

They Shall
Mount Up With Wings
Like Eagles

Lessons on Mission Work

Robert H. Martin

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Dedication

May 4, 2004

This date marks our 30th year in the work of the Lord in the Pacific Islands, for it was on September 1, 1973 that Mary, Steve, Mark, and Tonya and I stepped off that American 707 airlines in Nadi, Fiji. This would be the greatest step of our lives, a step that we would never forget, a step that would carry us on a voyage throughout the Pacific Islands for the Lord. Our last born, Arieta Maria Martin was born in Suva, Fiji Islands, and the Fijians call her the Kairviti volangi (which is the white Fijian). I would like to dedicate this book on mission work to my family who has always been an encouragement to me in our work for Jesus. Then to a very “special friend and co-worker”, brother Dan Jenkins.

To Dan Jenkins, my beloved friend and co-worker in the Lord. A man and his family who have served as a missionary family in New Zealand and the Pacific for eleven years. The man who in 1971 introduced Mary and me to the Fiji Islands. It was during a gospel meeting in Williamston, South Carolina, where we were working with the Lord’s church. We had already had our hearts touched with the need for mission work in a foreign land but had not decided where. Little did Mary and I know that this gospel meeting and this man would change our lives in the direction where we would do mission work for the rest of our lives. From the time of that gospel meeting, Dan Jenkins became my close friend in the Lord, who gave me much direction in studying the Bible, teaching the Word of God, and doing mission work.

After moving to Fiji and the Pacific in 1973, Dan and his wife Judie have made trips to work with us. Dan made one of the

first trips with me into Western Samoa and was my co-worker on the trip when we baptized the first precious souls into the body of Christ in that country. As long as I live and serve the Lord Jesus Christ on the face of the earth, I will never forget what Dan said to me during a World Mission Forum at Forest Park in Atlanta, Georgia. One day during the afternoon break he said, “Robert, let us take a walk and talk.” On that walk up Phillips Drive he said something that will always be near to my heart. He said in his kind, joking, but meaningful way, “Robert, now you are a big M”. I had to think for a moment, then I knew what he meant. That has always stuck with me, because I know that there is no big missionary in mission work. I pray that God will always help me to be nothing more than a servant of Jesus Christ, ready to serve my beloved people in the Pacific Islands.

— Robert H. Martin

“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” (Isaiah 40:31).

Publisher's Statement

Some time ago, I asked my good friend and brother in Christ, Robert Martin, to write a book on mission work. Since Robert has spent many years in the Fiji Islands, Pago Pago, American Samoa, and the Pacific Islands, I felt that he would have learned much from many unique experiences that would be of great value to the Lord's church. He agreed to write the book but explained that he could do a better job by putting the material in outline form. **They Shall Mount Up with Wings Like Eagles** covers many aspects and will be useful to elderships planning to support foreign work as well as to families who are considering long-term commitments to the mission fields of the world.

Robert, Mary and their family have been sponsored and supported by the Forest Park Church of Christ in Forest Park, GA for more than 40 years. It has proved to be a spiritually satisfying and rewarding experience for all involved. Robert has used the work as a means of introducing elders, preachers and other Christians to the opportunities by taking various ones with him on mission trips through the years. As a result, many have been converted, numerous churches have been established throughout the islands, and some of those who have traveled with him have themselves become involved in foreign work. For this we are thankful.

As an on-going part of the work, Pacific Islands Bible College has been established to teach and train local members to prepare to take the lead in spreading the Lord's cause throughout that part of the world.

I greatly love and admire Robert and Mary for their lifetime dedication to spread the gospel throughout the Pacific Islands. May God continue to bless them and their work in the kingdom.

I commend to you **They Shall Mount Up with Wings Like**

Eagles, with the prayer that many who read it will be inspired to make that noble commitment.

J.C. Choate
Winona, MS
April 25, 2006

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They Shall Mount Up with Wings Like Eagles

Isaiah 40:31

Introduction:

- A. Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16.
- B. We have a great challenge before us.
- C. An enormous task to perform for our Lord.
- D. God has given us the strength to do it.

I. Wait on the Lord.

- A. We must learn to wait in faith on the Lord (Psalm 27:14).
- B. We must learn to wait patiently on the Lord (Psalm 37:7).
- C. When we wait patiently on the Lord, we understand that God gives the increase and not we ourselves (1 Corinthians 3:6,9).

II. Renew Their Strength.

- A. Our inner person needs to be strengthened for the task before us (Ephesians 3:16).
- B. We can meet the task before us with success if we learn to depend on Christ for our strength (Philippians 4:13).
- C. We will be able to say, "*The Lord stood with me and strengthened me*" (2 Timothy 4:17).

III. They Shall Run and Not Grow Weary.

- A. We must run with horses and not men (Jeremiah 12:5).

- B. We must run in such a way as to win the prize (1 Corinthians 9:24).
- C. We must not grow weary as we run for the Master (2 Thessalonians 3:13).
- D. We must run with endurance, keeping our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1,2).

Conclusion:

- A. You can soar on wings like eagles if you will:
 - 1. Wait on the Lord.
 - 2. Renew your strength.
 - 3. Run and not grow weary.
- B. You can soar on wings like eagles.

Let Us Rise Up and Build

Introduction:

- A. The book of Nehemiah is about building.
- B. All of us are involved in building something.
- C. Let's look at the principles in Nehemiah and talk about building mission work.

I. Fix our Focus.

- A. Nehemiah 2:15.
- B. Matthew 28:19.
- C. Mark 16:15.

II. Form a Fellowship.

- A. Nehemiah 2:17.
- B. Acts 2:42.
- C. Philippians 1:3-5.

III. Strengthen our Faith.

- A. Nehemiah 2:18.
- B. Colossians 2:5.
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1:3.

IV. Face the Enemy.

- A. Nehemiah 2:19,20.
- B. 1 Peter 5:8,9.
- C. Romans 16:20.

V. Do Your Part.

- A. Nehemiah 4:16,21,23.
- B. Ephesians 4:16.

Conclusion:

- A. We build a life, business, families, and houses for ourselves.
- B. Are **you** doing your part to help the Church build a strong mission church?
- C. Won't you decide to do **your** part?

The Challenge Before Us

Introduction:

- A. Matthew 9:35-38.
- B. Matthew 10:9,10.
- C. The Message: Expand, Growth, and Progress.
- D. Our Lord made three simple points.

I. Enlarge the Field.

- A. Matthew 9:35,36.
- B. John 4:35.
- C. Mark 16:15.
- D. The vast world we live in today.
 - 1. The fields are white to harvest.
 - 2. The world population today is six billion lost souls.
 - 3. These lost souls are calling on us to help them.
 - 4. You and I can answer that call if our hearts will be touched.

II. Expand the Forces.

- A. Matthew 9:37,38.
- B. Matthew 28:19,20.
- C. 2 Timothy 2:2.
- D. The Lord needs you!

III. Extend our Faith.

- A. Matthew 10:9,10.
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:7.
- C. James 2:18.
- D. Faith demands action on our part.

Conclusion:

- A. Brethren, the challenge is before us, the members of the Lord's church.
- B. What will we do?

God Has Not Given Us the Spirit of Fear

Introduction:

- A. Fear has always plagued God's people.
- B. Fear is a real problem.
- C. "Fear" is a word that should not be in our vocabulary as Christians.
- D. To evangelize the world we cannot have "fear"!

I. Fear a Problem.

- A. John 7:13 — *"for fear of the Jews."*
- B. John 19:38 — *"for fear of the Jews."*
- C. John 20:19 — *"for fear of the Jews."*

II. Do Not Be Afraid.

- A. Luke 1:74 says, *"serve Him without fear."*
- B. Acts 18:9, the Lord said to Paul, *"Do not be afraid."*
- C. Acts 27:24, an angel of God said to Paul, *"Do not be afraid."*
- D. Philippians 1:14, Paul tells us to, *"speak the word without fear."*
- E. Hebrews 13:6, the Hebrew writer says, *"the Lord is my helper; I will not fear."*
- F. 1 Peter 3:14, Peter tells us that if we are following what is good, *"Do not be afraid."*
- G. Revelation 2:10, John says, *"Fear none of those things"* that you are about to suffer.

III. Be Brave and Courageous — God Is On Our Side.

- A. Joshua 1:9, *"Be strong and of good courage."*

- B. Romans 8:31, *“If God be for us, who can be against us?”*
- C. Romans 8:37, *“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him.”*
- D. Philippians 4:19, *“God shall supply all your needs.”*
- E. 2 Timothy 1:12, *“I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that He is able.”*
- F. 2 Timothy 4:17, *“The Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached.”*

Conclusion:

- A. Brethren, we do not have to be afraid!
- B. God is with us, and has made us more than conquerors!
- C. God has not given us a spirit of fear!
- D. And so, *“with all boldness let us speak the word of God”* (Acts 4:29), far and near.

We Must Preach the Gospel

Introduction:

- A. The Lord has commanded that the gospel be preached to all the world (Matthew 28:19).
- B. This is the world's most urgent need.
- C. In spite of this, millions have never heard the gospel and many others die every day, lost in sin.
- D. It is our responsibility to preach the gospel of Christ because of:

I. The Value of the Soul.

- A. Genesis 1:26.
- B. Matthew 10:28.
- C. Matthew 16:26.
- D. 1 Peter 1:18,19.

II. The Power of the Gospel.

- A. Romans 1:16.
- B. 1 Peter 1:23,25.
- C. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.
- D. Galatians 1:6-9.

III. The Certainty of the Judgment.

- A. Hebrews 9:27.
- B. Acts 17:30,31.
- C. John 5:28,29.
- D. 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Conclusion:

- A. The Lord is depending on us to get the job done.
- B. Are you doing all you can to teach the gospel to the lost?

What We Must Do to Reach All the Lost

Introduction:

- A. Our marching orders are clear; have never been vague, *“into all the world”*, *“every person”* (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15).
- B. The early church set the example well (Acts 8:4; Acts 17:6; Colossians 1:23).
- C. We must have churches in every generation to “get with the same program.” Yes, we must do it today!

I. We Must Recall Our Purpose.

- A. More than carrying on a good business.
 - 1. Often concerned with location, style, financial soundness.
 - 2. Fashion after corporate world, instead of Scriptural pattern.
- B. More than conducting services.
 - 1. Focus recently almost entirely on worship and “praise”.
 - 2. Too many have forgotten that our mission is to focus on others, not ourselves.
- C. Take another look (John 20:21).
 - 1. We are to take over where Jesus left off in His mission.
 - 2. The lost today are dependent on us to faithfully discharge our duty to teach the gospel.
- D. Suppose Jesus had failed.
 - 1. We would still be lost except for Jesus’ faithful completion of His mission.

2. Others will be lost if we stop short of carrying out our duty of teaching the gospel to the world.

II. We Must Educate a Generation.

- A. We have taught two things for faithfulness to the extent that many believe only two things are necessary to be counted faithful servants:
 1. Attendance — stressed “every time the church building doors are open.”
 2. Giving — people who give well have been allowed to feel that they have “done their part”, as though they had bought a ticket.
- B. Fruitfulness is essential (John 15:5).
 1. Fruit of corn is more corn; peaches produce peaches.
 2. The Christian is to produce other Christians through teaching.
- C. Who’s fault?
 1. Someone has taught Christians but not much is required of them.
 2. Preachers need to stress evangelism.
 3. Elders need to insist duty be taught.

III. We Must Restore Urgency (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

- A. Casual attitude kills (Amos 6:1).
- B. Satisfied, “arrived” attitudes causes us to be “at ease in Zion.”
- C. We must remember: the world is still lost!

IV. We Must Really Convert People Coming into the Church.

- A. Conversion and baptism are not synonymous.

- B. When people really take His image, they will really change (Hebrews 1:3; John 14:8,9).
- C. Surrender to another is an unpopular concept (Matthew 16:24; Luke 6:46).

Conclusion:

- A. Will you help the church today set the example of the early church?
- B. Will you be a part of the cause, or the cure?

The Laborers Are Few

Introduction:

- A. Matthew 9:35-38.
- B. The Setting: Jesus was teaching and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom.
- C. Fact: "*the laborers are few.*"
 - 1. That could be taken in a negative way.
 - 2. I tell you, God does not see it that way!
- D. Five percent of the members are carrying the gospel to ninety-five percent of the world's population.
- E. What are we to do?

I. Be Busy Doing What Jesus Was Doing — Teaching and Preaching (Matthew 9:35).

- A. It was His mission on the earth (Luke 19:10).
- B. A disciple must be like his teacher (Matthew 10:24,25).
- C. Jesus went about making disciples, and so should we (Matthew 28:19,20).
- D. We must carry the gospel to every person (Mark 16:15,16).
- E. We must teach others to teach others, that they might teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).
- F. Everyone is under the same debt (Matthew 9:36).
 - 1. That means young people, working people, and retired people.

II. We Must Have Compassion (Matthew 9:36).

- A. Jesus saw people...
 - 1. Distressed and downcast.
 - 2. Sheep without a shepherd.
 - 3. Lost without a Saviour.

- B. We see compassion for the lost in the parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15:3-7.
- C. We see compassion for the lost in the parable of the lost son in Luke 15:11-24.
- D. We see compassion for the lost in Paul's life in Acts 20:19,20.

III. We Need to Pray (Matthew 9:38).

- A. We need to say with the twelve disciples, "*Lord, teach us to pray*" (Luke 11:1).
- B. We need to "*pray without ceasing*" for the lost (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- C. We need to pray....
 1. About the fields.
 2. About the laborers to go.
 3. About the harvest.
- D. We need to be like the church of the first century. We need to make "constant prayer" (Acts 12:5).

V. See That He Is the Lord of the Harvest (Matthew 9:38).

- A. Some will go and some will send, and then the plan comes together (1 Corinthians 3:6-9).
- B. We must see ourselves "*as workers together with Him*" (2 Corinthians 6:1).
- C. We must know and understand the silent work of God (Mark 4:26-29).

Conclusion:

- A. We need to stop running with men, and run with horses (Jeremiah 12:5).
- B. Let us mount up with wings like eagles, and get on with this job of world evangelism for Jesus (Isaiah 40:31).

