SHORT-TERM MISSIONS: ZIMBABWE MISSIONS
AS A METHOD TO REACH AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS: ZIMBABWE MISSIONS AS A METHOD TO REACH AFRICA

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Short-term missions are vital for changing nations. This project shows how for eleven years Hope for All Nations Ministries has impacted the nation of Zimbabwe. In this project the Apostle Paul’s missionary journeys and modern literature on missions were examined. Key leaders who have worked alongside Hope for All Nations Ministries in its short-term mission endeavors, and pastors and leaders involved in successful short-term missions were interviewed to validate the viability of short-term missions. The author’s ministry will contextualize what is happening in Zimbabwe and in other countries challenging the body of Christ worldwide to be involved in short-term missions. A short-term missions manual was developed for other mission organizations to use. The project is a challenge to the body of Christ to use a strategy that can really help the church to fulfill the Great Commission.

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I dedicate this thesis to many who are stepping out in faith for missions and whom God is going to call.
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

Before Jesus returned to heaven he commanded the disciples to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”\(^1\) The body of Christ has been entrusted with reaching the world with the gospel. Throughout generations there were those who took this command and impacted their generation. During His ministry Jesus sent the disciples two by two: at one point He sent twelve of them and another time He sent seventy-two. As they went they touched lives and came back with great reports of people being changed. After his encounter with the Lord Jesus the Apostle Paul took the mission mandate seriously. He trail blazed mission journeys with encounters that are recorded in one third of the New Testament. History records outstanding men and women who answered the call to missions generation after generation.

For years the United States has invested much money and resources into the spreading of the gospel. Many people have been deployed to nations of the world to reach unreached people with the unchangeable gospel which changes lives till eternity. The work is just so much it will not be finished till the end of times. Other nations that were reached by western nations are now rising up to participate in the mandate of reaching the world for Christ. The author through studying the word and listening to the preaching of the word of God has been challenged to go into all the world as the Lord has been directing. While taking short-term mission trips with teams to Africa many lives have been changed and brought into the kingdom of God. These short-term mission trips emphasized three areas as the Lord provided the funding: evangelism

\(^1\)Mark 16:15 (NKJV).
missions, education missions and business missions. More and more it has become evident that
nations are opening up to those who go to equip the world more importantly in the Word of God
as well as socio-economic areas. There are many types of mission trip involvements that can be
used to reach nations for God. The above mentioned are the ones the author’s ministry has
embarked on.

Nations can be impacted greatly through short-term missions. The body of Christ needs
to continue to take this challenge and change nations one at a time. God is looking for
instruments to use to change the world. The United States Census Bureau estimates the world
population at 7 billion people. Only a little over 2 billion of the world population profess to be
Christian. Much work still needs to be done. As to the reason for short-term missions Larry E.
Brown says:

Short-term missions are one effective way to bring people to Christ. In the Bible, short-
term mission activities were not unusual. Most of us have grown up with a mental image
of a missionary setting out to a distant land with the assumption he or she would spend a
life time in service there . . . . But since the coming of regular, commercial transoceanic
passenger-jet air service in recent years, relatively convenient, affordable and safe travel
is available to a large number of ordinary people for the first time. Jesus commanded His
followers to take the gospel message to the entire world. Short-term mission trips provide
the best opportunity many will ever find to be directly involved in carrying the gospel to
a foreign land. Exposure to mission work through short-term trips may also serve as a
means of attracting some to longer service in missions.¹

Short-term missions are a means of changing nations for God one nation at a time. Jesus
introduced this method to His early disciples. Paul the apostle practiced it. This generation can
be reached and impacted through short-term missions.

Statement of the Problem

Jesus Christ said that, “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” Two thousand years later only about 2 billion people profess to be Christians. This task cannot be accomplished by long-term missionaries alone. Great numbers of short-termers should be raised to flood the world with the gospel of Christ. This is not the case now because many have become lukewarm and are distrusting the Word of God. People have grown suspicious of what they hear and even the true Word of God. Judy Barr affirms that “short-term missionary service is compatible with biblical principles, and therefore acceptable and desirable . . . . The biblical basis of missions and the Pauline principles and methods have been given much consideration in recent years . . . . The concept of short-term missions is not contrary to Scripture.”

The author through the leading of the Holy Spirit has focused his thrust of ministry in Zimbabwe. After going to nine different African countries, Zimbabwe became the focal point of mission trips. Great changes are coming to this nation through the mission teams that are taking annual trips to preach the gospel. A report of what has been going on in Zimbabwe for eleven years reveals that short-term missions are viable. What has been happening in Zimbabwe can be replicated in other nations.

Through this research the body of Christ should be challenged to rise to the occasion to complete the Great Commission given to the church. Robert Wuthnow challenges the church to transcend the local call and engage in ministry beyond the immediate locale as expressed in Acts:

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2 Matthew 24:14 (NKJV).
3 Judy Barr, Overseas Short-term Service (Wheaton, IL: Short-Terms Abroad), 1969.
4 Ibid., 10.
“You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.”

Wuthnow emphasized that “Local churches balance ministries abroad with ministries at home.”

The modern day church should be challenged to develop a vision for missions. Volunteers should be ignited to become world Christians. Michael J. Anthony says, “The key to igniting volunteers to become world Christians is found in one word; experience. Once people have been given a taste of what missions is all about, there will be no holding them back.” The world cannot be fully won to Christ just by paid missionaries. The whole body of Christ should be unleashed to go into all the world and preach the gospel.

Missions is defined as the sending forth of authorized people beyond the borders of the New Testament church to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and win converts and establish vibrant congregations which will bear the fruit of Christianity. Missions are long-term or short-term. This project focuses on short-term missions. Short-term missions are trips with a mission focus that range from one week to two years organized by churches, agencies or individuals for various purposes.

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5 Acts 1:8 (NKJV).


Statement of Limitations

The study is not a comparison of long-term missions and short-term missions. The focus of this study is on how the church can unleash the body of Christ to accomplish the mandate of the Great Commission through short-term missions. Traditional methods have done what they could but the work is still undone and will not be done until thousands of years later. Short-term missions where everybody and anybody can be involved seem to be the answer to fulfilling the mandate set for the church. The church should endeavor to send as many people as possible in order to reach many people in a reasonable amount of time. It is understood that not everybody in the church should go for missions or short-term missions. There are of course some who should be senders. The issue is that the church should motivate as many as possible to take the challenge to go to other nations to reach people for Christ. The church is not obliged to reach the whole world in one day. The task is supposed to be done one nation at time. The thesis is going to focus on how one ministry focused on one country and that country is changing because of the gospel of Christ and other nations will be reached the same way.

The researcher understands also that there are nations in the world today that even if there were enough missionaries to go to all the nations of the world they could not go there. Nations that are open are the ones that should be reached first. As other nations open up they should be reached for Christ. The researcher started traveling from country to country until he received his call to focus on his home country till the Lord directs to another country. Short-termers should limit their efforts to the nations they are called to reach and move to the next nations as the Lord directs them.
Theoretical Basis of the Project

Short-term missions can be as impactful as any mission endeavor. The Bible has stories of short-term missionaries who went out and made a great difference. *The Short-Term Mission Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide for Participants and Leaders* shows the productivity of short-term missions:

God used short-term missionaries to deliver His message. Some went on to become long-term missionaries. Others were called for a specific project. God has been using short-term, cross-cultural workers for a long time. And He goes before His servants—just as He went before Jonah, the twelve disciples, the seventy and Phillip—preparing hearts to receive His Word.10

The Lord sent Jonah to go and preach to the people of Nineveh for a short time. Jonah seemed to have been an obscure man, but God chose to send him. This shows that God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things for Him. God looks for availability more than anything else. Reluctant that God would use him, Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. He decided to go to Tarshish, his own destination running away from the call of God. Jonah had his own conclusion about the people of Nineveh. After his encounter in the belly of the whale he decided to obey the call of God. He went where he had been sent, and “the king of Nineveh and his people believed Jonah’s word. They repented of their sin and cried to the Lord for mercy.”11

As God calls His people to go where He wants them to go, they should obey.

Jesus sent His disciples to “go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”12 The twelve disciples received clear and concise instructions on this their first short-term

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11Ibid., 21.

12Matthew 10:7-8 (NKJV).
assignment. Their assignment was to preach, teach, and heal the sick. They were to focus on the assignment. They were to depend on the Father for support and direction. Like the early disciples, believers today are being sent and they too should follow His directions and depend on Him.

Later the Lord Jesus sent out a larger group. He appointed seventy disciples and sent them two by two to go ahead of where He was going to go. He noted how the harvest was ready and plenteous, and charged them to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out more laborers. He warned them that they were going to be as lambs among wolves. They were to believe Him for provision as they went without worrying what they were to eat or drink. They were to stay in one place not moving from place to place and to be content with what they were given to eat. They were to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

The fact that Jesus asks the disciples to pray for more laborers and then He sends more verifies that there would never be more than enough for the task. He told them not to put emphasis on money. They went out and had tremendous results: demons fled and Satan was seen falling out of the sky. “Power encounters of the highest magnitude from a bunch of rookies! His disciples returned with joy, yet Jesus warned them to redirect their excitement. ‘Don’t rejoice that demons submit to you on earth,’ He said as He debriefed them, ‘Rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.’” Short-termers should be focused on the work of the Master and doing it with the right attitude.

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13 Sjogren, 21.
16 Sjogren, 21.
Larry E. Brown says that short-term missions are an effective way of bringing people to Christ. In the Bible short-term missions were practiced. The trend of missions over the years has been that of “a missionary setting out to a distant land with the assumption he or she would spend a lifetime in service there. This picture has developed since the time of the apostles, as missionaries have traveled to locations too far from home to allow casual return trips.”17 This scenario has changed due to the advent of airlines as travel is now available to a large number of people.

Jesus commanded His followers to take the gospel to the whole world.18 This is the best way for many who otherwise would not be able to stay in a foreign land for ever to reach other nations. This “exposure to mission work through short-term trips may also serve as a means of attracting some to longer service in missions.”19 If Jesus wanted to see the whole world evangelized He did not necessarily intend for them to go and live in one country indefinitely. The example He gave by sending the twelve and then the seventy shows that He was practically intending that short-term missions would reach as many as were possible and as quickly as possible. Barr argues that “short-term missionary service is compatible with biblical principles, and therefore acceptable and desirable . . . and not contrary to Scripture.”20

Several scholars say that Paul’s theology was missiological and his missionary endeavors were theological. The maximum duration Paul stayed at one location was under three years. These same scholars say, “Paul was an itinerant missionary rather than a residential one. He moved from place to place planting new churches but did not stay long enough to become the

17Brown, 2.


19Brown, 2.

20Barr, 10.
permanent pastor.”\textsuperscript{21} The theme of Paul’s preaching was the story of Jesus. He chose to focus on Christ’s history not philosophy, on the simple story instead of an intellectual discourse.\textsuperscript{22} He did not stay long enough to go deeper and philosophical even though he had enough education for it. He preached to the new churches he planted enough to leave them to carry on without him. He had “a burning desire to preach Christ where he was not known.”\textsuperscript{23}

\textbf{Statement of Methodology}

This thesis project shows that nations can be reached with the gospel of Christ by engaging the body of Christ to participate by going on short-term missions to one nation at a time. Chapter one which is basically the introduction of the thesis gives a brief summary of the project. It discusses the statement of the problem. The task of evangelism cannot be left to long-term missionaries alone. Short-term missions is key to fulfilling the mandate of the Great Commission. The concept of short-term mission is what Jesus had in mind to win the world with the gospel. The short-term missions work that the author has been involved in Zimbabwe proves that short-term missions work.

The project attempts to challenge the body of Christ to arise to the occasion to make sure it answers the call to fulfill the mandate in a timely way. What is lacking with fewer called missionaries can be done by the church with more participating in short-term missions. Unleashing the whole body of Christ to reach the whole world with the gospel is the key to completing the Great Commission. More church, agency or individual organized short-term mission trips are recommended in this research.

\textsuperscript{21}Moreau, Corwin, and McGee, 61.

\textsuperscript{22}Ibid.

\textsuperscript{23}Ibid., 54.
In the statement of limitations the researcher admits that there are some nations that cannot be reached momentarily. Timing is the key to reaching certain nations. Jesus and the early disciples understood timing too. Nations that are ripe should be reached first. The theoretical basis of the project shows some typical examples from the Scriptures of how short-term endeavors bore great results. Examples are given of: Jonah going to Nineveh, Jesus sending the twelve and the seventy and the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul and his companions. In this statement of methodology the researcher describes how this project is presented. A review of the literature is done through books, magazines, journals, and Scripture to validate the research.

Chapter two discusses in depth missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul and how they can still be a model of short-term missions today. Paul was not a long tenured missionary. He went on three major missionary journeys. He never stayed in one place for more than three years. His first missionary journey is recorded in Acts 13:4–14:28. The second missionary journey is shown in Acts 15:36–18:22. The third journey is narrated in Acts 18:23–21:19. In this chapter Paul’s message, methods, and principles will be discussed.

