

An aerial, top-down view of a large, dense crowd of people. The individuals are diverse in age and appearance, wearing various casual clothing. Some people are holding balloons in shades of orange, red, and green. The crowd is spread across the entire frame, with a central white and dark grey overlay containing text.

# **GOD'S MANDATE** **FOR THE** **CHURCH**

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WHAT IT  
TAKES TO  
BECOME A  
MISSIONS  
MINDED  
CHURCH  
TODAY

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# GOD LOVES THE WORLD



Most of us learned that concept as small children when we memorized John 3:16. We learned early on that God loves us all so much that He sacrificed His Son to have a relationship with each of us individually. Wow, what love! And as we studied Scripture more deeply, we learned that God indeed has a huge, open, compassionate heart for the nations and the peoples of this earth. His desire is that all would come to know Him. That His Kingdom would one day include every created being. That His Church would be bursting at the seams with every man, woman and child who has ever existed!

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We as humankind, we as the Body of Christ, have a part to play in His Mission to see that large, diverse, eternal Kingdom become a reality. The Church has an important job to do. We have the divine privilege of telling others about the love of God. We have the important responsibility of sharing what we know about Jesus with all those around us. The organized Church as an institution has been given the resources, the “workforce”, the expertise, and the passion to complete this holy assignment.

But do we as a local church body have what it takes to fulfill our part in God’s Mission? Are we in fact Missions Minded? Are we as congregation members living missionally?



# WHAT IS MISSIONS?



Before we evaluate our performance as a local parish concerning missions and outreach, perhaps we should define what “Missions” is. Often, the topic of Missions is a frightening one to the members of God’s family. So many of us picture living in a small, ramshackle, thatched hut in a blazing, hot desert with no running water under the beating sun while cooking meals made of bugs and lentils over fires stoked with cow paddies. Well, for some people, that might be true! But for most of the God’s faithful people, that is not an accurate picture of what God intends for a life dedicated to His Mission. In fact, living a life of Mission can be quite simple, enjoyable, and not too far outside any comfort zones.

In short and put very simply, **Missions is reflecting God’s Heart for the Nations to the world around us.** Missions is reaching out at home or abroad to anyone who doesn’t yet know Jesus. (Yes! AT HOME or abroad! You can be a missionary in your own neighborhood!) Missions is establishing a lifestyle that consistently shines the light and love of Jesus to everyone. Missional living is making and embracing an intentional choice to dedicate our lives to the daily building of the Kingdom of God wherever we are and with whatever we do.



While these choices can be made individually, the local church can also choose to be invested in local and global missions. **Local missions concerns itself with reaching those in the church's own neighborhood. Global missions generally requires the local church to travel across international boundaries.** However, with the number of immigrants and “diaspora” now living in the United States, global missions can sometimes be done right here in America as well. Missions can mean being present in the lives of all kinds of people:

- The young
- The old
- The poor
- The rich
- The unskilled
- Business professionals
- The illiterate
- The thought-formers of the world
- The oppressed
- The privileged

... and possibly so many more. No matter the focus, the local church, its elders and its members, can work together to make Missions a strategic priority along with whatever else they've chosen to do within the walls of their church building, whether that's personal discipleship, worship, or teaching of the Word.

Need more proof? Let's turn to scripture to see what God has to say about His calling to be Missions Minded.



# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?



Is Missions just a construct of humankind? Or is it something God really wants His people to do? Is there any Biblical instruction on God's heart for the nations and His people's responsibility to carry out this blessed mandate?

Yes, absolutely there is.

Let's look at what the Bible has to say about Missions which will then compel us as the Church to be Missions Minded and as individuals to live missionally every day.

## **God's Command to Make Disciples**

Matthew 28:18-20 is known as the "Great Commission". In this passage, Jesus is talking to His disciples near the end of His earthy ministry, instructing them on what they should be doing in the months and years to come. What will be their job? What do they do moving forward? He wants to empower them. He wants to inspire them. He wants them to know that He is for them and will go with them, even though He may not be with them physically in the flesh much longer. He says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." This command, this mandate, is not only for Jesus' disciples. It is also for the Global Church today. The Body of Christ is to make disciples of all nations! This is the Church's job. Missions is what Jesus Himself told us all to do.