Understanding How the Kingdom Grows

Introduction:

- A. All of us are really interested in secrets. Secrets immediately get our attention.
- B. In Mark 4:11 Jesus said, "I want to tell you some secrets about the Kingdom of God."
- C. Mark chapter 4 contains three parables, each one revealing a secret about the Kingdom of God.
- D. Every missionary needs to know these secrets in order to be more effective and not be discouraged on the foreign field.

I. Sowing the Word (Mark 4:26-29).

- A. Jesus reminds us that those who have received the gospel seed into their lives will want to sow it or give it away.
- B. Yes, we will want to sow the Word into the lives of others (Acts 16:9,10; Romans 1:15).
- C. The more we sow, the more we will harvest (2 Corinthians 9:6).

II. The Silent Work of God (Mark 4:26-29).

- A. Jesus painted a picture of a farmer going out to sow his seed in the tilled soil.
 - 1. He sows the seed and realizes God is at work.
 - 2. God is a part of this whole process and will faithfully act in due time.
 - 3. Here we see the seed growing secretly.

- B. This is the way the seed works in human lives.
 - 1. Here we see the silent work of God.
- C. The Word is growing secretly.
 - 1. We may not know how it happens.
 - 2. We may not understand it.
 - 3. But it grows!
- D. Paul refers to this very process in 1 Corinthians 3:6,9.
 - 1. The whole process begins with perhaps just a word of teaching, encouragement, or exhortation.
 - 2. Then there follows a time of cultivating, a time of waiting, as God does His work.

III. The Small Beginning (Mark 4:30-32).

- A. God works in almost unnoticeable ways. Think of the way He chose to begin the Kingdom.
 - 1. He began it in the little-known country on the backside of the earth called Palestine.
 - 2. The Son of God walked into that little country and called to Himself a handful of fishermen, whose hands were callused and rough.
 - 3. He called a tax collector right off the street. He called people whom others would not touch because they smelled badly. He called the lonely, discouraged, and despondent people who felt there was not a chance in the world of their lives ever amounting to anything.
 - 4. With these people, He began His kingdom.
- B. It was a tiny beginning, almost unnoticed, but it grew until it spread throughout the world.

- C. God works in almost unnoticeable ways:
 - 1. A simple handshake.
 - 2. An encouraging word.
 - 3. A loving visit.
 - 4. A simple sermon.
- D. Any of these can be that small beginning.
- E. It is still happening today all around the world.

Conclusion:

- A. As a successful missionary you will need to understand how the kingdom grows.
- B. As a missionary you can be a part of that tiny beginning.

Our Need for Persistence in World Evangelism

Introduction:

- A. Matthew 13:31,32.
- B. Success and persistence go hand-in-hand.
- C. Success in our mission for Jesus demands persistence.

I. Persistence Is a Way of Life for the Christian.

- A. 1 Corinthians 15:58 — *“always abound in the work of the Lord.”*
- B. Colossians 2:5 — *“steadfastness in your faith in Christ.”*
- C. Hebrews 3:14 — *“hold the beginning of our confidence to the end.”*
- D. 1 Peter 5:9 — *“steadfast in the faith.”*

II. Evangelism Demands Persistence.

- A. Acts 1:8 — The gospel would spread, starting in Jerusalem, then to Judea, and Samaria.
- B. Acts 2:42,47 — They “continued”, and the Lord added to the church “daily.”
- C. Acts 4:18-20 — The rulers, elders, and scribes commanded the apostles not to speak any more about Jesus, but they said they must continue.
- D. Acts 5:42 — Notice that they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ; they did it daily.
- E. Acts 8:4 — They went everywhere preaching the Word.
- F. Acts 14:21-23 — The early Christians were exhorted to “continue in the faith”.

III. The Reward of Persistence in Evangelism.

- A. John 15:4-8 — We will bear much fruit.
- B. Galatians 6:9 — We will be fruitful reapers.
- C. Matthew 10:22 — We will be saved ourselves.

Conclusion:

- A. Success in world evangelism does not come fast or easy.
- B. We need to have men and churches who have stick-to-ism.
- C. We need to understand the “eating the elephant one bite at a time” concept in getting the job done for Jesus.

Planning in Missions

Introduction:

- A. We all understand the value of planning.
- B. Since we are in the greatest business of all, that of saving souls, we should do our best planning, so that more can be accomplished for the Lord.
- C. Most of the time, planning produces better results.
- D. Let us plan so that we may accomplish more for the Lord in the area of missions.

I. How Important Is It to Have Planning in World Evangelism?

- A. Luke 14:28.
- B. Missionaries and elders are now awakening to the need for study and research in missions in order to plan a more effective program.
- C. The day is long past when a missionary can go to the field equipped with little more than zeal and hope.
- D. We have learned many things from experience. I hope that it will help others in sending out missionaries and help the young missionaries just starting their work.

II. Many Times Mission Work Is Haphazard and Ineffective.

- A. The cowboy hero who mounted his horse and rode off in all directions at the same time is not realistic.
- B. We need to ask ourselves some questions:
 - 1. Why doesn't the local church grow after having a missionary for many years?

- a. Sometimes it is because we keep making the same mistakes over and over again.
 - b. Sometimes it is because we baptize people as a result of handing out food, clothing, and raising the expectation of new converts to be put on a U.S. payroll.
2. Why are many missionaries returning home after two years, filled with frustrations?
 - a. Not well prepared mentally and spiritually.
 - b. Bad experiences in the field.
 3. Why are native Christians crying “Missionary, go home!”?
 - a. Some try to make the native people Americans.
 - b. Some try to treat the native people like children.

III. The Answer Must Be More Study and Planning.

- A. An honest recognition of failures and weaknesses in our work.
 1. Mission work must be opened up to critical inspection.
 2. On the other hand, do not set yourself up as an authority on mission problems.
 3. Answer to mission problems cannot be found in a book or classroom.
- B. The missionary must be able to distinguish between Christianity and culture.
 1. Oftentimes a missionary will offend the native people with his superior attitude. He offends them by walking over some of their most sacred ideas and customs.

2. Recreating a “little America” on the field.
- C. Honesty by the missionary when he promotes his work at home.
 1. Sometimes the missionary and the overseeing congregation give an exaggerated impression of the responsiveness of the work.
 2. We need to show the good and bad, the success and failures.
 3. This will lead to a better work by the missionary and those supporting him.
- D. The congregation that sends needs to know and understand what their mission is, as does the missionary.
 1. Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; 1 Corinthians 3:6,9; Acts 8:4.
 2. The work of the missionary is not only teaching the lost, but also edifying and equipping (Acts 14:21,22; 2 Timothy 2:2).
 3. The goal is to establish an indigenous church that can:
 - a. Reproduce itself.
 - b. Support itself.
 - c. Govern itself.
 4. Anything short of this is cheating the native church.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us plan well by praying to “*the Lord of the harvest*” that He will give us wisdom in carrying out His mission.
- B. Let us put our plans into action so that the work might be accomplished for the Lord.

How to Build a Missionary Church

Introduction:

- A. The purpose of the Church is to support the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).
- B. The Church must always keep its mission in mind (Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- C. World-wide, beginning at our own door (Acts 1:8).
- D. Local work continues while reaching out.
- E. How to build a missionary church.

I. The Leadership and Preacher Must Believe the Great Commission and Have a World-wide Vision.

- A. Matthew 28:19.
- B. Mark 16:15.
- C. Must not treat mission work as an unwanted step-child.
- D. It takes good leadership and pulpit work to build a good mission program.

II. Make Definite Plans for Mission Work.

- A. Acts 13:1-3.
- B. Plan so that we may be the most effective for the Lord.
- C. Those of action are those who plan.

III. Bible School and Teaching Program.

- A. Matthew 28:20.
- B. Include world-wide evangelism in your teaching program at least once a year.
- C. Put up visual aids, have class projects to encourage mission work.

IV. Training for the Congregation.

- A. 2 Timothy 2:2.
- B. Encourage everyone to attend mission workshops.
- C. Have a “Great Commission” meeting for three days; Mission Emphasis weekends, and VBS.

V. Have Your Missionaries Before the Local Congregation as Often as Possible.

- A. Acts 14:26-28.
- B. It will stimulate the congregation to really be involved in mission work.
- C. It will give the congregation a better insight into mission work.

Conclusion:

- A. A missionary church does not just happen.
- B. It takes vision, teaching, planning and a lot of hard work.

Congregational Support and Harvesting

Introduction:

- A. Romans 10:15.
- B. There must be those who will go, and those who will send!
- C. Without congregational support, there cannot be a harvesting.

I. Congregational Support (Acts 13:1-3).

- A. We must be willing to support those who go.
- B. How do we support them?
 - 1. By our encouragement.
 - 2. By our prayers.
 - 3. By our financial support.
 - 4. Most of all — becoming co-workers and investing personally in the work they are doing.
- C. Not every congregation can be an overseeing/sponsoring congregation.
 - 1. Every congregation can support mission work.
 - 2. Example — some of our faithful supporters are small, rural congregations, really involved in our work for the Lord.
 - 3. If we are going to evangelize the world, there has to be more who will support mission work.
- D. Congregations, do not turn away those faithful missionaries.
 - 1. Elders and preachers, do not see your work as one of protecting the flock from “those money-hungry missionaries”.

2. Open the pulpit to the godly man going forth for Christ.
 3. It will not **cost** your local budget, rather it will **strengthen** it.
 4. Every self-supporting congregation should have a mission field in its budget.
- E. If you are a supporting congregation, accept this work as your own.

II. Harvesting (John 4:35; Matthew 9:37,38).

- A. We cannot harvest without workers.
1. Elders and deacons — go.
 2. Preachers and teachers — go.
 3. Young men and women — go.
- B. We cannot harvest without funds.
1. Personal support.
 2. Work fund.
 3. One time funds.
- C. You share in that harvesting when you support it (Philippians 1:5; Philippians 4:15-17).
- D. We need to pour all available manpower, tools, and funds into those fields where there is a great receptivity to the gospel.

Conclusion:

- A. Untold millions are yet untold.
- B. Will we deny them the right to hear the gospel and be saved?
- C. God help us feed a starving world the bread of life that can save their souls.

Preachers, We Need Your Help

Introduction:

- A. The crying need of our world is for the people of God to become interested and involved in telling every person on earth about Jesus (Mark 16:15,16).
- B. The local preacher plays a great role in encouraging or discouraging mission work.
- C. Every missionary could tell of times when the local preacher either helped or blocked his progress in telling the church about mission work.
- D. You preachers have a wonderful opportunity to promote the cause of Christ around the world.
 - 1. Help maintain interest and financial support for mission work.
 - 2. Help get new workers for the field.
- E. I would like to offer some suggestions that will help missionaries.

I. Recognize That World Evangelism Is the Reason for our Existence (Matthew 28:19,20; Luke 19:10).

- A. In God's economy, world evangelism stands in first place.
- B. If preachers feel as though mission work is an unwanted stepchild, it is most likely that the church will, too.
- C. If you will preach world evangelism with conviction, the church will soon be doing mission work.

II. You Can Help by Informing the Saints at Home Concerning the Needs in the Field (Acts 14:24-28).

- A. Magazines like "The Voice of Truth International", "Christian Chronicle" and others.

- B. Newsletters of missionary work, telling of the victories, the problems, and needs of the field.
- C. Bulletin boards to promote and encourage missions.
- D. Bring in missionaries to speak and keep the congregation informed about the fields.
- E. World mission workshop or mission emphasis weekend to promote, encourage and teach mission work.
- F. Personal correspondence with missionary families on the field.

III. You Can Help by Getting the Local Congregation Involved in Mission Work.

- A. Begin now, even if the congregation where you preach is small or young.
- B. Do something! Help somewhere outside your own area.
- C. Some ways you can get the local congregation involved:
 - 1. Prayers, encouragement, and financial support. We must remember that world evangelism is a team effort.
 - 2. Ladies' Bible classes, sending tracts, writing missionaries, sending Bibles, sending good religious books and other printed materials.
 - 3. Getting members of the local congregation to make short-term mission trips overseas to teach and help in the work.

Conclusion:

- A. Let all be mission minded.
- B. Preachers, we need your help to carry the gospel to every person.
- C. Will you help us help the Lord get the job done?

Getting the Job Done in Mission Work

Introduction:

- A. There is truly a job to be done.
- B. We must get to the job.
- C. We must complete the job.

I. We Must Plan.

- A. Luke 14:28.
- B. Acts 13:1-3.

II. The New Testament Plan.

- A. Teach and baptize (Matthew 28:19).
- B. Gather into congregations (Acts 14:21-23).
- C. Edify (Acts 15:40,41).
- D. Equip/train (2 Timothy 2:2).
- E. Results: Indigenous churches that can:
 - 1. Reproduce themselves.
 - 2. Support themselves.
 - 3. Govern themselves.

III. Many Tools Can Be Used (1 Thessalonians 5:21,22).

- A. Pursue Biblical/effective tools:
 - 1. Distribution of tracts.
 - 2. Bible correspondence course work.
 - 3. Bible lessons on cassette and video.
 - 4. Radio programs.
 - 5. Personal/group Bible studies.
 - 6. Gospel meetings, Bible classes, Bible training classes.
- B. Lay aside ineffective tools.

Conclusion:

- A. Brethren, God has given us a perfect plan for evangelizing the world.
- B. If we will use God's perfect plan, we can get the job done.

What Mission Work Is About

Introduction:

- A. I want to share with you all my heart.
- B. Not speaking of what I have heard or read, but what I have experienced.
- C. Here is the heart and soul of mission work.

I. Fellowship in the Gospel.

- A. Philippians 1:5-7.
 - 1. Mission work is fellowship with God and other Christians.
 - 2. We are partakers together of grace.
- B. 1 Corinthians 3:6-9.
 - 1. We all either plant or water.
 - 2. We are co-workers with God in His field.
- C. Romans 10:15.
 - 1. There are those who send and those who go.

II. Entrusted With a Stewardship.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:16,17.
 - 1. We have been entrusted with a stewardship: that of preaching the gospel.
- B. Matthew 28:19.
 - 1. To go and make disciples of every nation.
- C. Mark 16:15.
 - 1. To go and preach it to every person.

III. We Must Make Ourselves a Servant to All.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:19.
 - 1. Why? That I might win more to Jesus Christ.
- B. 2 Timothy 2:24 — A servant must be:

1. Gentle.
 2. Able to teach.
 3. Patient.
- C. Galatians 5:13.
1. We as servants must love and serve one another.
- D. Learn the culture and customs of the people you serve!