Chapter three narrates the short-term mission endeavor of this researcher. The researcher relates the experiences of taking eleven short-term mission trips with teams. The work started as a mustard seed, and has continued to grow.

Chapter four discusses the mission emphasis that can be done to impact nations for God. These missions emphasis include: evangelism, education, business, and funding. Evangelism is the key to the expansion of the kingdom of God. Education is an open door to bringing the gospel to underdeveloped and closed nations. Business opens doors to impoverished nations. Without funding the gospel cannot be spread as it should be. Would-be short-termers need to know how to get the resources that are needed to fulfill the Great Commission.
Chapter five is the presentation of the interviews. It analyzes and summarizes the results of the research interviews. Chapter six is the conclusion of the thesis. Short-term missions play an integral part of fulfilling the Great Commission. The church should be equipped and unleashed to go and reach nations for God with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Literature Review**

**Books**

Many literature resources on missions authenticate the validity of short-term missions impacting nations. The book *Maximum Impact Short-Term Mission: The God-Commanded Repetitive Deployment of Swift, Temporary Non-Professional Missionaries* shows how to make kingdom impact. It is an insightful resource to make a difference in short-term missions. It discusses proven principles that have been used by the experienced missions leaders. It is a very helpful tool for short-term missions. It gives helpful guidance for church teams, agencies, missions students, and individuals, and therefore it supports the viability of this research on short-term missions.\(^{24}\)

*The Short-Term Mission Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide for Participants and Leaders* is a great book that helps to launch people to different nations through different agencies. It helps explain how mission trips expand the horizons and understanding of God. It tells stories of those who went on God directed and guided missions. It shows believers that, “a short-term mission trip is a window on mission. It is a terrific way to find your place in fulfilling

the Great Commission.” The stories in this resource validate what God did in Bible days, is doing now and much more He can do with those who are available thereby supporting this research.

*Introducing World Missions: A Biblical, Historical, and Practical Survey* is a great book to enlighten those who want to be involved in missions long-term and short-term. It helps with encountering mission in the Scriptures. It prepares those going on missions. It enlightens those who are sent and those who send. It helps prepare to encounter the contemporary world as this research endeavors to do.

In *Christian Missions in Biblical Perspective*, J. Herbert Kane encourages those who are interested in missions and challenges those who ought to be involved. The author validates that the era of missions is not over and that the church is still entrusted with the Great Commission mandate. Paul’s missionary strategy is related in this book. Kane discusses the situation in modern missions and emphasizes the role of prayer in missions, a trend that brings success in missions.

The book *Short-Term Missions Boom: A Guide to International and Domestic Involvement* challenges the church to be involved in missions. It ignites passion for volunteers to become world Christians. It helps those who go to raise finances for their mission experience. It prepares people who want to go on missions before they go and when they are there as the thesis encourages all to participate by going and sending.

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26 Moreau, Corwin, and McGee.


The Changing Face of World Missions: Engaging Contemporary Issues and Trends discusses the global context. Global Christianity is being emphasized today more than ever. It encourages innovation in mission operation. It lays out the strategy of networks of collaboration, working together. Contextualization is laid out. It outlines trends of doing missions in the 21st century. It helps to understand the mission of the church.\(^\text{29}\)

The Mission of the Church in the World: A Biblical Theology challenges the church to reach the unreached in this diverse modern world. He sounds the call for present day Christians to commit to the Great Commission. He discusses mission in the Old Testament and New Testament. The author discusses how the church is elected to serve, the role of the nations and Jesus’ attitude toward the nations doing it urgently.\(^\text{30}\)

The essays in Toward the 21st Century in Christian Mission: Essays in Honor of Gerald H. Anderson survey the prospects and critical issues for the Christian World mission. They challenge Christians to examine how they regard their global role in today’s world. The book reflects on biblical models of missions, mission strategies and contextualizing missions. The various authors and the editors seek “to meet the needs of several groups of readers who are concerned with the present and future of Christian world mission.”\(^\text{31}\)

Mission in the 21st Century: Exploring the Five Marks of Global Mission discusses the five essentials of global mission. It challenges and encourages Christians to be involved in global missions. Believers are to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God. They should baptize,


teach and nurture new Christians. They should respond to human need by loving and serving their generation. They should seek to change unjust structures of society, and endeavor to safeguard the integrity of creation, sustain and renew life of the earth. The book has global relevance as a resource for seeking to equip for mission in the world as this research also urges to reach the whole world.

In *Paul and the Mission of the Church: Philippians in Ancient Jewish Context*, James Ware shows the centrality of mission for Paul and the service of the missional church. The book shares Paul’s attitude that all should be saved: Jews and Gentiles alike. It expresses Paul’s desire to see those saved mature and become disciples, bringing others into the kingdom of God as well which is the desire of this researcher.


In *Time is Running Out*, Reinhard Bonnke shares the urgency of spreading the gospel. The author of this book says that there are more lost people on planet earth today than ever, but there is not enough time to win them to the kingdom of God. He expounds the biblical principles of successful evangelism. The book shares evangelism in the gospels, action in the Book of Acts and evangelism according to the Apostle Paul. The book talks about reaching pagan societies

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with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Bonnke presents proven and effective techniques to reach the lost worldwide. He says, “The world is in a critical condition, desperate for the transforming power of Christ,” which is the thrust of this research.

*Planting Missional Churches* is a great resource for missionaries and short-termers to start vibrant churches. Stetzer challenges the body of Christ to engage in planting biblically faithful and culturally relevant churches. He gives “the how-to and why issues of church planting . . . providing practical guidance through all the phases of a church plant while also taking a mission-minded look at existing and emerging cultures.”

*Boundless Faith: The Global Outreach of American Churches* challenges readers to launch out in faith and do exploits for God in the nations of the world. It looks at Christianity in relation to globalization. The author encourages the growth of volunteer efforts abroad such as building orphanages, starting micro businesses, and setting up computer networks thereby creating and sustaining global ties. In chapter five the book discusses the bridging of borders through direct engagement as the global role of congregations.

In his dissertation, “Bible College Students and Short-Term Missions,” Doyle Jones discusses short-term missions, Christ’s cross cultural ministry and short-term ministry of the disciples. He shows that Jesus’ ministry was mainly to the Jews, but every so often he would go to those of other races and his final mandate was to go to all the world. Jones supports the notion

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that the early disciples did not venture into a long-term mission. They emphasized short-term mission ventures as taught by their master.\textsuperscript{38}

*Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally: An Introduction to Missionary Communication* shows how missionaries and short-termers should communicate the gospel of Christ in different cultures. This resource is a great help to the readers of this thesis who are serious about knowing how to launch out and change nations for God. The book is a real guide on how to translate the gospel from one culture to another. It provides clear strategies on how to communicate the message of Christ worldwide. It helps “ambassadors to represent him and the kingdom effectively and well.”\textsuperscript{39}

*Perspectives: On the World Christian Movement* is a multifaceted resource dealing with such subjects as: call to service, discipling all the people, student power in world missions, cultural perspectives, strategies of world evangelization, and church planting.\textsuperscript{40} The book introduces lay people and students to the history and potential of the global Christian movement. It challenges the body of Christ to labor together in bold biblical hope to finish the task of seeing Christ named and followed among all the peoples of the earth.

In *Short-Term Mission: An Ethnography of Christian Travel Narrative and Experience*, travel for missions is explored. It shows the difference that Christians make when they travel overseas. The book is an important resource for short-term missionaries, supporters, and leaders.

\textsuperscript{38}Doyle G. Jones, “Bible College Students and Short-Term Missions” (D.Min. proj., Oral Roberts University School of Theology and Missions, 1993).


\textsuperscript{40}Ralph D. Winter and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives: On the World Christian Movement*, 3\textsuperscript{rd} ed. (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1999).
It defines the purpose of short-term as “short travel experiences for Christian purposes such as charity, service or evangelism.”

101 Ways Your Church Can Change the World: A Guide to Help Christians Express the Love of Christ to a Needy World is a challenge to the church be “a vibrant fellowship of people who have fallen in love with Jesus and who daily follow Him into the pain of society.” It challenges the church to unleash the body of Christ into the harvest fields of the Lord reaching a world that is in need, which is one of the themes of this thesis study.

Scripture

The scriptural passage that is foundational to this thesis project is Mark 16:15. After ministering for three and a half years, Jesus entrusted the ministry to His disciples to continue ministering until the end of times. There was some urgency in this command, “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’” The disciples had been trained under the Master teacher. They had now graduated and were now commencing into the work they had been training for. They were to launch out right away and reach the world for the Lord. This Great Commission is still valid today.

Acts has the same charge as the above when it says, “But you shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Jesus promised them

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43Mark 16:15 (NKJV).

44Acts 1:8 (NKJV).
power to go and witness for Him. They were not to go on their own strength. They were to receive the unction to function. They were to tell the world about Christ. They were to begin from where they lived. Then they were to go near, far, and to regions beyond.

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to come: “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”45 They were to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit which Jesus promised them. Then they would be covered with power from on High to go and do exploits for the Lord. Just like the disciples needed a helper, the church today needs the Holy Spirit to help to fulfill the mandate of the gospel.

As the disciples waited in the Upper Room for ten days believers today ought to learn to wait:

When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all in one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.46

The disciples were obedient to the command of Christ to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit. For ten days they were waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Each one of them received including the twelve disciples and Mary the mother of Jesus. Pentecost was a feast the Jews celebrated every year, but this was a different Pentecost which would make a difference to Christendom.

Acts shows the importance of prayer for the Holy Spirit to come on believers. It says, “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they

were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” 47 When they received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost they had been praying for ten days. Now in this passage they prayed and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. So, prayer has much to do with being filled with the Holy Spirit. One of the reasons for lack of concern for the mandate and the work of God is lack of prayer in the church today. Prayer is needed to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission.

In John, Jesus said, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” 48 Believers cannot go to the nations alone. They need the Helper, the Holy Spirit. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit already. Christians cannot convict people of sin; it is the work of the Holy Spirit. Those involved in missions need the Holy Spirit to be effective in missions work.

Additionally, Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also, and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” 49 Because of the Holy Spirit believers are able to do greater works than Jesus did. It takes faith in God to do greater works. With faith in Jesus Christ believers can go to the nations of the world and make a big difference.

Like Abraham in Genesis, God is calling His people to go to nations He will show them. He says, “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.” 50 There is great joy that comes with obeying the Lord. Obeying God brings great

47 Acts 4:31 (NKJV).
48 John 16:7-8 (NKJV).
49 John 14:12 (NKJV).
50 Genesis 12:1 (NKJV).
blessings. God is calling His people to nations He is calling them. Believers should come out of their comfort zone and launch out in faith where God is sending them.

In Isaiah, God says, “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles.”

God’s people should not fear going to nations. The Lord says that He will hold His people’s hands. As they go God will make his people light to the Gentiles. It is amazing how God’s people as they go to nations become light to those nations.

Furthermore, God says, “I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.” Christians are God’s light to the Gentiles. They are God’s salvation to the nations of the world. They should not withdraw from the assignment God has called. They should take the light of the Lord to the world. Some nations are so dark just arriving there is such a great light even before saying anything.

Habakkuk says, “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” God is still calling His people to go and fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of God. The nations of the world are waiting for those who will bring the light and the glory of God. People will not have the knowledge of God if God’s people will not go.

God sent Jonah to Nineveh and he went to Tarshish:

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to

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51 Isaiah 42:6 (NKJV).
52 Isaiah 49:6 (NKJV).
53 Habakkuk 2:14 (NKJV).
go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. But the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.\\footnote{Jonah 1:1-4 (NKJV).}

The Jonah scenario is what is going on with this generation. Believers desire to go where they want to go and not where God is sending them. God is calling His people to obey His call and go to the nations of the world to win souls back to Him.

In Acts, Jesus promised His disciples they would receive the Holy Spirit and go to the nations beginning from their environs: “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”\\footnote{Acts 1:8 (NKJV).} They were to travel and not be stationed in one place for life. Beginning from their home towns believers are to start witnessing for Christ and go wherever the Lord leads them. They would be empowered to go to nations near and far.

Mark says that the early disciples obeyed Christ’s command: “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.”\\footnote{Mark 16:20 (NKJV).} They preached the word in Jerusalem and Judea and went to regions beyond. Because they obeyed, the Lord went with them and followed the preaching of the Word with signs and wonders.

Acts shows that prayer and the Holy Spirit give boldness to preach Christ. It says, “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness.”\\footnote{Acts 4:31 (NKJV).} Without the Holy Spirit it is not easy to witness Christ with boldness. Without prayer it is not easy to be filled

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54 Jonah 1:1-4 (NKJV).
55 Acts 1:8 (NKJV).
56 Mark 16:20 (NKJV).
57 Acts 4:31 (NKJV).
with the Holy Spirit. To fulfill the mandate given, the church needs to pray and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This thesis project emphasizes the need for prayer to fulfill the Great Commission.

In Acts, Phillip the evangelist went to Samaria fleeing Jerusalem like all others except the apostles: “Those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Phillip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.”58 Obeying the command of the Lord and fueled by persecution the early disciples went to other places preaching.

