

TITLE: Mission and Missionaries

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MISSION AND MISSIONARIES

Preface:

The purpose of this booklet is to provide some information to those who are either considering going out onto the mission field, or have gone out as missionaries. We live in such a changing society where there are many ways to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Even though we are in a new age that is rapidly growing in technology, there are still some principles that one must know if one hopes to advance the kingdom of heaven throughout this world.

We have been commissioned to go out and make disciples (Matt 28:19-20). Built within the word **mission** is the word Mission. If we are truly followers of Jesus Christ we are all then called to reach out with our testimonies and with the teaching of the Word of God, with the hope of producing fruit that will last. Missions is something that we need to focus on as disciples and as a church, making sure that we clearly understand our purpose and goal for going. Again we are told in the Scriptures that the harvest is ripe, but the biggest problem right now is labourers (Matt 9:35-38), those who are willing to go out through self-sacrifice and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

God desires that we reproduce and bear fruit for Him. As we commit to being His disciples we then go out to bring people to Christ, to see them baptized and to train them in the ministry of discipleship. Missions has always been at the very center of the heart of God. He has used people who have been kings, prophets, priests and just ordinary people to be witnesses of who He is to a lost world. In many ways Jesus Himself, even though He is God's Son, was sent forth by God as a missionary to this lost world so that He could give of Himself by dying on a cross, taking on our suffering and shame. But after the third day He rose from the grave and from that point all those who would believe in Him would have eternal life.

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Our mission as disciples is to go out and share the gospel so that those who hear and choose to receive, will be set free from the bondages of this world. Or to put it another way - that through Christ the chains of sin and death can be broken for all eternity.

For the first 20 years of my ministry I was mostly consumed with pastoring various churches throughout Canada. I was involved in church planting in several communities. Then in 1996 the calling of the Lord on my heart, you could say, took a 180° turn and He called me into the mission field of discipleship making. Out of this call came the birthing forth of Project L.A.M.B.S. International, where we disciple, equip, mentor and strengthen the church by teaching the Word of God. We have gone to many countries of the world and literally seen thousands of people get discipled and equipped to the place where they could work in the local church body in various areas and see fruit come forth from their labours as servants of Jesus Christ.

During those 40 years of ministry through hard knocks and study, I have learned what are some of the key challenges that today's disciple / missionary will face. We live in an ever-changing world and as we approach the last days there are many difficult times ahead for the church which sends out missionaries and for the missionaries who step out and follow after the heartbeat of God on their lives.

In the pages that follow are just some insights that I have gleaned as I travelled along the road both as a pastor and a missionary. As a pastor I was involved in sending out missionaries, and now as a missionary I am being sent out by various churches to fulfil the great commission of Jesus Christ. I pray that God will use this booklet to encourage, strengthen and help those who desire to serve as a disciple / missionary in other countries around the world. May our Lord keep you and strengthen you as you serve Him with all your heart.

Introduction:

What I've seen as I've travelled the world is that there is a lack, of a basic understanding of what it means to be both a short-term and a long-term missionary. When we are called by God to go to another place to present His gospel we need to go with a servant heart. We are not there to fulfill our will or our desires, we are there to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to a needy people. These people need to hear the truth and need to see the truth and love of Christ flowing out through our lives so that their hearts may be touched in a new and life giving way.

There have been so many tragic things done by a sending church, sending out people who were ill equipped to face the new challenges coming at them from every direction. They would undergo things that would affect their body, soul and spirit in ways that they never dreamt would happen. The world is full of many wonderful people, but it is also full of people who want to destroy what you as a disciple / missionary believe in. Technology has opened up so many doors where people can learn a variety of things, but often they only get little pieces of different thoughts and over time become confused or even give up in believing that there is a God, who cares and loves them.

It is important to take a moment to define some words. First are the words *Disciple and Discipleship*.

The dictionary states that this word disciple means one who is a follower, believer, supporter, devotee, student, learner. A disciple is one who follows after the imparted knowledge of a teacher and emulates the lifestyle of the teacher. In the New Testament people were called by Christ to follow Him and in so doing they became His disciples. (Both men and women can be called disciples).

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Secondly we have the word “discipleship” which means a process of training and equipping someone. The disciples of Christ are commanded to go out and make other disciples, and this can only come through the discipline of discipleship training.

Secondly, let’s look at the words *Mission and Missionary*. The word mission means an assignment, task, work, charge, undertaking, operation. God has commissioned all disciples to be missionaries in His harvest field. The harvest is ripe; God commissions His labourers to serve each day, whether in the home, job, neighbourhood or around the world. Missionaries are sent out ones that God calls to deliver, on His behalf, the Good News of Jesus Christ. The missionary is an ambassador who represents the Kingdom of God. Jesus gave the Great Commission to all disciples in Matthew 28:16-20.

Being a missionary means doing missions and being a missionary, in many ways, is like having a box full of puzzle pieces, each piece being unique and having a purpose but most importantly, these pieces must be assembled and connected in a proper order so that one can see the whole picture. Missionaries so often get little training and they go out with a bucket of ideas that are mainly birthed forth through many years of North American or European traditions. It is time that we rethink about the methods and ways of doing missions that the Bible itself has laid out for us.

The moment that the disciple / missionary steps out across a cultural boundary there is a whole host of new things that one needs to learn and clearly understand. There are hundreds of different people groups around the world using different scripts, speaking different languages and holding to a variety of unique cultures and traditions. It is interesting to note how many times the book of Revelation states that in heaven every tribe and tongue and nation and people group will be represented (Rev 4:9; 7:2; 10:11; 11:9; 13:5; 14:6; 17:15). I believe this is something that we as

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disciples / missionaries need to spend a lot of time pondering on and asking the Lord how we may be able to bring the gospel of Christ Jesus to these various people that are part of His creation all over the world.

We need to remember that as a disciple / missionary we are representing a body of believers where Jesus Christ Himself is our head. Through the Church we become commissioned and sent out. We should endeavor to work closely with the sending churches because we are told that there is strength in numbers. There are too many missionaries on the mission field, who feel left alone and deserted. We should never get to the place where it becomes the “them and us” factor. We are called to do and walk this ministry out together. The church today is busy doing many things, but often has little communication with their disciple / missionary out on the field. Mind you, it is also true that the missionary does not communicate very well with the churches either.

Because the harvest field is ripe and the labourers are few, we need to take the calling that God puts on our heart, to go out to that specific harvest field that He has directed us to and bring in His harvests. We are told that we are His hands and feet and that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Deut 31:6; Josh 1:5). We are called to be His ambassadors to a lost world. Even the Scriptures tell us how beautiful are the feet of them who bring good news (Rom 10:15). Many people groups around the world have lived for hundreds of years in bondage to Satan and his demons, but Christ has come to set the captive free (Gal 5:1) and He does this by commissioning and empowering us to go not in our strength and ability but in His strength and ability.

I trust that you will commit completely to following Jesus Christ as His disciple / missionary to wherever He may lead you and guide you in the days ahead, and that you will keep your eyes focused on Him.

1. Mission Call

*“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor me his prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and **called** us with a holy **calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,” 2 Timothy 1:8-9*

The key to any kind of successful ministry must be first built on a clear calling from God as to what it is that one should be doing and where one should be doing it. Our calling is critical to everything that we will do for the Lord, because when we have a clear calling then we can also have a true faith that will carry us through both the difficult times and the times of blessing. We must remember several things about the purposes of God. His most important calling on your life is to make you more like Him. Ministry that we do for Him is as an extension or fruit of His calling on our lives. The key purpose of God working through us is to draw us closer and deeper into a personal relationship with Him and the fruit of that relationship is a ministry or a mission that will draw other people to Him as Saviour and Lord.

Let us take a moment to look at the word *call*. It means to cry out, to summon, to attract attention, to desire to speak or communicate with, to bring a person into a specific service or ministry. Today Christ calls out to all, but not all will heed the call, but those who accept will receive the power and eternal life of Christ Jesus. The Master called the disciples and they followed. Throughout time God has been calling people to service, for example: Abraham, Gideon, and Samuel just to name a few. Today He calls people to be His disciples and to become part of the body of Christ.

▪ God's Calling

The truth of the matter is God is calling all His followers to serve Him in one form or another. Some will be ministers who have been called to serve at home or at their job. Others will be called into ministries that may take place in their country or even to go abroad. Some people will be called to do both short-term and long-term ministries; others will do it full-time with some type of remuneration.

We can see from the life of Paul the dramatic results of God's calling on his life. Many of us will not have such a dramatic encounter where God literally knocks us off our horse and blinds us physically until we are ready to see spiritually (Acts 9:1-30). It is also interesting to note that even after Paul had this dramatic encounter he took time to speak with the key leaders of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-29) and he also took time to go out, as it were, into the wilderness and spend time with God working through a clear understanding of the call that God was giving him to be a minister and servant to the Gentile peoples.

We can see how Paul reminded Timothy about the calling of God on his life. He tells Timothy, "*fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also **called** in to have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses*" (1 Timothy 6:12). Even though Timothy was a young man, Paul continued to remind him of his heritage and how God had gifted him through the laying on of hands (1 Tim 4:14). Timothy was not only being mentored by Paul concerning the Scriptures and the ministry that he would be involved in, but it wasn't long before Paul released him, by the power of the Holy Spirit to go out as a missionary and to help share the good news of Jesus Christ. He was to instruct the leadership of these new churches on how to have faith and to live as a disciple for Christ Jesus.

God's calling on our lives needs to be sure and firm. We are to be like the wise builder who builds his house upon the rock

and when the winds and waves come the house stands firm (Matt 7:24-27). I tell you the truth that when you go out as a disciple / missionary there will be many kinds of winds and waves that will batter you, but because you firmly understand the call of God on your life you will be able to overcome, not because of who you are but because of who He is in you.

We should not fear coming before the Lord and asking Him questions so that His calling can be made more clear within our lives. We should question the Lord: “Where is it, that you want me to go? To what people do want me to minister? How and with whom should I go? Why are you calling me to this place and to a specific people group? What are some of the first steps that I should begin to plan and walk out as I get ready to serve You?”

▪ **God’s will**

The next most important part of one’s calling is to make sure we are clearly walking in the will of God. Scripture clearly points out to us that we are to live not according to our will but according to His will (Hebrews 13:21). The Lord’s prayer reminds us that Your will be done on earth as it already is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). The key is to clearly understand what the will of God is for your life and for the ministry that He is calling you to do. Once you can see the race clearly set before you, you will then have the faith to run it out (Hebrew 12:1).

It is important to also understand that God already has a plan and purpose for our lives and for the lives of the people that we are going to. It may not be a plan that we completely understand or even like at the beginning, but again it’s important to remember that we have been called as ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20) of His heavenly kingdom to fulfill His heavenly will in our lives here on earth.

▪ **God's Empowering**

Once we have clarified God's calling in our heart and then have come to the place of willingness to die to ourselves and to live for Him no matter what the cost may be (John 12:24), He will then empower us for service so that we can minister and have the boldness to communicate the gospel of Christ to a lost world (Mat 10:19). The Father has sent the Holy Spirit not only to empower us, but He is also the one who teaches and councils us as we serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

We need to come to God each day in prayer and ask Him to fill us so that we would have the strength and power to serve that day in those areas that He has called us to (Eph 5:18). Paul reminds the Galatian Church; to walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:16), to be led by the Spirit (Gal 5:18), to be vessels of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22), and to live in the spirit (Gal 5:25). All that we do as a disciple / missionary must be Spirit led, coming down from the throne room of God into our hearts.

▪ **God's Direction**

The Scriptures tell us that God will be a light unto our path (Psalm, 119:105). The first thing we must see is that He gives us a path that He wants us to walk on. Secondly He will illuminate that pathway so we do not have to stumble or fall, but to see clearly what it is He wants us to do as we serve Him. Jesus also reminded the disciples that He was the only way, truth and life (John 14:6). In Him we find the way we should walk. In Him we find the truth that we are to live by. Finally, in Him we find the life that we need to complete His calling on us here on earth.

He also told the disciples that they were to seek, knock and know that Christ will open the door for them to go through and because of that they will find what it is that God is trying to show them (Matt 7:7-9). There is a process that we need to follow if we

hope to have God's leading in our heart. King David tells us that they that meditate on God and His word, *"he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, to bring forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither;"* (Psalms 1:3). Isaiah tells us, *"but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint"* (Isa 40:31). These verses clearly show to us that as God calls us, He will direct us and walk with us, leading us on a pathway of His righteousness so that we can be a vessel of His blessing to others.

▪ **God's Church**

The disciple / missionary must remember that we are sent ones and that God uses His church, the body of Christ, as a vessel that we are sent out from. We are not only ambassadors of Jesus Christ but we are also an ambassador of His church people who have been called out from the world and have committed themselves also to be disciples of Christ (2 Cor 5:20; Eph 6:20). Our calling by God should be confirmed by the body of believers that we are sent out from. The idea of a 3 cord rope, which, we are told, cannot be easily broken (Eccl 4:12) beautifully represents how the disciple / missionary is bound together with God and with His church; we become a soldier of God's spiritual army here on earth (Eph 6:10-20).