IV. We Must Become All Things to All Men.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:22.
1. Why? That I might by all means save some.
- B. 1 Corinthians 9:23.
1. I do this for the gospel's sake.
- C. Why is learning the culture so important? So that we can effectively communicate the gospel of Christ to others.

V. Your Supporting a Missionary Is Fruit That Abounds to Your Account.

- A. Philippians 4:15-17.
- B. Missionary work is about giving and receiving.
- C. Missionary work is about providing what is necessary for the spreading of the gospel.
- D. Because you share in the work of the missionary you support — *“fruit abounds to your account.”*

Conclusion:

- A. I pray that this will help us all better understand what mission work is about.
- B. This will bring us closer together in carrying out the mission of the Lord.

Evangelism: Selecting the Field, the Worker(s), and the Method

Introduction:

- A. The Lord's church is blessed with the most effective and efficient mission organization on this earth.
- B. The church can only reach its missionary potential when its leaders have clear heads and warm hearts.
- C. World evangelism has its best days when leaders combine careful thinking with loving hearts and apply these two qualities to the church's mission.

I. Careful Choice of a Field Is Important.

- A. The Bible itself tells us that there are different kinds of fields (John 4:35; Acts 17:11).
- B. I believe that elders have the responsibility of seeking out those areas that God has already prepared and ripened.
 - 1. With the small manpower and financial strength for mission work, it makes sense to pour harvesters into those places which offer the greatest chance for victory rather than to concentrate on an area which is just not ready to be gathered in.
 - 2. Jesus makes it clear that His messengers should not cast their pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6), nor stay in an area that is set against them (Matthew 10:14).
- C. Sometimes a church has a set of circumstances that requires it to do mission work in an area that appears to be unreceptive to the gospel.

1. When this happens, elders must make the most of a difficult situation and do what they can to prepare the non-receptive field for a future harvest.
 2. When a church finds itself in this situation, it needs to remember the promise of the Lord, *“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void”* (Isaiah 55:11).
- D. So in selecting the field, do so carefully and prayerfully.

II. Careful Choice of the Worker(s) Is Also Very Important.

- A. The very first thing that elders need to do in selecting worker(s) is to spend time in prayer.
1. Jesus said, *“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest”* (Matthew 9:37,38).
 2. This is what the first-century church did, and they were successful (Acts 13:1-3).
- B. Elders need to be careful in selecting workers and making sure that they are prepared. Jesus prepared those first disciples, those first disciples prepared others, and the others prepared still others (Matthew 28:19,20; 2 Timothy 2:2). They need to be prepared in three basic ways:
1. Spiritually.
 2. Intellectually.
 3. Emotionally.
- C. Elders or congregations need guidelines by which to

screen workers. Here are some guidelines for selecting workers or missionaries:

1. Does the worker have a deep commitment to Christ and His Word?
2. Does the worker fit the field?
3. Is the worker a self starter?
4. Does the worker have common sense?
5. Does the worker have some type of missionary training?
6. Does the worker have the ability to endure and stick to the task?
7. Does the worker have the ability to overcome disappointment and discouragement?
8. Is the worker emotionally balanced?
9. Is the worker able to cope with life, survive ups and downs, and push on in his work for Jesus?
10. Does the worker have a deep love for souls?

III. Careful Choice of a Method Is Important.

- A. The Biblical plan in evangelism is:
 1. Preach/teach (Matthew 28:19,20).
 2. Baptize (Mark 16:15,16).
 3. Gather into congregations (Acts 14:22,23).
 4. Mature the Christians (2 Timothy 2:2).
- B. There are many methods to use in doing mission work, and elders have the responsibility to work with the missionary on the best method for the area.
 1. Once this is done, it is the responsibility of the elders to direct their missionary or missionaries to pursue a method that produces the desired results.

2. Ineffective methods should be laid aside and replaced by methods that will bring souls into the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Continual usage of ineffective methods is like “riding a dead horse”.

Conclusion:

- A. Since God chose the local church to do His mission work, it follows that local elders must lead in world evangelism.
- B. As elderships across the land awaken to their divine mission, may they combine warm hearts and clear heads to accomplish the task for which Jesus died.

Do You Want to Be a Missionary?

Introduction:

- A. Missionaries are often asked by other Christians, “I want to do mission work, but how do I go about it? Where do I start?”
- B. Mission work is a most difficult, demanding work.
- C. To do an effective work in the mission field, one must be aware of what is involved.
- D. How does one become a missionary?

I. Pray.

- A. The first step toward the mission field is prayer.
- B. Ephesians 6:18-20; Colossians 4:3,4; 1 Thessalonians 5:25.
- C. One who plans to go into the mission field should seek the counsel of older, wiser brethren and ask for their prayers.

II. Prepare.

- A. Make a firm commitment to serve the Lord in a mission field, then begin specific preparation to equip yourself for the work.
- B. Those who are willing to go into the mission field must prepare themselves:
 - 1. Spiritually.
 - 2. Mentally.
 - 3. Physically.
- C. It is best to have several years of practical experience gained from full-time work with a local church at home.

III. Plan.

- A. Choose a field of labor.
- B. Some of the factors to consider in choosing a field are:
 - 1. Which field will be best suited.
 - 2. Receptivity of the people to the gospel.
 - 3. The possibility of acquiring a missionary visa.
 - 4. The needs of the work already done or in progress.
 - 5. Whether additional missionaries are needed.
- C. You should make a survey trip to the chosen field before making the final commitment to it.

IV. Proceed.

- A. Many Christians dream about going to a mission field someday, but few ever make a move in that direction.
- B. Once a definite commitment is made to a field, one needs to start working toward it as soon as possible.
- C. The most difficult part of mission work now begins — finding the financial support to do the work.
- D. Half of the fund-raising battle is won once one has found an overseeing congregation. The overseeing congregation must be one that:
 - 1. Is sound in the faith, stable, and has a qualified eldership.
 - 2. Receives all finances for the work.
 - 3. Stands behind the missionary and his family.

V. Persevere.

- A. One must be committed enough to a work to stay until it can stand on its own.

- B. A fruitful and faithful mission work does not simply “happen”.
- C. A fruitful and faithful mission work results from the labors of one who has prayed fervently, fully, and proceeded diligently to:
 - 1. Convert the lost.
 - 2. Organize them into a sound, self-governing, self-supporting, self-propagating congregation of Christ.

Key Characteristics of a Missionary

1. Love the Lord with all the heart (Matthew 22:37).
2. Love the Word of God (Psalm 119:97).
3. Love the lost more than self (Romans 9:1-3).
4. Be willing to become all things to all men (1 Corinthians 9:22).
5. Be willing to become a servant (1 Corinthians 9:19).
6. Realize that God is in control of the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6).
7. Be a self starter (Philippians 3:13,14).
8. Always praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
9. Speak the Word with boldness (Ephesians 6:19,20).
10. Be patient with others and their growth (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).
11. Well organized to accomplish the most for the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:40).
12. Work within the framework of the program (Matthew 28:19,20).
13. Be able to work with missionaries already on the field (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).
14. Be a sound family man (Ephesians 5:22-28; 6:1-4).

Missionaries and Their Families

Introduction:

- A. We are talking about the wife, children, and extended family.
- B. The missionary family should be a faithful and dedicated family (Romans 12:1,2).
- C. In 1 Corinthians 9:5 Paul said, *“Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?”*

I. The Father Should Take the Lead in the Family.

- A. 1 Corinthians 11:3.
- B. Ephesians 6:4.
- C. 1 Timothy 5:8.
- D. Ephesians 5:25,28,29.

II. A Loving and Helping Wife.

- A. Titus 2:4,5.
- B. Malachi 2:14; Proverbs 31:10-12.
- C. 1 Corinthians 7:3-5.

III. Keeping Your Family Provided for Overseas.

- A. 1 Timothy 5:8.
- B. Proverbs 31:27,28.

IV. An Understanding Eldership and Family.

- A. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Hebrews 13:17 — an understanding eldership.
- B. Joshua 24:15; Acts 18:2,18,26; Romans 16:3; Ephesians 6:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:5.
- C. We must think this way — the missionary family.

The Nuts and Bolts of What Makes Mission Work

Introduction:

- A. We are excited that you are interested in mission work.
- B. The challenge is great; the opportunities are many; but there are nuts and bolts of mission work that make it successful for the Lord.
- C. What are the nuts and bolts of mission work?

I. Keeping Focused.

- A. Goals — objective (Philippians 3:12-14).
- B. Souls (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).
- C. As a worker (1 Corinthians 9:17,19,22; Luke 10:1-10).

II. Getting Discouraged.

- A. The field — for us the Pacific Islands, 22 countries, and 5 million people (John 4:35).
- B. Not enough workers (Matthew 9:37,38).
- C. Not enough funds (2 Corinthians 9:6).
- D. Philippians 4:13-19.
- E. How can I get discouraged?

III. Staying Encouraged.

- A. The Lord (2 Timothy 4:17).
- B. The power of the gospel (Romans 1:16).
- C. My helper (my wife Mary) (Genesis 2:18); our four children (Steve and his wife Janet, Mark and his wife Kim, Tonya, her husband Mel, and Maria) and our grandchildren (Andrew, Kyle, Kayla, Scout,

Shelby, Seth, and Emma (Proverbs 17:6; Psalm 127:3).

- D. Our brethren — American and Pacific Island (Philippians 1:3-7; 4:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-9).

Conclusion:

- A. I pray that you have been able to see some of the Nuts and Bolts of Mission work.
- B. This is what makes mission work successful for the Lord.

Preparation of the Missionary

Introduction:

- A. Preparation is important in any phase of life.
- B. We all understand the value of preparation for a doctor, pilot, or a soldier.
- C. Jesus prepared those He sent out to take His message to the world, and we must do the same (Matthew 28:19,20; 2 Timothy 2:2).
- D. There are three major areas of preparation for missionaries.

I. Spiritual Preparation.

- A. The demands are great; there must be a good foundation.
- B. We need those who are mature (Galatians 6:1).
- C. We need those who have put aside childish ways (1 Corinthians 13:11).
- D. We need those who can discern between good and evil (Hebrews 5:14).
- E. We need those who have gone on to perfection (Hebrews 6:1).

II. Intellectual Preparation.

- A. Must have a knowledge of God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15; Hosea 4:6; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 3:15).
- B. Must know how to use God's word (2 Timothy 4:2).
- C. Must become all things to all men (1 Corinthians 9:22,23).
 - 1. Must have a knowledge of the local culture and customs.

2. Must be able to distinguish between Christianity and culture.
3. Often times a missionary will offend the local people with his arrogant attitude; he will walk over their customs and culture even when they do not conflict with the word of God.

III. Emotional Preparation.

- A. A person may know the Scriptures but still be unprepared to go.
- B. The person who has troubles at home will have more in a foreign country.
- C. For example, if he has:
 1. Not been a self starter in the States, he will not be that way on the field.
 2. Family and money problems at home, he will surely have them on the field.
 3. Let minor setbacks cause him to give up or slow down, it will surely do it on a foreign field.
 4. Not be able to take directions and work with others at home, he surely won't overseas.
- D. If a person fits the description above, he will likely be unprepared emotionally to go to another culture and work.
- E. Elders or congregations need means or guidelines by which they can screen workers.

Conclusion:

- A. Brethren, many people in the world are receptive to the message.
- B. The opportunities are many indeed.

- C. We must prepare those who we send or they will do more damage than good.
- D. Let us accept the challenge before us and send the Timothys and Pauls. Let us train them so that much will be done to harvest the multitude of souls for Jesus.

Items to Consider in Choosing a Mission Work

Note: Items are not necessarily listed in order of importance.

1. Your commitment to mission work (both husband and wife).
2. The need for workers in the area.
3. A strong, sound overseeing congregation.
4. Dependable co-workers (if applicable).
5. The character/receptivity of the native people.
6. Status of government in control.
7. Current religious environment.
8. Living conditions.
9. Healthcare facilities.
10. Educational facilities.
11. Type of approach needed to evangelize (will your work be focused in the area where you live or will you operate from a base).
12. Budget — living/operating costs.
13. Visa requirements/restrictions.
14. Language restrictions (English usable; if not, is worker capable of learning native language).
15. Proximity/accessibility of work area to family.

16. Ability to adapt to different climate.
17. Number of years you will need to commit to the work.
18. Scale of opportunities for evangelism.
19. Ability for indigenous congregations to exist.
20. Native people's attitude toward Americans.

Things to Check on When Making a Survey Trip

1. Immigration and customs regulations.
2. Housing for the family.
3. Hospital facilities.
4. Schools available if there are children.
5. Overall living conditions.
6. Overall cost of living.
7. Does the church exist? If so, how strong is it? What is its needs (be alert to the needs that can help the church).
8. Communications available (phone, FAX, e-mail, airlines, etc.).
9. Money exchange rate, if any.
10. Be alert about anything that will assist you in making the move.

Outline Booklet for Raising Funds for Foreign Mission Work

Outline of Booklet:

- Page 1: Pictures and map of country where you will be working.
- Page 2: Historical information on country where you will be working.
- Page 3: Letter from overseeing congregation.
- Page 4: Information from survey trip to country where you will be working.
- Page 5: Long range goals or objectives.
- Page 6: First four goals or objectives.
- Page 7: Information on salary and work fund.
- Page 8: Information on setting up funds.
- Page 9: Information on how churches and individuals can help.

Note:

1. Have booklet printed up with attractive cover.
2. Can send out to interested congregations and individuals.
3. As you speak at each congregation and meet with the elders, leave a booklet with them.

A Check List of Things a Missionary Should Do to Prepare to Go

1. Make a family decision to go.
2. Find an overseeing congregation.
3. Do research and select field.
4. Husband and wife make survey trip to the field selected.
5. Prepare an information booklet with details of plans for the work to be done, including projected work fund and one-time funds needed.
6. Move and work with overseeing congregation.
7. Getting finances in good order to move overseas.
8. Setting up salary, work fund, and one-time funds with elders of overseeing congregation.
9. Raise monthly and one-time support needed.
10. Set a departure date and a date to arrive on the field.
11. Get any necessary letters for immigration, customs, banking, from the elders of the overseeing congregation.
12. Get physicals, shots, etc. that may be needed for immigration Visa and Work Permit.
13. Submit for necessary immigration Visa and Work Permit.
14. Make a decision on whether to ship household items, office, and vehicle, or purchase on the field. Check custom regulations in country you are going to.