## **God's Command to Love One Another**

The first step in Missions is loving others. God modeled loving the world. We are to love God and then reflect the love of God to all those around us. We will never have an open door or receptive ears for the Gospel if we do not first have relationships with people. Relationships begin with love and compassion. Loving one another is the key to living missionally and the key to effective Missions strategies of the local church. This love is not something that's optional. In both the Old and New Testament, we see the mandate to Love God and Others made plain. Jesus confirms it in Matthew 22:37-40. When asked what is the Greatest Commandment, He says, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Loving others is not a suggestion. Jesus knew that the only way the nations would know God is if humankind loved one another. And so, He made it a law. Love One Another. Missions Begins with Love.

## **Jesus' Directive to Reach the World**

Jesus was so good about being specific. In instructing the brand-new New Testament Church about what they were supposed to do, he left no room for guessing. And He was also adept at leaving His people with the most important information. On the day he returned to heaven, He had gathered His disciples together for a few last-minute instructions. The beginning of the book of Acts records this interaction. Just moments before He ascended to heaven right before their eyes, He said to them, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." And then He was gone, leaving the disciples in shock and, most likely, a bit of sorrow. But their instructions were clear. Start in Jerusalem and move methodically to the ends of the earth with the message of Christ crucified. It was a job too large for the Twelve to accomplish on their own. It would take the efforts of the entire global Church throughout all of history. And so today, the local church forms its own strategy for local and global Missions to fulfill this, the last earthy instruction of Jesus, to reach the ends of the earth for the Kingdom of God.

### **God's Call to Support and Protect those who are Forgotten**

We live in a challenging world. There is fading equality. Little equity. We all learn from an early age that life is not fair. Resilience is an important survival mechanism for all of humankind. The poor, downtrodden, and oppressed of this world suffer unimaginably. Their rights are denied. Their privileges removed. They do not live as God intended. And so, as the body of Christ, God has called us to take action to share with them the Good News of Jesus, both in Word and in Deed. The Call began in Old Testament times when the prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow," (Isaiah 1:17). The Church is to stand for those who cannot stand for themselves. The Church must be involved in Missions to help those in desperate need. Missions strategies should be filled with compassionate aid to uplift the marginalized in Jesus' name.

### **God's Promise of the Diversity of Heaven**

Nothing shows God's Heart for the Nations better than the vision of heaven God gave the Apostle John in his great Revelation. It says, "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb,'" (Revelation 7:9-10). What a beautiful picture of all of God's people worshiping together as one! But how will this happen? Only by God's work through the Church. God wants to use local churches all around the world to help fulfill this glorious vision of a diverse and multi-ethnic, multi-cultural heaven. It is the responsibility of the local church, then, to join with God in the work He is already doing in nations all around the world to bring this stunning vision to reality.

The Biblical Mandate is clear. Missions is a God-ordained activity. The Church around the world must join in and strive to be Missions Minded in all we do.



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# WHY MISSIONS? WHAT DOES IT **ACCOMPLISH?**

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But some may ask, doesn't the local church have enough to do? Aren't its local members needy enough? Don't we have enough problems of our own? Our communities are suffering. There is violence and poverty and political unrest right here at home. Why do we have to try to solve the problems of others as well?

God never works in isolation. His instructions to us never return in vain. If He asks us to participate in local and global outreach and Missions work, He has a plan. He has a reason. He knows that it will mean more than just Summer Missions Trips and Children's Vacation Bible Schools.

What exactly will church involvement in local and global Missions accomplish? Why is it valuable? Why should my church be Missions Minded?