The church is the venue, the living body, the organism, the temple that God fills. He provides for the church so He can accomplish what He desires here on earth. Unfortunately, many times the church is a weak vessel full of a variety of holes that makes the power of God flow out on to the ground. But the disciples of the church are called together to work in harmony and unity for the advancement of the kingdom. When Barnabas saw that the church in Antioch was growing and needed a gifted teacher, Barnabas went out and found Paul and brought him back

to Antioch where he taught the people the Word of God for over a year (Acts 11:25-26).

One other interesting point on how God uses the church to confirm the calling of missionaries is found in Acts 13:2-3. Luke states, “*as they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work which I have called them. Then, having fasted and prayed, laid hands on them, they sent them away.*” We can see here in Antioch that the church was seeking the face of God through prayer and fasting and it was God who was making clear to the church that at that time His calling was upon Barnabas and Saul (Paul). Because of the witness that was given to them all in their hearts by the Holy Spirit, they then proceeded to lay hands on them, trusting that the Holy Spirit would guide them and lead them as they went out as seed planters of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

▪ **God’s Gifting**

Another point that is important for the missionary to grasp is that when the Holy Spirit empowers us and fills us (Matt 10:1), He also gives to us certain gifts and ministry. It’s vital for us to understand that as we are called by God to do a certain type of ministry, He will give us certain gifts to do the ministry He is releasing us into. This is His guarantee that we are in His will to do this ministry. (1 Cor 12 & 14). He will also bring people alongside us who have other giftings and will help us to fulfil the call of the Lord on our lives. This is what makes the body of Christ so unique and diverse in its ministry. We are called to work together with our brothers and sisters who are of the same body that we are. (1 Cor 12:12-31).

Jesus is our rock and firm foundation and we need to be built first on Him in a personal relationship as Lord and Saviour. We also need to get into the Word of God so that we have an

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understanding from the Word how we can go out and serve and set other people free from the destructive bondages of Satan and his demons. There will be some things that we need to set time aside to pray and fast about, so that we may hear God's calling upon our hearts, but the Bible is also there as a mission manual to help direct us in faith and to give us the proper attitude for how we should serve and minister to others around the world.

If you as a disciple / missionary do not have this first point about God's calling clearly anchored in your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, you will find your ministry and service becoming like one who has built his life on shifting sands (Matt 7:24-27). We must take as much time as needed to confirm both with God and with the local church the calling that we believe in faith that He is asking us to fulfill. I have found that this is one of the biggest problems that both missionaries and pastors are facing today in their service to the Lord. Because they do not have things clearly set forth in their heart and mind, they sometimes end up wandering in the wilderness for many years. We must, and again I say, we must take all the time that is needed to ensure that the calling that we are sensing in our hearts is from the Lord and as we do, all the other pieces that are needed to fulfill the calling of God will come together.

Finally, it is also important to remember, that as we go out with the Lord and begin to serve, we must be careful as time passes by, that we do not get sidetracked from our calling. There are many organizations that have started the race off well but as time went by, they began to implode or get entangled in other things, or started building on a different foundation from that which God had called them to build on. In your journey as a missionary there will always be plenty of voices trying to pull you one-way or another, but it is vital that you keep your eyes focused on Him who is the author and finisher of our faith and who has set for us the ultimate example by giving His life as God's missionary on the cross (Hebrews 12:2).

Reflection:

We need to get to the place where each day we place ourselves under the headship of Jesus Christ. We must decide with all our hearts to obey His calling and to follow Him just like the disciples did when they left all and followed Him (Matt 4:20; 9:9). We need to ask God to put two or three other disciple mentors in our life who will help guide us and direct us. And if we are married and have children, we need to ask God to bring the vision that we have in our hearts to be placed in their hearts also. If there's a division already at this level of relationship within the home, the problems will just compound themselves when you go on the mission field. It's important before one goes, to have unity and harmony within the family concerning the call of Christ Jesus.

Scripture reference concerning the word “call”.

Began men to **call** upon the name of the LORD *Gen 4:26*
Isaac ... thy seed be **called** *Gen 21:12 (Rom 9:7; Heb 11:18)*
God **called** unto him out of the midst of the bush *Ex 3:4*
LORD **called** Moses up to the top of the mount *Ex 19:20*
I **call** heaven and earth to witness against *Deut 4:26*
Then the LORD **called** Samuel: and he answered, Here am I *1 Sam 3:4*
Thou didst **call** me. And he answered, I **called** not *1 Sam 3:6*
Call on the LORD, who is worthy *2 Sam 22:4*
Call on the LORD, who is worthy *2 Sam 22:7 (Ps 18:6)*
If my people, which are **called** by my name *2 Chr 7:14*
Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will *Ps 50:14*
As for me, I will **call** upon God; and the LORD *Ps 55:16*
They **called** upon the LORD and he answered them *Ps 99:6*
I the LORD have **called** thee in righteousness *Isa 42:6*
I have **called** thee by thy name; thou art mine *Isa 43:1*
The LORD hath **called** me from the womb *Isa 49:1*
Call unto me and I will answer thee and show *Jer 33:3*
Loved him ... **call** my son out of Egypt *Hos 11:1 (Matt 2:15)*

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Whosoever shall **call** on the ... LORD shall be delivered *Joel 2:32*
(*Acts 2:21; Rom 10:13*)

and He **called** them *Matt 4:21(Mark 1:20)*

I am not come to **call** the righteous *Matt 9:13 (Mark 2:17; Luke 5:32)*

he **called** them unto him, and said unto them *Mark 3:23*

called unto him his twelve *Matt 10:1*

Jesus **called** a little child unto him and set him *Matt 18:2*

First last: for many be **called**, but few chosen *Matt 20:16*

Many are **called**, but few are chosen *Matt 22:14*

He calleth **his** own sheep by name and leadeth them *John 10:3*

Call on the name of the Lord shall be saved *Acts 2:21*

Even as many as the Lord our God shall **call** *Acts 2:39*

Among whom are ye also the **called** of Jesus Christ *Rom 1:6*

Them who are the **called** according to his purpose *Rom 8:28*
did predestinate, them he also **called** *Rom 8:30*

they be **called** the children of the living God *Rom 9:26*

call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved *Rom 10:13*

how shall they **call** on him in whom they *Rom 10:14*

abide in the same **calling** wherein he was **called** *1 Cor 7:20*

who separated me ... and **called** me by his grace *Gal 1:15*

for, brethren, ye have been **called** unto liberty *Gal 5:13*

ye may know what is the hope of his **calling** *Eph 1:18*

the vocation wherewith you are **called** *Eph 4:1*

even as ye are **called** in one hope of your **calling** *Eph 4:4*

prize of the high **calling** of God in Christ *Phil 3:14*

walk worthy of God, who hath **called** you *1 Thes 2:12*

whereunto he **called** you by our gospel *2 Thes 2:14*

saved us and **called** us with a holy **calling** *2 Tim 1:9*

holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly **calling** *Heb 3:1*

faith Abraham, when he was **called** ... obeyed *Heb 11:8*

he which hath **called** you is holy, so be ye holy *1 Pet 1:15*

call you out of darkness into ... marvelous light *1 Pet 2:9*

hath **called** us unto his eternal glory by Christ *1 Pet 5:10*

to make your **calling** and election sure *2 Pet 1:10*

which are **called** unto the marriage supper of the Lamb *Rev 19:9*

2. Mission Purpose and Goals

As one goes out to do the work of a disciple / missionary, whether it's by "tent making" or by direct ministry, there are some foundational principles that Jesus gives us as to what our purpose and goals should be. The word purpose is defined as: determination, resolution, resolve, persistence, perseverance and single-mindedness. Therefore, people with a purpose become very focused on what God has called them to do. The word goal is described as: a target, something that one is aiming at, a vision of what one hopes to achieve both in the short-term and the long-term. It is important that we have a clear purpose as to what we feel God has called us to do, but to fulfill that purpose there are steps called goals, which will help us to fulfill the ultimate goal that God has laid on our hearts.

There are many things that Christ showed the disciples that would be key to what they would be doing in the future. I believe the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give us some of these missionary truths that can help us as we go out to the mission field. Jesus did a lot of teaching both to the disciples and to many other people who were following Him. He often taught in parables about His Heavenly Father, about the kingdom of God and why He was sent as God's Son here to the earth. We need to see that because He was a sent one, it makes Him a missionary and we can learn many truths by reading His life story.

- **Seeing Jesus as the Christ.**

One of the first things after He called the disciples was to show them through His teachings and His actions that He truly was the Son of God, The Messiah who was prophesied about in the Old Testament, and who would come as a servant leader and give His life as a ransom to all those who would believe in Him. They had to get their eyes off their traditions and customs and begin to focus on who Jesus was and why He came to the earth to give Himself as

a sacrifice. We as disciples / missionaries must always keep front and center in our minds the teachings of the Scriptures and especially the testimony of the Gospels. Christ's goal was to cause the disciples to become more like Him, to speak the truth as He spoke the truth, and to live a life as He lived His life here on earth.

- **Seeing the harvest and the need.**

Next He wanted to show the disciples that there was a harvest which is truly ripe. He wanted them to see that there were very few labourers to bring in that harvest (Matt 9:35-38). He wanted to encourage them to become part of the labourers and part of the solution. The need was great and Jesus wanted them to go from village to village, proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of heaven. They had been watching Him teaching in the synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, healing people of their sicknesses and diseases, and so He wanted the disciples / missionaries to see that the sheep were weary and scattered and had no shepherd to help them.

Because of the abundant harvest and the shortage of labourers, He proclaimed to His disciples the need not only to get involved themselves, but to also pray that the Lord would provide more labourers willing to go out into the harvest field (Matt 9:35-38). The disciples / missionaries before they go out must see with the eyes of Jesus where the harvest is, so that they may go and reap the fields to which God had called them. Just as Paul told the church that some would plant, others would water, but it would be God who would give the increase or would cause the harvest to be ready (1 Cor 3:6).

For disciples / missionaries it is important that our eyes be focused on the needs of the people whom we are going to serve. We cannot go to be served, but are called to serve others. People all over the world have great needs: physical, mental and spiritual. This will be the challenge that the disciple / missionary will face

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each day and that's why he or she needs to spend as much time as possible in prayer seeking the Lord where to go and how to minister so that His harvest can be brought in, according to His purpose and will.

▪ **Being sent out ones**

Jesus turned to the disciples and exhorted them on how He was going to send them out, starting first in Jerusalem, then to Samaria and finally to the uttermost parts of the earth. They were sent out as disciples / missionaries on His behalf. In Matthew chapter 10:1-44 Jesus taught and gave insight on what their ministry as disciples / missionaries would be like. Here is a small list of some of the things that He instructed the disciples to do and prophesied to them about what would take place as they went out as His ambassadors to the lost world.

Here is what Jesus shared with them just before He sent them out on their first short term mission trip: (Matt. 10:1-44)

- that he was commanding them and sending them out
 - that they were to go first to the lost sheep of Israel v6
 - that they were to tell the people that the Kingdom of God is at hand v7
- that they were to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons v8a
- that freely you have received now go out and freely give
- that whatever the Holy Spirit gives to them they were to freely speak out and do all this in the name of Christ Jesus v8b
- that they were not to worry about provisions, money, clothes or even sandals and that they didn't even need a walking stick or food.

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- that God would provide for them and use them to bless others v9
- that as they travelled and as the Spirit led them to go to various towns and cities, they were to:
 - o Stay in people's homes until finished
 - o bless them and pray, leaving peace upon that home
- that for those who do not receive your words v4
 - o there would be many who would not want to hear or change
 - o they were to shake off the dust
- that the judgement on those would be worse than that which fell upon Sodom and Gomorrah v15
- see clearly now (behold) v16
 - o that they were sheep in the midst of wolves
 - o that they were to be wise as serpents and harmless as to doves
- that men would torture them v17
- that their lives would be a testimony to the Gentiles v18
- that when they came before their persecutors not to worry about what to say v19
- that they were to remember that the Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and would speak in them and through them in those hours v20
- that they would have problems with their parents and family v21
- that they would be hated because of the name of Christ v22
- that there would be persecution, but to keep going because they would not get through all the places before the Son of Man comes v23

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- it was important for the disciples to listen and obey Christ v24
- that they were not to fear as all things would be revealed v26
- that whatever the Holy Spirit told them in the darkness, or in their quiet time, they were to speak in the light and preach from the rooftops v27
- they were not to fear what they could do to their body v28
- that God watches the two sparrows and He will also intently watch them as they do His will v29
- that God even knows the number of hairs on their head; He knows all the details about them both now and in the future v30
- that they are very valuable to God v31
- that they needed to confess Him before men and to be careful that they do not deny Him v32
- that there will not be peace; He brings the sword (Word of God) against them v34
- that they must put God first in all areas of their life v35-37
- that they must take up the cross and follow Jesus v38
- that if they should lose their life for Christ's sake they would find real-life in Him v39
- that they can bless others by just giving them a cup of cold water v40
- that they should remember that when they go, He will also go with them v40
- that God will reward His children v41
- that even doing the small things as giving a cup of cold water to a child is a great blessing to God the Father v42

The Bible and especially the Gospels are full of teachings that will help the disciple / missionary to understand how it is he or she are to serve as they go out to the mission field. In some ways this is just an overview, but it is like a window that the disciples / missionary were able to look through and get some understanding both of the positive and negative things that they would encounter as they went out.

