

Strategic Community Missions

Using Great Commission Values to Empower Community Missions

Suggested patterns to help start and provide impetus for local and global Community Missions programs.

Description of Community Missions

World Missions General Director M. Thomas Propes initiated the creation of Community Missions through which churches, pastors, and laity can be unified in a strategy for completing the Great Commission. In November 1971, Bill George created the idea for what was then known as Local Missions Representatives. That base is now evolved with a broader scope and intent.

Now, a Community Missions Representative is a designated person in a local church who receives and develops ideas, resources, and communication so he/she can work in tandem with the pastor for the purpose of making Christ known. The representative works to understand the missions vision of the pastor and of the congregation, then carries out a plan to keep this vision viable in the ministries of the church.

Community Missions is open to all believers of Jesus Christ who accept the Great Commission to “Go, preach, and disciple”.

The body of believers, led by the pastor and Community Missions Committee, are charged to create strategic events that testify to the command to obey the Great Commission by choosing to follow the guidelines of Physical Needs (Medical care, Nutritious food, and Clean Water). Also, to provide Material Needs (suitable shelter, appropriate clothes, and fitting shoes). And lastly, Spiritual Needs (presenting the plan of salvation, learning the tenets of discipleship, and providing help with church planting).

Introduction

Who should be a part of Community Missions in your local Church?

Every believer in obedience to the words of Jesus: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19 – 21).

What are the goals of Community Missions?

To walk in harmony with God so much that we love the world as He did, ministering to local and global communities of the “Last, the Least, and the Lost”, and showing the love and power of God through works which meet physical, and material, spiritual needs.

Where should Community Missions be active?

In the lives of each individual and among the church congregants, as well as, among the cultures and needs of local and global communities where God has given us points of relationship gateways.

How is missions to be done?

As God leads and as we see needs. Also, in cooperative efforts between church congregations and pastors, State Missions Boards, and Administrative Bishops, and Church of God World Missions. It should be done in unity, and in purity through acts of worship of Almighty God, reflecting the urgency of the needs.

Where should it be engaged?

In the diversity of cultures, ages, and social standing that make up the communities with which we have an acquaintance or relationship.

Local Church Elements of Function

The pastor, Local Church Community Representative, and other representatives serving on the Community Missions Board should engage the laypeople (congregation) in the following ways with strategic and timely events:

Prayer

Prayer should lead the way for spiritual commitment and understanding of the Great Commission, the calling of all believers to follow and demonstrate Christ's love through discipleship.

Prayer should include:

Adoration of God, Thankfulness for His Love and provision. Asking for workers to go into the local and global harvest field. Prayer for the cultures in your local and global communities. Prayer for wisdom and direction in ministry. Prayer for the power and favor of God to be displayed in the lives of those who minister inside and outside the walls of the church. Prayer for World Missions, State Missions, and Missionaries.

Research and Planning

It is important to plan and be prepared with wisdom and knowledge before you engage your communities. Ask questions that are needed to develop a clear vision of what God wants you to do, given the resources He has placed in your hands. Such as:

To whom will you go? What are the cultures in your communities? Are there viable organizations functioning within your community with whom you can partner and provide support? Do you have any Unreached People Groups represented in your church or region? What are the physical, material, and spiritual needs in the community and what is the best way to meet them? What are the goals of the State Missions Board and those of Church of God World Missions?

Plan to be strategic in your church, communicating the mission goals to which you have agreed as pastor and Community Missions Board.

Implementation: Organization and Training of Personnel

It is imperative that the local church engage and involve all believers strategically. That means prayer, discernment, and communication with each should take place. This allows people to fulfill the command and duty Jesus set in motion with the Great Commission.

Also, plan for training in areas where your team can grow and stay motivated. Areas such as language development, knowledge of culture, communication skills, leadership skills, technical skills, and especially spiritual development, will all enlarge the borders of your communities and your outreach.

Organization will lead to success and growth of your church and its missions outreach.

Communication

We must give all our people the information they need to work cooperatively with the Missions Committee, the pastor, and the congregation. This includes personal notices, digital communication, printed pieces, social media reminders, graphic illustrations, and ministry from God's Word. Motivational messages, target information, reinforcement of the purpose and more, when presented in an age-appropriate manner will help create a common vision, and help them carry out the goals in a strategic and efficient manner. Communication

between Church of God World Missions, the state administrative bishop and State Missions Board, should flow to local church missions leadership and it's congregants. Openness creates relationship connections for all involved.

“GO”ing

Going comes after prayer, revelation, research, and preparation. This can be a diligent process, or it may come in the form of open doors. Whichever, it should only be done with a heart of obedience and selfless actions. God's Glory is the goal, not adventure or notoriety.

Follow Up

While carrying out the ministry, there should be provisions, as much as possible, to obtain only the necessary information with which to follow-up with those to whom you minister. There is great opportunity and privilege in helping someone in need find appropriate resources, needed fellowship, spiritual teaching, and more.

Follow-up is where making disciples is birthed, shaped, and matured.

Follow-up is as important as the presentation of God's desire for mankind.

Reporting the Good News

Good always comes from Great Commission ministry. As Paul and Silas returned to Antioch and gave a report of all that God had done; it is imperative that reporting of what God does is brought to the people of the church, the State Missions Board, and even Church of God World Missions.

We are made overcomers by the word of our testimony. These reports will show the power of God at work, giving encouragement, and strengthening the bond between those who send and those who go.

Recruitment and Motivation

From children and student workers to young adults and adult practitioners, it is important to create relationships and take assessments of individual skills to be able to plug your people into optimal situations for successful events and outreach. Their motivation will come from relationship, preparation, and training for any technical or spiritual opportunity. When God is honored, your congregants will have open hearts for meeting new people, guiding them, and introducing God to them. It is in the doing that we can show the love and glory of God.

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