Cross-Cultural Adjustments

Introduction:

- A. Each of us is born and raised in a certain culture.
- B. When we go outside of the culture in which we were born and raised, we cross over into that which we don't know or understand.
- C. We must make certain adjustments in order to be more effective in teaching others the message of Christ.

I. We Have Been Entrusted With a Stewardship (1 Corinthians 9:17).

- A. Matthew 28:19 tells us that we must make disciples of every tribe.
- B. Mark 16:15 tells us that we must teach every person the gospel.
- C. We must tell others about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

II. We Must Make Ourselves a Servant to All (1 Corinthians 9:19).

- A. We must first be a servant of the Lord (2 Timothy 2:24).
- B. Being a servant of the Lord, we can learn to serve others (Galatians 5:13).
- C. You must learn the culture of the people you serve!

III. We Must Become All Things to All Men (1 Corinthians 9:22).

- A. Only by learning the culture can we "*become all things to all men.*"
- B. How do we learn the culture?

1. In times of crises.
 2. Through their ceremonial customs.
 3. Through their history and proverbs.
 4. By looking at the contrast in your culture and theirs.
- C. Benefits received by learning the culture:
1. Keeps us from making many social mistakes that will turn the people away from us.
 2. Helps us to really understand the way of thinking so that we do not have to judge everything by “our cultural yardstick”.
 3. It will inform us where the “hurts” and “voids” are among the people so that we can aim the gospel of Christ right where it is needed.
- D. You can learn about a culture in a book, but you can’t know a culture until you experience it!
- E. Why is learning the culture so important? So that we can effectively communicate the gospel of Christ to the lost.

Conclusion:

- A. *“This we do for the gospel’s sake”* (1 Corinthians 9:23).

The Role of Culture in Missions

Introduction:

- A. What role does culture have in mission work?
- B. It is simply a tool to assist the missionary in making known the message of Jesus to people whose culture is different from that of his own.
- C. If one had to choose between the word of God and culture, he should certainly choose God's word (Acts 5:29).
- D. The Bible is the greatest book on culture and how to communicate the message on how to be saved.
- E. A study of the culture can do at least four things to make the missionary more effective in his work of making known the unsearchable riches of Christ.

I. It Gives the Missionary Understanding of Another Culture (1 Corinthians 8:1).

- A. Missionaries need to immerse themselves in a knowledge of the ways of life of the people among whom they are servants.
- B. Only by such an understanding of the indigenous culture can they possibly communicate a new way of life.
- C. Give some examples: Island men eating first and the women eating what is left over, Island woman approaches a group of men — must wait until called in and then must come in on knees.

II. It Aids the Missionary in Entering Another Culture (Acts 16:1-3).

- A. What we do not know we cannot enter.

- B. What we do not enter we cannot feel with understanding and relate to others effectively.
- C. If we do not enter their culture, they will not hurt us or abuse us to our face. But, they will in their own way hold us at arms length, and the message of the Christ will not penetrate their hearts.
- D. Here are some examples in the Pacific Islands culture: not eating their food or touching their head.

III. It Makes More Effective the Communicating of the Gospel in Another Culture (Acts 21:17-26).

- A. The need of the hour is to do our best to show people that the gospel will adapt to their own needs in their own culture setting.
- B. The word of God fits every need of every culture. If we know the culture, we will be better prepared to relate this to those we are servants among.
- C. Here is an example in the Pacific Islands. The Fijian whale's tooth and the Samoan fine mat bring about atonement and reconciliation. In these cultures the whale's tooth and the fine mat have much power for atonement among its people.

IV. It Aids in the Process of Implanting the Church in Another Culture (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

- A. We cannot plant if we cannot communicate the message of the Master effectively to others.
- B. We cannot implant without a knowledge of the word of God and the culture of the people we are working with.
- C. Give an example: buildings, clothes, time, rigid organization, and the American way are not important.

Conclusion:

- A. Know yourself, know the people, and participate in the lives of the people you are working with.
- B. Not as a benefactor, but as a co-worker.
- C. Be willing for the people to truly know you, and love the people.
- D. Then the message of the Savior will be communicated to those you are working with and God will be eternally glorified through souls that will be saved.

The Road We Should Take in World Evangelism

Introduction:

- A. Realize that the Bible method is God-given (Matthew 28:19,20).
- B. Realize that the Bible method has been tried, proven, and tested.
- C. The Bible method is:
 1. Evangelize (Matthew 28:19).
 2. Edify (Matthew 28:20).
 3. Equip (2 Timothy 2:2).
- D. The results of following the Bible method will be indigenous churches that can:
 1. Reproduce themselves.
 2. Govern themselves.
 3. Support themselves.
- E. In the area of equipping/training we must never let the institution be more important than the training.
- F. The church should not be the outgrowth of training, but the training the outgrowth of the church.
- G. The Bible method of edifying and equipping the saints should not be institutionalized, but left up to the local church. This makes sense because:
 1. Every church is involved.
 2. More workers are trained.
 3. Of finances being limited.
 4. It leaves the worker in his own environment.
 5. It leaves the worker with his family.
 6. It leaves the worker to serve in his congregation.
 7. It leaves mature Christians to equip younger Christians so that the process continues.

Outline to Starting a Church on the Foreign Field

I. Seed Sowing.

- A. Go into an area and distribute tracts and enroll people in Bible correspondence courses.
- B. Study with any who seem to be very interested.
- C. This work trip can be from one to seven days.

II. Follow-up.

- A. When the Bible correspondence course students have finished the first one or two courses, go in again and spend some time following up on those who have shown the most interest while doing the Bible correspondence courses.
- B. This work trip can be from seven to fourteen days.

III. Church Planted.

- A. Help the new converts find a home or some place to meet in; impress upon them the importance of setting a time each week to meet, and stick to that time.
- B. Suggest that they spend their weekly contribution on the work of the church.
- C. Search out men who can lead the people and teach.

IV. Growing Time.

- A. Make trips once a week for teaching these new babes in Christ.
- B. If on an outer island or another country, make these trips at least once a month and no farther apart than every three months.
- C. On these trips, teach and train the native members to

assume responsibility. Work on encouraging the native Christians to take an active part.

V. Responsibility Time.

- A. After seeing that the native church is growing and developing as leaders, preachers, teachers, and soul winners, cut back these trips.
- B. Cutting back the number of trips will allow the native church to grow and mature more and to have more responsibility placed on them.

VI. The Indigenous Church.

- A. After the native church has matured and has very capable leaders, preachers, teachers, and soul winners, it is time to let this church stand on its own.
- B. It is now able to: reproduce itself, support itself, and govern itself.
- C. Trips can be made once a year to conduct training workshops, or to help them do things such as appoint elders.

How to Start and Develop the Work in a Foreign Field

Introduction:

- A. Making the decision to go, preparing, and moving to a foreign country.
- B. The arrival, the cultural adjustments, and settling the family is all a part of it.
- C. You will have what seems like “a million” things to do, but remember you are there to do the Lord’s work.
- D. But where do I start? Be a self starter for the Lord.

I. Evangelize.

- A. As you are, go teach the gospel to others (Mark 16:15).
- B. As you are going about your daily activities, teach the gospel to others in every place (Acts 5:42).
- C. Start by:
 - 1. Meeting people daily.
 - 2. Conducting worship in your home.
 - 3. Running some ads in the newspaper.
 - 4. Place a running ad in the newspaper for Bible correspondence course students.
 - 5. Radio or television ads.
 - 6. Distribute tracts wherever you go.
 - 7. Conducting Bible classes in your home and in other people’s homes.
- D. People will start being baptized, but remember to let the Lord give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6).

II. Edify.

- A. To edify means, “to build up, to strengthen, to confirm.”
- B. In Acts 14:21-23 we see a process:
 - 1. They preached the gospel.
 - 2. They went back and strengthened the souls of the disciples.
 - 3. They matured the brethren.
- C. In Acts 15:40,41 we see the early missionaries going everywhere strengthening the churches.
- D. Start by:
 - 1. One-on-one teaching.
 - 2. Classes in your home and in their homes.
 - 3. Workshops for edifying.
 - 4. The Sunday morning and Wednesday night Bible classes as the congregation assembles.
 - 5. Training classes for men and women.

III. Equip.

- A. The word equip means, “complete furnishing, equipping.”
 - 1. A good Scripture that Biblically defines this word is in 2 Timothy 3:16,17.
- B. In Matthew 28:19,20 we see a process:
 - 1. Go and make disciples, baptizing them.
 - 2. Teaching the baptized believers to observe what the Lord has commanded.
- C. In 2 Timothy 2:2 we see a process again:
 - 1. Paul said to Timothy, “*the things you have heard from me.*”
 - 2. Timothy, “*you commit these to faithful men.*”

3. Faithful men, “*will be able to teach others also.*”
- D. Start by:
1. On-the-job training. Paul carried other men with him and trained them. One-on-one.
 2. Classes for training.
 3. Workshops for training workers for the Lord’s work.
 4. Bible Training Schools.

Conclusion:

- A. Results: indigenous churches.
- B. That is, churches that can reproduce themselves, support themselves, and govern themselves.
- C. This is what God wants!

Edifying and Equipping the Native People of a Country

- I. Without the Work/Process of Edifying and Equipping the Saints in a Country the Native Church Cannot Be Indigenous/Self Supporting.**
- II. The Work of Edifying and Equipping Must Follow Those Who Are Baptized (Matthew 28:19,20).**
- III. To Edify Is to “Enlighten, Strengthen, to Make Strong.” This Work Can Clearly Be Seen in the Book of Acts in Such Places as Acts 14:21-23; 15:40,41; 16:5.**
 - A. This can be done one-on-one after each person is baptized into Christ.
 - B. It can be done in group studies/Bible study classes/Bible training schools.
 - C. If it is not done, the babe in Christ will not grow, be able to meet their daily problems, or develop.
 - D. If it is done, the babe in Christ can grow and become strong enough to reproduce.
- IV. To Equip Is to Train. This Work Can Be Clearly Seen in 2 Timothy 2:2.**
 - A. This can be done in special Bible classes/workshops and a Bible Training School.
 - B. We have found that a Bible Training School that operates one night a week, or on Saturdays, works out the best.
 - C. When a school is conducted at night or on Saturdays, just about everyone can attend. This way, not just a selected few attends and benefits.

- D. By using this method, leaders, teachers, preachers and soul winners can be trained for work in the Lord's church.
- E. It does not take such big funds to start a Bible Training School and to keep it going. The local brethren can carry on the school when there are native men and women who are capable of teaching in it.
- F. The process of equipping/training continues after the missionary leaves, and it is done with local men and local money. We should not start something that the local brethren cannot continue with local men and local money.

What Institutional Training Can Do — Foreign Mission Work

1. First and foremost the Scriptures do not tell us that training is the work of the local church.
2. It eats away at the indigenous approach to mission work like cancer.
3. It takes men/families out of their own culture and environment where they best function.
4. It leads many to expect and get support and then we have this problem to deal with.
5. It will provoke envy and jealousy among the native men/Christians, because of the diploma attitude.
6. It will encourage others to want to go to this type of school for the wrong reasons.
7. It requires great sums of money for land, buildings, teachers, and on-going upkeep.
8. It takes men away from small churches that really need them to survive and grow.
9. It takes men away from churches where they can be active in serving in their own culture and homeland.
10. It can lead to an entire country/region to be led off into a false teaching.

Supporting Native Churches with Foreign Funds

I wish that every Christian, every preacher and every leader in the Lord's church in places like the United States, New Zealand and many other modern countries could experience what missionaries experience on the foreign mission field sometimes. I have said from time to time that it is not wise to put native preachers in the Pacific Islands on foreign support or to build church buildings for the churches in the Pacific Islands.

Perhaps we should further clarify this. It would be better, from what we have seen and from our own experiences over the last twenty-one years in the Pacific Islands, to rule out foreign support for preachers and church buildings built with foreign dollars.

Here are some Biblical and wise reasons why we should not support native preachers.

1. It robs the local church of a responsibility and this, to say the least, is not wise (2 Corinthians 11:8).
2. It makes the local church inferior to other churches, and this is not wise (2 Corinthians 11:13).
3. It makes the local church lose its self-government when support comes for the preacher from outside.
4. It causes the local church to lose control of their native preacher because his support is coming from outside.
5. It causes the native preacher to do things that will please his overseas supporting church and not the local church.
6. American/overseas support brings the attraction of many material gains.

7. It causes the local church to lose its self-government or autonomy to a great extent.
8. It causes many others to be attracted to the church, because of the attraction of many material gains.
9. It lifts the native preacher above his own people and sets him up as the “one in the know”.
10. It causes many problems among the members, such as envy and jealousy, just to mention a couple.
11. It will take away from all the men sharing in the leadership role, preaching responsibility, and other works of the church.

Here are some reasons why we should not build church buildings for foreign churches:

1. It robs the local church of a responsibility, and this is not wise (2 Corinthians 11:8).
2. It makes the local church inferior to other churches, and this is not wise (2 Corinthians 11:13).
3. It causes the native brethren to depend on overseas churches whenever they have a need.
4. It causes other churches to want the same thing, and how many buildings can a church build?
5. It robs the native church of necessary pride to meet other challenges that come before the church.
6. It causes the native brethren to become lazy and have a desire for more material things.

Why Missionaries Quit

Introduction:

- A. Missionaries on the foreign field are shaken up when missionaries quit.
- B. Missionaries shutting down their work has always plagued the church.
- C. The missionary shortage has always existed.
- D. Many have wondered why, but they are not really concerned enough to determine the real reason and help do something about it.
- E. Why do missionaries quit?

I. Loss of Support (1 Corinthians 3:9; Philippians 1:5; 4:16,17).

- A. This is one of the major reasons.
- B. Can be caused by stateside overseeing or supporting churches.
 - 1. Not enough communication.
 - 2. No stick-ability to the work.
 - 3. Support a mission work “within driving distance.”
- C. Can be stimulated by the missionary.
 - 1. Not doing his work.
 - 2. Not communicating to overseeing and supporting churches.

II. Discouragement (2 Corinthians 11:26-28).

- A. Two areas of discouragement are encountered by the missionary.
 - 1. Discouraged because of little or no spiritual support back home.