▪ **Making Disciples / Missionaries**

This is a command that all disciples / missionaries of Christ are called to obey. One knows that these great commission commands are not going to be easy for the followers of Christ to fulfill. But He is not asking us to do them in our own strength and power, He's wanting us to have the faith and belief that we can do these things in His strength and in His power. That is why He has sent the Holy Spirit who comes into our lives and makes all things possible not because of who we are, but because of who He is (Acts 1:8).

It is important for the disciple / missionary again to understand that these great commissions are the last words of Jesus Christ before He returned back to heaven. They are not something that are optional, but they are truths that all disciples / missionaries are called and commanded to do. Here we will look at two of them that Christ gave to His followers.

The first one is found in Matthew 28:18-20.

Jesus told the disciples,

- that He was giving them all authority in heaven and earth
- that they were to go make disciples

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- they were to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- that they were to teach these new disciples to observe all things that He had commanded them
- that He would be with them always even and to the end of the age

The second one we will look at is found in Mark 16:15-18.

Jesus told the disciples,

- that they were to go into all the world
- that they are to preach the gospel
- that those that believed would be saved and that they should bear testimony of their salvation through baptism
- that signs would follow because of the Holy Spirit working through them
 - o they will cast out demons
 - o they would speak in new tongues
 - o things that are deadly will not kill them
 - o they will lay hands on the sick and they would recover

Just from these verses we can get a clear vision of what a disciple / missionary should be involved in and what the call should look like. It is the frame that holds the picture of the missionaries' service to others together.

▪ **Engrafting people into the body of Christ**

As disciples / missionaries, it's important to see how we fit into the bigger picture. John tells us that through salvation we

become engrafted into the body and mind of Christ and of the Father who is the vinedresser. We can also perceive that the life that flows up from the roots, out through the vine and into the branches is the Holy Spirit. We need to see that through faith we become engrafted branches and the goal of Jesus Christ is that we would bear fruit (John 15:1-11). The reason that one should see this illustration from the Bible is so that we can understand that as a disciple / missionary we are connected to the triune God, the Creator of all heaven and earth. We are also part of the heritage and that as we become connected to the vine we begin to take on the DNA, the life source, strength and wisdom of the One who is Jesus Christ.

As we go to the mission field and are facing many things often alone, we need to remember that we are connected to God Himself and that He is always with us wherever we may go. Because we are connected to Him, we are also connected to His body the church. So wherever we may be, He is with us and we are with Him. Again He tells us that He will never leave us or forsake us so we must remember to draw upon His strength, wisdom and power each day and by doing that in faith, we can overcome the fears that the enemy would try to surround us with.

- **Equipping, nurturing and mentoring people for the work of Service**

Another part that the disciple / missionary should be involved in is the whole area of not only making disciples, but of going on and equipping them, nurturing them and mentoring them for the ministry to which God has called them. Our goal should be not only to birth forth a baby disciple, but also to build within them the ministry of equipping, nurturing and mentoring people who will in turn bear fruit for Jesus Christ.

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Leading people to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour is, in some ways, the easy part, but then we need to commit to helping these new missionary / disciples to become part of the body of Christ. We need to help them understand God's Word and their giftings, and help them grow and be equipped for His service. We need to mentor them as older ones like Paul taught the younger Timothy who were both missionaries.

Paul told Timothy many things concerning how to establish churches and leadership within those churches. He told him also how God would use him and work through him and even though he was young, God would give him the wisdom and the understanding how to do the missionary work that was laid before him. The two books that Paul wrote to Timothy can also be considered mission manuals for the disciple / missionary who will go out and serve others. Timothy himself was a cross-cultural person and he went out cross-culturally to various other provinces of the Roman Empire to help mentor the disciple / missionary of Jesus Christ.

- **End goal is preparing people for heaven**

One of the end goals that a disciple missionary should have as we work with people is to prepare people to be "Christlike". This is the definition of what the word Christian means. It is the idea that we have separated ourselves from the world and no longer live according to our will but according to the will of our heavenly Father. The missionary is helping through the power of the Holy Spirit, to see people walk the walk of Christ Jesus here on earth. He or she is also preparing the disciple to become a disciple / missionary wherever they live and wherever they may work, so that they will become a lighthouse in those dark places. The disciple / missionary is not preparing people so much to live here on earth, but has as a goal to prepare people to spend an eternity with Jesus Christ in heaven. This will take time, but it's time well invested because even the Scriptures tells us that when the

shepherd has 100 sheep and one of them becomes lost that he leaves the 99 and searches for the one (Luke 15:1-7). Christ died for all and He will come into our hearts if we ask Him. If we do this, He will fill us with His Spirit so that we can be ambassadors of His heavenly kingdom, showing that in Christ there is a place of forgiveness and refuge for all who will turn and come to Him (2 Cor 5:20).

Reflection:

Discipleship / missions is like going on a journey. One should pull out the road map and first determine where the end goal of one's journey is going to be, then discover the roads that will lead you to where you want to be. We are not to go out in our service blindly, but we should have a plan that will lead us to the place of being able to bear fruit with our lives for Jesus Christ. He tells us that He will lead us and guide us in all things, but we need to be willing to die to ourselves and live our lives according to His will, His purposes and His goals (Phil 1:21; 2 Tim 2:11). The journey may not be easy and at some point we may not even understand what's going on, but when the Lord calls us home, it will all become clear, because then we will see how it all fits together in His eternal plan for His creation here on earth.

3. Mission Doctrinal Statement

Another issue that is critical to this whole area of disciple / missionary living is a clear and precise doctrinal statement. Many organizations nowadays are becoming more lukewarm in the areas of theology and what they believe as an organization. Many places have statements of doctrine, but are not living by them. They have either taken away from, or added in things that are not Biblical. As missionaries, we have to determine ahead of time, what we believe so that as we are confronted on the mission field by others we will not be reacting, but clearly able to present the truth of the Word of God.

▪ **Personal Doctrinal Statement**

It is important that before you go to the mission field that you determine in your own heart which doctrines you will take a stand on theologically, which areas you believe you cannot compromise on. This does not mean you need to know every doctrine precisely in the Bible, but I believe the doctrines that concern the gospel of Jesus Christ should be anchored firmly upon the Word of God.

There are at least ten important areas that as disciples / missionaries we need to make clear in our mind and heart. We need to determine not to move from these teachings even if it may cost us our lives. What you will find below is ten statements called the Disciples' Gospel Creed. It is on these points that we need to decide whether this is what we believe and will proclaim to the people that we are serving. Remember we are commanded by Christ to go out and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15).

Disciples' Gospel Creed:

1. I do believe and confess in the **Living Word** of God who, in the beginning was and is God, who created all things and without Him nothing was created, and as the Word He became flesh and dwelt amongst us, the only begotten of the Father Who is full of grace and truth.
2. I do believe and confess in the **virgin birth** of the second person of the Triune God Head, God's Son, Jesus Christ through the woman Mary and that she was imbued from on high by the power of the Holy Spirit and conceived and gave birth to a Son whose name is "Emanuel, God with us".
3. I do believe and confess in the **life of Christ** who lived and taught here on earth proclaiming the Father and the Kingdom of

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God, exemplifying to all that He was the only way, truth and life, and that one should take up the cross and follow Him.

4. I do believe and confess in the **physical death** of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, where he bore my sins and opened to people a way into the Holy of Holies where we could stand before the Father, clothed in Christ's grace and righteousness, proclaiming that we have died to ourselves and now live our all, as disciples, for Jesus.

5. I do believe and confess in the **bodily resurrection** of Jesus Christ that after being dead for three days He rose victorious from the grave, becoming the first born among many, putting to death the old man and making way for a new man, clothed and filled with His power and truth.

6. I do believe and confess in the **ascension** of Jesus Christ, that from the time of the resurrection, to the day He was taken up into the clouds, being seen by many, is now in Heaven, preparing a place for the disciples, interceding before the Father on our behalf.

7. I do believe and confess in the **Holy Spirit** who, as one of three Persons of the triune God, is sent by the Father to regenerate, baptize into Christ's Body (the Church) and fill believers (His disciples) with power, anointing them with the fruit of the Spirit, gifting them with spiritual gifts so that they can serve the body of Christ Jesus throughout the world.

8. I do believe and confess in the one **church** of Jesus Christ, which He birthed on the Day of Pentecost through the Holy Spirit, Jesus being the head, making her a living organism, with the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ on earth and giving to her His presence of love, making her a place of refuge, encouragement and nurturing, a place from which the teaching of Christ would go out, a place for all who would receive Him as their Lord and Saviour to have fellowship.

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9. I do believe and confess in the **second coming** of Jesus Christ, that He will soon come again with His army as Lord and King, defeating all enemies and binding Satan and putting to death the curse of sin and disobedience once and for all, resulting in a new kingdom and new earth and heaven.

10. I do believe and confess in the literal place called **heaven**, where all will be judged, a place where the Lamb's Book of Life is kept, a place where one day as a disciple I will go, a place of no more sickness or death, a place where I will become a new creation with a new name, a place where we will come face to face with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ the Lamb of God, Redeemer for all who have believed in Him, and that we will gather together with Him at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, worshipping and adoring our King Jesus for all eternity.

I now and forever confess my total allegiance to My LORD and King Jesus Christ both now and for all eternity.

Amen

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

There will be areas when it comes to theology where we can work with difference beliefs even though we personally do not hold to them, but our beliefs in doctrines need to be firmly grounded on the rock of Jesus Christ. There are many other religions out there that also believe in Jesus as a prophet, as a good teacher, but do not believe in Him as the Son of God who came to redeem people from sin and a life of eternal damnation. People don't understand this concept of how a righteous one could become a Lamb who would be sacrificed so that those who would

believe in Him could have an eternal life with Him in the kingdom of heaven.

▪ **Organizational Doctrinal Statement**

Various mission organizations and churches, depending on whether they are denominational or interdenominational or nondenominational will have a variety of mission statements, doctrinal beliefs that they say they hold to, but the problem is that as we travel to various countries and come in contact with various sub organizations, they may have doctrines and teachings that are different than the organization that they are under. Sometimes one can say that the sign on the door does not really mean what may be going on inside.

First we need to get a copy of the doctrinal statement of the church that we're being sent from and also of the organization that we're going out with, plus a statement of the organization or people group that we will be serving under on the mission field. This may seem like making a big deal concerning this issue when it comes to missions, but there have been too many divisions and separations of people because of doctrines that the various mission groups have brought with them. To illustrate, it is like when two different people from two different types of denominations get married. They always confess to the pastor and each other that there will be no problems concerning their different belief system because they are so in love with each other. Then when a child comes and the question arises on what faith this child should be raised on, then it's not long before tensions, divisions and even divorce comes out of something that was not taken care of and dealt with before the union took place. Therefore, it is important for missionaries to be very clear as to who they are and who the group is that they are joining with, so that when the winds and the waves come upon them, they will be able to stand firm together as servants of the Lord.

▪ Focus group Doctrinal beliefs

Wherever you go people will have various doctrinal beliefs concerning the Christian faith or other religions with which they have grown up in their specific area. So it's important to get the knowledge and understanding of what your people already think that they believe when you first move to an area. Paul took time to know the various towns and cities and was able to build bridges to people because he understood the various cultic type religions that the people were surrounded with.

Your goal should be to build bridges from where the people are, to where you are in Christ Jesus. It will take time to understand the people and many of them will not open up right away because they need to first trust and establish a personal relationship with you. They will want to watch you and explore your teachings about Jesus Christ and whether they are sound and true.

The disciple / missionary needs to be firmly grounded in the Word of God and have a doctrinal statement memorized so that they can have it ready when they need to defend their faith in Jesus Christ. Sometimes the most aggressive people that you may encounter are the ones who are trying to search out in their heart what is the real truth concerning God.

Reflection:

Please do not take this section lightly, because in the beginning of our relationship with others there seems to be a honeymoon time, but down the road if we are not clear in what we believe, it does not take long before there are disagreements that may even lead to division. Many good disciples / missionaries have gone out and served with all their hearts and ended up being sent home because of what they believed in.

4. Mission Preparation in Other Countries

▪ **Government Structure**

As stated above, sometimes that which is published about a country is often not the reality of what goes on in the country. For example, you may be coming from a Commonwealth country and going to another Commonwealth country, but their rules and the way they govern in these various Commonwealth countries can be drastically different than what you are used to. Also within the country they may have more political groups that in their areas are more powerful than the government that runs the country. It is important to find out not only how the country is structured and who controls the power, but also how things work in the immediate area where you may be serving. Depending on the type of government, the structure from north to south or from east to west can be very different, and can affect both your paperwork and the ministry that you hope to do within the area that God has called you.

You also need to be aware that in some countries governments are not very stable and they can be overturned and changed within moments. They can move from a democracy to a dictatorship within hours. Constitutions and laws can be abandoned or changed to some other way that fits what the new leadership may envision.