Fasting and prayer prepares the hearers and preachers for the ministry of the Word of God. Unknowingly preparing for the ministry of Peter at his house, Cornelius fasted and prayed four days before the arrival of Peter: “Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.’”59 Peter preached and all who heard the Word were saved and received the Holy Spirit.

At Antioch as they fasted and prayed the Holy Spirit said: “Separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then, having fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them away.”60 Prayer and fasting allowed God to speak to the disciples of the Lord. The disciples sent the called with prayer and fasting. These were going for short-term missions.

The leading of the Holy Spirit is important in following the call of God. Paul and his team were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach in Asia but to go to Macedonia: “And a vision

58 Acts 8:4-5 (NKJV).
59 Acts 10:30-31 (NKJV).
60 Acts 13:2-3 (NKJV).
appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.” 61 The nations are calling for help and God’s people are being summoned to go! In 1 Corinthians, Paul expresses his passion to preach the gospel: “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.” 62 Believers are called to preach the gospel. Christians should obey the mandate to go and preach Christ to the nations of the world. The church should unleash the body of Christ to go to the many nations that are calling for help. This thesis is summoning Christians to come out of their comfort zones and launch out to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission.

61 Acts 16:9-10 (NKJV).

62 1 Corinthians 9:16 (NKJV).
CHAPTER II

APOSTLE PAUL’S MISSION

Call to Missions

The Apostle Paul emerged among his peers as an outstanding missionary to the Gentile world. There were many others who were involved in Christian work during his time, but his work surpassed many of his colleagues. H. Weinel says: “The new man born on that day of Damascus has stood before our spiritual eye.”\(^1\) God called him to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ. Apostle of Jesus Christ was the only title Paul valued and proudly claimed even when others tried to dispute it. He would write: “Paul an apostle not from men, neither through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead, and all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia.”\(^2\) God called him to this work, not man. God called him on the road to Damascus. Weinel says, “God chose him from his mother’s womb and revealed His son in him, that he might preach him among the Gentiles; he saw the Lord, and so became an apostle.”\(^3\)

Weinel says that Paul was born in Tarsus which was the principal city of Cilicia. Tarsus was a well-known center of culture. Its schools taught much learning including philosophy and liberal arts. It was a prosperous city well known for its material products. His family may have been a well-to-do family with a tent-making business. Even though he was born in Tarsus, Paul “may not have spent long there as a child. . . . he grew up in Jerusalem. His parents were devout

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\(^2\)Galatians 1:1-2 (NKJV).

\(^3\)Weinel, 152.
Jews, and probably judged that Jerusalem would be a more suitable environment for their son in his formative years than the pagan city of Tarsus.⁴ Later on Paul spent some years in and around Tarsus. Sometime later Barnabas found him and persuaded him to join him to share the oversight of the Christian mission. It was told the people there that “He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy. And they glorified God in me.”⁵

Paul was raised in strict conformity with Jewish teachings. Much of his training in Jerusalem, center of Judaism, was religious. He learned from the best teachers like Gamaliel, a well-known teacher. Joseph Grassi says, “In addition to his strict Jewish upbringing, Paul also became a Pharisee.”⁶ The Pharisees were a select group of Judaism. They were zealous to bring the Torah into every daily life. They strictly kept the Law. They tithed everything in order to stay holy. They were regarded as religious leaders, teachers, and models by the ordinary people of their day. “The young man Paul plunged himself whole-heartedly into his Pharisaic training and soon became respected and noted as a prominent leader and teacher . . . . We can sense some of the tremendous energy, discipline, and will power that went into such a life. There was also a deep sense of achievement that accompanied his efforts. He was looked up to as a model by many of his fellow Pharisees and Jews.”⁷

Paul became a persecutor of Christianity because according to the Pharisees, Christians were against the law, the temple and especially their preaching that Jesus was the Messiah. Herold Weiss explains the reason Paul persecuted Christians as:

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⁴F. F. Bruce, Jesus and Paul: Places They Knew (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1983), 70.
⁵Galatians 1:23-24 (NKJV).
⁷Ibid., 5.
To the Jewish authorities it must have been incomprehensible, and therefore reprehensible, that Jews should take up upon themselves the task of making such claims for one who, according to the law, was a reprobate in the sight of God. All forms of Judaism in existence were based on defensible appeals to the law. In this Christians were no different. Yet their claims were in explicit contradiction to the law. In his persecuting activities against Christians, Paul was not a member of a mob reacting on the basis of emotions to what some individual Christian may have said in an unguarded moment . . . . Paul’s activities as a persecutor were sanctioned by the very right the Jews had within the Empire to take care of internal matters in their own courts, according to their own laws . . . . He was extremely zealous, thus surpassing his fellow young upstarts in his concern to uphold the traditions of the fathers.⁸

Paul became so successful in defending Judaism that he was sent with letters of permission, introduction and instructions to Damascus a large city in south Antioch. There was a large Jewish community in Damascus that had settled there in the Diaspora. Christians were increasing their numbers with ease.⁹ He decided to go there to thwart the spread of this sect.

Paul took it upon himself to persecute the church of God. He says it in Galatians: “I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But . . . God . . . separated me . . . and called me through His grace.”¹⁰ He was deeply passionate about destroying this new Christian movement the best he could. This description as a persecutor of the church is emphasized to contrast the life he would become upon meeting Jesus. The zealot for the law will become an apostle who will champion the cause of Christ.¹¹

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⁹Ibid., 15.
On his way to Damascus to persecute the church “Paul fell from his horse. He heard a voice—that of Jesus: he came to faith; and thereafter he became a Christian.”¹² Paul saw the light and converted to Christianity. He changed religion for an Apostle. Later he would say: “If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”¹³ Christ was revealed to him. Paul describes his transformation event as unveiling of Jesus as Messiah. He says: “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned to Damascus.”¹⁴ Paul was convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, and he was called to be an apostle. God called him to the mission of proclaiming salvation to the Gentiles. He called him to a new vocation. David B. Capes, Rodney Reeves, and E. Randolph Richards say, “He was transformed from someone willing to use force to destroy the church to the one who adopted its mission as his own.”¹⁵

Soon after his conversion Paul re-evaluates his life. All what he had is now dung so as to gain Christ. He has a new desire: “To know Him and the power of His resurrection, and fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”¹⁶ He converts from Judaism to become a follower of Christ. Capes, Reeves, and Richards succinctly describe this parting:


¹³2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV).

¹⁴Galatians 1:15-17 (NKJV).


¹⁶Philippians 3:10 (NKJV).
The Jesus movement began as a reform movement within Judaism. The parting of the ways between Judaism and what would later become Christianity did not occur until many years later, over an extended period of time. It’s not like one day there was Judaism and the next there was an identifiable religion called Christianity. For Paul there was no religion to convert to, in the modern sense. Besides, Saul did not see himself as leaving his ancestral faith. He continued to identify with the Jews. But there is a difference. Now he believed Jesus to be God’s Messiah. Now, because of the resurrection, he understood that he was living in the final, decisive era of God’s work in the world. Now he saw himself as God’s apostle called and gifted to extend salvation to all nations.\(^\text{17}\)

Paul’s encounter with the Lord on the road to Damascus enlightened him to the new life. After his conversion he did not waste time. He began to prepare himself for the mandate he had been called to. After this season of waiting he started trail blazing the nations proclaiming the gospel of Christ.

**Missionary Journeys**

Paul matured quickly in his new conversion. F. C. Baur says, “He matured the powerful impression which he had received from his sudden conversion into a thorough religious conviction which served as the strong groundwork of his apostolic labours.”\(^\text{18}\) From the time of his conversion Paul could not stay in one place. Like Christ he did not have a home. Capes, Reeves, and Richards say: “There was no place to which he could return. At first he spent some time in Arabia and Damascus (Gal. 1:17). After visiting Jerusalem, he tried to return home for a while, spending the so-called silent years of his missionary activity in and around Tarsus. Then according to Acts, Paul was invited to join the work in Antioch, eventually launching the first missionary effort.”\(^\text{19}\)

\(^{17}\)Capes, Reeves, and Richards, 93.  
\(^{19}\)Capes, Reeves, and Richards, 105.
Paul was a man of his culture and understood the importance of community. Paul and Barnabas traveled to Cyprus where Barnabas was from. They started in familiar territory, Galatia, taking roads they had traveled before. “Some have suggested Paul and Barnabas concentrated their mission work in South Galatia where there was a substantial Jewish population, having a better chance of hospitality among their own people.”20 Paul went where the Spirit led him.21 His concept of community led him to adopt a deliberate policy of accommodation. Hence in his first letter to the Corinthians he says, “I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”22

In Rediscovering Paul, Capes, Reeves, and Richards give an approximate chronology of Paul’s life and ministry, as shown in Appendix A. Apostle Paul made and led three major missionary journeys. Paul and Barnabas teamed up on the first missionary journey. They traveled to Cyprus and southern Galatia preaching and teaching the gospel. They launched out from the church at Antioch: “Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers . . . . As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then having fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them away.”23 John Mark was a part of the team as their assistant. They preached in synagogues, and miracles of healing took place. They went to Paphos and to Perga in Pamphylia, and from there they went to Antioch of Pisidia. John Mark departed and went back to Jerusalem, which would cause contention in the next missionary journey. They went on to Iconium, and then to Lystra where they were stoned. They escaped to Derbe, and

20Ibid., 105.
212 Corinthians 1:15-22 (NKJV).
221 Corinthians 9:22 (RSV).
returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch “strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”

They returned through Pisidia, Pamphylia, and preached again in Perga, and came to Attalia from where they sailed back to Antioch “where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had completed to the grace of God. Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.”

The second missionary journey started with the contention over John Mark which caused a division between Paul and Barnabas. Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus. Paul chose Silas and departed and went through Syria and Cilicia strengthening the churches. Paul and Silas revisited the churches in Galatia and established churches in Macedonia and Achaia. At Philippi they baptized a purple goods seller who begged them to stay with her. Paul and Silas were imprisoned for preaching Christ. They got the Philippian jailer saved. They were released from jail but refused to depart secretly. At Thessalonica at the house of Jason they were assaulted as “These who have turned the world upside down have come here, too.”

They fled to Berea, and upon arrival they were well received: “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and men, not a few.”

At Athens Paul addressed them at the Aeropagus against their “unknown

24 Acts 14:22 (NKJV).
26 Acts 15:36-18:21; 1 Thess 2:2; 3:1-5; Phil 4:15-16 (NKJV).
27 Acts 17:6 (NKJV).
28 Acts 17:11-12 (NKJV).
God.” From Athens Paul went to Corinth where he met Aquila and Priscilla because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome. “. . . and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers. And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, testifying to them that Jesus was the Christ.”

Contrary to contemporary opinion which characterizes Paul as antagonistic to women, V. K. McCarty says: “Scripture paints a picture of significant inclusivity in the early development of Christianity.” McCarty shows scriptural evidence of Paul appreciating and acknowledging some first-century women who were community leaders and also his coworkers as seen in Priscilla. Along with her husband she was a great witness of faith in the first century Christian movement. This proves that women should be active participants in the gospel mandate.

Still on this second mission, Gallio the proconsul of Achaia dismissed charges against Paul brought up by the Jews who with one accord had risen against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, saying: “‘If it were a matter of wrong doing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you . . . . I do not want to be a judge of such matters.’ And he drove them from the judgment seat.” The second missionary journey ends with Paul visiting Jerusalem for a feast before journeying back to Antioch.

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29 Acts 18:3-5 (NASB).


31 Ibid.

32 Acts 18:14-16 (NKJV).
The third missionary journey began with Paul revisiting the churches and staying longer than normal for two years and three months (A.D. 53-55).\(^{33}\) It is believed that during this time he wrote letters to the Corinthians and he made two visits. He wrote 1 Corinthians from Ephesus.\(^{34}\) He wrote 2 Corinthians from Macedonia. He ministered in Greece for three months.\(^{35}\) He wrote Romans from Corinth,\(^{36}\) and then he went back to Antioch completing the third missionary journey. After his third missionary journey, Paul traveled to Jerusalem to bring aid to the saints. While he was in Jerusalem he was imprisoned and was then moved to Caesarea where he remained for two years. He appealed to Caesar and could have been released after Felix and Agrippa heard his defense. Paul sailed to Rome and was shipwrecked on Malta.\(^{37}\) He arrived in Rome where he lived for two years under house arrest. He wrote Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians.\(^{38}\) Some writers end Paul’s story here. Capes, Reeves, and Richards state: “Others, relying on early church writings, believe he was released and engaged in further missionary activity.”\(^{39}\) They say Paul traveled further west like to Spain. Others say that the catastrophic fire in Rome in July 64 A.D. increased persecutions of Christians under Nero. They believe that Paul was arrested and imprisoned a second time, and was executed by beheading under Nero.\(^{40}\)


\(^{34}\) 1 Corinthians 16:8–9 (NKJV).

\(^{35}\) Acts 20:1–6 (NKJV).