## FIRST

### Missions Encourages the Global Body of Christ

There are believers in Jesus in other parts of the world who are isolated. They don't have a robust community of Christians to embolden, support, and reassure them. They cling to their faith in Jesus desperately, longing to know more about Him and wishing they felt safe, secure, and confident. Many face persecution. Some are not aware there are other followers of Jesus in this world. How can they go on? Then come the missionaries. They bring teaching. They bring prayer. They bring resources. They bring encouragement. **They bring assurance that the Body of Christ around the world is hardy, healthy, and ready to stand with them in any circumstances.** THIS is how they will go on. Together, in partnership. They can move forward together and face an uncertain tomorrow with conviction and greater faith.

Partnership is the key word in this mighty move of encouragement that the local church is undertaking. Many may be worried about a spirit of paternalism or a mindset of dependency being developed through Missions efforts. While these things may have historical precedent, albeit by those with good intentions, the global Church has learned from the less effective ways of the past. Believers around the world have discovered the value of other cultures, have discerned the ways in which churches from differing nations can work together, and have moved beyond the colonialist methods that likely did more harm than good. Missions encourages the global body of Christ by valuing every national church, their contribution to the Kingdom of God, and the development of national leaders who supply all that is needed for indigenous ministry to thrive. Western churches cheer them on in awe and wonder at all they can achieve and accomplish.



## SECOND

### Missions Disciples American Believers in their Faith

Providing an opportunity for church members to serve, locally or globally, is an excellent way for them to stretch their faith, step out of their comfort zone, and learn to place their trust in God alone. When these dear servants are in a cultural situation where they don't know the language, they are unfamiliar with the customs, and they don't know the types of foods they'll be eating, the discomfort and culture shock they feel is an excellent time for them to dig deep into their souls and realize they can no longer depend on their own strength. They need the strength of the Lord to survive.

+ Specifically? Discipleship can happen in three areas. One? **Missions helps people become learners.** Many people who travel overseas are not only compassionate, but they are also strong-willed. They are adventurous and up for a challenge. What they may not be prepared for, however, is their need for an open mind, flexibility, teachability, and a willingness to change. Missions helps people acquire knowledge they previously did not have, assume the attitude of a learner, yearn to absorb information, embrace ambiguity, ask a myriad questions, and long to be transformed in new ways they never imagined.

- + Two? Discipleship can also happen because Missions is inherently relational. **Through involvement with local or global Missions, church members learn how to build relationships.** They learn to put people first. They learn to care deeply. They learn to lay aside their time-consciousness and focus on the needs of others. Individuals involved in Missions focus on community-based needs and learn to think empathetically rather than logically. It is a beautiful thing to see the transformation happen as those involved in Missions begin to see through the eyes of Jesus rather than through the eyes of the World.
  
- + Three? Discipleship of church members can happen through Missions because **Missions introduces people to new cultures.** Cultures of this world are a remarkable thing. God has created everyone so uniquely and so beautifully. Those who never step outside their own culture are missing out! How blessed the nation of America is today to have the World now on our own doorstep. Every major city has a huge diaspora of people of all nations ready and waiting to meet their neighbors and build friendships. The opportunity to learn about cultures is immediate and easy. Travel overseas is also easier and less expensive than ever before in history. Missions can take us to nations so different than our own. The opening is wide to learn new languages and new customs, to learn new habits, new foods, new family structures. Missions presents these cultures to the local church and beckons us to come. Will we accept the invitation?



### THIRD

## Actively Participate in God's Global Work

Comfort Zones. Oh, how we love them! We love our creature comforts. We love the expected. We love to know what's going to happen before it happens. And generally? We love just skating through life without any inconveniences. Crossing cultures? That's inconvenient. Stepping outside our own home and into the lives of others? Risky. But as we've already learned, it's God's calling on our lives to reach out to those different from ourselves. And most times? We find out those cross-cultural experiences (whether at home or abroad) is exactly where God is working. We should seek to join him and participate in His work right then and there. That is Missions.

Perhaps joining in God's Global cross-cultural work through Missions takes the form of Short-Term Missions Trips. Some church members discover this to be the ministry niche in which they thrive personally and spiritually. A Short Trip offers an expanded view of all that God is doing around the world and informs church members on how they as individuals can be involved. Others get involved in God's global work in other ways. Working with diaspora living in America. Moving their family overseas long term. Taking a job at an international company. There are a myriad of intentional ways to join God in what He's already doing in this world. A Missions Minded church can help facilitate them all.