▪ **Cultures and Traditions**

We must also remember that many countries have within them people groups who have a variety of cultures, traditions and religions. It is important that the disciple / missionary again takes time to learn about these cultures and traditions, because for many people these beliefs are deeply intertwined together as part of their faith and religion.

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Cultures and traditions can be very influential and powerful in people's lives; sometimes one may think that it's even part of their DNA passed on to them from their parents. It is often difficult for them to make changes, because to do so may mean separating themselves from their family and their community. In some areas of the world it is common to accept Jesus Christ, but continue holding on to their own cultures and traditions of their past. There seems to be a great move around the world right now where people want to get back to their origins. For the disciple / missionary, presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ may become difficult because if a person receives Christ, the missionary has to have a plan of how to help them move out of those areas of their culture and tradition which are heavily laden with spiritual deception and bondage.

It is, therefore, really important to read up on the background of the people group before going so that you do not fall into a place of offending the people that you want to serve. If it is at all possible, try to meet several of these people who have migrated to where you are. You can learn from their language and some of the strong characteristics that they may live by.

▪ **Main Beliefs**

All countries have some form of belief system, and even if it has many different cultures, there will still be a belief system that can be deeply embedded in their lives. Even being an atheist is a form belief. Many parts of the world are governed by the supernatural; by a variety of different kinds of spirits. In the West we base much of our thinking on scientific evidence, but the majority of the population of the world believes that some form of a spirit is connected to everything that has life on the earth

One of the best evangelistic tools that you can have in your toolbox is that you understand the people's belief system. As stated before, as a disciple / missionary your goal is to build a bridge

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over to them and you have to show them that you have knowledge and respect for where they are in their lives at that point if you want them to listen to you. I've seen many missionaries go out and stand on street corners and pound the Bible and preach with excitement and zeal and see very little fruit but those missionaries who have taken the time to understand the people's religion and how they live it out in their daily lives have much greater success in winning those people to Christ Jesus.

- **Laws and Regulations**

It is also key that you understand the laws and regulations of not only the country but of the community that you may live within. Often the community laws in some areas can vary from that of the central government because of their culture and tradition and religion. There are often laws within laws, and if you don't understand them, you can soon get entangled with something that can keep you busy, leaving no time to serve the people that you've come to help.

In many countries people are ruled by fear, especially from governments, armies and the police themselves. They have fear of those who are above them and fear of those who work underneath them. They are often paid very little wages for the work that they do, but even so they are careful not to be caught doing something outside of the community of people that they're working with. This is why it is helpful to befriend people of the area where you are living. They can help you to understand the laws and to teach you things concerning respect and honour.

- **Views of your country**

When you go to another country, not only is it important that you understand the country you will be serving, but also that the people group will have certain views about the country that you come from. In some people's minds history goes back a long

ways and if they have been a conquered people by a specific group they will not have much love for them. Outwardly they may appear friendly but inwardly they still hurt by what was done to them either by our forefathers or another people group that looks like us.

Plus, what's going on in the world at the present time may also affect relationships and what we can do with the Gospel of Christ in that foreign land. They may just dislike you because you are a Christian and they think that you are there to destroy their way of life and to put them under the bondage of your God. When you first begin your ministry the most important thing is to try to be a servant / leader to those around you; to live a life that is more equal to how they live than to how you have been used to living.

▪ **Food and Clothing**

Another challenge that you will immediately face is in the whole area of food and clothing. Many times when you are invited to someone's house the food that they prepare for you is often the best that they have, and for you to reject it or not to like it will cause much discomfort in your host's heart. If you're going to live in another's culture and tradition you need to learn quickly how to eat their food. It is important that you watch your host and how they do things such as their use of knives, spoons or forks, chopsticks or just eating with their right hand. They may eat with plates or they may just openly share food with one another on banana leaves. You will also have to deal with how they drink and what they are drinking. One definitely has to be careful because in many homes the eating time is almost like a sacred worship service; a time where they talk, learn about the day's news and share with each other what has been going on in their lives.

Next comes the whole area of dress. Many people will have different standards for different kinds of events, anything

from a church service, a family gathering or even meeting representatives of the community. There's been challenges in this area over the years. Some decide to continue to wear their Western dress and others will take on the dress or clothing of their community. It is important to find out through your friendships what one may wear and whether it is offensive or accepted within the community. The way you dress can affect whether people will listen to you or not. If you dress in such a way that they are staring at your clothing and not hearing what you're saying to them, you will not have much or any fruit. But dress also includes your hairstyle, your jewelry, kinds of makeup, piercing and tattoos. These can become offensive if not properly understood. Your actions and lifestyle will speak much louder than your words. The moment you reach the mission field you are a 24-hour teacher each day, and you are being watched by all generations.

▪ **Medical Facilities & Insurances**

As you go to another country you should first find out what kind of medical facilities are available and whether your home country insurance covers you there. Many times the medical standards are far below that which you may be used to. Many insurance companies will not cover you after a month or two, or because of where you are going. They may not even give you life insurance. It is important that you work these things out with your local church or with the organization that is sending you. Unfortunately, things do happen, unforeseen things, even things as small as just a mosquito bite can change a life. Finally, you need to learn all you can about contagious diseases and sicknesses where you will be serving and follow the necessary precautions to live there.

The mission field can be a dangerous place and unfortunately things can happen very quickly when it comes to sickness and injuries. You should have plans in place especially if

you are there with your family. The enemy is always looking for ways to sidetrack missionaries or get them caught up in other things which take away from that which God is doing. The world is becoming a more dangerous place to live in, but you have to make sure that you spend time each day in prayer and in God's Word, to hear from Him the direction that He has for you to walk that day and be determined to be obedient no matter what the cost may be.

▪ **List of Embassies**

All countries have a capital city and in these capital cities will be either embassies or secretariats that represent a large variety of other countries. You should take time to find out which embassy or whose embassy is the covering for your country. These places can become a place of refuge in times of calamity; everything from destructive weather, to uprisings in the country, to a change of government itself. Often missionaries do not take the time to let the embassy know where they are, but it does not hurt to register so that if they need to find you, because of something that has gone on back home or a change in the climate of the country you are serving in or even a need to evacuate you and your family, they will be able to contact you.

Reflection:

You may think that what has been written above seems like a lack of faith in what God has called us to do, but the truth is, God has giving us a brain and when we ask, He will give us wisdom on how to navigate through the jungle of things that we will face as we live in this new land to which He has called us. The key is not to be full of fear, but to realize that faith comes often by understanding, and by understanding the things that are around us, we will become a better vessel and tool in the hands of God. He has not promised that things will be easy or that there will be no challenges, but He did promise to never leave or forsake us. That's

what we build our trust in, that whatever we may go through He is with us, guiding us and filling us with His Spirit.

5. Mission in one's Own Country

In today's society's and especially in the North American continent we have a tremendous influx of people groups moving to this continent and because of that there is also a great need for disciples / missionaries to work within their own countries. We may not have as many difficulties as other missionaries who travel to various parts of the world, but we will face even here different cultures and traditions. There are a variety of people groups now forming small communities within our large cities including people groups that are called first nation, people who were here before the colonization by Europe.

- **Motive for going**

Even if God calls you to go to a people group within your own country, you always need to check your motivation for going. What has God called you to do and where are you going? There is always a concern about missionaries because there may be a variety of reasons for why they are going. Some go because it's an easy way to pay for a trip by getting others to support them. Some go to help build self-worth and value in their own lives. But the true motivation should be that you are going out to serve others in whatever capacity is needed so that the kingdom of heaven may continue to grow.

- **Cross cultural lifestyle of the people**

In some areas of your own home country you will not face as much cross-cultural lifestyle difference because the people will be used to the main language of the country, to its currencies and its laws. But you still need to study the people group that you hope

to work with, because even though they have moved to our country, many of them still have traditions and beliefs that are deeply ingrained within them from their original country.

- **Traditions and beliefs**

The newcomers that have come to our land often eat the same kind of food and attempt to keep their mother tongue within their home, teaching and training their children some of the old ways that they as parents have lived. Again as a missionary / disciple it is important that you learn all you can and understand clearly what their beliefs and traditions are. Others, when they move to a new country want to get rid of the past and start fresh. They believe that now that they are in North America, they should follow the North American religion of Christianity, but they have not experienced any of the teaching of the Bible or what it means to be a Christian and attend church as a religious obligation rather than as an act of faith.

- **Prejudices**

Another challenge that newcomers sometimes face is prejudice. This can take the form of either harassment from their former country and its people, or persecution by their new home, often caused by misunderstandings birthed through miscommunication. These and other pressures encountered by various cultures can cause them to break, leading some of them to commit suicide. They live with guilt and uncertainty but they came with the hope of having a better place and more opportunities for their children. As a disciple / missionary you must look past the colour of their skin and the language barrier and even their religion and begin to serve them and help them where you can, demonstrating to them the love of the one true God. Sometime we help people in faraway lands more than those who are now living in our community and country.

▪ Term of ministry

When you begin to work within your own country it is still important to ask the questions of why, who, where, when and what you hope to see accomplished. Just like you would research for going overseas, either as a short-term or full-time missionary, you still need to answer these questions so that you can have a better understanding of what God is calling you to do. Again, you need to find out what the terms and expectations are of the sending group and of yourself personally. I believe that being a “tent maker disciple / missionary” can also work well in reaching the newcomers to our country and establishing new churches through these people groups. The idea of a “tent maker” is that you have a full-time job providing you with an income and outside of the job, you’ve committed yourself to being a disciple / missionary, reaching out into different people groups within your own community, different cities or even a completely different part of the country. God is bringing these people to our lands, but He needs us to preach the gospel to all peoples and nations.

The challenge remains. Like all missionary work, you need to have a purpose, clear goals and a plan on what you hope to do so that you may share this vision with others who may want to help physically, financially and spiritually. There are never any shortcuts when it comes to mission work; the better that one understands the field, the more prepared one will be to take in the harvest. You need to gain as much experience as you can. But there is more than just preparing the field. You need to plant, water and nurture those fields, but remember it’s God who gives the increase (1 Cor 3:6). All across our lands there are many fields that are ripe unto harvest and all that they are waiting for is a labourer who will say, yes Lord I will go (Isa 6:8). Yes, Lord wherever you lead me I will follow (1 Pet 2:21).

▪ **Potential Fruit**



These newcomers that are here in our land come with great potential because they are open to hear the new things and to live a different kind of a life than they lived back home. The other exciting part is that often they are already in a community, meeting together. If you can bridge into their community with Jesus Christ, you can quickly form a church of new believers. Another plus that seems to happen is that one small group will introduce you to other groups throughout the land. They will also introduce you to groups back in their country where you will have the opportunity to go and share the gospel with them. Relationships can build bridges for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is like God bringing you into a community and then networking you throughout the world with that community, opening many doors for the gospel.

Reflection:

I know that often home missions are looked upon not as being a true definition of what it means to be a missionary. But I've seen over the years as God has moved people groups into our country, that there is a great need for harvesters here too, for people to do church planting, for people to go out and disciple other people groups and see them equipped and trained for service. We should never underestimate the power of this ministry and we should, wherever possible, come alongside these people who are feeling God's call to reach out through various kinds of ministries throughout our land.

These disciples / missionaries should not be considered second-class people, but very relevant and important to God and His kingdom because God wants to use different people groups around the world to proclaim His gospel of His Kingdom. Churches need to both reach out to the outermost parts of the world, and reach out to their Jerusalem's and Samaria's (Acts 1:8). I've experienced everywhere we go that God is ripening a harvest,

but the problem is the lack of people who are willing to bring in the harvest. Just like in Paul's time, he could go around to villages and cities and see people come to Christ, but God had to raise up more leadership, to equip and train the new believers and establish people in positions of leadership. Good leadership must help new churches to remain standing firm in Christ, but good leadership must also realize the need to send out others throughout the lands.

6. Missions outside of one's country

Many things that are written in this section are similar to the one above, but because in this case you are staying longer, it is important to have a good understanding of the people that you are working with. Discipleship ministry is difficult when it comes to building bridges with the people group that you're hoping to reach out to, and this will take time. People want to get to know who you are and what your faith in Christ is like, what you believe in and why you have come to their country. The longer that you stay in a country the more connected you will become or the more rejected you will become by the people. There is a great need for prayer both by the disciple / missionary and by the sending organization so that God will grant you the right attitude and giftings to help the people that you are being sent to on behalf of Jesus Christ.

▪ Motive for going

Again, as mentioned above, you need to check your motives for why you are going and to make sure in your heart that this is definitely a calling of God. When you go cross culturally out of your country to a foreign land, there can be many difficulties and challenges that you will face. What will keep you firm, is that you know, that you know, you were called by Christ Jesus to do the kind of ministry that He is opened up to you. Remember the life of Paul. Not only did things go well for him and he was able to plant churches throughout Asia Minor, but he also found himself

having to flee certain towns and villages and even ended up in jail because of his strong stand concerning Jesus Christ as the Messiah. Jesus is going to use your life, but it may not be in the way that you have envisioned and this is why it's important to make sure of your calling and that you are planted on a firm foundation.