- a. Stateside churches can keep missionaries encouraged with letters, phone calls, tapes, packages, e-mail, and visits.
2. Discouragement with the work.
 - a. Churches and elders can help by continually giving support while the missionary family is on the field.
 - b. Good planning with the missionary, and re-evaluating the goals and work.

III. Inability to Adapt and Identify with the Culture (1 Corinthians 9:19-22).

- A. Making cultural adjustments is hard to understand for those who have never had the opportunity to experience it.
- B. All missionaries go through a period of culture shock — I prefer to call it culture adjustments.
- C. A survey trip or an in-depth study of the culture might prevent many missionaries from going into a culture to which they could not adapt.

IV. Spiritually Drained (2 Corinthians 12:10).

- A. Many missionaries have returned to the States because they have been spiritually drained as a result of not enough praying and personal Bible study.
- B. Some return to stay because they have simply burned themselves out in the Lord's work.
- C. The Bible is always the source of faith and strength and will keep the missionary from being drained spiritually.

V. Spread too Thin (Acts 11:28).

- A. The missionary many times gets bogged down in things that are not necessarily evangelistic.
- B. This does not come from bad planning always, but because he is the only one who is available to do the many works associated with his work.
- C. To some this becomes very frustrating — trying to do everything.

VI. Weak Missionaries (Galatians 6:1).

- A. Some families are not spiritually or emotionally strong enough to overcome difficulties of adaptation, separation from family and fellow Christians, and being completely surrounded by the religious error present on the mission field.
- B. This problem can be greatly solved by knowing the missionary family and knowing the field of work.
- C. Great wisdom and encouragement by elders would help prevent this situation.

VII. Go Home to Rest, but Stay (Acts 14:26-28; Acts 15).

- A. Missionaries return to the States because of being overworked and spiritually drained for a break with the intention of returning to the field after a year or so.
- B. Many have good intentions and plans of returning but somehow get tripped up in the stateside situation and never return.
- C. Overseeing elders and the missionary should develop a plan of work for the missionary that does not keep his nose to the grindstone day after day.

VIII. The No-glory Problem (Philippians 1:15-17).

- A. There are those who want to be a missionary for the purpose of receiving glory and praise from others; they want to be a “big M”.
- B. There are cases where a man wants to “serve his term” for the purpose of people introducing him by saying, “Brother so-and-so has been a missionary in such and such a foreign country.”
- C. Such men usually stay on the field for a year or two and return to the States discouraged.

IX. Mission Completed (Matthew 28:19,20).

- A. There are occasions when a self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating work is established on the mission field and the missionary has completed his work.
- B. When this happens, it is time for the missionary to move on to another mission field.
- C. This is what the goal of every missionary should be.

Conclusion:

- A. When a preacher steps down from the pulpit, there will always be those who are left without his needed teaching.
- B. When a missionary quits, the closest replacement (if there be a replacement) is thousands of miles away.

Tips for Speakers and Translators

I. Tips for Speakers.

- A. Speak slowly.
- B. Speak clearly.
- C. Speak in short sentences.
- D. Use simple words.
- E. Do not use double negatives.
- F. When you speak for thirty minutes in English, it will be forty-five to sixty minutes when translated.
- G. Do not use American jokes or illustrations, because they may not have meaning or application to local people.
- H. Give the translator a copy of your lesson before time so that he/she can spot anything that would be difficult to translate.
- I. If reading more than one verse, you read one and let the translator read one verse, until reading has been completed.
- J. Never quote, because your translator may not know the scripture from memory and because Pacific Islanders love to search the scriptures.

II. Tips for Translators.

- A. If possible, get together with the one you will be translating for before time so that you will know his voice.
- B. Look over speaker's lesson to see if there are any difficult things to translate.
- C. Listen carefully to the one you are translating for.

- D. Try to use the same body/eye/movements and voice emphasis as the speaker.
- E. Remember it is not your lesson, you are only the translator. You are the voice for the speaker. You are important.
- F. Be very careful and translate exactly what the speaker is saying. No more and no less.

Expand or Expire?

Introduction:

- A. In Matthew 9:35-38 and 10:9,10, we have one of Jesus' most important messages.
- B. This is not what Jesus would say **if** He were here, but what He is saying **because** He is here.
- C. His messages expand or expire; it's growth or the grave; progress or perish.
- D. Our Lord made three important points.

I. Enlarge Your Field (Matthew 9:35,36).

- A. When our Lord saw the "multitudes" He had "compassion" on them.
 - 1. *"Do not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest.' Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are white for harvest!"* (John 4:35).
- B. Let us tear off the bandages from our eyes and see people as Jesus did.
- C. How did Jesus see people?
 - 1. "Distressed and down cast."
 - 2. "As sheep without a shepherd."
 - 3. Lost without a Saviour.
- D. Jesus wants us to feel the same way toward humanity as He did, and when we do, we will enlarge our fields.
 - 1. "Every nation" (Matthew 28:19).
 - 2. "Every person" (Mark 16:15).

II. Expand Your Forces (Matthew 9:37,38).

- A. When we get a bigger view of the Lord's fields then we will need more workers.
 - 1. The Problem: *"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few"* (Matthew 9:37).
 - 2. The Solution: *"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest"* (Matthew 9:38).
- B. Our task is of such a nature that it is going to take every member of the church active, working, and sacrificing if we are to make an impact on our world.
- C. The Lord needs you!

III. Expand Your Faith (Matthew 10:9,10).

- A. Jesus emphasized the "by faith" principle.
 - 1. *"For we walk by faith, not by sight"* (2 Corinthians 5:7).
- B. Faith is not proven till it exercises itself in the laboratory of life.
- C. Many times we are like deep-sea divers enclosed in suits designed for many fathoms deep, marching bravely to pull plugs out of bath tubs.
- D. God calls on us to launch out, to reach out by faith to a world that needs our help.
- E. It is not enough to just talk about it, we must do something about it.
 - 1. *"But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works"* (James 2:18).
 - 2. Faith demands action on our part.

Conclusion:

- A. The challenge facing the church is to expand or expire.
- B. Are you doing all you can to contribute to the expanding of the church?
- C. Won't you say in your heart today, "I want to be a worker for the Lord"?

Effective Fund Raising

Introduction:

- A. Luke 14:28 and Hosea 4:6.
- B. Two major problems that missionaries have:
 - 1. Lack of man power to do the work.
 - 2. Lack of money power to do the work.
- C. Fund raising probably turns a lot of people off doing mission work:
 - 1. May be God's way of weeding out those who don't really mean business.
 - 2. May be God's way of seeing what we are made of.
- D. The challenge is to have the right attitude about "Fund Raising".
 - 1. Giving others an opportunity to "*lay up treasures in heaven*" (Matthew 6:20).
- E. I owe a lot to one of my elders, brother John Maner, regarding "Fund Raising".
 - 1. I have been fund raising for 36 years, and so I will be speaking from experience.
- F. In Foreign Missions Fund Raising, I have the original Fund Raising Book from 29 years ago.
 - 1. I have built on that base since 1972.
 - 2. We have had some of our supporting congregations for 35 years. We are blessed, but we have worked hard at it — it did not just happen.
- G. Here are some suggestions:

I. Know Your Field.

- A. Make a survey trip.
- B. Carry that note pad and pen.
- C. Use that pad and pen to collect all the facts that you can.
 - 1. Cost of housing.
 - 2. Cost of food.
 - 3. Cost of clothing.
 - 4. Cost of utilities.
 - 5. Cost of furniture.
 - 6. Cost of office equipment and supplies.
 - 7. Cost of schooling.
 - 8. Cost of vehicle — what would be best.
 - 9. What would be best — ship or buy on the field?
 - 10. Immigration Work Permit requirements and with that will likely be an Immigration security money bond.
 - 11. Custom tax requirements — if there will be any customs to be paid for shipping in personal effects.

II. Know Your Family.

- A. The financial needs of your family.
- B. Know the economy in the country where you are going.
 - 1. That would determine the financial needs of your family.
- C. Know the exchange rate in the country where you are going.
 - 1. That would determine the financial needs of your family.

2. Our experience when we went to Fiji in 1973: the exchange rate changed from 92 cents for \$1.00 U.S. to 72 cents for \$1.00 U.S.
- D. You must have Medical Insurance for the good of your family.
 1. It is required by our elders.
 - E. You must have a Retirement Plan for the good of your family.
 1. It is required by our elders.
 - F. You must have a Will for the good of your family.
 1. It is required by our elders.
 - G. You must have Life Insurance for the good of your family.
 1. It is required by our elders.

III. Know Your Goals/Objectives.

- A. I laid our goals/objectives out:
 1. Evangelism.
 2. Edifying.
 3. Equipping.
- B. Come up with what amount you would spend in each area of work.
- C. Do not go without enough funds/support. If you do, it will be a terrible mistake!
- D. Be sure to lay out not only your monthly work fund, but also your one-time funds.

IV. Know What You Are Talking About.

- A. Know the elders or mission committee you will be talking to.
 1. Leave something with them, such as a booklet or brochure.

2. Get a date and name to check back with about funds/help.
- B. Try to know what they are capable of doing financially.
 1. Be specific on the amount you need from them.
 2. You can always build on it.
- C. Have a presentation to the congregation if possible.
 1. Slide/power point presentation.
 2. Put thought into the presentation. Don't just use pictures of the country, but show the people, opportunities for teaching the lost, and any pictures of the brethren and the church.
 3. Work hard on making it effective.
- D. Have a booklet/brochure like I spoke of earlier.
 1. Make it attractive.
 2. Make it well organized.
 3. Lay it out so that it is easy to read.
- E. Be sold on the work.
 1. Show that you are excited about it.
 2. If you are not excited about it, how can others desire to buy into the work.

V. Know the Importance of Keeping the Congregations Informed.

- A. Here is the key to keeping and building on the support you get at the start.
- B. Here are some ways to do that:
 1. Monthly newsletter.
 2. E-mail.
 3. Report to every supporting congregation every two to three years.

Conclusion:

- A. Make fund raising a joy.
- B. Make others feel good about helping you.
- C. Make sure of honesty and integrity.

If We Don't Go

Introduction:

- A. What a question!
- B. I just can't imagine such a thought.
- C. If we don't go...

I. God Loses His Investment.

- A. Acts 20:28.
- B. 1 Corinthians 6:20.

II. We Are Breaking the Command to Go.

- A. Matthew 28:19,20.
- B. Mark 16:15,16.

III. They Will Not Hear.

- A. Romans 10:13-15.
- B. Isaiah 6:5-8.

IV. They Will Be Without God and Have No Hope.

- A. Ephesians 2:12.
- B. 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9.

V. Their Blood Will Be on Our Hands.

- A. Ezekiel 3:18,21.
- B. Ezekiel 33:8,9.

Conclusion:

- A. Will you decide to go for Jesus today?
- B. What will you do?

Launch Out in Service

Introduction:

- A. *“Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, ‘What do you wish?’ She said to Him, ‘Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.’ But Jesus answered and said, ‘You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?’ They said to Him, ‘We are able.’ So He said to them, ‘You will indeed drink My cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.’ And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many’” (Matthew 20:20-28).*
- B. Two words in this text pulls at us and entices us.

- C. The desire to be — “Great” and “First”.
 - 1. Great buildings.
 - 2. Great names.
 - 3. Great minds.
 - 4. Great transportation.
 - 5. Great money.
 - 6. Great technology.
 - 7. Great numbers.
- D. Twenty-seven years ago an older missionary said to me, “Robert, the brotherhood will now make you a Big “M”. It took a moment for those words to sink in, but when they did, I promised the Lord that I would never forget who I am.

I. Who Should We Desire to Be?

- A. Romans 1:1 — *“Paul a servant of Jesus Christ.”*
- B. Philippians 1:1 — *“Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ.”*
- C. James 1:1 — *“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- D. 2 Peter 1:1 — *“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ.”*
- E. Jude 1 — *“Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ.”*
- F. Revelation 1:1 — *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants.”*
- G. We should never forget “who we are” and “who we are doing this for.”

II. So You Want to Do Mission Work! To Launch Out in Service...

- A. Realize you must serve the Lord (Romans 12:11).
 - 1. You cannot be lazy.

- a. You must be a self-starter.
- 2. You must be enthusiastic.
 - a. In American Samoa — What our son Mark who was still in High School said, “Dad, you are doing the work and preaching like there are two hundred people here, and there is no one here but our family.” My comment, “Mark, we are doing this for the Lord and we are going to show Him we mean business.” But then I thought, this is the way we have always done it, with all our being.
- 3. When the going gets tough you will not make it if you are not serving the Lord.
 - a. Once while living in Fiji, our dryer had burned up, the washer had worn out, we had bird mites in the house, Mary and all the children had head lice, and all of us had scabies.
- 4. Serve the Lord!
 - a. You will accomplish more.
 - b. You will be more successful.
 - c. You will make it.
 - d. You will be pleasing to the Lord.
- 5. Don’t make the mistake of doing what you do to be men-pleasers.
- B. You must show absolute loyalty to the Lord (Matthew 6:24).
 - 1. When you see the challenge before us you will need that loyalty.
 - a. When Mary had colon cancer in 1982 I

said to her, “If we need to go back to the States where you can have better medical care, we can do that.” She looked at me and said, “No, Robert, we are needed here so much more, and I trust that the Lord will look after us, and I know you will do your best.”

- b. It is with absolute loyalty to the Lord that we can say, *“I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able”* (2 Timothy 1:12).
 - c. That we can say, *“But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me”* (2 Timothy 4:17).
2. There are six billion souls who are calling, “Help us”. In the hour of this lecture 6,000 will die without Christ. To get the job done, it will take nothing less than absolute loyalty.
- C. You will need to serve the Lord with humility (Acts 20:19).
1. It will take humility for you to truly understand that “the Lord opens doors of opportunity” to do His work (2 Corinthians 2:12).
 2. Don’t make the mistake of thinking or saying, “I did this” or “we did this” (1 Corinthians 3:6,9).
 3. You will face so many problems and challenges in helping the church/brethren that it will take humility to be successful for the Lord.
 4. You will not be able to solve some problems,

and it will take humility to leave it to the Lord (1 Peter 5:7).