## Clarifying Future Ministry Opportunities

Church members embarking on a Missions Trip often have a deeper question lurking deep beneath the surface when they board the plane. Sure, they are excited about going for two or three weeks to serve the partner ministry. They are thrilled to use their God-given skills and abilities to minister to those who need encouragement and reinforcement. But many times, these blessed souls are on a longer journey. They are searching for God's guidance. They're hoping that He will reveal His will for them. They are using the trip as a Sabbath or a much-needed change of pace that will give the space and time to reflect, consider options, and make decisions that need to be made for a productive and God-honoring future. Some are wondering if Missions is their vocational calling. Do they need more education? Do they need a specialized degree? Do they feel called to this people and this nation? Are they physically and emotionally capable of leaving family and friends and sacrificing the comforts of home to serve God with their life? **The time set apart for the trip offers Team Members the freshness of thought required to process, pray, and hear from God.** Some experience genuine spiritual revival. Some receive answers they didn't know they were seeking. Sure, God uses Missions to serve the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized of this world. But He also uses Missions opportunities to speak clarity into His people who have chosen to serve. Missions Minded churches give their people the chance to change, grow, and mature in these unique ways.

Actively participating in Missions, both locally and globally is indeed valuable. God calls His people to it and promises that it will be something that will enrich the entire Body of Christ. There should be no question that being Missions Minded is an attitude that Western churches should embrace.

But what's the first step?



# WHAT CAN MISSIONS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH LOOK LIKE?



You're convinced! You're a church leader and you've decided to take steps forward in encouraging your local congregation to become more Missions Minded. You want the people who come to church every week to choose the intentional path of missional living. What can that look like?

Today's world gives us five common pathways to Missions. Missions Minded churches can create strategies for each one and encourage Sending Church members to journey toward that which God has specifically gifted them and prepared them through their life experiences and prior ministry involvement.

Here are **the FIVE**. How will your church get involved today?

# Pray



Perhaps the “easiest” and most accessible of all the Missions Minded strategies and activities, **prayer can be done by any believer anywhere.** And it should be! But as a Sending Church, it is the leadership’s job and duty to equip its prayer warriors with all that they need to be informed and motivated to pray well, specifically, and often for partner ministries and those serving on the mission field. Equipping those who pray can include some of the following resources.

- Prayer Guides and Prayer Calendars
- Prayer Meetings
- Prayer Walks
- Vision/Education Trips to Partner Ministry Locations
- Ministry Updates
- Personal contact with Partner Ministries

# Give

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Bottomline? Missions costs money. Thankfully, when God gave the mandate for His Church to Make Disciples in all the world, He also chose to bless some people with material resources and the spiritual gift of giving. **Find people who can play their part on Missions Teams by making intentional financial investments to power Missions strategies with necessary capital.** This is a valuable role, without which nothing would get done! The poor and downtrodden of this world need fiscal help. There are those who can provide this help. Equip people to give. How?

- Ask them! Make clear asks of those who have financial resources to fund Missions efforts in the church. Present dollar amounts, specific programs, and expected outcomes. Report back to them on the return on their investment.
- Involve financially gifted people in the stewardship of Missions funding. Engage them in the creation and management of the Missions Budget.
- Ask them for Matching Gifts which will help inspire others to give to Missions.
- Vision Trips to Partner Ministry Locations
- Personal contact with Partner Ministries



# Go



Going on Missions Trips or becoming a long-term missionary is the traditional role people think of when they think “Missions”. And, yes, churches must send people to do the actual work of Missions alongside partner ministries. This has been God’s instruction since the Great Commission in Matthew 28. GO and make disciples. Consistent with this clear instruction, God has therefore gifted and equipped some of His people to be the “go-ers”. He has given people the strength, stamina, desire, and resilience to leave family and friends, travel away from their home culture, sacrifice their creature comforts, and serve him in another place. This can be overseas in another country, or this can be incarnationally in another city/ location right here at home. Regardless of location, **being WITH the people being served is a crucial element in building relationships that matter** and in accomplishing great things for God’s Kingdom. Developing people to GO is important. Here are some things the Sending Church can offer to those who are willing.