I exhort you that you seek the Lord concerning your calling in the place that you will be going. Also, seek counsel from the leadership of your church and of the people of the place where you will be going. God is calling you to be a conduit of His love to a people group who may misunderstand you or even hate you because you are presenting a gospel / religion in their minds that can divide their families and bring them at odds with their community and their country.

▪ **Cross Cultural Lifestyle and Traditions**

Once again it is important to **research** the lifestyle of the people that you are reaching out to, not only to discover their current lifestyle, but also to research the traditions and beliefs that have been a deep part of their lives throughout the history of where they have lived. Most often when you go to a new place you are looked at as a foreigner, someone from another land who could be perceived as bringing division and destruction to a way of life that they may have lived for thousands of years as a people group.

All people groups have traditions and beliefs of some type, and at various stages of their lives it will become more evident and more profound. Children and youth are not normally concerned about the community's culture and traditions, especially if they have access to the Internet and to the world community but as people get older and get married, some of these ingrained cultural beliefs begin to reappear and as people age these traditions often become much stronger to the place that the seniors become the keepers of their tradition and culture. They will do whatever is

needed to maintain the old way of life so that it gets passed on to the next generation. These are the things that you will have to be aware of and need to get a clear understanding of, if you hope to be a bridge into their lives for Jesus Christ.

The key word here would be the word research. See how they have viewed foreigners in the past. Also look into how they dress and eat, how they do things in their homes versus all things which are done on the street. It's been stated many times that before a person speaks, they should first get to know their audience and who they will be speaking and working with. The use of words are very powerful and again we can learn from the life of Paul: as he proclaimed certain things about Jesus Christ, within moments, he was facing a riot on his hands needing to be rescued by the soldiers; what we could call today's police. Remember, relationships take time to build and you need to get to know the community you are working with on a variety of different levels of understanding, if you hope to reach them with the Gospel.

▪ **Prejudices**

Once more I need to remind you that depending on what country you come from, the people that you are reaching out to may have some built-in prejudice about you and your country. Sometimes just being a white person can draw a lot of attention to you and to what you are doing. There can be a lot of mistrust between people groups, because of the promises that were made in the past and were never fulfilled. You must take time to fast and pray that these dividing walls will break down. In some areas your role as a disciple / missionary may be one of just preparing the ground. Then someone else will come along after you to plant the seed, others to nurture the plants, and down the road more will come to bring in the harvest. It is important that you and the sending organization and the people that you are connecting with

and the country you will serve will understand what part God is calling them to do at this point. Remember He has a very specific plan, purpose and goal for you and others to fulfill.

▪ **Short Term Ministry Trips**

Over the last half century, because of the availability of air travel, there has been a trend by organizations and churches to do what is known as short-term missions. People go out for one to three weeks at a time and do a variety of things from evangelism to projects that need to be repaired or built. But just like any type of mission trip, you again need to ask the questions and if you can't answer them, you then need to research the following: why am I going, which is the people group I am reaching out to, where, when and what am I hoping to see accomplished? These questions must be made clear to the team leaders who must then get the rest of the team to understand clearly the purpose of the trip. Unfortunately, there will always be some people who are using the trip as a way to have a holiday or some type of new experience, not knowing that they can be a challenge to the rest of the team and to what God is calling the team to do.

It is also important to find out from all parties what the terms and expectations are of the sending group and of those who will be receiving the group. When one goes on a short-term trip there is a tremendous amount of money that has to be raised both for the people to travel and for the project that they will be doing in the country to which God has called them. Any time money gets involved misunderstandings can take place and even a spirit of resentment can build up between team members. If not enough research was done, a lot of unforeseen expenses can result and this leads to other problems. Make sure you build a contingency fund for the unexpected and I will assure you there is always the unexpected in some form or another.

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There are also many other things that come out of short-term missions that are both positive and negative. You will affect the people group that you're helping in the area of the physical, emotional and spiritual. When you come to them they think of you as teachers and will watch you and all that you say and do, and will quote you as the gospel truth, often for years to come. Another problem that can surface is that the people who are working on the mission field may start experiencing jealousy from other churches and/or other people groups. The short-term mission has brought thousands of dollars to a specific area and have done great things, but after they go there can be many problems that are left behind both for the missionary, the church and for the local leadership of the community. It is important that every member of the team check their attitude of why they are there. You may have a lot of education and have learned a variety of things from books, but sometimes, when the boots are on the ground things turn out to be different and more challenging than what you may have thought.

Often, after the mission team is gone home, the people in the field feel forgotten. They don't have the finances to maintain the projects that were built or sometimes don't even have the money to feed the people like they were fed when you were there. It is important to remember that if you build something, like a child, you need to continue to commit to the growth of that child until they are mature enough to stand on their own.

You need to realize that you are a window to an unknown world. They believe that you have come from a place that has wealth and prosperity. They will want to connect to you by getting phone numbers and addresses with the hope that down the road you may be able to help them. Like all people of the world, people want to better themselves if at all possible so that they can give hope to their own children.

▪ Long Term Ministry Trips

The long-term missionary usually has to spend a greater amount of time in preparation and in raising funds because they often go off for a period of four years at a time. Plus, many other plans have to be put in place to look after things while you are gone. You also need to make sure that you will have enough to survive on while you're away. Again you need to take a lot of time answering the questions of: why, who, where, when and what you hope to see accomplished. Because you serve a living Saviour, I believe He will give you answers to your questions which may come to you through the Scriptures, through His church or just by meditating and fasting with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Often when you go out on longer tours to a country, you have to learn the language, traditions and culture to a much greater depth than those who go on short-term missions. There will be greater challenges that you will face especially if you go as a family. There will be challenges concerning paperwork and finances. When you arrive, you will face more questions on the mission field. If there are already missionaries or a church where you will be living, it is so important to be a servant to them and to learn from them. You do not need to go out and reinvent the wheel, but rather you should take time to listen and hear and learn from those who have gone before you.

It is important to understand the terms and expectations that you have concerning yourself, possibly your family, the group that is sending you and the group who is receiving you. When you go to the mission field you are not an island unto yourself, but are part of a group of people that hopefully have the same vision, hopes and dreams that God has laid on your hearts together. You always need to be very careful how you do things and present things and always be asking the question, “**What Would Jesus Do**”, if He was here with me right now?

▪ **Mission Projects Ministry**

Another thing that many churches are doing today could be called mission projects. Often it is to build or fix something that long-term missionaries have already established and are ministering to a specific people in the local area. Again, we as a group need to ask the same questions as above: why are we going, and who are we working with, where is the place and how do we access it, when do we hope to go and what do we hope to see accomplished. Plus, what are the terms and expectations of the sending and receiving groups. Never be embarrassed to ask a lot of questions, because we want to be a blessing to the people we are helping, but if we do not have a clear understanding of what it is we will be doing and what type of finances will be needed to fulfill this project, we will come back disheartened and the people on the field that we went to help will also be disheartened.

Mission projects can be of great help to those who are serving on the field, but they can also be a time of great stress both to the missionary and the leadership of the team, because the leader is trying to bring together various groups of people, involving them in a cross-cultural setting who may do things differently than the way we do them in our own country. The group will face challenges of dress, food, accommodations and a variety of emotional stress. The problem with short-term trips is that they are short-term. They can give a boost to the missionary or the church or the community that they're working with, but sometimes the long-term effects can be very challenging for those who are left behind. The actions and words of the short-term group are like seeds that get broadcast over the ground and after they have left, things can begin to grow and produce fruit that they had never intended to plant. So the way the group prays, works with each other and the locals and how they believe in the Scriptures will leave a lasting effect.

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Many times after teams go home the people that are left behind are suddenly confronted by either local governments or police wanting to know what was going on, where was all this money coming from and were all the permits and paperwork in place before they started. After a team leaves it would be good, at least for a month or two afterwards, to meet for prayer and specifically pray for the people that they have got to know, for the leadership and for the project that was done so it would become a lighthouse, and bring honour and glory to Jesus Christ.

Reflection:

The above information in many ways is just an overview of some of the things that one needs to be concerned about being a disciple / missionary who is representing Jesus Christ and His home church or organization in a different country and land. More details are given below concerning some of the specific things that we need to take time to evaluate and look at. We can see that each of the above types of ministry can be a blessing to the people who are receiving the ministry and help that we're bringing, but we always need to look at what we're doing through the eyes of the people that we're ministering to. How do they see us? What is a picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ that we portray to them?

In all of these various methods of sending people to foreign lands, whether it's short-term, long-term or a mission project, there should always be a time of debriefing of the individual team members and even of the disciple / missionary who is on the field. There can be a lot of emotional things that take place in the hearts of the people. There could be many things left undone concerning the ministry trip or issues that need to be addressed concerning those we left behind and who may be feeling forgotten.

7. Mission Challenges

Now comes the list of the many challenges that a disciple / missionary could face as he or she travels both within one's own country and to another country of the world. Many churches and organizations will have different standards of what missionaries need to have and understand before they can go out on behalf of the local church or the parachurch organization. But one thing that I have learned in the ministry is that the more wisdom, knowledge and understanding you can plant within your heart both of the world and of the people you're going work with, the more resources you can draw from in the future. The more you place in your heart the more God can release things from your heart to other people. Many challenges have happened just because people did not take the time to prepare adequately. You want to become the best tool possible so that Christ can use you in his body ministry. Just like an athlete, you need to take time to prepare yourself for the race that will face you.

Sometimes, people believe that when they get a call they should go immediately to fulfill that call, but this is not always so. Jesus tells us in the Scriptures that we are to take time to plan before building the house (Luke 14:28). You can see from the life of Paul that he received his calling, but then went off to a distant land to spend three years meditating and hearing from God and even then he did not go out until the church called him and sent Barnabas to go find him and bring him back to Antioch (Gal 1:17-18). Many things take time to grow and to become clear and strong in our hearts. The disciples of Jesus themselves spent many years with the Teacher of teachers, the Messiah, and at the right time Jesus sent them out. They still had struggles and trials, but because they were deeply rooted in the teachings of Christ and carried within them His attitude, they were able to overcome many of the challenges that they faced.

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Many of the things that are listed below can take time to work through, and it's important that we do not become discouraged, but that through faith we take the needed time to hear God's voice and leading concerning these different topics. The disciple / missionary himself has to come to the place where they feel at peace concerning these various items before they head to the mission field. We must also remember that some of these things come through maturity, which takes time, patience and much practice.

- **Education**

Education is one of the most important things that you as a disciple / missionary can acquire. Many things you learn you may ask yourself, why am I spending all this energy and money on things that seem to have no purpose concerning my call. But it has been proven over the years, that the broader the foundation one builds, the more opportunity for a firm and larger structure is made more possible. Education is a toolbox full of tools, and certain tools you may only use once or twice in your life, but other tools you will use every day as you serve.

It is important to get both intellectual and practical education. There is a difference between knowledge, wisdom and understanding. You can have much knowledge and wisdom, but that does not mean that you can perform practical tasks without first having experienced an understanding of what you have been taught.

Next, you should have the best training that you can get when it comes to the Bible and how to proclaim it to others. You should also get some training in the field of anthropology in order to have a better understanding of how to work with different people groups, cultures and traditions. Another area that can help you on the mission field is training in some type of practical

labour; carpentry, electrical, welding etc. These are just some of the things that can be helpful on the mission field.

If possible, after you've received your training, see if God can link you up with someone who would mentor you for a few years in this whole area of disciple / missionary ministries. The Scriptures also show us that Jesus sent out His disciples 2 x 2 and again this might be something that you should pray about. Maybe there is another couple that has the same call that you do and you can join together to fulfill God's greater vision among the people that you are serving. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. We can learn so much from others if we will just take the time to hear them and see how they have been able to reap a harvest for God's glory.

- **Languages**

For some, one of the hardest things to do is to learn the language of the people where you can both read it and speak it. You also have to realize that in many cultures there are two types of languages, one we can call the formal and the other more the street language. If a church or ministry has been established in an area for a while they may have a written Bible or a dictionary that people will use. Others may not have anything at the time, and you will need to train your hearing and eyes to watch and listen to how the people are speaking one to another.

It is good to get a tutor, someone that will come alongside you and help you in these areas. It is also good to keep notes wherever possible, and build a small dictionary of words that will help you. You first need to listen before you try to communicate with others. Again, this is another area that needs much prayer and asking the Lord to help you. You may go through many frustrating times and speak things that could be insulting to your hearers, but when people see you trying to learn their language and to

understand their culture and traditions they will try to help you wherever possible.

If you can find some of the people living in your own country that speak the same language and can help you with the culture and traditions, you should make every effort to spend time with them as much as possible. With today's technology there are lots of opportunities and ways when it comes to learning another language. Do not take this area lightly because history shows that those who took the time to learn the people's language saw the greatest amount of fruit come forth for God's glory.

▪ **Spouses and Family**

If you go to the mission field with your spouse and with children, there are important things that you should understand. First and most importantly, does your spouse accept the calling that is on your heart and does he/she have the same calling as you? You do not want to have a calling where your partner or children are being dragged along not having any call from God themselves concerning the mission field. Many marriages have been destroyed because of a lack of unity and harmony concerning the calling of God.