\(^{36}\) Romans 15:25-27; 1 Cor 16:3-5; Acts 20:2-3 (NKJV).


\(^{38}\) Acts 28:10-31 (NKJV).

\(^{39}\) Capes, Reeves, and Richards, 101.

\(^{40}\) Capes, Reeves, and Richards, 101.
Paul was not a lone ranger in mission. He began his missionary work as a companion apostle and assistant,41 but later became the senior member. On the second journey he picked his own assistant, Silas,42 and enlarged the membership of his mission by adding more team members. He added Timothy. He also had colleagues or working associates who came from local churches. Robert Banks says, “Others were more or less permanent members of his entourage, attending him in a secretarial way (Romans 16:22), or medical capacity (Colossians. 4:14), or being deployed to carry out specific and limited tasks, e.g., carrying letters and verbal messages and overseeing the collection for the Jerusalem poor. Though Paul on occasion was forced to deal with situations alone, most of the time he had a circle of colleagues around him.”43 Paul also had local co-workers who were part of founding a church and maintaining personal contact with him as it developed such as: Stephanas and his household, Philemon, Apphia, and Archippus.44 “This group also includes others who, like Epaphras, independently evangelized their own home cities and founded communities but then maintained contact with Paul (Colossians. 1:7; 4:12).”45 And Paul says that all these who labor for Christ should be given due honor. Banks sums up the apostle’s mission:

Paul’s mission is a grouping of specialists identified by their gifts, backed up by a set and structure. Its purpose is first the preaching of the gospel and the founding of churches, and then the provision of assistance so that they may reach maturity. While this clearly involves interrelationship with the local communities, Paul’s work is essentially a service

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42 Acts 15:40 (NKJV).


44 1 Corinthians 16:15; Phlm 1 (NKJV).

45 Banks, 164.
organization whose members have personal, not structural, links with the communities and seek to develop rather than dominate or regulate.\textsuperscript{46}

The apostle Paul was a determined and industrious missionary. Those days they did not have the luxury of motor vehicles and aircrafts like today, but he crisscrossed the known world preaching the gospel. If it were today Paul could have kept the engines running traveling all over the world multiple times each year. Richard Wallace and Wynne Williams say that the famous Roman roads, intended primarily for military purposes facilitated movement and trade overland. “Land travel was always slow, dangerous and uncomfortable, and travel by water remained by far the preferred option.”\textsuperscript{47} One advantage of land travel was freedom from the danger of shipwreck and predictability. During winter when sailing was suspended, travel by land was advantageous. Sea travel during Paul’s time was faster than land. Paul sailed on most of his journeys unless he had to walk.

Travelers’ lodging during Paul’s time was largely in private homes. Paul stayed in homes. At Philippi he stayed at Lydia’s house.\textsuperscript{48} At Thessalonica he most likely stayed at Jason’s house, and in Corinth he stayed with Aquila and Priscilla.\textsuperscript{49} “He stayed with unnamed fellow Christians in Tyre and Ptolemais (Acts 21:2-3 and 7), with Philip in Caesarea (Acts 21:8) and with Mnason in Jerusalem (Acts 21:16). Networks of contacts like this would make travel much easier and a more comfortable experience.”\textsuperscript{50}

\textsuperscript{46} Banks, 169.

\textsuperscript{47} Richard Wallace and Wynne Williams, \textit{The Three Worlds of Paul of Tarsus} (New York: Routledge, 1998), 19.

\textsuperscript{48} Acts 16:15 (NKJV).

\textsuperscript{49} Acts 17:5; 18:3 (NKJV).

\textsuperscript{50} Wallace and Williams, 26.
For support, Paul generally worked with his hands in the places he stayed. He used his earnings to pay for his needs and to help support his colleagues who were increasing in number. Banks notes that: “Paul was essentially a part-time, not a full-time, missionary, carrying on his evangelistic and pastoral activities alongside the practice of his trade. This makes his achievements all the more extraordinary. However, at times he could not work—when he was imprisoned, for example, or constantly on the move.”\(^{51}\) Moments like these called for hospitality and financial help from Paul’s supporters. Through his writings, about forty people where actual or potential sponsors of his work. In his letters he thanked them greatly for their generosity. “Through the exercise of hospitality and granting of financial aid, they enabled him to carry out his work freely in the new areas he entered, and they often aided him when he ran afoul of the authorities or was imprisoned for his efforts.”\(^{52}\)

No amount of trouble would hinder Paul from taking the gospel where it was needed and where the Spirit of God led him. Towards the end of his Asian ministry he said:

You know from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews: How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.\(^{53}\)

Paul preached the truth. He was not fearful to proclaim the gospel as it was revealed to him. He taught publicly. He taught and preached from house to house. He preached to the Jews and the

\(^{51}\)Banks, 150.

\(^{52}\)Ibid., 151.

\(^{53}\)Acts 20:18-24 (NKJV).
Gentiles. Even though trouble was awaiting him, he was not moved. In writing to Timothy he said, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” Paul endured it all and then said: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword? . . . Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Paul set the example for enduring and enjoying missions.

**Summary**

The Apostle Paul set the bar very high for standards of doing missions work. He shook his generation and generations to come like no one else other than the Lord Jesus. After his conversion he became a proud ambassador of Christ. He would proudly write and say that “I am ready to preach the gospel . . . . For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” Paul was sure of his salvation and confident of his call from God. A zealous Jew and Pharisee turned Christian began preaching the faith he wanted to destroy. He became a champion for the cause of Christ. God called him to a new vocation.

Paul got his preparation for the new calling at the back side of the Arabian Desert. He built his faith on the building block of his Jewish roots. Soon after his conversion he jumped into the mandate he was called to by God. After a season of waiting he was called to join the work in Antioch by Barnabas. They started in home turf territory, southern Galatia. Their first missionary journey was between A.D. 48 and 49. John Mark who was not quite sold out and returned home

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54 2 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV).
55 Romans 8:35, 37 (NKJV).
56 Romans 1:15-16 (NKJV).
in the middle of the mission. He became the cause for contention on the second missionary journey. Barnabas took Mark, and Paul refused and took Silas, and they went different directions. This second missionary journey took place between A.D. 50 and 52.

The third major missionary journey Paul took was between A.D. 53 and 56. All these missionary journeys were marked with many salvations and miracles, signs and wonders, and the establishment of new churches. Traveling by land and sea, Paul and his companions saw great things happen for the kingdom of God. Paul was on the go: if it were today jet engines would have been on the go around the world each year. Paul built some great teams for his missionary endeavors. Some traveled with him and others supported him and his team when they needed it. He also made tents to support himself and some on his team. They did not stay in luxurious hotels as they crisscrossed the known world preaching. They stayed in believers’ homes. When they stayed longer they worked so they would not be a burden the people they stayed with. Paul was a tent maker by trade. Paul set a standard of excellence for missions in his day which should be applied by all generations including this generation.
CHAPTER III

ZIMBABWE AFRICA SHORT-TERM MISSIONS EXPERIENCE

Short-Term Missions to Different Countries

Since 1995 this writer has made 22 short-term missions trips to different African countries. Since 2003 his missions focus has been Zimbabwe, his home country. Many lessons and experiences have been gained through this missions endeavor. These will be shared in this chapter. There has been a tremendous impact on the nation of Zimbabwe through this missions ministry endeavor. In Appendix B is the timeline of short-term mission trips made through the ministry he founded, Hope for All Nations Ministries International.

Hope for All Nations Ministries International was founded in 1995 for the purpose of reaching nations with the gospel of Jesus Christ following the mandate given by the Lord in Scriptures:

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.\(^1\)

The first part of the mandate was to go preach the gospel. The second was to teach as instructed in the gospel of Matthew: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”\(^2\) The ministry was established a few months after the researcher had graduated from college with his

\(^1\)Mark 16:15-18 (NKJV).

undergraduate degree in Evangelism. There was a stirring in his heart to reach out to nations for God with the gospel of Christ.

Soon after graduating from college, the author attended the North American Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in Kentucky in the summer of 1994 hosted by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The goal of this conference was to challenge evangelists “to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to win men and women to Him, and to seek the evangelization of the world.”³ Graham challenged evangelists to desire the enlargement of their visions and their tools sharpened for the harvest of the Lord. They needed to hear God’s voice and know His direction in the ministry and for each “to leave the conference with a new commitment to earnestly spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.”⁴ The writer left this conference with a great zeal and passion to evangelize the world.

The following year an opportunity opened up to go on a short-term summer mission to Israel with a team from Christ for The Nations Institute in Dallas, Texas. A two week mission ended up a three week one for him. He travelled with the team and had a tremendous time: visiting different places and sites in the Holy Land, getting baptized again in the River Jordan, sailing in a boat on the Sea of Galilee, walking and trailing the roads Jesus walked, taking communion at the Garden tomb, overlooking the city of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, singing and praying in the Upper Room, etc. The team had the opportunity to speak in different places. Several nights the team went out street witnessing. Because of his relationship with the team leader, the writer was asked to minister with the group one time in Israel. It was indeed a great trip.


Something unexpected happened on the return trip. At the airport in Tel-Aviv as the team was checking in for departure to return to the United States from Israel, the writer found out he did not have an up to date visa. Unknowingly his visa had expired. He was not allowed to return to the states. For a week he battled with the US embassy in Israel to provide a visa so he could return to his family. They would not budge. They said they were following immigration guidelines. He had to go back to his home country to initiate the visa there. His wife had to raise funds for him to travel from Israel to Zimbabwe. From there he would apply to renew his visa. While settling the visa situation in Israel he stayed at a Christian shelter in Tel-Aviv. The Sunday while he was there he had the opportunity to share his testimony at a church service at the shelter. As he could not fly back to the states, he flew to Zimbabwe after having been away from his home country for seven years.

What a joy it was to be back to his country after a long while. The process did not take very long to get the visa from the USA embassy in Zimbabwe, but due to flight arrangements he had to be in Zimbabwe for a week. It was a great time to visit family and to survey the spiritual climate of the nation. He preached in a few churches he had been associated with before leaving for the states. As before he left the country, the nation was still spiritually needy. It was a great time to spy out the land. After the week he went back to the states with a burning desire to come back to Zimbabwe to make a difference in his home country.

To back up a little, while an undergraduate student the researcher went on a short-term mission trip to Jamaica in 1993 during spring break. He took the trip to visit a former schoolmate in Bible school who was teaching at a Bible school in Montego Bay, Jamaica. He spent about ten days and ministered in different churches in the city and villages including at the Bible school. This was a great time of testing the waters of short-term missions. After this mission to Jamaica
the Lord started opening doors of ministry in the states to share his testimony and exhort the churches in Oklahoma and the surrounding states. Having been a pastor for five years before coming to school in America and then focusing on school was like a prison. What a great relief to be able to start traveling and preaching again. From this time on he saw himself on the road most weekends with his wife and four children traveling and preaching in different churches.

After graduating from graduate school with a Master of Arts in Christian School Administration in 1996, the researcher prayed and the Lord opened a door to go back for a short-term mission to Africa in the summer of 1997. This mission took him to Zimbabwe where he preached in churches for a week. Then he flew to Kenya where he spent a few days and preached in a church that had just been started in Nairobi by one of his Tulsa friends’ brother. From there he flew to Uganda where he spent about ten days in Kampala with a friend from college and his family who had gone back to Uganda to continue his ministry. He ministered in different places each day he was there. Then he flew back to Kenya where he preached for a bishop from Zimbabwe who had pioneered a church in Nairobi. The bishop’s church was becoming a mega-church. After this ministry he flew back to Harare, Zimbabwe to spend another week in ministry, then went back to the United States. That year, 1997, the writer’s family had been granted permanent resident visas so there was no problem with visas anymore.

Harvest Church Assembly of God, the church the writer has been affiliated with since 1993, had assisted him to apply for visas: a gesture that he will never forget and will always be thankful. His wife was able to travel back home during the winter break of 1997, with the youngest child who had been born in Oklahoma to show the relatives there. She too had a great trip. She was able to minister in several churches that they had been acquainted with before moving to the United States. The people were so open and hungry to hear her minister. She had
graduated from the one year program at Victory Bible Institute in 1991. So, she was able to minister with clarity and anointing. Her parents were so happy to see her and have her preach in their church. Her parents were pastors of a village church affiliated with the Full Gospel Church of God. When she was young her father used to travel with her from village to village preaching and she would ask if she could preach also; that is how she got her early training to preach. While she was on this mission she was able to visit her husband’s village to see the relatives and preach also. She came back to the states with great reports.