- Training and Education, both formal and informal  
*(i.e., professional skills, culture training, psychological preparation)*
- Short Term experiences/Vision Trips to partner ministries
- Financial and other Material Support
- Prayer support prior to departure and while on the field

# Mobilize

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The Sending Church plays a huge role in providing workers to fulfill God's directive to go and make disciples of all the world. Yes, there are para-church organizations that specialize in mobilizing believers toward Missions, but **the true genesis of mobilization begins in the home church.** Being a Missions Minded church and having a robust Missions strategy will produce people who develop a worldview shaped with Missions thinking. It will be a part of who they are, who they've become, and who they want to be in the future. They will not be able to imagine an existence without answering God's call to live Missionally. Sending Churches therefore play a huge role in Mobilizing its members toward Missions. Some tips? Here they are.

- Create children's ministry curriculum about the importance of Missions and how even at a young age, children can be involved in God's Heart for the Nations.
- Offer Short Term Missions Trips for people of all ages.
- Involve families in praying for missionaries and the church's Missions strategies.
- Offer culture fairs to train interested people in the cultures of the world.
- Send interested people for formal education to prepare them for the field.
- Involve interested people on the church's Missions Team to help them learn the church's Missions strategy and allow them to help shape the direction of the church's Missions efforts.

# Welcome

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What a beautiful time in which we live. America is home to so many cultures of the world. And more are arriving all the time. We are a land that receives refugees and foreign workers and immigrant students, all of whom feel out of place and lonely, missing their own loved ones. They are looking for community and a place to fit in. **Being Missions Minded as a “Sending” Church may not mean actually “sending” anyone anywhere. It can simply mean welcoming the nations who are on our doorstep.** Caring for those from other nations who need physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual support in times of trauma or times of distress. The ways the local church can welcome those from other nations in the name of Jesus are endless.

Here are a few intentional suggestions through which congregation members can be the welcoming hands and feet of Christ to those arriving anew in the United States.

- Reach out to international university students. Host them for special dinners, especially around holidays.
- Provide supplies for immigrant mothers and babies.
- Open a food shelf for those who may need extra nutritional help.
- Provide employment search tools (i.e., resume writing, interview practice, internet job searching).
- Start an ethnically focused worship service at the church in another language for another culture. Offer translation services for majority languages at English-language services.
- Hire qualified, legal immigrants for open positions at the church
- Allow families at the church to “adopt” an arriving family from another country to build a relationship with them, be their friends, spend time with them, and help them in any way needed.

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Now that we as Sending Churches know WHAT to do to be Missions Minded, we can turn our efforts into employing strategies to get those things done. Congregation members can be encouraged and motivated to get involved to the level of their interest and calling. Church leaders can challenge their people to move beyond what they believe they can do on their own and trust God to do the rest.

But while being Missions Minded simply for the sake of being Missions Minded is valuable and God-honoring, the Elder Boards of the world may want to see some accountability and some results for the investments made. What are the measurable outcomes?



# BENEFITS AND POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR A MISSIONS MINDED CHURCH



Everyone loves a good outcome. “What’s in it for me?” some may ask. Well, there are So. Many. Benefits. for both the Sending Church and the Partner Ministry when it comes to Missions. Let’s look at just a few for each. Surely, by the time we’re done, you’ll be racing to the Church Elders with a Missions Strategy paper in hand, ready to change the world for Jesus!

Here are five of the positive outcomes of local Sending Churches who are Missions Minded:

## **Partnership Development**

As churches in the Global North seek to encourage and equip churches and ministries both at home and in other parts of the world, Missions can be a great way to build relationships and deepen partnerships with international churches and para-church organizations. **Being with Global South partner ministries in their own home culture and “on their own turf” is an effective way to learn more about the ministry and about what God is doing in and through local believers.** This can be essential in developing goals and objectives for future Missions involvement as together the Global South and the Global North work towards the expansion of God’s Kingdom.