This book is not meant to be a counselling manual, but it is our hope that you will work seriously about having unity and harmony as a couple and family concerning what God is calling all of you to commit to and sometimes to sacrifice for. There will be many challenges, including sickness and diseases, and misunderstandings when it comes to various relationships. Often the one who has received the strongest call will also be the one who becomes a workaholic and has no time for their spouse or their children.

If this area is not made secure with a clear understanding before you go to the mission field, it can result in devastation and

separation within the family. The lifestyle that you experienced in your home country will change drastically for all members of the family. The spouse will be expected to do certain things on the mission field even if it's not part of their job description. The children will face a significant difference when they go to school in their local communities. These things all need to be prayed through and come to an agreement with each other. You will not have all the answers before you leave, but at least if you can come together in a oneness of vision and calling, the other things you will be able to work out on the field.

- **Fundraising and reporting**

One of the biggest challenges you will face as a disciple / missionary is the whole area of fundraising. For those who are being sent out by a denomination sometimes this area is a bit easier, because the denomination will help you make contacts and raise funds. They will also help you with a budget that deals with things like deductions, travel expenses, health care and how to budget out how you will live in the country to which you are going.

Other disciples / missionaries will have to begin to build a base or a network of churches, companies and individual people who will support you on a monthly or yearly basis. You will have to establish either this base with your endorsing church or with the organization that you are going out with, so that all funds will be cleared through them and receipted by them. This may mean sitting down and developing a contract and a mini board to walk with you as well as putting together the parameters of what you will be doing for the term while you are gone.

Another important part in fundraising is also reporting, letting those who support you know what you are doing so that they can both pray for you and if need be, help you with more

finances. You need to see that you are building a team of relationships with others that are coming alongside the calling that God has laid on your heart. You are not going out by yourself, but your responsibility is to be the cutting edge of the sword, while there will be a need for many more who will make up the blade and the handle.

- **Newsletters / Websites**

Because of modern technology there are many ways to communicate quickly around the world to our supporters, sending churches or organizations, and just to our family. But there can also be many traps that we need to be aware of; things that we write and publish can be both a blessing and a weapon to be used against us in the future. Many countries have different laws concerning how one speaks out both in their own countries in the countries that we are serving in. These laws can affect us as well as the organization that is sending us.

Websites are a powerful tool for communication, but they also are a place where information can be kept for many years. People may also keep up to date with activities and prayer requests that are posted to the website. There are many countries around the world that have laws against propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In these countries, laws can quickly put you in jail for long periods of time and may even cause you to lose your life. We need to pray as to how we should communicate, because for some disciples / missionaries they may have to go off the radar for a while where there will be very little or no communication to the supporting groups just for safety sake.

Another area of challenge is coming back and reporting to churches. Many churches like to put a list of their ministries upon their website, and sometimes the reports from returning missionaries can also end up on the website and much information that you shared can be found by anyone around the world by just typing in your name. With many countries nowadays it's important

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how you communicate both within the country, and from country to country. Plus, you need to be aware that what you may be sharing can be dynamic and exciting to your hearers and supporters but could cause you some problems with the governments both in your own land and the lands in which you minister.

- **Visas**

Another area of tension that is becoming more complicated as technology moves forward is this whole area of visas. Because of computer technology and because of the passports themselves, it has made it more possible to track your comings and goings like never before. Newer passports now have chips embedded in them that gets scanned as you go through various borders so countries now know the exact time you come in and when you have left and have the right to question you concerning your time in the country. Plus, many countries now are interconnected with each other and have the ability to trace somewhat what you are doing and especially where you are travelling.

There is a challenge that is coming our way that people, churches and organizations are going to have to deal with because it may cause direct problems with the people who are going out. For example, people who go on short-term missions apply for a visa which states that they are a tourist. Many countries are beginning to clampdown on this, and will even follow the people to see what they're really doing because on a tourist visa you are not allowed to work, to teach and to propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ. If you get caught usually it only means a few days in jail before they will send you off, back to your home country.

It is very important that you select the right visa and be as truthful as you can be, because the days of moving around from country to country with just a tourist visa will soon come to an end, because of the technology systems that are being used to track

people, and even fingerprint people as they travel throughout the world.

▪ **Phones, computers and Cameras**

In today's world technology has made it possible for people to be tracked and charged concerning things that might be perceived illegal or are illegal in the country that you are going to. Especially now in the European and North American arenas immigrations officers have the right to check your phones, your contact list on your computer and any emails that you may have written to people in their country. If at all possible it is better to go into a country with a new phone with few contacts and make sure that your computer does not have any specific information concerning what you're going to be doing while living in their country.

For many people, travel to other countries has been denied because of what was either on their phones or on their computers or the pictures that they had on their cameras. As a missionary / disciple myself, I have been challenged by authorities in several of these areas and you must remember that the challenge that comes, does not just affect you but also affects the leadership that you have visited and sometimes even the families and community that you live with and in.

If at all possible, take new equipment because even though you may have erased things from your phone or your computers sometimes people can still get into areas where some of these things for some reason are still held. We live in an age where there is becoming more opposition to Christianity and it has become in some countries a trendy thing to persecute Christians and to destroy them and the work that has been done sometimes over many, many years. I exhort you to please be careful where at all possible as you travel and minister in this day and age.

▪ Pension, health care, retirement and wills

Another area that a disciple / missionary needs to work through is the whole area of healthcare whether you are on a short-term mission or long-term mission trip. If you become sick overseas, depending on what the problem is, this could possibly bankrupt you or the organization that sent you. Some short-term missionaries get a general antibiotic from their doctor before setting out. Make sure that all needed insurances are in place.

You should also have a last will and testament, so that if something happens to you, those who are left behind have an understanding what to do with your body and your resources. Example: do you want to be buried in the country that you are serving, do you want to be cremated and your ashes brought back to your home country, do you want your body shipped back and buried in your home country? Unfortunately, sickness and health has become very expensive in many countries of the world, and we and the team who are sending us out, need to have some type of understanding of what they should do in times of crisis.

Another area to reflect on is the whole area of pensions and retirements. When one has handed over the ministry to another, what will happen to the retired missionary and their family? Some have put away money for a pension, others will just have their own house which they have been renting out while they were away, but many others when they return have nothing or very little pension to receive from their government. I believe it's very important that as sending churches and organizations we look into the future and see how we can help those who've given their lives of service for many years in various places around the world.

▪ **Licensing and ordination**

It is important that the missionary / disciple go out with some type of accreditation, so that when asked they have some form of paperwork to show that they are qualified in the area of ministry or work. Various denominations deal with this in a variety of ways, some will just be licensed as missionaries' others will be ordained as full-fledged pastors. The reason that this needs to be worked through is because various countries want people most often to be ordained as a reverend if they are working in a church or educational system. If you're teaching English as a second language make sure that you have the proper paperwork showing that you are qualified to do this. Many countries want to raise the level of training within their own country and they will give more room for service if you are properly qualified where they can see that you can help their people move to a higher standard of education.

The more doors, with God's help, that you can open through education and ordination the more doors will be open to you where you will be serving. Many times in your home country these kinds of things are not important. In Third World countries, these documents can open up many doors for service and even make it possible that you can speak into lives of governments and elected officials because you can prove that you have a track record of discipline and training.

▪ **Persecution, Hostage Taking, Imprisonment and Martyrdom**

Because the persecution of Christians is becoming more prominent around the world the disciple / missionary and the sending organization need to know where they stand on this whole issue. What is the policy of our government, our church denomination, our local church or the sending organization? Some persecution can come, because you are white or from a particular

country where the people know that there's ransom money that could be gained by taking you hostage. This may have something to do with you being a Christian, but more often, the abductors have the idea that somebody will pay for you to be released and it's an easy way to make a lot of money.

You can also face imprisonment because of what you are doing in a particular country. Many times you can be charged and found guilty according to their traditions and laws and can be given long-term sentences in jail. The question that you need to ask before you go to these areas is who is going to help us and who will shoulder the responsibility of what we're going through. Unfortunately, when difficulties like these arise many people groups or organizations including our own government seem to disappear.

One other thing that is beginning to take place more than ever before is the martyrdom of Christians. We all pray that this will not take place, but unfortunately through the history of the Church of Jesus Christ it is happened over the years to thousands and thousands of people. This is something that is real and in the last days becoming more prominent in many countries.

- **Waivers and contracts**

Depending on how the missionary / disciple goes and who he/she is being sent out under, it is helpful to have a contract between the missionary and the sending organization or some type of written agreement if you're just going out under your church. This helps make clear both the lines of authority and the lines of responsibility between the various groups. Unfortunately, in our world today even amongst Christians, when things go wrong people tend to sue each other or blame each other for what has or is happening. Contracts are there to protect both sides, the sender and the one who is being sent because things can become a long-term

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challenge for both groups if we don't have some type of binding contract in advance.

So whether one is on short-term missions, mission projects or long-term missions, it is important to have a waiver explaining clearly the responsibilities of the various groups. This is critical, especially if you're doing short-term missions or a mission project where young people are involved because while having fun and serving the Lord they sometimes get hurt in one way or another. Then the challenge comes: who pays for the medical service and who pays for the change of ticket to get that person or persons home? The clearer we define the different positions of what one will do or not do concerning problems, the easier it will be to quickly deal with such challenges when they arise.

- **Local church charters**

One other issue that can be a problem both for the missionary and the sending church is dealing with this whole area of the local church charter. This is a statement that we have made to the government, claiming what it is we hope to do as a charity. Some church charters are very narrow in their perspective and if a church was to be audited and did not have the proper charter for sending out missionaries, building things in other countries, or transferring of monies, these can become a problem to the local church where the worst-case scenario would be, that they lose their charter status with the government of their country.

We live in a very fast changing times where governments are taking more time to check out charities and mission organizations regarding what they're doing and who they are supporting. There is a great concern that monies do not get transferred to people who are being destructive or causing war in other countries. Again, whatever we do, it is important that we

build relationships throughout the various peoples that have come together to reach out with the Gospel of Christ in other nations.

Reflection:

It may seem that I'm stating a lot of negative things concerning being a disciple / missionary but it does not help to put our head in the sand and think that these things will not affect us, for as the latter days come upon us, the enemy is going to try to pour out all he can to stop and destroy missions for Jesus Christ here on earth. These items above are just some of the things that need to be thought through by ourselves personally and by the organization that is sending us out. Many organizations already have policies in place concerning these different things, but unfortunately a lot of independent, nondenominational churches do not. Just like the laws of driving, ignorance does not mean bliss. It's getting harder and harder to pretend that we didn't know, but the truth is, these governments expect you to know the laws of their lands.

8. Mission Reporting and Accountability

We've touched on this subject a bit already but I'd like to take a moment to go into a little more detail concerning this whole area of reporting and accountability. There are at least two reasons that this is important. One is to help us see that we do not stand alone out on the mission field, but are connected to a church of believers who are praying for us and supporting us. Secondly, it helps the sending group to remember we are on the mission field on behalf of them and for both sides to realize that they need to be held accountable to each other.

▪ Giving of Testimonies

We can see in Acts chapter 15 how important it was for Paul and Barnabas to give a report and to be accountable to the apostles in Jerusalem. They came and reported what they had experienced and what they had seen. They gave powerful testimonies of what God was doing throughout Asia Minor and by these testimonies the church of Jesus Christ was strengthened and encouraged. A testimony can be a very powerful tool in encouraging others to become disciples of Christ and encouraging disciples to go out and to become full-time missionaries. Never underestimate the power of a testimony. A good example of this was the woman at the well who, after she had spoken with Jesus, went back to her village and shared with them all that she had heard, and because of that the whole village came out and heard Jesus speak and became believers and disciples of Jesus Christ (John 4:1-42).

I must warn you though that sometimes churches and people will not be interested in what you have to share or they may only give you a few minutes to share it in the church. You could have been gone for four years, but unfortunately many of the people in the church will not know you, because people have moved on and other new people have come in. Many Sunday night services or midweek meetings are no longer held, and so there seems to be no time for the missionary to give a report to the people. Yes, some will have read your newsletters and others may have seen what you posted on the Internet, but most will not know anything about you or what you've been struggling with. So whatever amount of time you are given, you must prayerfully prepare yourself to give the most important part of what's been going on in your life so God can use it to touch the lives of others.

▪ **News or E-mail Reports to Supporters**

As already stated above the importance of communication with those who pray for you and financially support you is critical to the ministry. Many donors often think of their missionaries or mission work like a business where they are constantly reevaluating how their support or investment is producing fruit in of the land where the missionary is serving. Unfortunately, many times we have to promote and sell the vision that God has laid on our hearts so that others will come alongside us to help us fulfill what we been called to do. Whenever possible, if you can get out a newsletter or email to the team of people who are walking with you, it is of great encouragement to them to know what's going on. And when you're back for a little time or if you have an opportunity to speak to them face-to-face or just to call him or her on the phone, yes, take time to share your needs, but also take time to hear about their needs and pray for them. They need to know that they are a part of a bigger picture and God needs all of us working together to fulfill the great commission which He has called all disciples / missionaries to do.

