE THIS:

- January — Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade
- February — DVD
- March — Women’s Ministry and Light for the Lost
- April — Mini-Convention
- May—DVD
- June — Senders Fund
- July—DVD
- August — Phone interview
- September — DVD
- October — Convention Faith Promise Sunday
- November — Speed The Light
- December — DVD

There are many other ways to keep missions before the congregation throughout the year.

AS PASTOR, PREACH ON MISSIONS, PERSONAL EVANGELISM OR THE WORTH OF A SOUL AT LEAST ONCE EACH QUARTER

- The congregation needs to hear your passion for the lost.
- Your most effective leadership is by example.

PLACE AN ASSORTMENT OF BOOKS ON MISSIONS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

- Include biographies of great missionaries from the past.
- Books on missions principles and methods should be available.
- Include current magazines and periodicals on missions.
- Include the *Pentecostal Evangel*.

DON’T FORGET THE HEROES OF THE FAITH SERIES ABOUT MISSIONARIES IN THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

- *Heroes of the Faith*
- *Heroes of the Faith 2*
- *Heroes of the Faith 3: Sacrifice & Triumph*
- *Heroes of the Faith 4: Compelled by Compassion*
- *Heroes of the Faith 5: When God Breaks Through*
- *Heroes of the Faith 6: God’s Faithfulness in War and Peace*

CREATE AN ATTRACTIVE MISSIONS DISPLAY

- In a well lighted, well trafficked area
- A bulletin board for newsletters from missionaries and other late breaking missions news, etc.
- Surround it with the certificates of monthly support for the missionaries.
- Use globe wall art as the centerpiece. A suggested source to visit is www.cowboyindian.com for metal wall sculptures.

SPONSOR AN OVERSEAS MISSIONS TRIP

- If your church is unable to do it alone, partner with another church or with a district sponsored trip.
- This will transform the attitude of those who go.
- They will, in turn, influence many others.

GET PERSONALLY INVOLVED WITH A FEW MISSIONARIES

- Develop a personal relationship.
- Give more substantial monthly support to these missionaries.
- Consider providing housing or schooling assistance while they are home for their itineration cycle.

ADOPT A FAMILY

- This may be done by a class, a department, or by the congregation.
- Remember each family member's birthday and at Christmas.
- Become their prayer partners.
- Research their country of ministry.

GET TO KNOW YOUR MISSIONARIES

- Request a "significant events list" from the Assemblies of God World Missions office for the missionaries that you support.
- Remember the missionaries at Christmas time.

COPY AND CIRCULATE MISSIONARY LETTERS AMONG THE CONGREGATION

- This will help your members get acquainted with your church's missionary family.
- They will learn that missions is not about a program but about people.

GIVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO THOSE WHO MAKE A FAITH PROMISE ENCOURAGE PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

- Following the convention, hold a "Thank You Banquet" just for the "Faith Promise Partners."
- Treat them special.
- Give a lapel pin exclusively to the "Faith Promise Partners."

ENCOURAGE PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

- Publish a monthly missions prayer page.
- Form missions prayer groups for each area of the world.
- Conduct frequent 5 to 10 minute intercessory prayer times during regular services.

SCHEDULE FREQUENT MISSIONARY SPEAKERS

- Missionaries impart vision and burden, qualities needed by the local congregation.
- Missionaries make it possible for the congregation to obey the Great Commission.

Those are great ideas but how would I ever find the time to do it all? You don't! Remember? That's why you need a missions team to help lift the load!

Jesus said, "All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent me, for there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end" (John 9:4, TLB).

Isn't it about time we finished the task?

STEP 4

BUILDING MISSIONS EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH PRAYER

PRAYER IS THE FORGOTTEN WEAPON IN MISSIONS

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. (2 Cor. 10:4, NIV)

PAUL KNEW THAT PRAYER IS HARD WORK

In the same way, prayer is essential in this on going warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out. (Eph. 6:18, The Message)

PAUL KNEW THE VALUE OF PRAYER

Pray for me, too, and ask God to give me the right words as I boldly tell others about the Lord and as I explain to them that his salvation is for the Gentiles too. (Eph. 6:19, TLB)

PAUL KNEW HE NEEDED THE PRAYERS OF HIS PARTNERS AT HOME

Don't forget to pray for us too, that God will give us many chances to preach the Good News of Christ for which I am here in jail. Pray that I will be bold enough to tell it freely and fully and make it plain, as, of course, I should. (Col. 4:3, TLB)

PRAYER WILL RESULT IN MORE WORKERS

- It will send out workers who are God called workers.
- It will train them in God's school of the Holy Spirit.
- It will send them to the right fields
- It will sustain them when they go

PRAYER WILL SUPPLY THE NEEDED FINANCE

- God can reach the checkbooks that we cannot.
- The Holy Spirit can call thousands of believers and bless them beyond measure, using their abilities to earn the finances to support missions.
- Through prayer God can and will call many to become "senders."