In the summer of 1998 a pastor friend from his network of churches accompanied the writer on the next mission to Africa. They traveled to four countries. Their first stop was Kampala, Uganda. They preached a three day conference for a bishop in the northern part of Uganda. From there they traveled further northwest for an all-night worship and prayer service. They returned to Kampala for some more ministry in the city. After ministry in Uganda they went to Kenya and ministered in churches for five days. They then flew from Nairobi, Kenya to Lusaka, Zambia. They spoke in a church and at a ministerial fellowship meeting. After about five days in Zambia they flew to Harare, Zimbabwe. They spent two weeks in Zimbabwe ministering in churches and traveling to two villages to minister. They went to the writer’s village for a couple days and then went to his wife’s village for a couple days as well. The pastor friend was so refreshed in the villages after a long time with the hustle bustle of the cities. The village people were more welcoming and hospitable. There was more sacrifice for the village people; they walked long distances to come to the meetings. They concluded this mission by preaching at a big church in the city of Harare for three days. Then they flew back to the United States with great joy as many had been touched for the glory of God.
In 1999 the author traveled to Africa on two missions trips. The first time in the summer he took his wife and four children to Zimbabwe. This was a life changing mission for his family. The children came back to the states changed, and he recommends every Christian in the western world to take their children on a mission trip overseas at list once in their life time. They saw miracles and sacrifice as never before. Two of them were born in Zimbabwe but came to America young; at ages five and seven. The other two were born in Oklahoma. So, to go back to Zimbabwe after nine years was a culture shock and sacrifice. They saw children of their age who go without and get by. Some of the school buildings were shacks compared to where they went to school. Miracles started before leaving Oklahoma. The family did not have funds for all the tickets up until the day to depart. They were missing two tickets on the day of departure. They went to the airport anyhow. While at the airport in line to check in they got a call that the two remaining tickets were paid for. Glory to God! So the whole family was able to go on this mission. For a whole month they ministered in different churches and schools in the cities and two villages. They were also blessed to see their relatives and friends in addition to ministering.

The writer took his wife for ministry in Swaziland and South Africa to minister there for a week and left the children in Zimbabwe with relatives. They flew from Harare to Johannesburg and then to Mbabane, Swaziland. They preached in a tent crusade and saw many come to Christ. From Swaziland they flew back to Johannesburg to connect to fly to the coastal city of Port Elizabeth, South Africa. They preached in a church on Sunday then the next day flew back to Zimbabwe. Back in Zimbabwe they immediately took the children to Victoria Falls by train for a little sight-seeing. Victoria Falls is the biggest natural falls and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. While there they preached in a midweek evening service. Then they rode the train back for preparation for the journey back to the states.
After a month of traveling ministry they were exhausted and ready to return to rest in their home in Oklahoma. They bid their friends and family farewell, and a few of them escorted them to the airport. Another miracle took place at the airport ready to depart. On arrival at the airport they were told that the plane was full. They had to go separately. They did not want to go separately. After a while trying to figure out what to do they agreed to stay the night and then go the next day. They flew British Airways from Harare via London to Chicago then connected to Tulsa. British Airways took care of their night lodging, all six of them and put them in the biggest hotel in the country, the Queen of England stayed there on her official visit to Zimbabwe. They fed the family and gave them good rooms to sleep for the night. The next day they gave them a great buffet breakfast and drove them back to the airport by shuttle. They re-routed them via South Africa first class instead of the original economy class. For the inconvenience they awarded them twenty-one hundred dollars which they picked up at the British Airways customer service in London. There is God in heaven who rewards His people for working for Him. Those who serve Him are serving the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. They arrived back home to Tulsa rejoicing for how God had used them to touch so many lives, and for how He had rewarded them for their labor of love for the kingdom of God as recorded in Scripture: “For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

In the fall of 1999 a second mission was made that year to East Africa. The writer took the trip with a pastor friend from Muskogee, Oklahoma. They had met at a conference in Tulsa. The writer was able to go to this wonderful pastor’s church to preach and their hearts knit together. Fall break of that year they traveled for about two weeks to Uganda, Tanzania, and

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5Hebrews 6:10 (NKJV).
Kenya. Their first stop was Kampala, Uganda. They ministered at a village town called Jinja. The three day crusade was powerful. Many souls were saved and several were healed by the power of God. They had the opportunity to visit the source of the Nile River. Then they traveled north to another village city called Mbale. They preached a two day revival that was full of fire. During the day they visited a school that had been started by the writer’s former school mate. From there they traveled back to the big city and preached in a couple churches before flying to Dar es Salaam, commercial capital city of Tanzania. There they did a two day revival for a hungry community. They were so hungry they would squeeze them like a sponge wanting all they could get from these visitors. For a moment of relaxation they went to the seashore of the Indian Ocean to admire the seemingly unending waters. From there they flew to Nairobi, Kenya where they visited for a few days with missionary friends they had met in Oklahoma and had moved to Africa upon graduating from seminary. They preached in a tent crusade the afternoon of landing. They also visited a hospital and ministered to a group of nurses and student nurses. That Sunday morning they preached in two services for one of the largest churches in Nairobi. The church had two morning services: they switched preaching. It was a great joy to see many people come to Christ and so many healed for God’s glory.

In 2000 the writer did not make any travel arrangements early in the year due to the Y2K scare. A church minister friend agreed to team up for a late summer mission to East Africa. They flew into Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. From there they were driven to Nakuru a town north of Nairobi. A long-term missionary friend of a medical doctor they were acquainted with in Tulsa hosted them on this mission in Kenya. He was from Germany. He had ministry to street children. He would woo these young boys off the street to train them to sing and minister for the Lord. He would school them as well and then send them off when they had some education and could be
able to find something they could do for themselves. He was a very kind but firm man: exactly the kind of man these boys needed. He trained some of them to be on his evangelistic team. When the writer and his friend arrived, they teamed up with the missionary and started preaching in open air crusades. They taught the word of God to the boys in the morning, and then in the afternoon they went out to preach. The boys were terrific singers. Their singing drew great crowds to come and hear them sing, and the writer and his friend would preach to them. They ministered to many in Nakuru for a few days then moved to another city called Eldoret. As in the previous town, they taught the boys in the morning, and then in the afternoon went out to preach in open air crusades. One day they went to a radio station and shared Christ over the radio to an audience of over three million people.

One highlight of this mission was an open air crusade at a market place. As the boys began to sing crowds gathered to hear the singing of these young people. Within a short time there was a crowd of over seven thousand people according to the resident missionary. The atmosphere was electric. After a few testimonies from the boys who had been rescued from the streets, the writer’s traveling companion gave a stirring testimony of how he was delivered from many addictions and was now serving God. He charged them to hear the word and follow God. The writer was introduced to preach to the gathered crowd. It was his first time to speak to such a big crowd. The situation was so stirring and he was charged up to preach. He preached Christ with an unusual anointing. At the conclusion of the message he made an altar call. About two thousand people crowded the front to receive Christ, and they repeated the prayer to ask Christ into their heart. He had to pray en-masse for people who wanted prayer for healing; there was no way of laying hands on each one. The writer and his traveling companion’s hearts were stirred up and they magnified God for his marvelous works.
After a few days of preaching in open air crusades, the missionary drove the writer and his companion back to Nairobi to catch a flight to Dar es Salaam. A pastor friend he had met in Tulsa was there at the airport waiting for them upon arrival. They spent three days crisscrossing the city in meetings. They did a two day pastors’ conference at a church. In the evening they did an open air crusade. Again many were brought into the kingdom of God and several were healed by the power of God. Many pastors and believers were greatly encouraged. They left to fly back to America with great joy that God had done it again. The writer’s friend would make three more trips to Kenya by himself; which was greatly commendable. Short-term missions changed his life as never before.

In 2001 the writer made two trips to Africa. He traveled to Zimbabwe with a pastor friend from Oklahoma for three weeks in the month of June along with his father who had come to America for rest and medical treatment. His father had come to the states in the middle of December 2000 to spend six months resting and recovering. Resting for six months brought healing to his body. Surprisingly, he was not taken to any doctor but he returned home healed and whole. Upon arrival to Harare arrangements were made to travel to his village home. The whole village came to see them particularly the writer’s father who had been healed without medicine and the white visitor from the states. He had left the village sickly but had returned strong and healthy to the amazement of everyone who knew him. This gave the writer and his travel companion the opportunity to preach the gospel. For two days and two nights the gospel was preached with power. The nights were cold since it was winter there while it was summer in the states. The second night there was a bon fire. Many were healed and several were saved by the power of God.
On returning to the big city the writer and his companion embarked on a schedule that would have them preach two or three times a day while they were in Zimbabwe. They preached in churches, lunch hour meetings and schools. Then they made a trip to his wife’s village to minister for two days. Upon returning to the city they continued preaching in churches and other places. There was a stirring among the churches they ministered to. They stayed busy till their departure. Many came to the Lord and several were healed. The companion was so moved by the openness of the people to the gospel to the extent that upon arrival back in the states he arranged to return in a few weeks with a friend of his. He was invited to a big conference that one of the churches that they had preached in were having in August 2001. They did have a blast preaching the gospel to so many people as never before. They returned back to the states changed and compelled to move to another level of faith in ministering to the Lord. The writer was enflamed with the passion for short-term missions. During the fall break of 2001 he went on a ten day mission to Kenya with one of the students attending the seminary at the university where they were both students. Before coming to seminary this other student had been used by God to raise one of the largest churches in Nairobi, Kenya. The writer was privileged to preach in his church leadership conference and one of their sister churches in the week he was there with them. He came back to the states with fire and passion to travel spreading the good news of Christ.

In the summer of 2002 his wife and son left for Zimbabwe with two other ladies. They went to several different churches for services and conferences. They also went to the two villages. The two ladies made a quick visit to Kenya while they were there. They preached for the bishop the writer had preached for. It was their first time to preach in a church that big. They then flew back to the Zimbabwe to make their return trip to the states. There was such great excitement for what God had done. Souls were being added to the kingdom and the saints were
being challenged to preach the gospel. In December 2002 the writer embarked on another short-term mission with a medical doctor minister friend from Missouri. They met in Atlanta and flew to Amsterdam. From there they flew to Accra, Ghana where they were met by their host who would drive them to Togo, West Africa. The first Sunday they ministered in a church in a town in the middle of Togo. Togo is a French-speaking country. Some of the people in the service were English speaking only. Some spoke neither French nor English but different Togolese dialects. So they had to have three interpreters in addition to the main speaker. It was a packed church building, and the people were in there for hours; sitting, listening, standing, singing, praying, and worshiping God. The writer and the doctor friend alternated preaching. The host friend organized the meetings and all the travel logistics. From there the team traveled to Benin. They did a three day crusade and planted a church and left a young couple as pastors of the new church. They drove back to Togo close to where they did the first service where they did another gospel crusade and planted another church and appointed a pastor.

The second Sunday the team visited a town called Bassar where there was an established Assembly of God church. The church had been built by a long-term missionary whose son is the pastor of Harvest Church Assembly of God where the writer is affiliated. The church sat about seven hundred people. That Sunday morning it was packed to capacity. The team had a great service. The writer and the medical doctor shared the pulpit. When the service was over they were taken around the church property. Of much interest was the vocational school for training skills to the people of that community; the writer has much interest in vocational training. The team then drove to Lome for a couple days before leaving for Accra, Ghana. After visiting his home for two days the host drove us across Togo into Ghana to the airport in Accra, Ghana.
They returned to the states with joy for what God had done: strengthened believers and planted new churches.

**Impacting One Country at a Time**

It was so exciting to see seven thousand people gather for a crusade and two thousand crowd over to the front to receive Christ, but the Lord began to deal with this writer to change strategy. It took about two years to start implementing the strategy the Lord had given. The strategy was to impact nations one country at a time. The author was to focus on one country until the Lord directed the next.

After the mission to West Africa of 2002 the Lord began to reveal what was to take place beginning with the country of Zimbabwe. The author contacted the local leaders he was acquainted with in Zimbabwe to gather with him for the first conference. This first gathering took place in June of 2003 in a hotel ballroom at the Meikles Hotel in downtown Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, for four days with one hundred sixty-two participants. The following year the conference was moved to another venue for cost effectiveness and size. The Dutch Reformed Church Hall was less expensive and centrally located. June 2004 the Hope for All Nations Ministries conferences began meeting at the Dutch Hall. It all started as a Bible conference. As the needs of the participants began to demand special emphasis, other conferences were added such as: a leadership conference, a ladies conference, a men’s conference, a business seminar, an education fellowship, a single women and widow’s conference, a youth conference, etc. Year after year different conferences would be added.

The first conference that would take place each visit is the prayer conference. The first year there were 34 participants, and year after year there would be more people coming to the prayer conference before all the other conferences. Now about three hundred intercessors gather
for a powerful time of seeking God before the other conferences take place. The leadership conference follows the prayer gathering. The purpose of the leadership conference is to equip leaders for the furtherance of the gospel. A couple hundred leaders gather each year for training and equipping. Another conference that started recently is the church growth conference to help pastors to learn how to grow their churches. The education fellowship conference started a few years after these conferences started. The purpose of the education fellowship is to avail leaders with information they need to start Christian schools. Leaders from the ministry of education come and share information that helps leaders to start schools. An elite secondary school was started by a young man who was inspired at one of these conferences: his school is a model school in the whole country. The business seminar helps people to start their own businesses. Zimbabwe has an unemployment rate of 80 percent. The majority of the citizens cannot find jobs. The business seminar helps many to start their own small businesses.