- D. Through love you must serve others (Galatians 5:13).
1. Love for God will carry you through.
 2. Love for the brethren will carry you through.
 - a. At the end of last year I had handled so many congregational problems, individual problems and was carrying on the normal challenging work load that I said to my lovely wife, “Mary, I have had it with the brethren and I’m just at the end of the road with them.” In her loving and kind way she said, “That’s all right, Robert.” A few days passed; she came into the office. I was playing that Pacific Island music and I said, “I just can’t wait to see those Pacific Island brethren.” Mary gave me that big smile, and said, “I understand”.
 - b. Yes, my battery was charged and it was the love for the brethren that carried me through again.
 3. Love for the work you are doing for Jesus will be the only thing that will carry you through.
 - a. After you have been on the field for so many years and you still love the place and people, it is love for the work you are doing for Jesus that will carry you through.
 4. Ninety-six percent of our trained people in the

Churches of Christ are teaching/preaching to six percent of the world's population.

- a. Thank God there are many ways that everyone can serve. Two weeks Campaign/Workshops. Teaching and Training for three weeks or three months.
 - b. A few years ago we targeted Nadi, Fiji with the gospel of Christ. This year in July and August we had two groups to come in to work. We started planning, praying, and preparing a year in advance. Many dedicated Christians were involved. Two groups came to work. The first group was the Evangelism group and the second group was the Edifying/Equipping group. Thirty days; 29 workers involved; 176 studies; 212 people studied with; 26 baptisms, 4 repented of sin, and 1 restored to the church. Some planted, some watered, *"but God gave the increase"* (1 Corinthians 3:6).
5. It will be love that will keep you focussed on Jesus, the mission before you, and just keeping on keeping on when the going gets difficult.

Conclusion:

The First Missionary

“So you are going to leave?”

“Yes, Father. I’ve got to preach to them. They need the Good News so badly. I have to go.”

“It will be different for you, Son. You may not like it. They are not like us.”

“I know, Father.”

“You know you will have to live with them. You will have to eat their food. You will have to speak their language. You will have to share their joy and sorrows, their problems and their pains.”

“I know that, Father, and I’m prepared for it.”

“And the situation there is not good. There is a lot of political turmoil, the economy is bad, and the people are restless. They won’t be receptive to spiritual things. They won’t listen.”

“But some will, Father, and if I do not go, what will happen to them?”

“I know how you feel, Son. I do not want any of them to be lost either. I want them all to know the truth and be saved. I want you to go. But you are my Son, and I want to be sure that you know what you are doing; that you know the sacrifice you will have to make, the risks you will be taking, the danger involved. If you leave me, you will be leaving home, comfort, and safety. It’s your life I am talking about. Are you willing to give all that up?”

“I am willing, Father.”

“Then go, Son, and my love goes with you.”

And Jesus went.

Teaching World Missions in the Bible School

Introduction:

- A. Mark 16:15; Romans 10:11-17; Matthew 28:20.
 - B. We cannot, we must not, fail our Lord by refusing to carry out His Commission.
 - C. The Great Commission is:
 - 1. Important to the saving of the souls of lost humanity.
 - 2. Therefore, it is urgent that we prepare the members of the church to carry it out.
 - D. Every aspect of the life of the church must be geared toward this goal.
 - 1. But little or no time is given to a study of the mission of the church and how it is to be carried out.
 - E. As the teaching arm of the church, the Sunday and Wednesday Bible school programs can be most effective in teaching about mission work.
 - F. Here are a few suggestions for building greater interest in missions and for training missionaries in the local congregations of the body of Christ.
- I. A Section of Mission Books Should Be Added to Our Church Libraries.**
- A. Biographies of our brethren who have served in foreign fields.
 - B. Histories of missionaries who have served in foreign fields.
 - C. Books on methods.

- D. Studies of ripe fields.
- E. Works on cultural communication.
- F. Reports from various fields from around the world.

II. Missionaries and Their Families Should Be Invited to Speak to Classes.

- A. Have the wife present lessons to ladies' and children's classes.
- B. Their children can also stimulate the interest of other boys and girls by being in classes and asked to tell what it is like living in another culture.
- C. More people have decided to become missionaries as a result of personal contact with missionaries than any other way.

III. Missionaries Should Be Prayed for by Name in Class.

- A. This will serve to keep the importance of mission work before the members of the church and before boys and girls growing up in the church.
- B. This will help in creating an awareness of the need of the whole world for the gospel.
- C. It will help in showing the need of every Christian being involved in carrying the gospel to the world to the measure of his ability.
- D. It can help show ways and means by which the Great Commission can be fulfilled.

V. The Elders of Local Congregations Should Encourage Young Men to Consider Being Gospel Preachers Who Will Carry the Gospel to the Whole World.

- A. They should spot talented young men, encourage them to preach, and stand behind them financially as they prepare themselves for a school.

- B. They should then sponsor these young men in the mission field.
- C. Churches with hundreds of members should not have to seek further than their own membership to find men to send into the mission field.

Conclusion:

- A. The Bible School can play a great part in stimulating interest in the Great Commission.
- B. The Bible School can help in preparing men to carry out the Great Commission.
- C. Let us use this effective tool wisely so that all the earth may hear the message of salvation.

The Macedonia Call

Introduction:

- A. In a single sentence, the man of Macedonia is introduced on the pages of Acts.
- B. The call is a call to all Christians of all ages.
- C. This call is far-reaching and everlastingly important.
- D. Four questions were to be answered by Paul then, and these same four questions must be answered by Christians now.

I. Where?

- A. Acts 16:9.
- B. Each Christian should pray for God's guidance to find the proper "where" of service.
- C. Somewhere an "open door" awaits each of us (2 Corinthians 2:12).
- D. We must find that "open door" and fill our place of service.

II. When?

- A. Acts 16:9.
- B. This world is full of people who would have done something yesterday or who might be able to do something tomorrow.
- C. But what the Lord needs most of all are those who are ready to do something now!
- D. David's battle with Goliath was characterized by immediate action.
 - 1. Giants are yet to be slain, but the temptation is to wait and see if they will go away.
- E. In John 9:4 Jesus said, "*I must work the works of*

Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.”

1. We need to have the attitude of Jesus about work for the Father.
- F. In John 4:35 Jesus said, “...*look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!*”

III. How?

- A. Acts 16:10.
- B. With trust and confidence, Paul went toward Macedonia, not knowing what would happen to him there.
- C. In Acts 18:9,10 the Lord said to Paul, “...*for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you.*”
- D. Matthew 28:19,20, Jesus said, “...*I am with you always.*”

IV. Why?

- A. Acts 16:9.
- B. “Help us” was the “why” of Paul’s journey.
 1. A jailer waited with a midnight question of eternal importance (Acts 16).
 2. A woman of Thyatira waited by the riverside to be taught and baptized (Acts 16).
 3. A congregation waited to be founded and built up in the most holy faith.
- C. The same “why” applies in our generation.

Conclusion:

- A. We will go to practically any extreme to save a person’s life.
- B. The Harvard Medical school letter of May 1983 told of a badly burned man at the Massachusetts General

Hospital. Over a period of thirty-five days, he required constant monitoring. He used five hundred pints of blood and had six operations, each requiring two teams of surgeons and skilled personal. Yet at the end of the thirty-five, days he died. According to the surgeon, the care of that one patient stretched the resources of the hospital to its extremity.

- C. To what limit will we go to “save a soul from death and hide a multitude of sins?”

How Missionaries Are to Deal with False Teachers on the Field

Introduction:

- A. There will always be false teachers (2 Peter 2:1).
- B. Many will follow their destructive ways (2 Peter 2:2).
- C. We must recognize their characteristics:
 - 1. They reject authority (Jude 8).
 - 2. They resist the truth (2 Timothy 3:8).
 - 3. They are without the truth (1 Timothy 6:3-5).
 - 4. They are deceitful (Ephesians 4:14).
 - 5. They have departed from the faith (1 Timothy 4:1,2).
 - 6. They want to do their own thing (Judges 8).
 - 7. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray (2 Peter 2:15).
- D. Now, how do we deal with false teachers?

I. Explain/Teach More Accurately.

- A. 1 Timothy 2:4 — *“come to the knowledge of the truth.”*
- B. Acts 18:24-28 — *“they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”*
- C. Jude 22 — *“and on some have compassion, making a distinction.”*

II. Get Them to Come to Their Senses.

- A. 2 Timothy 3:7 — *“always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*
- B. Titus 2:1-6 — All Christians are to be sober minded.

- C. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 — *“that they may come to their senses.”*

III. First and Second Warning.

- A. Titus 1:13 — *“rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith.”*
- B. Titus 3:9-11 — *“first and second admonition.”*
- C. Jude 23 — *“others save with fear pulling them out of the fire.”*

IV. Note Those Who Cause Division and Avoid Them.

- A. 1 Timothy 1:18-20 — *“deliver to Satan.”*
- B. 2 John 9-11 — *“do not share in their evil deeds.”*
- C. Romans 16:17 — *“avoid them.”*

Conclusion:

- A. God help us to:
 - 1. Believe the truth.
 - 2. Obey the truth.
 - 3. Proclaim the truth.
 - 4. Defend the truth.
- B. God help us to realize that the Church of the living God is *“the pillar and ground of the truth”* (1 Timothy 3:15).

To Have the Heart of a Missionary (Part 1)

Introduction:

- A. In a single sentence, the man of Macedonia is introduced in the pages of Acts.
 - 1. This call could be a call from anyone in any country of the world.
 - 2. The cry for help comes from the lost.
- B. This call is a call to all Christians of all ages.
- C. This call is far-reaching and everlastingly important.

I. Four Questions Must Be Answered by You and Me Now!

- A. Where? (Acts 16:9).
- B. When? (Acts 16:9).
 - 1. What the Lord needs most of all are those who are ready to do something now!
- C. How? (Acts 16:10).
 - 1. With trust and confidence, Paul went to Macedonia, not knowing what would happen to him there.
- D. Why? (Acts 16:9).
 - 1. “Help us” was the “why” of Paul’s journey.
 - 2. A jailer waited with a midnight question of eternal importance (Acts 16).
 - 3. A woman of Thyatira waited by the riverside to be taught and baptized (Acts 16).
 - 4. A congregation waited to be founded and built up in the most holy faith.

II. The Character of Those Desiring to Go as a Missionary

- A. There must be preparation in three areas.
 - 1. Spiritual preparation (Galatians 6:1).
 - 2. Intellectual preparation (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Corinthians 9:22,23).
 - 3. Emotional preparation (Hebrews 6:19; James 1:8).
- B. Characteristics of a missionary:
 - 1. Feel the necessity of doing this for the Lord (1 Corinthians 9:16).
 - 2. Do this willingly and because of the reward (1 Corinthians 9:17).
 - 3. Realize that you have been entrusted with a stewardship (1 Corinthians 9:17).
 - 4. Realize the importance of presenting only the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:18).
 - 5. Willing to become a servant (1 Corinthians 9:19).
 - 6. Willing to become all things to all men (1 Corinthians 9:22).
 - 7. Must be a self-starter (1 Corinthians 9:24).
- C. Sometimes when I am asked embarrassing questions about my qualifications to do mission work, I can only answer, “by telling the story of my Saviour and training others to do the same thing. That Mary and I were willing to go. That Mary and I were of the same mind, and that we loved people. And we loved the Lord.”

III. How These Qualities Can bB Developed in Every Member of the Church.

- A. The leadership and preacher must believe the Great Commission and have a world-wide vision (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15).
 - 1. Don't treat mission work like an unwanted step-child.
- B. Have a Bible School and Teaching Program that will include world-wide evangelism.
 - 1. Do it once a year for a quarter.
- C. Training for the congregation.
 - 1. Mission Emphasis Weekends.
 - 2. Have a "Great Commission" VBS.
- D. Have missionaries before the local congregation as often as possible (Acts 14:26-28).
 - 1. It will motivate the congregation to really be involved in mission work.
 - 2. It will give the congregation a better insight into mission work.
- E. A section of mission books should be added to the church library.
 - 1. Encourage the members to read.
- F. Invite missionaries and their families to speak to classes.
 - 1. More people decide to become missionaries as a result of personal contact with missionaries than any other way. Ken Forrest — grew up in Mocksville, N.C.
- G. Encourage Christians to go on a short-term mission trip to help in the work of the Lord.

Conclusion:

Missionaries are Cracked Pots

There was a servant in a king's palace in the Fiji Islands. He served his king/master well. Each day it was his chore to collect water. He would walk from the palace to the river using the same path. He carried two clay pots for collecting water on a pole. One day one of the pots developed a crack, but each day he continued carrying water in the cracked pot. This went on for months, and one day the cracked pot spoke to the servant and said, "Why do you continue to carry me?" The servant said to the cracked pot, "Did you not notice that I planted seed and then each day through you, I watered those seeds. Then beautiful flowers sprang up and I was able to arrange beautiful floral arrangements on the king's/master's table." That is what we are as missionaries — cracked pots, putting flowers on the king's/master's table.

To Have the Heart of a Missionary (Part 2)

Introduction:

- A. Make the decision to go, prepare, and move to a foreign country.
- B. The arrival, the cultural adjustments, and settling in the family is all part of it.
- C. You have what seems like a million things to do, but you must remember you are there to do the Lord's work.
- D. But where do I start? Be a self starter for the Lord (1 Corinthians 9:24)!

I. Challenges to Consider as One Prepares to Serve in the Mission Field.

- A. Step one: Finding an overseeing congregation.
 - 1. One that has a well-balanced eldership.
 - 2. One that is sound in the faith.
 - 3. One that has mission work at heart.
 - 4. One that will truly go see what they oversee.
- B. Step two: Husband and wife make survey trip to the field selected.
 - 1. In the past, people went blindly, not making survey trips.
 - 2. In the past, only the husband made the survey trip.
 - 3. It is necessary to get the necessary information (such as: housing, medical, schooling, cost of living, immigration procedures, customs facts,

- banking procedures, etc.) that will enable you to do a better job when you get there.
4. Pray, discuss, and make a decision to go.
- C. Step three: Prepare an “Information Booklet.”
1. This book will help to present your plans in an organized way.
 2. This booklet will include projected salary, work fund, and one-time funds.
 3. It will show that you know what you are talking about.
 4. People remember what they see better and they will have it to meet and talk about.
- D. Step four: Move and work with overseeing congregation.
1. During this time get personal finances in good order to move overseas.
 2. Set up with overseeing congregation how salary and work fund is to be deposited.
 3. This time will help both the overseeing congregation and the missionary family to get to know each other better.
- E. Step five: Raising monthly and one-time funds needed.
1. Don’t go without enough funds to do the work properly. I had a good teacher in that area.
 2. Don’t complain and whine about raising funds. It is a blessing and not a curse. It is a way to weed out those who don’t really need to go.
- F. Step six: Get physicals, police clearance, etc. that may be necessary for immigration visa and work permit.