## **Church member engagement with overseas partners and projects**

Many times, church missions pastors or missions boards have a lot of contact with and involvement in the work of its partners ministries. This is good and can lend itself to strategic development of the overseas ministry and the Sending Church's Missions program. However, many times, the involvement by the church stops there and others in the church fail to have the opportunity to learn and grow through intentional interaction with global partners. Missions programs that take trips to engage in person with the partner ministry change all that. **These experiences allow church members to actively engage with projects that the church supports. They can build relationships, improve their prayer life, and lend their gifts and abilities to a ministry in need.** Overall, the Missions program of the sending church can engage more of its members at a deeper level, thereby producing transformation in the lives of everyone involved.

## **Creates Ownership of Missions programming among Sending Church members**

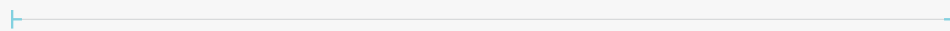
Similarly, the opportunity for Global North church members to be linked with a cross-cultural partner ministry creates ownership in all the Sending Church is doing through its Missions strategy. **It gives congregation members “skin in the game” and ultimately, they desire to be personally invested both in time and financing.** They begin to believe rightly that the success of the partnership and the success of building God's Kingdom relies upon them and their involvement. This produces good results both with the partner ministry, as well as at home in the local Sending Church.

## **Gives the Sending Church a broader perspective**

Many times, churches in the Global North succumb to the temptation to focus primarily on themselves and their own ministries within the walls of the church. **Missional living resulting in any kind of outreach, whether it is overseas or to a local charity in a nearby community, helps break down those inward facing barriers and gives the Sending Church a broader, global perspective that challenges their worldview.** Those involved in Missions begin to ask questions about further involvement, about partnerships, and about expanding the ministries of their church both into the local community and overseas. Those who have had an overseas experience begin to think more about other cultures and how they can use their gifts and abilities to build God's Kingdom. Church leadership can work together with the members of their congregations to create goals and objectives for Mission work.

### **Deeper personal involvement locally**

Oftentimes, people who have been involved with Mission work, particularly overseas, return home and realize they want to get more deeply involved in their own local church's ministries. Their worldviews have been challenged, their comfort zones expanded, and their knowledge of their own personal gifts and abilities has been heightened. **They have more ownership in the local church, want to be involved as leaders, and enjoy being a part of the "inner circle" that develops goals and sets expectations for the local body.** Missions experiences produce these things in the lives of church members and stretch them beyond their personal boundaries into a place where God can use them even more effectively than ever before. Their perspective has been forever changed and they become more engaged on every level.



These positive outcomes will transform our churches both inside and out. Our people's lives will change and the atmosphere in our worship services and weekly activities will be impacted as well. But what about those we serve? Are we doing any good for anyone else?



# BENEFITS AND POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR PARTNER MINISTRIES

It's not just all about us! In answering God's Call to share His love with the World and in reflecting His great Heart for the Nations, Missions, when done well, can have productive and positive outcomes for the partner ministries as well.

Here are five of those positive outcomes.

## **Temporary 'Boost' to Local Project**

The involvement of a Missions Partner can often provide the opportunity for Global South ministries to improve the scope and reputation of their ministry. The preparation for the visit of the Missions Partner often requires promotion and increased visibility, in addition to the likelihood of new funding to grow local efforts. While these increases are often temporary in nature, **it gives the local believers the chance to meet new people and evaluate local situations that can make their ministry more effective.** The visit by the Missions Partner can be used as a "test case" when the local ministry is developing its future goals and help them determine realistic expectations and outcomes for future ministry.

## Evaluation of Long-Term International Workers

For Global South ministries who are considering engaging with a long-term missions worker, a Missions Partner visit gives an excellent chance to evaluate the gifts, skills, abilities, and attitudes of any person considering joining on a more permanent basis. The local ministry can determine the impact of culture shock and the individual's ability to cope in times of uncertainty. **It is a good starting point for dialogue in which together they can talk about the future potential effectiveness of an outsider or foreigner joining in the on-the-field work.** A Missions Partner visit affords them the opportunity to discover these things without a large investment, whether that be financial or emotional.