I would encourage you to make your mailing list your prayer list. These people and businesses have committed to join together with you in service, and because of that Satan will try to attack you and stop you, but he may also try to attack them and stop them. It is important that the people back home, as they labour, are able to make money so that they can be a vessel to send out all those extra funds to touch lives of other people for Christ around the world.

▪ **Accountable to Others in the Body of Christ**

Under this point, when I speak about accountability in the body of Christ I'm not just concerned about the local church or the organization that has sent you out, but the other organizations that

may be in your area of service. We may not all believe the same way, but as a church, where possible, we need to support one another on the mission field. They are not our enemies, and we should not adopt the “them and us syndrome”. Instead we should find ways to help each other. We need to be praying for, encouraging and supporting each other where we can. Being a disciple / missionary on a foreign field can be a very lonely place and sometimes making contact back home can take a while, but if we build relationships with other fellow disciples / missionaries, then we will have some people where we can help them or they can help us in our time and need.

▪ **Speaking to Mission Boards**

It is key whenever possible to speak to church mission boards. If you have been blessed to have the support of a number of churches that means they will have a number of church boards and mission boards that will be praying for you and supporting you. When you are back from your trip whether it's short-term or long-term, try to arrange to speak to the missionary board and tell them clearly what has been happening, what are some of the problems you're facing and what are some of the things that God is speaking into your own heart. It is important that you be honest with these people about your struggles and trials, because they are there to encourage you and support you and you need to take advantage of that when the opportunity arises.

There are also churches that put on a Mission Convention and you may not be able to go yourself, but many of the missionary board members would be glad to set up a booth for you, to display some of your materials and even speak on your behalf while you're away. If you give them the needed information and contact them about things that need to be prayed about or supported, they will be there to help you where they can. Do not

underestimate this board or the people on the board because they are an extension of the team that God has surrounded you with.

- **Speaking in a Church Service (Message or Testimony)**

When you come back from the mission fields many of the sponsoring churches that support you would like to hear from you. Some will give you time in their morning services to speak and share or to show a PowerPoint presentation or video. Others may give you time to do a combination of a testimony and a message from the Word of God together. Other churches may open up an evening service where you can have a majority of the service to tell and encourage others about what God has done. Or they may give you time on a Wednesday night Bible study again to give a testimony and/or a small message. It is important that you keep connected with the pastor and mission board, giving him or her where possible, times in advance, when you hope to be travelling through their area. Even if you do not have an opportunity to preach at a service or to testify still make time, if possible, to visit with the mission board and the pastor because they are going to be the ones that keep your calling and vision before the congregation.

- **Diaries and Booklets**

Another helpful thing that you can do when it comes to reporting and accountability is to keep a daily diary, recording some of the highlights, things that have happened throughout the days of ministry while away, or things that need to be changed that God has spoken to you about or something that He is teaching you or something new you have learned. Diaries can be a tool that God can use where you can look back and see His hand of miracles in your life. And it's a tool that can help you when you prepare your newsletters, messages and testimonies to give to others.

You can also begin to record things in a booklet; things concerning the people's cultures and traditions or just preparing

tools that people can read that will help strengthen and encourage them in their faith walk with Jesus Christ. You will never know all the places that God may take something that you have written as a pamphlet or booklet and use it for His glory. Don't worry about being a professional writer, just get your thoughts down and let other members of the body of Christ help correct and organize it. Many writers have never dreamt that years later people would still be picking up their tracts and booklets and having their lives touched in a deep and powerful way, because as the Holy Spirit draws people to Himself, He may use some of the things that you share in writing as channels with which to glorify the name of Jesus Christ.

Reflection:

Reporting and being made accountable for what we do on the mission field is key to keeping the ministry strong. Even in Paul and Barnabas's time there were sometimes tensions between the local churches and the missionaries, but God used these times and challenges to both strengthen the church and give opportunity to the church to be a blessing to others. Wherever possible, if it is just meeting for coffee or meeting a family in their home do not underestimate the power of a testimony or talking about your ministry. This is because it can speak into people's lives and for some, it may even put a call on their heart to go into full-time service as a disciple / missionary somewhere else in the world for Christ Jesus.

9. Mission Directives and Policies of the Sending Body

The reason why this section is found here in the booklet is because many churches and organizations have multiple levels of policies and directives that can directly or indirectly affect what you do on the mission field. You and the people you are serving

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under need to be aware of these policies, because many of them may have been written not only years ago but decades ago and could be out of date or not practical for today's day and age.

- **Who are you going out under?**

First you need to make clear who is sending you out into the field. Is it a denomination that is your overseer, or your local church or are you on loan from one organization to another? By knowing this clearly you will be able to plan more accurately what you can and cannot do as a missionary on the other side of the world.

- **What are their expectations?**

Remember that the group or groups that are sending you out also have expectations and hopes of what they believe God is calling them to do. It is important that you find out whether your expectations and theirs line up, not just in a general verbal way, but actually in writing so that the various parties are in agreement. If you are being sent out by several groups, this will be even more critical because you can get lost in the paperwork or the red tape of bureaucracy.

- **What are the lines of authority at home and on the mission field?**

Many organizations have flowcharts or some system of communicating the lines of authority. You need to understand who is over you and who may be under you so that there can be clear lines of communication. If you are under a different organization that is outside of your church or denomination, their ways of communicating authority and responsibility may be different to what you are used to. Plus, when you get to the mission field if someone is there before you it might be expected that they are the leader and you are there to serve them or to help them in

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their goal and call, when in reality you might be sent out by your organization to do something completely different than what their vision may be. Take time to look into these lines of authority and communication both on the home front and on the mission field where you may be sent, because by doing so you may be able to remove a lot of future stress and challenges.

- **Who will you be working with?**

As stated above already you might be going to a mission field area where others are already established. You may be sent out to become part of a team which is spread out throughout a certain region or country. Because of this, you need to know something about the people with whom you may be working and the lines of authority. They may already have ways of doing things and have the calendar full of meetings, conventions and training sessions. You might be expected to fit into what has already been planned out and established for the next three years or more to come. See if you can research a little bit who the other workers are, where they are from, what denomination they come from and where they have been trained. These insights can greatly help you to understand why they do what they're doing, and how you can come alongside with them in serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection:

The suggestions stated above seem like they are a lot of work, but the better understanding that you can have concerning mission directives and policies and who you will be working with will help you to be a more effective servant for our Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, God wants us to be led by the Spirit, but at the same time He's given us a brain to think things through, and if we lack any wisdom we are to come to Him and He said He would give it to us generously (Jam 1:5). It is important to do all we can to be a better team member on the field. Just like in sports we have a coach and on the field we have a captain and then we have the players. To be successful as a team we all need to work together. We need to have an understanding about each other so that we,

together, are able to defeat the enemy or the opposing team. God has not called us to be a bunch of individuals; He's called us to work together as a body equipping each other. He takes our unique differences and makes us uniquely strong in Him. The biggest challenge that we must face, is our willingness to die to ourselves and to serve others. We are told that there is no greater gift than to lay down one's life for another, and many times in the mission field that's exactly what will take place and will be needed if the kingdom of God is to expand in the area where we are serving.

10. Mission, Cooperative Agreements, Interchurch Ministries and Intermission Ministries

As stated many times, that we are part of a body; disciples who are fulfilling the call of missions to go out to a specific area where we can serve the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not an easy ministry because various people and groups are constantly coming and going during the time that we may be serving, and so we are constantly having to readjust our programs and schedules. We need to remember that with God all things are possible to him that believes, so that even though some days may seem dark there is always a light at the end of the tunnel, but it requires us to seek, knock and find (Matt 7:7-8) and as we do, it will be made known to us what we are to do and how to do it.

- **Who are the other mission groups on the field where you will be serving?**

Either before you arrive or after you arrive take time to find out the other mission groups in your area or in the country where you're serving. You will soon learn that as you begin to serve on the mission field, your schedule will be constantly full, but it's important to make time each week to connect with other groups that are out there with you, because there is so much that you can learn from them, and there is a lot that they may be able to learn

from you. Keep your eyes and ears open and look through the materials that they send out or those from which they are teaching. Take time to read the local newspapers where you can find out what's going on in the community. This kind of information can help you as you serve in the field of God's call too.

- **What other churches are there in your area?**

It seems most often that wherever you travel there are already many established churches and a variety of denominations. Some will be glad that you have come and others will be worried that you might be there to steal their sheep. Again take time to find out who they are, because sometimes the title on the door or on the church building does not represent the kind of ministry or even what they believe in when it comes to the Word of God. As you go to the mission field it won't be long before you become a shepherd of some sheep and if you are faithful with the few God will even give you more, but you will have to determine whether you are called to come alongside other churches and help them or whether He is calling you to be a church planter and to establish a new lighthouse in the community where you live.

- **What will be your relationship to other local missionaries and pastors?**

Even if you are sent to countries where there is no visible church, there may be an underground church where people who love the Lord and are giving their lives fully to Jesus Christ meet. There may be other local missionaries and pastors in your area and it's important that you take time to find out who they are and what God has called them to do. With all relationships, you need to go in with your eyes and ears open, to be able to discern whether some of the other workers are truly of God, serving our Lord Jesus Christ or out there doing something deceptive feeding like a wolf upon the sheep. Pray that God will give you wisdom and

discernment as you meet others and that God would show you who you should work with and how to work with them.

Reflection:

All parts of ministry whether we are tentmakers, pastors, teachers or evangelists all need to be built on relationships with those around us. Yes, some relationships will have a deeper commitment while others will just be at arm's length and some will even be more distant. But our goal should be to build up the kingdom of God here on earth. We are here as an ambassador not to serve ourselves, but to serve Him as our Lord and Saviour. Jesus always put others first and He uses us to be poured into peoples' lives and set us up as an example on how we should help and encourage each other. We are called to be vessels or cupbearers taking the anointing of the Holy Spirit and being willing to pour it out onto whoever God has called us to give it to. He challenges us, stating that even if we just give a cup of cold water in His name we will be blessed because of what we have done (Matt 10:42; Mark 9:41).

Conclusion:

Being a disciple/ missionary, as we can see, is not an easy ministry and the enemy of our soul will try to attack us in a variety of ways. But our goal and purpose is to bring together mission, evangelism and discipleship as one. When we read the book of Acts, it becomes quite clear that the missionaries went out, proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ which is evangelism, and then took time to build up disciples in Christ Jesus through teaching. Because of these three areas being done together churches were established and lighthouses began to spring forth in various places throughout various lands. As Christ's ambassadors, we are here to bring reconciliation on behalf of our Lord Jesus Christ to a lost world. This world is not our final destination. (See Appendix 1)

We are also being given the fruit of the Spirit which is in turn to flow out through the giftings that God has given to us to use on the mission field. Our lives should be overflowing with love, grace and mercy to a lost world. Our homes should be a place of refuge where people can come and be strengthened and encouraged; a place where they can meet Jesus Christ the King of kings and Lord of lords.

One of the biggest enemies that we will face is the one called time. In our minds there never seems to be enough time to do what it is that we have been called to do. The Scripture tells us that there is enough time as long as we're in step with the will of God Himself. Christ wants to make us more like Him and as we allow that to happen, our lives will begin to bear fruit and other people will be changed as they have seen the changes in our lives. We will never be perfect here on earth, but there is a time coming where we will become a new creation by Jesus Christ Himself.