- G. Step seven: Submit the necessary immigration visa and work permit paper work to government.
 - 1. Remember that foreign governments don't work on the same speed as our government.
 - 2. Be ready for any challenges that you might face.
 - 3. Don't take them negatively.
- H. Step eight: Make a decision on whether to ship household goods, office equipment, vehicle or purchase on the field.
 - 1. Your survey trip will help you make the best decision.
- I. Step nine: Set a departure date and a date to be on the field.
 - 1. Be optimistic about the departure date and the date to be on the field.
 - 2. Be ready to adjust the dates if necessary.

II. Challenges faced by missionaries as they serve on the field.

- A. Crossing cultural boundaries.
 - 1. Each of us are born and raised within a certain culture.
 - 2. When we go outside of the culture in which we are born and raised, we cross into an area that we don't know or understand.
 - 3. We must make certain adjustments in order to be more effective in teaching others the message of Christ.
 - 4. How do we learn the culture?
 - a. In times of crises.
 - b. Through their ceremonial customs.

- c. Through their history and proverbs.
 - d. By seeing, touching, smelling, hearing, and tasting.
5. Benefits received by learning the culture:
- a. Keeps us from making many social mistakes that will turn the people away from us.
 - b. Helps us to really understand their way of thinking so that we do not judge everything by “our cultural yardstick.”
 - c. It will inform us where the “hurts” and “voids” are among the people so that we can aim the gospel right where it is needed.
6. You can learn of a culture in a book, but you can’t know a culture until you experience it!
7. Why is learning the culture so important? So that we can effectively communicate the gospel of Christ to the lost (1 Corinthians 9:22,23).
- B. To the work — getting the job done.
- 1. The New Testament Plan.
 - a. Teach and baptize (Matthew 28:19,20).
 - b. Gather into congregations (Acts 14:21-23).
 - c. Edify (Acts 15:40,41).
 - d. Equip/train (2 Timothy 2:2).
 - 2. The results: Indigenous churches that can:
 - a. Reproduce themselves.
 - b. Support themselves.
 - c. Govern themselves.

3. Many tools can be used:
 - a. Pursue Biblical/effective tools: distribution of tracts, Bible correspondence courses, Bible lessons on cassette and video, radio programs, one-on-one/group Bible studies, gospel meetings/Bible classes/Bible training classes.
 - b. Lay aside ineffective tools.
4. Brethren, God has given us the perfect plan for evangelizing the world in His word.
5. If we will use God's perfect plan, we can get the job done.

Conclusion:

- A. It is a challenge to go on the foreign mission field, but the Lord is on our side (Romans 8:31).
- B. The Lord will stand by us and strengthen us (2 Timothy 4:17).

Why Have an Annual World Mission Forum?

Introduction:

- A. First of all, I would like to commend you for having an annual World Mission Forum.
- B. The most glaring weakness in our profession of first century Christianity is the amount of mission work we are doing!
 - 1. My exhortation on world evangelism is largely drowned out by the thundering fact that 96% of our preachers are preaching to 6% of the world's population.
- C. But we shall not let this discourage us because you are commended for having an annual World Mission Forum.
- D. Every aspect of the life of the Church must be geared toward the goal of the mission of the Church.
 - 1. We must educate and motivate the Church in the area of mission work at home and in foreign lands.
- E. The church in any location must see the Church through the eyes of Jesus — they must see the Church worldwide.
 - 1. Many in the Church only see the Church where they are, at the most in the county where they are, and maybe in the state where they are.
- F. Why have an annual world mission forum?

- I. Keep us focused on the mission of the church.**
- A. Matthew 28:19.
 - B. Mark 16:15.
 - C. Ephesians 3:9-11.
 - D. The mission of the church is what blood is to the body; it is the life-line of the Church.
- II. Keep us focused on the urgency of the gospel.**
- A. Acts 16:9,10.
 - B. Acts 22:16.
 - C. 2 Corinthians 6:2.
 - D. When we consider the usage of the word “Now” the urgency of the gospel cannot be missed.
- III. Keep us persistent in doing mission work.**
- A. Hebrews 3:14.
 - B. Acts 2:42,47.
 - C. Acts 5:42.
 - D. Success and persistence go hand in hand. We need churches and men who are persistent.
- IV. Help prepare people to go.**
- A. Matthew 28:20.
 - B. 2 Timothy 2:2.
 - C. Acts 14:27.
 - D. There must be spiritual, intellectual, and emotional preparation.
 - E. Many have decided to do mission work because of a World Mission Forum.
- V. To help others see the fields.**
- A. John 4:35.
 - B. Matthew 9:37,38.

- C. When we see souls through the eyes of Jesus, we will get up and go.

Conclusion:

- A. We cannot, we must not, fail our Lord by refusing to do all we can to carry out His Commission.
- B. He has no other plan for evangelizing the world.

Fire in Our Bones

Jeremiah 20:7-10

Introduction:

- A. When going to the Fiji Islands in August, 1973 to live and work with my family for the Lord, many said, “Robert has the fidgets to go to Fiji.”
- B. Well, I did have the “fidgets to go to Fiji” because fire was in my bones to share the gospel with the people of the Fiji Islands.
- C. To evangelize here at home or in a foreign land we must have fire in our bones.

I. **If We Have Fire in Our Bones We Will Mount Up on Wings Like Eagles and Run With Horses.**

- A. Isaiah 40:31 — *“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.”*
 - 1. We will learn to wait on the Lord.
 - 2. Renew our strength.
 - 3. Run and not be weary.
- B. Jeremiah 12:5 — *“If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses?”*
 - 1. There are six billion souls who have called, “Help Us”. In the hour of this lecture 6,000 will die without Christ. To get the job done we must mount up on wings like eagles and run with horses.

II. If We Have Fire in Our Bones We Will Speak the Word Boldly.

- A. Acts 4:29 — *“Grant your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word.”*
- B. Acts 9:29 — *“And Paul spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus.”*
- C. Acts 18:9 — *“The Lord said to Paul, ‘Do not be afraid, but speak and do not keep silent.’”*
- D. Ephesians 6:19,20 — *“... that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*
- E. In 1973 one of our young converts came from a place where he was the only Christian. He had to walk to Raiwaq church building every Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. With a Bible in hand he walked pass many people standing on the foot path, sitting at the bus stands along the way, and people walking with him. After some days they started to make fun of him. I noticed that he no longer carried his Bible in his hand, but in a wrapped newspaper. I asked him, “Vilikesa, why are you wrapping your Bible in the newspaper?” He hung his head and would not speak. I asked Vilikesa to step aside with me, and I asked him again. He said, “Robert, the people are making fun of me and calling me names like ‘church boy’ and ‘Jesus boy’, and I have no one in my family to talk to.” I said to Vilikesa, “Vili, you do now; you have me and Mary to talk to, we will be your family”, and we became Vili’s family. Today, 28 years later he is still faith-

ful, a leader in the church and a powerful gospel preacher. For 23 years he has been boldly preaching the Word of God.

III. If We Have Fire in Our Bones We Will Be Brave and Courageous.

- A. Joshua 1:9 — *“Be strong and of good courage.”*
- B. Romans 8:31 — *“If God be for us, who can be against us?”*
- C. Romans 8:37 — *“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him.”*
- D. 2 Timothy 2:9 — *“For which I suffer troubles as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.”*
- E. 2 Timothy 4:17 — *“...the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached.”*
- F. God is on our side.

Conclusion:

- A. Brethren, we do not have to be afraid!
- B. God is with us, and has made us more than conquerors (Romans 8:37)!
- C. So, *“With all boldness let us speak the word of God far and near”* (Acts 4:29,31).

The Matchless Love of God!

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would on it.
If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.
He sends you flowers every spring.
He sends you a sunrise every morning.
He reassures us with rainbows after storms have passed.
Whenever you want to talk He listens.
Your birthday is on His calendar.
He never rests when you stay away too
long without calling.
He is happy when you read the book He wrote.
He is so happy to see you completely satisfied with
what He gives you.
He can live anywhere in the universe,
Yet He chooses your heart.
Face it — He is crazy about you!
Dream big! God is not in a box!

Without Complaining, Disputing

Philippians 2:14,15

Introduction:

- A. Do you want to stand out?
 - 1. Do you want to be a cut above the rest of the world?
 - 2. Do you want to be looked up to as a model of excellence?
- B. Do you shine as lights in the world?
 - 1. We are supposed to stand out in a crowd.
 - 2. We are supposed to be distinguishable from the rest of the world.
- C. How does one shine as a light in the world?

I. Without Complaining or Disputing (Philippians 2:14).

- A. Complaining means, “a murmur, murmuring, muttering, to grumble.”
 - 1. To murmur, mutter, grumble, say anything against in a low tone like in the cooing of doves or pigeons.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 10:5,6,10.
- B. Disputing means, “a person deliberating within self, a questioning about what is true and right, hesitation, doubting, disputing, arguing.”
 - 1. 2 Timothy 2:23.
 - 2. Some people like to keep something stirred up — they like to argue.
- C. What kind of reflection is murmuring/complaining or disputing/hesitating about doing what is true and right on our faith in the Lord and His word.

II. Do All Things Without Complaining or Disputing (Philippians 2:14).

- A. It is human nature to complain and gripe.
 - 1. But the Christian ought to live above this (Matthew 5:20).
 - 2. This is one thing that the Christians can do that is totally unexpected and out of character with the rest of the world.
- B. This is a universal command. It is to encompass our every action.
 - 1. In carrying the gospel to every race (Matthew 28:19,20).
 - 2. In carrying the gospel to every person in our generation (Colossians 1:23).
 - 3. In believing the gospel is still the power to save (Romans 1:16).
 - 4. In being servants/leaders of the Lord (2 Timothy 2:24,25).
- C. Have you ever heard a group of doves or pigeons when they get together? Their noise can be obnoxious (offensive and annoying).
 - 1. This is how God views our pity parties when we get together to complain about whatever.

III. By Doing all Things Without Complaining or Disputing We Will Accomplish These Things.

- A. We will become blameless (Philippians 2:15; Colossians 1:21,22).
- B. We will become harmless/innocent/pure (Philippians 2:15; Matthew 5:8).
- C. We will be recognized as God's children (Philippians 2:15; 1 John 3:1,2).

- D. We will be without fault/rebuke (Philippians 2:15; Titus 2:7,8).

Conclusion:

- A. Let us as Christians do all things without complaining or disputing.
- B. Brethren, rather than complaining, we should be rejoicing.
 - 1. Philippians 1:12,17,18 — *“the furtherance of the gospel”*, *“I am set for the defense of the gospel”*, *“I rejoice.”*
 - 2. Philippians 3:1 — *“Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.”*
 - 3. Philippians 4:4 — *“Rejoice in the Lord always.”*
- C. Let us dispel the darkness in the world around us because we shine as lights in the world.

The Enemy We Must Fight in Pressing the Battle

Introduction:

- A. The word enemy means, “foes, adversaries, opponent.”
- B. We know the devil is our adversary (1 Peter 5:8,9), so we must be:
 - 1. Sober/careful.
 - 2. Vigilant/watch out.
 - 3. Resist/stand firm.
- C. The Devil uses many schemes or tricks (Ephesians 6:11) to distract or stop us.
- D. What are some of the enemies we must fight?

I. Self.

- A. Galatians 2:20.
 - 1. I have been crucified with Christ.
 - 2. It is no longer I who live.
- B. Philippians 2:5-8.
 - 1. Have the mind of Christ.
 - 2. Christ emptied Himself of His privileges.
 - 3. Christ became humble and obedient.
- C. Luke 1:38.
 - 1. Let us be like Mary and say, “*Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.*”
 - 2. Self is one of our biggest enemies in carrying the gospel to the lost world.

II. False Teachers.

A. Matthew 7:15,16.

1. We must beware of false teachers.
2. They come in a deceiving way.
3. They are destructive.
4. You can know them.

B. Acts 20:29-32.

1. They are destructive.
2. They speak perverse things.
3. We must warn others.
4. God's word is our salvation.

C. 2 Peter 2:1,4-9.

1. We can be assured there will be false teachers.
2. They bring destruction to themselves and others.
3. God will not spare them, and will judge them.
4. God will give us the victory and punish them.

D. False teachers can hinder and destroy the Church and the mission of the Church.

III. Discouragement.

A. Romans 8:36-39.

1. We will face many discouragements in life, but if we will continue, we will be "*more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*"

B. 2 Corinthians 4:8,9.

1. Notice that there is the negative and then Paul comes back with the positive.

C. Philippians 1:1-18.

1. Paul is in chains for preaching the gospel.
2. But he says, "*I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have*

actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel” (verse 12).

3. Then he concludes, “...and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice” (verse 18).

IV. Mediocrity.

A. Revelation 3:15-19.

1. Mediocrity is being neither hot or cold.
2. This makes the Lord sick at His stomach.
3. The way to correct this is to “be zealous and repent” (verse 19).

B. 2 Corinthians 10:12.

1. We should not measure ourselves with others.
2. If we do we are probably just mediocre.

C. Philippians 3:13,14.

1. Note the phrases, “reaching forward” and “press” do not sound like mediocrity, do they it?

V. Pessimism.

A. Numbers 13:20,31; 14:9

1. “We can’t do it, they are bigger than we are, we are afraid.”
2. Joshua said, “*The Lord is with us. Do not fear them*” (14:9).

B. Philippians 4:13.

1. “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*”

C. 2 Timothy 4:17.

1. “*The Lord stood with me and strengthened me.*”

Conclusion:

- A. The Devil is our enemy, but let us beware of his tricks that we be not distracted, hindered, and stopped.
- B. These tricks of the Devil can distract/hinder/stop us from “pressing the battle” in victory.
- C. Lay aside these enemies and let us press on to the victory for Jesus in world evangelism.