The writer and his team introduced the marriage and family conference about five years after the Zimbabwe mission. Marriages are under attack everywhere around the world. Building stronger marriages and families constitutes stronger churches and nations. The marriage and family conference has been well sought after. Many people come to this conference seeking answers for their marriages. Due to the demand the author’s missions team has included a two-day couples’ retreat away from the hustle and bustle of the big city. The retreat, called Hope for All Weekend to Remember, gives an in-depth teaching on how married couples can enhance their marriages. It also gives couples a chance to interact with each other without interruption. “The family is a biblical institution that cuts across every country and culture. And the timeless principles of God’s Word regarding the family are the universal truths that every family needs.”

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The writer and his wife have attended the USA Family Life Marriage Conference on nine different occasions and learned so much that they are transforming their nation through their own marriage and family conferences.

A few years ago single women and widows requested a conference that would encourage them and direct them as they face the challenges of life. Another women’s conference is the women in ministry conference. It started out as the pastor’s wife conference. This conference trains women how they can work alongside their husbands and the men in their churches and ministries. They introduced the men’s advance conference a little later. This conference gives men the opportunity to fellowship as men and to learn some principles of manhood. One of the biggest conferences of them all is the women’s conference. They pack the Dutch Hall to capacity. The biggest of them all is the youth conference. The young people pack it full to standing room only. This conference has had to be moved to a bigger venue this year. These conferences are attended by people from different church backgrounds. After ten days of training they go back to their churches and neighborhoods on fire for God to reach out to others. From 162 in 2003 the conferences have been growing steadily to 1,700 participants in the ten day 2013 conferences. These conferences are attended by people from different denominations: Baptists, Assemblies of God, Methodists, Lutherans, Catholics, Independent Charismatics, etc. Hope for All Nations Ministries is a member of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe which opens that door of association with other similar groups. Non-believers are welcome to these meetings. In 2013 there were 1,165 people who gave their lives to Christ during the short-term mission by the writer and his team.

As Jesus did, the writer visits to minister in villages as well. Two villages have been focused on: Nhira Village in Murehwa and Chiminya Village in Gutu. Nhira Village is an hour
northeast of Harare in Zimbabwe. Usually the teams minister in an evening service, pray for people to be healed and encourage them to pray by praying with them. The Nhira home is crowded by all the villagers who come for the service and ministries for a couple days. It is always a great fellowship with souls being saved and born into the kingdom of God. Before going to be with the Lord the writer’s in-laws were pastors of the Full Gospel Church at Chiminya Village church. They had been pastors of this church for many years. They had built a church building that sat about fifty people. Each time the writer went to the village with his team people would crowd in this small building for ministry into the wee hours of the night. Some of the people would be listening from outside the building. There would be preaching, teaching of the Word, and healing the sick. Upon the passing of the ministers of this church, the writer was led to raise money to build a bigger church for this village congregation. A university and seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma, gave a donation to build this church. A church that seats 200 people was built in six months. The writer and his team in the summer of 2012 had the privilege of dedicating the church. Many souls are being touched and changed for the glory of God.

One other ministry the Hope for All Nations Ministries is involved in is the school ministry. It all started by going to one Christian school and one Bible school in Harare. A few years ago the Lord enlarged the school ministry. The 2013 summer team visited and ministered in 14 schools and three Bible schools, and 2,300 students were preached to and invited to the annual youth conference. This coming summer 20 schools are scheduled to be ministered to before the conferences. The schools in Zimbabwe are still open for ministry of the Word of God. Almost every year the short-term mission team has been going to the village school in Gutu where the writer’s wife went to grade school and bringing them goodies like school supplies. This last summer the short-term mission team brought a great surprise to the village school. One
of the team members had visited the school two years before. She was touched by the condition of the school: old and unimpressive buildings, students walking with torn books in their hands. She went home to Louisiana and raised 350 back packs for the students and their teachers. She shipped them two months before the team went on the trip. Upon arrival she and one of the team members boarded the truck that was loaded with the barrels full of back packs. It was a four hour drive from the capital city so this part of the team had to leave very early in the morning. They arrived in the middle of the morning. The whole school was surprised including the school teachers who did not know what was coming. The truck drivers unloaded back packs in front of the school. As these goodies were presented to the school some of the students and teachers began to cry. Their hearts were touched by such great love. It became the talk of the school and surrounding villages for a long while. Because of this deed lives are coming to the Lord.

Ministry in churches has been one of the integral parts of the writer’s Hope for All Nations Ministries. They have developed a great network of pastors and churches where they minister each time they have been traveling to Zimbabwe for short-term missions. Working with pastors has caused the mission to grow. Each Sunday the team does not have its own meetings, but they go to different churches to minister. The team is divided into groups, and they go and minister. Revival is brought to the churches. The team is on fire with the Word of God to preach and teach. The sick are healed by the power of God. They minister in large and small churches alike. They revive, encourage, and affirm the pastors and their churches. One way to encourage and affirm the pastors is the awarding of honorary doctorate degrees to pastors who have labored for many years but no one ever affirms them. Four founders of ministries in Zimbabwe and an overseer of the denomination for many years were awarded honorary degrees through a college in the United States. The Scriptures say, “Render therefore to all their due: . . . honor to whom
After each receiving the award at different times, they were set on fire to go and win souls again. Lives have been touched and changed through the church ministry. The Word of God is preached and taught with power. The sick are healed. Sinners are convicted, convinced, and converted to the Lord Jesus Christ. The teams always add to the health of the churches where they go and minister. Pastors confirm that the fires of revival are lit in each place the teams go and minister.

Reviving the body of Christ has been the major thrust of the writer and Hope for All Nations Ministries. Due to the political and economic conditions of the nation of Zimbabwe the faith of many has been dwindling. Ministries with zeal for the Lord to fan the fire of revival in the nation were needed, and Hope for All Nations turned out to be one of them. The last two decades have been a great challenge to the country’s population. Hyperinflation and mass unemployment of over 80 percent dismally plunged the nation into sadism. Tourism and foreign investment plummeted. Health and education systems declined. The nation was faced with such realities as: leadership development, community transformation, prayer, church planting, and healthy church growth. Suffering reached unprecedented heights. To add to these vicissitudes:

The exodus of literally countless millions from Zimbabwe to neighbouring African nations and beyond. This brain drain includes much of academia, the business community, and spiritual leaders. Their emigration, even temporary, is a serious loss to Zimbabwe. Pray for the swift and safe return and reconciliation of these people to help rebuild a nation on its knees. Pray for strength of community among the Zimbabwean Church in diaspora, currently dissipated, and for unity befitting their role in reconstruction. The church must be a prophetic voice engaged in the life of the nation but some denominations have compromised their testimony. The purity of the Church is often compromised by traditional African practices that are incompatible with the gospel, often by outright witchcraft and occult activities. Young people have watched idealistic

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7Romans 13:7 (NKJV).
visions fade to empty slogans. They constitute a huge swathe of the population, but have little reason to hope for improvement to their difficult lot.

The country of the Zimbabwe needed and still needs revival like many nations of the world. The writer has a burden for this nation and nations of the world to return to God. Revival must begin in the house of God, the church. When Paul visited new churches he first went to the synagogue, the church. Then he would go out to the streets and highway. The writer took the same method. He first gathered pastors and went into churches, then went into the streets and open air. Many lives have been touched and changed for the glory of God. The conferences have brought a unique level of stirring. Many pastors have testified that their lives will never be the same after attending a Hope for All Nations Ministries conference. Schools are experiencing a move of God when the writer and his team arrive. While the door is still open, the writer intends to reach as many schools as possible with the gospel of Jesus Christ. On the last mission a door of ministry opportunity opened. The writer and his wife went on national radio to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. As a result some of the people came to the conferences to receive ministry.

Over the years of traveling for missions to Zimbabwe the writer has developed a literature distribution to the people there. Books are collected from churches. Churches donate books to his ministry. The books are packed in barrels. The barrels full of books and other goodies to give to the needy believers are shipped to Zimbabwe months before a mission trip. They are stored at the home of one of the ministry representatives. Upon arrival the team distributes the books to conference participants. This also has been one of the attractions to the conferences. Hundreds of Bibles have been distributed to those who attend the conferences. The

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conference attendees are challenged to read their Bibles through in the year. Many are participating in the Bible reading challenge and growing in the knowledge of the Lord.

Another aspect of ministry in the writer’s short-term missions has been the ministry to children. Immediately after the Zimbabwe mission started the teams began to minister to kids. One ministry in the states sponsors six to seven children crusades. It is a one day event but very impactful. These kids crusades are strategically located in different locations of the capital city and two other nearby towns. For three to four hours these kids sing, memorize Bible verses, hear the word of God preached, and play games. They are fed before they go home. They are sent home with appropriate literature. They also take conference announcements to their parents to advertise the coming conferences. In six kids crusades last summer, 2017 children were ministered to and several received Christ as their personal Savior. Ministering to children is ministering to the present and future generations at the same time. It is preparing them to be leaders as Patricia Morgan says: “God is vitally concerned with each generation’s task of representing Him on earth. The children of God assume the roles of prophet, priest, and king, thus performing service to God and on behalf of men.”

The first year of embarking on the Zimbabwe Mission in 2003, the author and his wife went on the trip. The second year his wife and three of their four children went on the trip. The third year a team of eight went on the mission. The fourth year a team of fourteen people went on the mission. Then the following year ten people. In 2008, Zimbabwe was going through a hard economic crunch. There was a hyper-inflation that was sounded around the world. The political and economic situation in the country was quite uncertain. In spite of these difficult situations one couple teamed up with the writer and his wife. The small team of four shipped 16 barrels of

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food to feed the people who came to the conferences. The country was going through dire food shortages, the stores were empty. The people there were so appreciative. From then on the team to Zimbabwe has averaged eight. Most of the team members have been people who were eager to touch lives for God. They have always been prayed up and hard working. In all, the writer has taken about 70 people on the different missions trips.

There have been only three mishaps on the mission trips. One of them happened on the very first Mission to Zimbabwe. The writer and his wife missed their flight and had to drive to another city from their home to catch a flight the next day. They had to pump in an extra eight hundred dollars for the rebooking. The next mishap was an engine failure mid-air of a local plane while the team was coming from one town back to the capital. The plane was just minutes into its flight when the pilot announced he was returning to the airport because one of the engines was failing. The team began to pray hard. Other people on the plane started screaming. On landing one of the wheels on the plane punctured. They landed safely and another plane coming from another country picked all the passengers in the failed plane. The third mishap happened when another team was coming from ministering at the village. The drivers of the van that took the team did not gauge the gas needed properly. Gasoline was scarce that year. They ran out gas in the middle of nowhere coming from the village in the middle of the night. The team spent the night on the road until gas was brought the next morning. They were reminded the words of Paul: “none of these things move me,” and “to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”\textsuperscript{10} In all these situations the team was strengthened and saw the hand of God in all the circumstances.

\textsuperscript{10}Acts 20:24; 14:22 (NKJV).
The teams the writer has taken to Zimbabwe and other African countries have been very flexible and considerate. The buzzword for short-term missions is flexibility. The Lord has been very gracious to raise up men and women in the host country to work with the writer’s teams that he brings. Pastors have been willing and ready to stand with them. Pastors and leaders go out of their way to assist and see that the mission is accomplished. One Bible school teacher would teach all her lessons before the team came so that when the team arrives on the ground she would be with them all the time to assist in every way. During the conferences, pastors re-arrange their church schedule to accommodate the team and its efforts. The writer’s ministry, Hope for All Nations Ministries, has established a board of directors of twelve men and women and a board of advisors of about 50 people in Zimbabwe. All these men and women work willingly without pay. They put in their time and money to help expand the kingdom of God together. The people of Zimbabwe are by nature hospitable. One of the team members from Oklahoma went to Zimbabwe eight years in a row with the writer. Because of schedule and age this team member went to Zimbabwe with his wife last year and this year. Several on these teams have gone multiple times. One pastor from Arkansas teams up with the writer every other year. Through this team effort many lives are being touch for the kingdom of God.

When traveling for short-term missions accommodations is one of the key issues to be taken care of. When the writer started on short-term missions to Zimbabwe he stayed in hotels the first few trips. Hotels proved expensive and isolating. So he decided to stay with some relatives who are pastors. The team members were also assigned other pastors’ homes if the teams were larger. Otherwise this one pastor has a five bedroom house and a small team can be accommodated there. The teams pay a fair fee for their stay and food which is much cheaper than staying in a hotel. Teams cherish the time they spend with their hosts. One time the team tried
staying at a guest house. There was turmoil in the country at that particular time. After landing on that trip some stayed in the pastor’s home and others stayed at the guest house. The next morning police came early in the morning to evict everyone. The guest house was charged for operating illegally. Part of the team that stayed had to move. The team moved to a Baptist Convention mission center where some of the team members had to stay the next two visits.

Homes proved more convenient than guest homes. Four pastors’ homes have accommodated the teams over the years. These hosts look forward to the team coming each year. They are very hospitable and welcoming. There is a bonding that takes place during the stay. Laboring together becomes easier with acquaintances than with unfamiliar people. The early short-termers stayed with believers instead of staying in hotels or guest homes. In sending the twelve Jesus said, “In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place.”