PRAYER WILL REMOVE THE DIFFICULTIES

- Open countries closed to the gospel.
- Enter the offices of kings and presidents.
- Change the course of wars and uprisings.
- Protect the missionaries from sickness and danger.
- Remove the loneliness and homesickness from the heart of the missionaries.

PRAYER WILL BREAK DOWN BARRIERS

- Remove prejudice against the gospel and the missionary.
- Wipe away spiritual blindness from the eyes of millions.
- Bring spiritual awakening that will shake whole nations.

The battle will only be won through prayer!

HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE PRAYER FOR MISSIONS?

- Include missions prayer needs in the weekly bulletin and/or publish a monthly missions prayer page.
- Conduct a frequent 5 to 10 minute intercessory prayer time during a regular service.
- Form missions prayer groups for each area of the world.
- Distribute to the congregation special literature that encourages prayer for missions.

HOW CAN WE PREPARE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE PRAYER?

- Know your missionaries and pray for them regularly.
- Print their names in the bulletin or read them from the pulpit and pray for them on a rotating basis.
- Place their pictures on a loop and project them prior to the service or at prayer time.
- Secure a list from AGWM with birth dates, etc. of each family member.
- Use the prayer requests provided by AG in the World Missions edition of the *Pentecostal Evangel*, other periodicals and missionary newsletters.
- Use books that focus on missions such as *Operation World*, (Johnstone–Zondervan).

USE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU

- *Intercessor & World Report* is available each Tuesday by e-mail. Call (417) 862-2781, ext. 2034.
- *PrayerNet* provides missionary prayer requests by e-mail on Monday – Friday. Call (417) 862-2781, ext. 1600.
- These resources are free of charge!
- Another key resource is *Call to Prayer* – subscribe for every family in your congregation – available in individual subscription or in bulk – published semiannually and displays the picture and birthday of each missionary. Call (800) 988-6568.

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

- Be specific – name the missionary, need, country or project.
- Ask God to call more workers to go.
- Ask God to call more “senders.”
- Intercede for countries where there are few or no missionaries present.

WHEN WE PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES WE SHOULD INCLUDE:

1. Anointing, wisdom and favor
2. Health, strength and protection
3. Financial supply
4. Children's education
5. Care and provision when family members are separated
6. Family's spiritual welfare
7. Bind demonic oppression
8. The success of their assigned ministry on the field

BE PERSISTENT IN YOUR PRAYERS

Don't be weary in prayer; keep at it; watch for God's answers...
(Col. 4:2, TLB)

AND REJOICE FOR THE ANSWER

... and remember to be thankful when (the answers) come.
(Col. 4:2, TLB)

STEP 5

BUILDING MISSIONS PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THE MISSIONARY VISIT

THE GOOD NEWS IS... *Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. (Rom. 10:13, TLB)*

THE DILEMMA IS... *But how shall they ask him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him?... (Rom. 10:14, TLB)*

GOD'S PLAN IS PARTNERSHIP

...And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them unless someone sends him? (Rom. 10:14-15, TLB)

GOD CALLS SOME TO BE GOERS

- To other cultures
- To other languages
- To other countries

GOD CALLS THE REST TO BE SENDERS

- Through your faithful prayers
- Through your monthly faith promise

You are either called to be a "goer" or a "sender"!

THAT MAKES THE MISSIONARY VISIT EXTREMELY CRITICAL LET'S LOOK AT SOME REASONS WHY

1. The missionary visit makes it possible to fulfill the Great Commission without ever leaving home!
 - This can be done through both praying and giving.
2. Their visit makes it possible to become partners with the missionaries
 - Jesus said, "If you welcome a prophet because he is a man of God, you will be given the same reward a prophet gets..." (Matt. 10:41, TLB)
 - If you are as faithful in giving as the missionary is in going, you will receive the same reward.
3. Their visit helps the congregation develop soul-consciousness.
 - Jesus said, "... Look around you! Vast fields of human souls are ripening all around us, and are ready now for reaping" (John 4:34-35, TLB).
 - The missionary is our conduit to a lost world!
4. Our missionaries will inform our people about AG missions.
 - There are people within your church who will give to missions – *somewhere!*