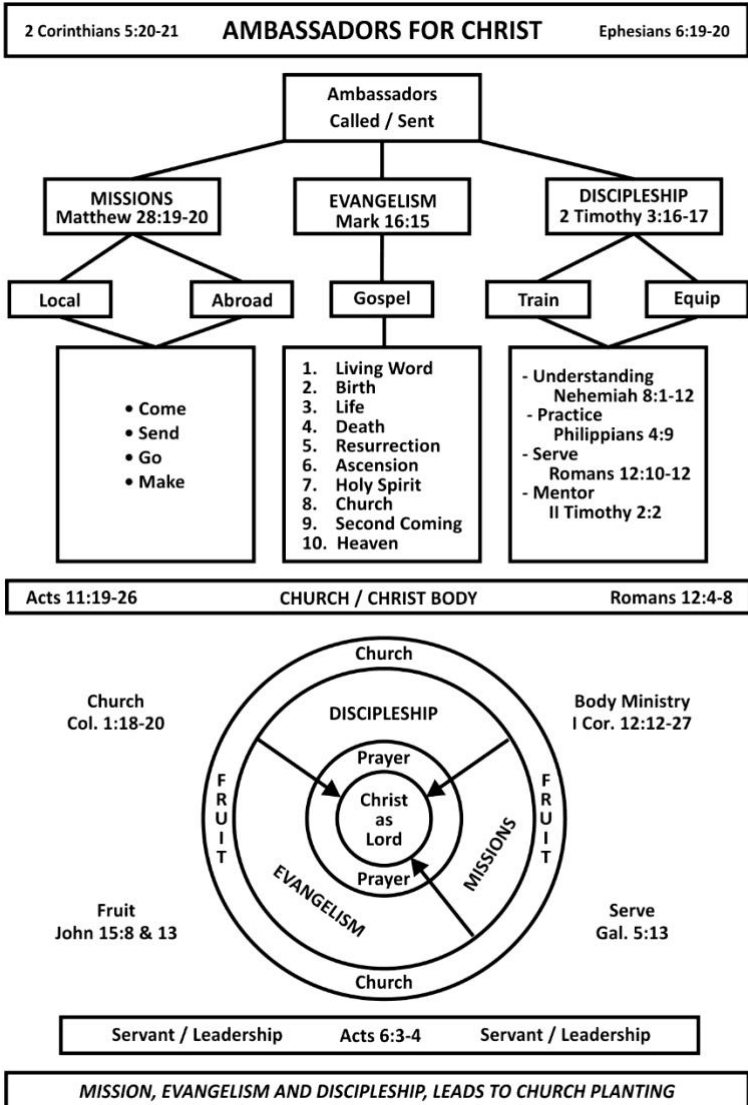
The ministry that we have been called to has as its main purpose and goal to take the rough diamond that we are and chisel

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off all the rough edges so that we can shimmer and shine and reflect to others the glorious light of Jesus Christ. Of course God is interested in the bigger body of believers, and He is also very interested in the loss of souls and wants them to come to see Him as the Lord and Saviour, but He also greatly desires to take our lives and graft them into Himself so that we can bear fruit which will last for His glory. (John 15:1-11)

Appendix:

1. Ambassador for Christ Chart



2. Igniting a Mission Fire

Here are some ideas that one could use to **Ignite a Mission Fire** in one's local Church. The Biggest Challenge is to communicate to people that this idea of mission outreach, both locally and abroad, is at the heart of our call that Christ has commissioned every believer to be involved in. The importance of doing missions as a local church must be communicated and taught, so people will then have a heart to equip others with the Gospel of Christ. This ministry is to be carried out by all generations, from children to our seniors. There are to be no bystanders when it comes to age. We are all called to get involved.

What follows are some Ideas that could help **Ignite a Missions Fire** in our local Church.

Mission cell groups, that focus on prayer, training and getting people involved with some type of mission outreach. Taking the time to pray and brainstorm together, to hear and do the kinds of project that one can do as a group of believers under the headship of Jesus Christ.

Mission Sunday Service, the church could set aside, maybe once every six months, a complete service that would focus on a specific mission, where the music, Scriptures and testimonies are dealing with a specific country or mission outreach, or once a month a small five-minute video that updates the congregation to what one of their missionaries, that they support, is doing and hear what their needs may be.

Mission Conference, the local church may want to each year put on a conference over a weekend where various mission organizations would be invited to the church to share and give testimony of what God is doing. A conferences can also be used as a time of training people within the church on how to become more mission/disciple orientated. One could do this in conjunction with other churches in the community and could also be used to break down any walls between churches and plant some seeds of unity where they could work together to reach out to a lost world.

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Mission Retreat, this could be put on by several churches where they rent a camp for a weekend and focus on a variety of aspects and teachings concerning missions itself. Topics could include how one could get involved, raise support, get information, and even pray with others about what God may be saying to one's own heart concerning missions. The day could be broken up into a variety of activities which revolve around giving people a greater understanding about missions and the purpose of missions in the local church.

Mission board, each church should have a Mission Board where its focus is to propagate and communicate to the local church, as a bridge, concerning the missionaries that the church supports. Missions is not a "them and us" type of ministry, but an "us and us" working together as a team, as a body of believers and it is the board's role to communicate the needs of missions and to come up with ways that the local church can get more involved and raise more funds for the spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mission Communication, in today's technology there are so many ways that the local church can reach out both to people around the world and to the missionaries themselves that they support. With phone, Skype, YouTube and many other ways, one will be able to touch the lives of their missionaries and of the lost around the world. We need to overcome our fears of communication and to let the Lord speak to us and through us to others.

Mission Field outreach, it is important that the local church also gets involved in reaching out both to their community and out to the world. Not all can be full-time missionaries but we are all called to do some type of mission outreach and this can be done where two or more will connect together and encourage each other through prayer and plan how they as a group can reach out to others. The local church can even build a plan where once a year they raise funds to send out somebody to visit one of their missionaries that they support and then come back and give a report to their local church.

Mission to local community, every community has some type of service groups where they are directly representing the Church of Jesus Christ or whether just trying to help their fellow citizens. There are

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all kinds of needs in the local community where one can get involved even if it's not directly a church centered function. Things like the food bank, helping at shelters and giving a helping hand at a clothing deposite, or doing things at Christmas time with people like the Samaritans Purse or giving out food hampers etc. What is needed in our communities are people whose lives have been changed by Jesus Christ and who are willing to let their light shine through their actions.

Mission Publications, one's church can also get involved in preparing, writing and distributing materials, such as booklets, community newsletters, gospel tracts, and producing news articles for your local paper. One could put up signs highlighting different things concerning the Gospel of Christ.

Mission Testimonies, it is important in the local church that as many people as possible get an opportunity to share their faith. We know the impact of a testimony by the story of the woman at the well for what happened to her, touched the entire community. Small videos of testimonies can be posted on YouTube; people can blog on the Internet about their Christian faith and what God is doing in their lives.

Mission Fellowship Meals, a church can also have potluck type meals that focus on different countries from around the world where all the food that is prepared represents one country. Everything from the decorations to the music and even in how they may eat their meal would be done during this time so that we as people can experience what it would be like to be a missionary and to live cross culturally in another country.

Missions to Immigrants, today we have hundreds of people that are migrating into our country and they have many needs, everything from clothing, and medical attention to learning the English language. They need people to drive them around to teach them the ways of our society. We as Christians should be the first ones that are extending love to them. We need to find out where they're living, what are some of the struggles that they are facing each day and begin to put teams of people together to help them. There is so much we can do for these people. It is like God is bringing the world to our doorstep.

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Mission Societies, there are hundreds of these groups around the world attempting to help in a variety of ways to both help mankind live in this physical realm and to prepare them for the spiritual realm that lays ahead. There are a variety of humanitarian outreaches that people can get involved with. Things like starting schools, drilling wells, helping people with farming, training people how to run small businesses, working in hospitals, doing translation work and teaching people a second language etc. They need our support.

Mission and Children, we should never underestimate the power of children when it comes to missions because God takes their simple faith and often uses it to break some of the hardest hearts in people. We need to be training children at a young age how God can use them not only in their community but in a variety of ways around the world. We need to show them that missionaries are not just somebody who is going out in another part of the world but that there is a lot more involved. It is people getting involved in all avenues of life and using their life as a light for the gospel of Jesus Christ whether they are a tent maker or a full-time missionary.

Mission and Youth, this group needs to experience hands-on opportunities to be a witness for Christ within their own local community, across the country or in other parts of the world. The local church should be planning ways that their young people can experience what it means to do missions. This may mean short-term mission trips to other places but it also may mean giving a month of their time to either serve their church or their community. Experience many times is the best teacher. And we as a body of believers need to equip them for service both in the present time that they're living and in the days and years ahead of them. There are a variety of programs and materials that one can use if one will take the time to search the Internet.

Mission and Seniors, it needs to be said that the Bible seems to have no reference where believers retire after the age of 65 from the work of serving Jesus Christ. In fact, this is a group of people that now have time and often the finances to serve in a variety of ways both locally and around the world. They have the time to pray, to write letters, to use their skills to help build things, to use their wisdom to help direct

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committees and boards. There is a great storehouse of people here that need to be motivated to get involved in serving and to use their later years to finish the race well for Jesus Christ. There are so many mission organizations all across Canada and around the world that can use their help both in long-term and short-term missions but the challenge is, do we believe God can still use this group of people for His Kingdom?

Mission to missionaries, the church also needs to have a clear idea about their responsibility to the ones that they have sent out. The church must continue to minister to their missionaries on the field. The church should establish a team of at least two or three people who would dedicate themselves for maybe one year to communicate, pray for and share with others what their sent out missionaries are going through.

Mission Teams, if at all possible it is good for a local church to send out short term mission teams. The more people that go on teams and experience the will and call of God on their lives, the deeper people will have a heart for missions. Teams like this help move people outside their comfort zone and cause them to have to deal with things and face things that they would never experience living at home. Teams can be made up of even children reaching out to some place in the community, of youth going and doing some type a short term mission, teams of parents going out and experiencing cross-cultural life and even teams of seniors taking their gifting and talents and helping others for short periods of time.

These are just a few ideas on how one can Ignite a Mission Fire with one's church and community. We also should not worry about the size or numbers of people getting involved when it comes to missions, because a spark is what it takes to get a fire going and once a fire has started it will ignite many more pieces of coal that in due time will cause a glowing fire for Jesus Christ.

One last thing, after reading this book and looking through some of these things concerning igniting a church for mission, you still might feel that things seem a little hopeless and that church missions program might still appear to be dead, but do not lose hope because through prayer God changes things. If you feel that you need help in this area or more ideas on how you could do missions in your local church, please feel free to email us at projectlambs@gmail.com and we will try to help

where we can, because our desire is to come alongside your burden and heart for missions and to help you succeed in planting the seeds of the Gospel of Christ wherever it may be here on earth.

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4. Project L.A.M.B.S. International

Making disciples is the call and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus urged the disciples to follow Him. He laid down before us the teaching and the walk that we need to follow with Jesus as our supreme example. It is imperative for every believer and the church to know that disciples are not born but they are made. For the church to be strong in the last days, we must be about the business of equipping the saints (disciples) for the work of service.

Dr. James Humphries has been ministering for over 40 years, and has experience in a variety of ministries including church planting, children's ministry, street ministry, youth ministry, camp ministry, pastoral work and directing and teaching in schools all over the world. In addition, he has taken part in traveling and ministering in the USA, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Thailand and across most of Canada. He completed his B.R.E. and his M.A. from Briercrest, and his Doctorate of Ministry from Providence Theological Seminary in the spring of 1999.

In January 1996, Dr. James Humphries resigned as pastor of a local church with a vision to reach further abroad with the Word of God and to use it to train labourers for Christ (Matthew 9:36-38). He shared this with Dr. David Smith and Dr. Chuck Nichols of Providence Theological Seminary and they greatly encouraged Dr. James Humphries and his wife Irene to develop what God was laying on their hearts.

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In March 1997, they traveled to Jamaica where they met several pastors who were very concerned about the need for training and disciplining their young people as leaders in their churches. Dr. James Humphries and Irene did not know this would be the starting point to an international ministry of discipleship training around the world known as Project L.A.M.B.S. International.

To date, Project L.A.M.B.S. has ministered in Canada, Myanmar, Ukraine, Africa, Jamaica, Mexico, Israel, Thailand, Japan, Dominican Republic, Naga Land and China. We offer over 30 different courses. Our graduates number over 1000, and are serving worldwide. Out of this group of graduates, we have equipped and trained directors, teachers and pastors who in turn are carrying out II Timothy 2:1-2 to an even larger group of people.

In 2002 it was discovered that Irene had cancer again. God gave Irene another three years and because of that she was still able to travel and teach in many different countries. Shortly after what was to be her last trip, Irene was hospitalized in February, 2005. A few weeks later she went home to be with her Lord and Saviour on March 9.

My second wife Hkaw Win was raised and trained mostly in the land of Myanmar. She has earned B.th, University Degree and a master of Divinity Degree in Myanmar. In April 2007 she finished a second Master's Degree at Providence Theological Seminary in Christian Education. After July 1st, 2007 she headed back to Myanmar to head up the Christian Education Department for the Myitkyina Kachin Baptist Association and oversaw various ministries to 62 churches. After her four-year term was completed,

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she has been traveling and working as an interpreter and doing translations concerning various kinds of discipleship books and materials.

Over the last ten years we have lived in the countries of Myanmar and Thailand preparing a variety of resources in the Burmese (Myanmar) and Kachin Languages. To date we have published over 20 different kinds of books. Our goal is to equip and establish people as Disciples of Christ. Please pray for God's leading and wisdom. Our walk with Christ has taken us down many challenging pathways but we have seen the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior in every area. His grace has been sufficient.

Founder and Director,

Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

Discipleship / Leadership Booklets

1. My Call with Christ
2. Called to His Purpose
3. Abiding in the Vine
4. Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding
5. Scripture: The Disciples' Anchor
6. Baptism: The Disciples' Testimony
7. The Disciples' Church
8. Servant Leadership
9. Teacher / Learner, Learner / Teacher
10. Being Wise Builders
11. Shepherds of God's Sheep
12. End Times
13. Relationship Pilgrimage
14. Christ's Disciple
15. Disciple's Prayer Life
16. Communion
17. Ambassadors for Christ
18. Full Armour of God
19. Good News for Challenging and Changing Times
20. Christ our Mediator
21. Jesus our Deliverer
22. Mission and Missionaries
23. Full Gospel Discipleship
24. Romans Road of Discovery

Bible Tools

1. Bible Information (18 different languages)
2. Bible Dictionary and Concordance (Kachin, Burmese)
3. Disciples' Principle of Faith (Kachin)
4. Called

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