The teams stay in these pastors’ modest homes. The hospitality and work convenience surpasses everything.

Hope for All Nations Ministries emphasize that their short-term missions trips are strictly missions oriented and not vacations. However, when time permits and it does not interfere, the missions teams are allowed to visit some attractions. One attraction teams have gone to is the Victoria Falls. Usually after the mission is accomplished teams fly from Harare to Victoria Falls. It is a two hour flight. One of the teams got to sightsee and to preach in a church while they were there. The Victoria Falls is the largest waterfall in the world referred to as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It is located on the Zambezi River between Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is indeed one of the world’s spectacular natural wonders. It is about one mile wide and 330 feet deep. The town of Victoria Falls and its outskirts have good hotels. Here guests take a step back and enjoy Africa in Victorian fashion. The outskirts of the Victoria Falls are home to a wealth of

\[\text{11Mark 6:10 (NKJV).}\]
bird and animal life. People watch wild life like elephants, kudu, waterbuck, etc. Other attractions there are: white water rafting, bungee jumping, kayaking, helicopter rides, game viewing, boat cruising on the Zambezi River, elephant rides, and bird watching.\textsuperscript{12}

Along the Victoria Falls is the statue of missionary, explorer, and anti-slavery campaigner David Livingstone who “spent the last 6 years of his life almost cut off from the outside world, refusing to leave his beloved Africa.”\textsuperscript{13} He grew up with an aspiration to become a missionary. His father was a devout Sunday school teacher who took a literal interpretation of the Bible. Livingston was a hard worker. He trained as a medical missionary at Anderson College in Glasgow. After his training he enthusiastically traveled to Africa where he strengthened his ideals of a Christian missionary. He struggled to make converts to Christianity in Africa.\textsuperscript{14}

Another place the teams enjoy seeing while they are traveling on mission trips is the Great Zimbabwe ruins in the province of Mashing. They get to learn the cultural history of the country while they are there. Great Zimbabwe is a ruined city in the southeastern hills of Zimbabwe near Lake Mutirikwe and the town of Masvingo. It was the capital of the Kingdom of Zimbabwe during the country’s late Iron Age. It was constructed by the Shona people from the 11\textsuperscript{th} century to the 14\textsuperscript{th} century on an area of 1,780 acres (722 hectares), housing 18,000 people. UNESCO recognizes it as a World Heritage Site. Great Zimbabwe served as a royal palace for the Zimbabwean monarch and seat of political power. The buildings were constructed with stone without mortar. The city was eventually abandoned and fell into ruin. Great Zimbabwe was


adopted as a national monument by the Zimbabwe government and the modern independent state was named after it. The word means “houses of stone.”¹⁵

Every missionary whether short-term or long-term wishes that they did not have to raise money to go, but raising funds can never be by-passed. The success of any missionary depends on their ability to raise money to go on a missions trip. It takes faith and daring to go on a missions trip. One major task for the rite of passage is gathering money to go. The budget has to be raised in order to be able to go. That budget includes money for: airline tickets, accommodations, food, transportation, etc. The writer uses different ways to raise money for the short-term missions: letters and emails to supporters, mission dinners, banquets, etc. Every so often prior to the mission the writer sends out letters to friends and partners to pray about helping with the mission. He also does mission dinners and banquets to raise the necessary funds need to fulfill the mission. The budget includes: airline tickets, accommodations over there, food, transportation. The writer stays in constant communication with his friends and partners by writing as often as possible. An annual missions banquet is held every year in the fall. Mission dinners are held in different cities to meet the budget. The writer is now training the locals to be participants in meeting the budget for the mission as they also are beneficiaries of the mission endeavor. This takes a lot of training and waiting for the people to catch on but will help in the long run. When senders and recipients work together more results are realized.

One highlight of this short-term missions ministry is the acquiring of land to build a ministry center in Harare. In the fall of 2012 the writer’s ministry purchased land to build the Hope Center Zimbabwe. After very successful conferences and meetings, the people who are ministered to ask where are those people who ministered to us or who led us to the Lord? The

ministry also needed a place to house the short-term missions teams that come. What has been going on is to put team members in different pastors’ homes and it has worked this far. The need is there to build accommodations for this need. The center will also become a place to train local leaders and launch them out to the different cities and provinces in Zimbabwe. Some will be deployed in the neighboring countries like: South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, Zambia, Swaziland, Lesotho, and other African countries. Phase I was buying the one acre of land for the buildings. Phase II is constructing a cabin, digging a well, and putting up a wall fence for security. Phase III is building an office cottage. Phase IV is building the main building with ten guest bedrooms and multipurpose rooms for training leaders. Funding has been coming slowly from friends and partners of Hope for All Nations Ministries to build this center for evangelism in Zimbabwe.

The vision of Hope for All Nations Ministries and the writer is to connect and energize the body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission. Hope for All Nations Ministries is called to fulfill the mandate given to the church: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”¹⁶ The mandate is to preach and teach: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you.”¹⁷ The writer has great respect for long-term missionaries, but if the work is left to them alone the Great Commission will not be fulfilled. The church ought to unleash believers to the harvest fields of the world. This writer has a passion to bring millions into the kingdom of God, educate them, and train them to reach nations for God.

¹⁶Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV).

Summary

The writer has had a great rewarding experience in short-term missions. He started with crisscrossing the continent of Africa and ministered in nine countries. At the Lord’s bidding he stopped and focused on one country, his home country Zimbabwe, even though he had started by preaching to large crowds in other African countries. Focusing on one country brought depth and sustainability to his ministry. His support base began to believe in his efforts. A strong support base has been established. The locals opened up and started trusting him and his efforts. From this base he shall be able to change nations one country at a time.

Zimbabwe has been the training ground for him and his teams. For him Zimbabwe has been his Jerusalem as the Lord said: “But you shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” 18 Through this short-term mission experience, hundreds have been saved and brought into the kingdom of God. Many believers have been strengthened and discipled to win others for Christ. Over the last eleven years about seventy team members from different churches in the United States have traveled to Zimbabwe with the writer to change lives through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of the team members are even traveling on their own to Zimbabwe and other countries. Zimbabwe has become a watershed of the gospel to other African countries. Teams shall be unleashed from the Zimbabwe base to other nations on the African continent and the world.

18 Acts 1:8 (KJV).
CHAPTER IV
MISSIONS EMPHASIS

Evangelism Missions

Evangelism is the primary mandate of the body of Christ. It is the key calling of the Christian Church. Jesus Christ commissioned the church to go, preach the gospel and teach nations what He commanded. In Mark he said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”¹ In Matthew, Jesus says, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”² The writer’s main emphasis in missions is the preaching of the gospel and training others to do the same.

Paul Little defines evangelism as “making the gospel message known seeking to convert.”³ People should be informed of God and His relationship to them. They are taught to respond properly to God’s action. The communication of the gospel should be clear and easy to understand. The witnesses should desire that the people should act on the information given. Little explains, “To evangelize we need both a burning heart and a clear mind. Biblical evangelism includes both of these principles. Declaration without persuasion can be sterile and dead. Persuasion without proper declaration can be dangerous.”⁴ He says, “to do the work of an

¹Mark 16:15 (NKJV).
³Paul E. Little, His Guide to Evangelism (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1977), 16.
⁴Ibid.
evangelist, I should be active both in communicating clearly the gospel of Jesus Christ and in persuading men to respond to that message. This is the biblical standard of evangelism."⁵ C. J. Sharp defines evangelism as “the preaching or promulgation of the gospel.” An evangelist is “a bringer of the gospel or system of Christianity.”⁶

Believers have the opportunity to proclaim the gospel to many lands around the globe. Evangelism is applicable in any place in the world. The presentation of the gospel must be contextualized for a given country and a given people. Conferences should not take the place of evangelism but they should enhance it by mobilizing the people to further the preaching of the gospel outside the church.⁷ Clinton M. Marsh says that evangelism is acting under the compulsion of love. It is going out of the way and crossing barriers. It is faith in action and patient work. It is dealing with deep spiritual truths, a passionate and consuming work. “Evangelism is the Holy Spirit working through people.”⁸ It is the continuation of Christ’s mission. All believers should be involved in Christ’s work, evangelism.

C. Peter Wagner describes three streams of evangelism for effective evangelism: crusade evangelism, saturation evangelism and body evangelism. The writer attended two big conferences on crusade evangelism sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association which emphasized the preaching of the gospel. They were the North American Conference for Itinerant Evangelists (NACIE) in Louisville, Kentucky, and Amsterdam 2000 in Holland. In organizing a crusade, a number of churches get together to prepare for the event. For

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⁵Ibid., 17.


effectiveness, “Under the general supervision of the evangelist’s association, committees are organized, prayer chains are formed, a choir is recruited, counselors are trained in personal witnessing, the media is enlisted at all levels, cooperating churches are sought, funds are raised and a public arena is leased for the occasion. The excitement builds in the community.”

During the crusade the evangelist gives an invitation for people to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and others to rededicate their lives to God. Those who come forward are met by crusade counselors one on one. They are then prayed for to receive salvation or rededication. Decision cards filled out during the crusade are distributed among cooperating churches for follow up. The key objective of effective evangelism is to make disciples who demonstrate their commitment to Christ by their commitment to a local body of believers.

Saturation evangelism is a little different from crusade evangelism. It is the mobilization of the believers in the existing churches for continuous evangelism. It was initially called Evangelism in Depth. This kind of evangelism targeted a whole nation lasting for a whole year. Instead of one crusade it involved many crusades on local church, city, regional and national levels. “Its key innovation was the attempt to train every believer in every church to be an active and continuous propagator of the faith.”

Body evangelism deals with how members of the Body of Christ relate to one another biblically. It is the kind of evangelism which insists on bringing unbelievers to faith in Christ and into the Body of Christ as part of the evangelistic process. Body evangelism principles can be used in crusade and saturation programs.

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10Ibid.

11Ibid., 139.

years the writer incorporated a little of each in his short-term mission endeavors but of late there has been a greater emphasis on crusade evangelism.

Sterling W. Huston gives succinct time tested principles of crusade evangelism from his experience as director of crusades for North America for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The evangelist’s ministry is the calling to share the Gospel message with unbelievers in such a way that they understand who Jesus is and are moved to receive him as their Savior. Jesus Christ is the message of the Gospel, and the Scriptures say: “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”13 The message should be preached with authority, simplicity and urgency. The people who hear the gospel message must be given the opportunity to accept Christ in front of the platform. “The evangelist should preach for a verdict and invite people to respond to the good news. Although the method of inviting response may vary, depending upon circumstances, the invitation to come to Christ should always be part of the message.”14

The two primary objectives of Crusade evangelism are: to evangelize the community and to strengthen the church. Communities must be evangelized by using a variety of evangelism methods with emphases on large evangelistic meetings. The local church is strengthened to continue to witness and disciple through renewal and training. The process of the crusade should be biblically based and not based on personality. To gain lasting results and impact the community the crusade should be centered on the local church. Individuals and congregations are given the choice to be involved in supporting the crusade. “Prayer is the first priority in

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131 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NKJV).