- Many para-church organizations *spend 50% or more* on operational expenses.
 - Why not give opportunity for your people to invest in AG missions where *only 5% is deducted* for expenses.
5. Frequent missionary visits help maintain Faith Promise giving at a high level throughout the year.
- Without regular motivation, enthusiasm lags and many Faith Promises made during the convention are not completed.
 - Missions income decreases and the church finds it difficult to keep its commitments.
6. The missionary visit gives opportunity for the call to missions to develop in others.
- When asked what were the greatest factors influencing their call, Assembly of God missionaries named two outstanding influences:
 1. Personal devotions
 2. Missionary ministry

We've got it backward! The missionaries shouldn't have to search for supporting churches. We should be looking for missionaries to schedule!

SO, SCHEDULE MISSIONARY SPEAKERS

- Less than four missionary visits yearly will not maintain an awareness of the lostness of man.
- With foresight, most churches could have one missionary each month.

BE CREATIVE IN SCHEDULING

- If for some reason you can't give the scheduled missionary the full service:
 - Don't cancel, instead...
 - Interview the missionary or give him or her 10 minutes to share their burden.

SCHEDULE MISSIONARIES IN EACH TYPE OF WEEKLY SERVICE

- Sunday AM, Sunday PM and Wednesday
- This will assure that everyone attending your church will receive some missions exposure.

WHEN THE MISSIONARY CALLS...

- Accept the call, or
- Return their call as soon as possible.
- The missionary needs to hear from you even if the answer is *no*.

*Do you want the missionary service to be a success?
Communication is the key!*

COMMUNICATE WITH THE MISSIONARY PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

- Any special requests for the service: preaching, interview, video, reporting, etc.
- Service time and directions to the church
- Directions from the interstate to the hotel

TELL THE MISSIONARY:

- The type of participation they will have
- The type of service, class or group in which they may be involved: Youth, children, Sunday School, home group or others.
- The number of times they will speak
- The type of dress appropriate for that service
- Be sure and supply a telephone number other than the church office for emergencies.

MAKE THEM FEEL AT HOME UPON THEIR ARRIVAL AT THE CHURCH

- Have someone watch for the missionaries and guide them to the pastor's office for their pre-service planning.
- Give the missionaries a royal welcome.

MEETING WITH THE MISSIONARY PRIOR TO THE SERVICE IS CRITICAL

- What will the missionaries participation be?
- How much time will he/she have?
- When must the service end?
- Will there be an altar service?

DISCUSS THEIR FINANCES

- How much do they still lack in monthly support?
- How much cash do they need?
- Tell them if you feel the church will be able to support them monthly, and if so, how much.
- If not now, tell them when a decision can be made.
- Tell them when the offering will be received.

GET TO KNOW THE MISSIONARIES

- Ask about the country of their calling and their work.
- Familiarize yourself with details of their family.
- Be knowledgeable enough about this family to be able to pray for them.
- Remember, they are your partners.

When we have done our preparation, we can trust God to anoint the service!

DURING THE SERVICE, KEEP THE FOCUS ON MISSIONS

- Introduce the missionary knowledgeable and with enthusiasm.
- Give the missionary the service when promised.
- When possible, allow adequate time for a field report and ministry of the Word.

RECEIVE AN OFFERING AFTER THE MISSIONARY SPEAKS

- Don't limit your giving to a pre-determined honorarium check.
- Give your congregation the opportunity to respond with a generous offering.

IF FINANCE IS A CONCERN

- Set aside a pre-determined amount each month from the Faith Promise giving for a missionary speaker's fund.
- Establish a minimum, but not a maximum, offering for missionary speakers.
- If the offering received does not reach the minimum, take the balance from the fund for missionary speakers.

ALWAYS ALLOW TIME FOR PRAYER

- Divine partnerships are formed here.
- Commitments are made.
- All should commit to pray and give.
- Some will commit to go as missionaries wherever God leads them.

AFTER THE SERVICE

- Host the missionary for a meal or dessert and get to know them better.
- Be ready to give the missionary the offering check before they leave. They may need the funds for travel expenses.
- When possible, give the missionary a signed monthly commitment form before they leave. This removes a great deal of stress and hastens their departure for the field.
- Remember, the average monthly commitment is about \$65.

Once you've done your part, expect God's blessings on the missionary services! Why? Because you are making it possible for your congregation to obey Christ's command!

REMEMBER, WE ARE PARTNERS WITH GOD

It is God Himself... who has given us this wonderful work of telling His Good News to others. (2 Cor. 4:1, TLB)