Pressing the Battle When Victory Comes

Matthew 28:19,20

Introduction:

- A. Jesus teaches in the Great Commission that we must press on when victory comes.
 - 1. Teach/make disciples and baptize.
 - 2. Then teach the baptized believers.
- B. Paul teaches the same in Acts 14:21-23.
 - 1. They preached the gospel (evangelized).
 - 2. They went back and strengthened the disciples (edified).
 - 3. Appointed elders in every church (equipped).
- C. To press the battle when victory comes, we must not just baptize, we must follow-up.

I. Strengthening the Souls of the Disciples.

- A. The importance seen in Acts.
 - 1. Acts 14:21,22.
 - 2. Acts 15:32.
 - 3. Acts 15:36-41.
- B. Reasons for strengthening.
 - 1. That the disciples might know the commandments of Christ (Matthew 28:20).
 - 2. That they might continue faithful (Acts 14:22).
 - 3. That they might be able to be strong enough to stand against the Devil (Ephesians 6:10,11).

II. Giving Them Responsibility.

- A. Babes in Christ must have the milk of God's word if they are to be healthy (1 Peter 2:1,2).
- B. One of the important things to remember is that you as an older Christian must not do everything for the younger Christians.
 - 1. Never cramp their growth by doing everything for them.
- C. Give them responsibility and help them to exercise so that they can grow (1 Timothy 4:7,8).
 - 1. As babes in Christ and young Christians grow, give them responsibility or else they will become inactive Christians and fall away (Hebrews 5:12-14).
- D. Never forget: Ability + Responsibility = Growth.

III. Equipping Them to Serve.

- A. The importance of equipping/training can be seen in the book of Acts (Acts 19:8,10).
- B. The importance of equipping/training can be seen in Paul's statement to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:2).
- C. The kind of equipping/training needed is:
 - 1. Good doctrine training (1 Timothy 4:6).
 - 2. Weapon training (2 Timothy 4:2).
 - 3. Communication training (2 Timothy 4:2).
 - 4. Life-saving training (Luke 19:10).
 - 5. How to get the job done training (2 Timothy 2:2).

Conclusion:

- A. Pressing the battle when victory comes demands that we follow-up:

1. Strengthen the souls of the disciples.
 2. Give them responsibility.
 3. Equip them to serve.
- B. Put the gospel in an individual, in a village/town, and it will spread throughout that country, and then throughout the whole world, if we will do what we have been discussing in this lesson.
- C. Then we will truly have the victory, so that we can go on to other countries with the gospel of Christ, and that work will stand until Jesus comes again.

Congregations and an Effective Mission Work

Introduction:

- A. God desires that all congregations of His people do mission work.
- B. The desire of each congregation is to develop a mission work.
- C. I must thank here a young man that I trained as a missionary, Steve Vice, for many thoughts in this lesson.

I. Involving Congregations in Mission Work

- A. Mission work is each congregation's obligation (Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
 - 1. Mission work should never be thought of as optional (Matthew 23:23). It should never be left "undone".
- B. A good mission work is an opportunity to fulfill that obligation.
 - 1. There are many mission works that a congregation could be involved in.
 - 2. Congregations and elders should always look for good, sound and productive mission works.
 - 3. Details should be obtained.
 - a. A congregation should ask where a missionary stands on doctrinal issues.
 - b. They should ask about mission methods that will be utilized.

- c. They should ask about the family: their health, their finances, their experience, etc.
 - 4. A missionary should provide all this information up front.
- C. An organized mission work will appeal to a congregation.
 - 1. This organization will include financial needs, personal items, and spiritual concerns.
 - a. This can be accomplished through communication and prayer.
 - 2. I have had numerous congregations tell me over the years that they had supported a missionary for two years but they had not heard from him.
 - a. That was a year and nine months too long.
 - 3. Look at Paul's letter written to churches he had started.
 - a. They mention finances (Philippians 4:15; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 8:5; 2 Corinthians 9:7).
 - b. They are certainly spiritual in nature (Romans 8:6; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3).
 - c. They are also very personal (2 Corinthians 1:2).

II. Maintaining Congregational Involvement

- A. Regular communication is the key.
 - 1. Newsletters and e-mail should be utilized to update congregations on finances, personal and spiritual items.

- B. A second way is the regular face to face visits to encourage and exhort the members who are giving their money to support the work.
 - 1. This can be very uplifting to a congregation.
 - 2. It is essential.
- C. Another important way is to form personal bonds with some of the members of the congregations who are supporting the work.
 - 1. This presents a challenge when many congregations are involved, but it is very helpful in maintaining close contacts which will help keep that personal relationship between a congregation and a missionary.
- D. Longevity in a work.
 - 1. The longer a missionary stays in a good work the more congregations wish to remain involved in that good work.
 - 2. I have heard of some congregations that have supported a local preacher in a local work for 30 years and are no closer to having that work become self supporting than when it first began.
 - a. Those congregations had become tired of this type of mission work and were looking for a way out.
 - b. On the other hand, I have had congregations call me and ask to support me because they knew that this was a good and productive work we were involved in.

III. Selecting an Eldership to Oversee a Mission Work

- A. An eldership sound in the faith (Titus 1:9).
 - 1. This is the number one priority for selecting an overseeing eldership.
- B. They must be willing to make regular trips to go and visit the work.
 - 1. It helps the congregation.
 - 2. It helps the eldership.
 - 3. It helps the missionary family.
 - 4. It helps the congregations involved in supporting the missionary family.
 - 5. It helps the work in the mission field.
- C. My elders told Mary and me before we ever went on field that if an emergency came up that they would be willing to sell their houses to help us in our emergency if they had to.
 - 1. We believed them, and still do.
 - 2. An eldership's commitment to the work and to the missionaries is essential in selecting an overseeing eldership.
- D. Make sure that the eldership is willing to give direction and correction.
 - 1. Our eldership, which we have been with for over thirty years, has always done this, and they made us a better missionary family.

IV. Preparing the Missionary and Overseeing Eldership and Congregation for Mission Work

- A. The Bible is the best guide for preparing both the missionary and eldership/congregation for overseeing a work. Paul is the ultimate example for

missionaries. The church at Antioch is the best example for a congregation who oversees a mission work.

1. There should be agreements made between the elders and missionary for a plan of work and for finances.
 2. Details should be worked out about the plan of work to be accomplished.
 3. Goals should be set to be accomplished, both long term and short term. Regular visits should be made to these goals to note progress, problems and to discuss changes/improvements to the plan and goals.
- B. Look to some experienced men to help prepare.
1. A green eldership and a green missionary going into a new work will most likely run into many pitfalls.
 2. A mission work involves a great deal of commitment from everyone involved.
- C. Details of the mission work should be relayed to the congregation on a regular basis.
1. Mission work details should be included in the weekly bulletin from time to time, recounting the good news of baptisms, request for prayers and other noteworthy things.
 2. Ask the missionary to write an article for the weekly bulletin.
- D. Spending time with the prospective missionary before he goes into the field is a top priority.
1. Along with this is the elders/missions retreat.

2. So much good is accomplished through these practices.
- E. Accountability should be a factor in the relationship between an eldership and a missionary.
1. Each of us will give account before God (2 Corinthians 5:10).
 2. An overseeing eldership should also require accountability from their missionary.
 3. Although it would be a very rare occasion, but should an elder/eldership fail in some way toward their missionary, then the missionary should require accountability from the eldership also (1 Timothy 5:19,20).

Mission and Money

Introduction:

- A. The mission of Jesus in coming to this earth was for the salvation of mankind (Luke 19:10).
- B. The very heart of the Church is the mission of “**saving souls**” (Ephesians 3:9-11).
- C. What about **Missions and Money**?

I. **The Lord owns all the money.**

- A. *“The earth is the Lord’s and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein”* (Psalms 24:1).
- B. *“We are the Lord’s”* (Romans 14:8), and we can say all that we have is His.
- C. If we have the **right attitude** about **giving and missions**, we will:
 1. Give beyond our ability (2 Corinthians 8:3).
 2. Give willingly (2 Corinthians 8:3).
 3. Give ourselves (2 Corinthians 8:5).

II. **Since all the money belongs to the Lord, what is our role?**

- A. We are but **guardians** for the Lord (Matthew 20:8).
- B. We are but **managers** for the Lord (Luke 16:2,3).
- C. We are but **stewards** for the Lord (1 Peter 4:10).

III. **Since we are but guardians/managers/stewards of the Lord’s money, what is our responsibility?**

- A. We are to be trustworthy (1 Corinthians 9:16,17).
- B. We are to serve/use it wisely (Luke 12:42).
- C. We are to be faithful (Luke 16:1-3).

Conclusion:

- A. We are stewards of the Lord's money to accomplish His work of "saving souls" on this earth (1 Corinthians 9:16,17).
- B. Don't think....
 - 1. I am to guard the money from missionaries.
 - 2. Here comes those begging missionaries again.
- C. Think this way....
 - 1. Here comes another opportunity to save souls.
 - 2. Can we help the Lord in saving more souls.
- D. God help us to use our money for the saving of souls.

Why Should You Be Present for a World Mission Workshop?

Introduction:

- A. You would think that every member of the Church would see the importance of being present for a World Mission Workshop.
- B. That is not true, and that is why such a lesson as this is needed to encourage us to be present.

I. Why should you be present for a World Mission Forum?

- A. Because we have an urgent work to do for the Lord (Acts 16:9,10).
- B. To learn more about mission work (Acts 14:27).
- C. To help you lift up your eyes and see the field (John 4:35).
- D. To help you have a great zeal for mission work (Isaiah 40:31).
- E. To help keep you persistent in mission work (Colossians 1:23).
- F. To help you see the sad condition of the lost (Matthew 9:35,36).

Conclusion:

- A. The Lord needs **you** here for the World Mission Workshop.
- B. The missionaries need **you** here for encouragement.
- C. You need to be here because the Lord is depending on **you**.

Trust Placed Upon the Overseeing/Sponsoring Congregation

Introduction:

- A. A great responsibility is placed upon the overseeing/sponsoring congregation.
- B. The word “trust” means, “assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something. One in which confidence is placed.”
- C. Now let’s look at each one of these:

I. The Missionary’s Trust in the Overseeing/Sponsoring Congregation.

- A. Developing trust in the overseeing/sponsoring congregation.
 - 1. Careful selection of a congregation/eldership.
 - a. One that is sound doctrinally.
 - b. One that is mature in the faith.
 - c. If possible, one that is experienced in mission work, including field visits.
 - d. One that has taken “ownership” of mission work.
 - e. Willingness to make field trips to visit the missionary.
 - f. One that is willing to make a financial commitment to the missionary.
 - 2. Proper preparation required by the congregation/eldership.
 - a. Spend minimum of six months to a year

with the congregation before leaving for the field.

- b. Elders available for counsel.
- c. Elders provide the necessary leadership.
- d. Elders provide dependable support and guidance.

B. Sustaining the trust.

1. Continual communication with the missionary.
 - a. This can be done by email, phone, letters, faxes, etc.
2. Regular field trips by the elders, deacons and wives.
3. Elders follow through on the missionary's requests for assistance, support and advice in a timely manner.
4. There needs to be consistent decision-making by the elders.
5. Courage to make tough decisions and correct mistakes.

II. The Overseeing/Sponsoring Elders Trust in Their Missionary.

A. Developing trust in the missionary family.

1. Careful selection of a missionary family.
 - a. Recruit carefully and be willing to take the necessary time.
 - b. It will take several sessions/interviews.
 - c. Take the time to check references.
 - d. Look at the personal work, teaching, and pulpit experience.
 - e. Spend the necessary time to determine the wife's level of commitment.

2. Proper preparation of the missionary family.
 - a. Missionary should make survey trip(s).
 - b. Missionary should spend 6-12 months working with the elders/congregation before going to the field.
 - c. Observe the personal work, teaching, preaching and social involvement.
 - d. Observe the missionary's ability to raise funds.
 - e. The missionary family should maintain continual communication with the eldership during the preparation time.
 - f. Observe the missionary's understanding of the elders' overseeing authority.
- B. Sustaining the trust.
 1. Maintain continual communication with the elders, usually through one of the elders or a deacon.
 2. Follow through on elders, requests for information, etc., in a timely manner.
 3. Meet agreed-upon deadlines for reports, newsletters, financial statements, etc. (elders should not have to remind the missionary of his responsibilities).
 4. Defer to the elders in areas of discretion if agreement cannot be reached.
 5. Seek the elders' counsel before acting on sensitive or serious matters.
 6. **Never** consciously withhold information, lie, attempt to deceive or undermine your elders.

Conclusion:

- A. Trust placed upon the overseeing/sponsoring congregation is a two-way street.
- B. There must be **trust**:
 - 1. From the congregation's side.
 - 2. From the missionary's side.

When Trust Is Broken — What Is Its Effects?

Introduction:

- A. God forbid that this ever happens, but let's get real — it does!
 - B. When trust is broken, it is devastating on all who are involved.
 - C. What are the effects?
 - 1. On the overseeing/sponsoring congregation?
 - 2. On the local work?
- I. Its effects on the overseeing/sponsoring congregation.**
- A. The congregation/elders may decide to cease foreign mission involvement.
 - B. The congregation/elders will require increased reporting, less freedom to work independently.
 - C. The congregation/elders may reduce financial support.
 - D. The congregation/elders may question motives for future endeavors.
 - E. The congregation/elders may “micro-manage” the missionary's activities, inhibiting his ability to work effectively in the field.
 - F. It will simply knock the breath out of the congregation/elders and cause a burnout/melt down.
- II. Its effect on the missionary and the field.**
- A. The missionary may return, and a worker is lost, which could be devastating to that field if the church is still in its infant/development stages.

- B. The missionary may look for another overseeing/sponsoring congregation, having to start all over again.
- C. The missionary may be hesitant to expand his work area and opportunities are missed.
- D. Anxiety may affect the missionary family's well being as well as the work in the field.
- E. The missionary may be hesitant to be completely open in communications with the elders and the congregation, further damaging the trust.
- F. It can simply knock the breath out of the missionary and cause burnout/melt down.

III. Agape love will ensure that we have trust.

- A. Matthew 22:37.
- B. 1 Corinthians 13:7.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us guard our lives and work so that there will never be a breakdown in that **trust**.
- B. May that **trust** always be there so that we may honor and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.