## Showcases Ministry Impact

Many Global South ministries and indigenous church movements already have partners around the globe helping to resource and pray for their work. One of the struggles often faced is the ability of Global South personnel to communicate in a manner familiar to their global partners. When a Missions Partner team visits their ministry, however, **the face-to-face interaction makes true communication more possible and efficient.** The visits afford them the chance to have a dialogue, ask questions, meet recipients of the ministry, and truly grow the partnership. The relationship built during these times has long-lasting effects that make future communication better and more complete.

## Provision of Specialized Resources

Whether it is human resources, funding, or specialized skills, the visit of a Missions Partner provides resources to the local church or ministry which may not ordinarily be available to them. Doctors with key specialties can serve impoverished constituencies who otherwise would not be able to find or afford excellent medical care. Senior pastors from Global North churches can come to train new pastors who are a part of grass-roots church movements. Teachers from the West can come and offer relief and a break to local teachers who are working in challenging circumstances. **Whatever the skill or gifting available, it can be put to good use in an underprivileged and vulnerable setting,** helping the local believers to reach higher heights and learn new things which ultimately help to expand the Kingdom of God.

## A “Fresh Look”

Many times, while working in the trenches of poverty, oppression and persecution, the local believers in marginalized places fail to see all that is truly going on in their ministry. **The visit of a Missions Partner allows those working full-time on-the-field to see their ministry through fresh eyes.**

This could mean a renewed vision for all that God is doing in and among them, or even a more critical eye for ways to improve their already excellent ministry. The chance to explain the inner workings of the church growth and community transformation grants them the opportunity to see things in a fresh new way, bringing encouragement and empowerment as they carry on seeking to do God’s will.

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God loves the World and has a huge, compassionate heart for the nations. The privilege of the Church is to join him in His work of building His Kingdom by using our resources, our people, our expertise, and our passion to complete the assignment of making disciples in all the earth. **The Church’s call to be Missions Minded is a holy one. Our mandate to live missionally is one we cannot ignore.** Let us, as one body of believers in this nation and around the world, accept this task with joy and enthusiasm as we move toward that heavenly vision when one day every nation, tribe, people, and language will stand before God’s throne offering our eternal worship to our Savior Who loves us and made the ultimate sacrifice to have a relationship with all humankind. Go forth and be On Mission today. Amen.

# Choosing the Right Ministry Partner

## **The know-how you need from experts you trust.**

ACS Technologies is the original pioneer of Church Management Software (ChMS). We are firmly dedicated to serving local churches all over North America by providing the best-in-class ministry software and service solutions that help you fulfill Christ's mission for your Church.

## **Tools and support to strengthen churches.**

We build great software, but we don't stop there. We have a "service-first" approach that truly sets us apart. With hundreds of dedicated support and consulting personnel, your staff can reach our team 24/7. We're in your corner to help you with the ministry challenges you face every day.

## **Ideas and solutions powered by integrity.**

Integrity is real for us, and it means consistently being faithful stewards by doing the right thing for church success. We have earned the trust of pastors, church staff, congregants, our employees, and colleagues for over 40 years.

## **A plan to meet your needs and move your ministry.**


We're not just interested in satisfied customers. We see ourselves as your real ministry partner and will work with you to make disciples that will last for an eternity. We're excited to talk about your goals, create a plan together, and set you up with the software, service, and resources you need.

## **We believe in YOU!**

ACS Technologies believes in the local church. Over 75% of our team has experience serving in their local churches. We know firsthand that serving the Church means serving people, and we take seriously our commitment to helping ministries like yours achieve their God-given mandate - to make disciples in their communities, states, and across the world.

## Let's Talk

We know the challenges of switching or implementing new technology and how that can be intimidating. But we also know the unbelievable changes that have happened within churches that have partnered with us for their ministry needs. Let's connect and see how we can assist you in the greatest thing you do - grow God's Kingdom.

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