14Sterling W. Huston, Crusade Evangelism and the Local Church (Minneapolis: World Wide, 1986), 33.
evangelism. People, methods and materials are instruments, and it is only through prayer that these instruments become effective by the empowering of the Holy Spirit.”¹⁵

Evangelism is a work of the Holy Spirit. Prayer is vital for the Holy Spirit to work among His people. God blesses hard work and organization. Relationships are needed for successful evangelism. “Organizing the evangelistic event to divide, delegate and deadline specific tasks will increase effectiveness. Faith-sized goals lead to growth. The ultimate goal is that every member of the congregation be involved in some aspect of the Crusade ministry. Proper training of recruited personnel for both their specific task and general responsibility as a witness enhances performance.”¹⁶ Properly done, crusade evangelism is not competitive to the other ministries of the church; it is complimentary for the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Participation in the crusade is voluntary. All involved commit to the proclamation of the Gospel. The perfection of the church is best maintained by the fire of the Holy Spirit instead of fences of human separation. “To maintain the integrity of Crusade evangelism, policies must be fair, clearly understood, and enforceable, especially in the areas of organization, finance and follow-up.”¹⁷

Crusade evangelism is a local effort which should be conducted by local church leadership. Involvement of the local church congregation is essential. Tasks should be delegated to responsible church members. The key to effective Crusades is involvement. Three primary factors that influence Crusade attendance are: publicity and advertising, involvement and personal invitation. Follow up is essential for the success of any Crusade event. Local churches

¹⁵Sterling W. Huston, Crusade Evangelism and the Local Church, 46.
¹⁶Ibid., 64.
¹⁷Ibid., 86.
should be heavily involved in following up those who come to Christ in the Crusade event for lasting fruit. When the Holy Spirit is involved the results last. According to Huston, Crusade evangelism has several benefits: The laity is trained for the local church. It unifies Christians across denominational lines. It increases witness and evangelism. It brings spiritual renewal of the laity and church as a whole. Markedly it brings new additions to the church. Crusade evangelism raises a new sensitivity to church and community needs. It brings a new appreciation for the power of prayer.\(^\text{18}\)

The writer’s short-term missions ministry has a place for ministry to young people. The biggest conference he does in Zimbabwe is the youth conference. Billy Graham used to have a youth night during his Crusade events. The event would be targeted for young people even though adults were allowed to participate. Young people cannot be evangelized in the same context as adults. Each generation of young people is different from another. Jim Burns says, “Their world is a maze of continuing transformations. In order to meet the needs of this generation of young people, we must keep our ears and eyes carefully tuned to the rapidly changing beat of the culture.”\(^\text{19}\) It is important to minister to young people where they are and move them where God wants them to be. They need to be trained so they can become discipled followers of Christ and serve the kingdom of God. The Great Commission included young people.\(^\text{20}\) Terry Linhart and David Livermore say that half of the world’s population is under the age of 25. “The potential for such a large demographic seems unlimited, and this generation will define much of the future for every region of the world. So it’s no wonder that corporations,

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\(^\text{18}\)Sterling W. Huston, *Crusade Evangelism and the Local Church.*


church and mission groups, colleges and seminaries, service agencies, parents and governments increasingly focus on children and youth, and the concerns of adolescents.”²¹ Of importance to note is what Linhart and Livermore say:

The growth of global youth ministry stemmed from three world-wide developments: (1) the phenomenal growth of cross-cultural short-term mission trips exposed millions to the world’s needs, particularly those of children and youth; (2) international work became more palatable due to increased comforts and sanitation, affordability of travel, and the emergence of English as a global language; and (3) globalization has brought the children and youth of the world to our television screens, whether in the form of marketed consumerism or news headlines that show the faces of kids in need.²²

Evangelizing the present generation of young people is changing a generation and the generations to come. Through its short-term missions focus Hope for All Nations Ministries is targeting young people as an integral part of its mission.

Donald McGavran refutes the idea that theological training is just for colleges and seminaries and not outside. He reminds his readers the eternal command to disciple all the peoples of the world and God’s promise that in Abraham all the peoples of the earth would be blessed. He charges that educational institutions should train students to present to the church the correct views of the Bible and correct teachings, and train ministers to equip every congregation to minister evangelistically at home and abroad. “Effective evangelization is an essential part of correct doctrine.”²³ Training in reaching the unreached should be offered in colleges and seminaries and churches. Jesus said to His disciples, “Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal


²²Ibid., 29.

life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.”

He also said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Evangelism is the key to reaching the world for Christ. Robert E. Coleman outlines the master plan for effective evangelism as: selection, association, consecration, impartation, demonstration, delegation, supervision, and reproduction. Jesus chose from them twelve. Jesus called a few men to follow him. Coleman says, “Men were to be his method of winning the world to God.”

The writer takes men and women dedicated to serving the Lord. Many of them get surprised how God uses them on those short-term mission trips. Association was the essence of his training. He just let His disciples follow him. Preparing leaders for evangelism requires being with them. Jesus also expected the men who followed him to be loyal and obedient. Consecration was of essence. He imparted the Holy Spirit for them to function efficiently. Impartation: “Receive ye the Holy Spirit.” Jesus showed His disciples how to live: demonstration. Jesus assigned His disciples work to do: delegation. He said, “I will make you fishers of men.” He kept check on them. After their short-term trips He would meet with them to hear their reports: supervision. The writer meets with his team members for debriefing after each short-term mission. Jesus expected them to bring forth fruit: reproduction. “He intended His disciples to produce his likeness in and through the church being gathered out of the world.

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28John 20:22 (KJV).
29Matthew 4:19 (NKJV).
By this strategy the conquest of the world was only a matter of time and their faithfulness to his plan.”\textsuperscript{30} It has been a great blessing and joy to see hundreds each mission trip come to Christ and thousands ministered to. The team members themselves are amazed as they see God use them to bring others to Christ, some of them for the first time.

**Education Missions**

One of the conferences that the writer hosts on the short-term missions trips is the Education Fellowship. This is conducted with the purpose of bringing together people with a burning desire to educate the masses of the nation of Zimbabwe and give them an education that is Biblically based. The desire of many is to let the students get their learning and get and keep their burning. In this case education and evangelism intertwine.\textsuperscript{31} The results of the education fellowship in Zimbabwe have been amazing. One example is a young man who participated in one of these early meetings and went to his community and started a Christian school that is now an elite school in the whole country.

Jim Wilhoit says that Christian education incorporates both biblical insights and key findings from the social sciences. He says that Christian education helps people find meaning in life through highly personal teaching. Christian education has three biblical themes: “the priesthood of all believers, with its privilege and responsibilities; the call to serve others; and the power of God’s grace for personal renewal.”\textsuperscript{32} The body of Christ is called to serve the world as emphasized in the Bible. Iris V. Cully says that the Bible should be at the center of Christian education. All those who believe should “make the Bible the very foundation of all the church’s

\textsuperscript{30}Coleman, 97.


educational work.” Albert E. Greene emphasizes that the Bible should be the primary textbook in Christian schools. He says that the Bible describes the relationship between God and all creation. Greene strongly contends, “A basic distinctive of a Christian approach to the school studies and, indeed, to the Good News itself, is an adequate understanding of the biblical doctrine of creation. . . . The biblical doctrine of creation asserts that all things have been spoken into being by the Word of God. The Bible clearly attributes the orderliness and regularity of the ongoing creation to the sole influence of God’s Word.”

As outlined by Robert W. Pazmiño, Jesus’ teaching can be emulated by teachers in classrooms and in churches. Pazmiño identifies five principles of Jesus’ teaching that are helpful: First, Jesus was authoritative in his teaching. He taught as one with authority (Mark 1:27). This was revealed by His actions and words. He spoke the revelation of God. His life and ministry authenticated the authority of his teaching. Second, Jesus’ teaching was not authoritarian. His teaching was not imposed or forced on His hearers. Third, His teaching encouraged his hearers to think. He stimulated thinking and meditation in His teaching content. He expected a response from his hearers about the truths he taught. Fourth, He lived what He taught faithfully in His life and ministry. Before asking His disciples to love and serve one another as he loved them, Jesus demonstrated His love through laying down His life for His friends. Fifth, Jesus loved the people He taught. He loved His disciples in a way that showed the deep longings of every heart for an

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35 John 6:60-69 (NKJV).
intimate relationship with other people and God. “This relationship of love with Jesus was also
categorized by an equal concern for truth as the Master Teacher communicated it.”

Jesus Christ is a model of all those who are called to teach. Christian schools and
churches should look for these qualities that Jesus had in their teachers for the teaching ministry
to be effective. Jesus did not have the qualities he had simply because of his divinity. James E.
Reed and Ronnie Prevost say of His education:

Jesus was born into a devout Jewish home. . . . Joseph and Mary made available the best
education that their circumstances would allow to the boy Jesus. . . . The young Jesus
received the basic synagogue education. In the synagogue school and at home he was
taught to read and write. He learned of Moses, the prophets, and the other great leaders of
Israel. He learned Hebrew poetry and proverbs. He was taught the history of the Jewish
people during what we know today as the intertestamental period. Almost certainly,
Joseph taught Jesus the family trade of carpentry. . . . The methodology of those who
taught Him was influenced by the great teachers in Jewish history.

It behooves this generation to avail its children with the best education and the best teachers they
can find.

Pope A. Duncan describes educating as developing the knowledge, skill, mind and
character through the processes employed by colleges and universities to produce leaders and
make the total human being. These institutions should educate for Christian witness. If a school
has the position of neutrality, it is not education for Christian witness. Duncan argues, “It must
say to the world in no uncertain terms, this is a Christian institution. This school is committed to
the Christian faith, Christian values, and Christian morality. When it does, it is making a
Christian witness.” He continues to discuss the importance of Christian witness for schools.

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Christian witness calls for strong support from those who are Christian. Educating for Christian witness involves admitting non-Christian students and witnessing to them. “Not only must the school declare itself and find significant support from Christians but also the leadership of the institution must be Christian.”\(^{39}\)

Pazmiño outlines some marks of quality that can be used to assess a school. A school should have a clear statement and understanding of a philosophy or vision of education that guides its work. There should be competent administrators who coordinate the educational program through and with the people. There must be competent teachers and support personnel. Teachers are the backbone of a school. The curriculum should provide basic academic preparation, address exceptional needs and allow creativity and individuality in learning. It should allow the possibility of extracurricular activities that can serve to help develop whole persons and encourage integration between the classroom and life. There ought to be diversity among staff and students coupled with a sense of unity in that diversity. There should be good peer relationships to develop friendships, community and loyalty. There must be some involvement of student’s immediate or extended family in the life of the school. Faculty-student ratio and other demographic factors should also be considered. A sense of community is hard to maintain with large numbers of people that cannot be named or recognized. The school should be open to a religious worldview. The quality of facilities in which the education is provided should also be considered. There must be the emphasis of the essentials of education such as reading, writing and arithmetic as well as an exposure to new development in knowledge such as computer competencies along with creative arts and expression. “The track record of the school, its successes and failures in the past, and its efforts to build upon the success and address the

\(^{39}\)Ibid., 26.
failures should be considered. Sensitivity to the past is important in being faithful to one’s mission in the present and future. 

The writer envisions starting schools that will educate the masses of children in Africa for a Christian witness. Momentarily he is helping those who desire to start Christian schools with ideas and helping them to find the information they need from government departments by hooking them with the right people in the ministry of education. He believes within five to ten years he and his ministry will have some schools started. Christian schools can be a great vehicle to reach people for the kingdom of God. In fact it is a mission field that is ripe for harvest.

**Business Missions**

One of the tasks of the writer on his short-term missions trips to Zimbabwe is to conduct business seminars. These are greatly needful. The country of Zimbabwe has been going through economic difficulties due to uncontrollable inflation. Over 80 percent of the total population is unemployed. With that in mind the writer and his team members decided to do seminars that would encourage the nationals to start their own small businesses. Hundreds who attend the one day seminar are inspired and motivated to start and grow their businesses. This is empowering the local people as they come out and go home equipped with ideas and concepts they can apply to start and run viable businesses.

Christian businesses can be a witness for the glory of God. Steve Rundle and Tome Steffen say that a Great Commission Company can be socially responsible, income producing, and promote the growth and multiplication of the local churches. 

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world. He was a carpenter. He worked with his father, Joseph, in the family business which could be called a construction business. He worked longer in the business than He did as a minister. Most of his illustrations or parables were from the working world. Peter Tsukahira attests to these facts:

He knew the lives of the people to whom he ministered. He knew what it was like for them to buy and sell. He knew the pressures and the temptations to compromise that faced them. He knew their hearts and their habits. He had dealt with them in his trade for most of his life. So in Jesus’ case, business was his preparation for ministry. He labored patiently for many long years until the day came when he left the family business and never went back.  

The apostle Paul worked in the business world. He worked business alongside ministry. The business supported him and his companions. He was a professional tentmaker. His tentmaking business was mobile, helping to support his ministry wherever he went. Aquila and Priscilla were in the same business as Paul. Twenty centuries later business is still shaping culture. Working in business provides many opportunities for glorifying God in many ways.

One aspect of business the writer and his team emphasize is the preparation of the business plan. A business plan is a statement that describes, analyzes and gives a projection of the business future. It also gives the financial aspects of starting or expanding the business regarding how much is needed and how it will be paid back. It helps to get money. Most lenders, investors and even landlords require a written business plan before considering a proposal. It shows the seriousness of the prospective business builder and gives them the likelihood of getting start-up money. A business plan helps to decide whether to proceed or stop. It also teaches how money flows through the business, the strengths and weaknesses in the business concept and the realistic chances of success. It helps the business builder to improve the business.

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concept. It improves the chances of success and helps to keep things on track. One important aspect of business beyond the business plan is the bookkeeping and accounting systems which function adequately.\footnote{Mike McKeever, \textit{How Write a Business Plan}, 11\textsuperscript{th} ed., ed. David Goguen (Berkeley, CA: The NOLO, 2012).}

Another aspect of building a successful business is communication. For any business or organization to succeed there should be constant communication. Meetings are necessary. They should be made as productive as possible. These different meetings should be held at different times: weekly or bi-weekly meetings, project meetings, company or breakfast meetings, morning meetings, daily wrap up meetings, or one-on-one meetings.\footnote{Jason Reid, \textit{The Small Business Survival Guide} (Boston: Course Technology, 2011).}

Developing teams is of critical importance for success in business and any organization. John C. Maxwell says, “One is too small a number to achieve greatness.”\footnote{John C. Maxwell, \textit{The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork: Embrace Them and Empower Your Team} (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Business, 2001), 1.} No one individual will ever do anything of value alone. Teamwork is at the heart of great achievement. Maxwell says that teams involve more people, affording more resources, ideas and energy than individuals would. Teams minimize weaknesses and maximize the leader’s potential. Teams provide multiple perspectives on meeting needs and reaching goals thereby devising alternatives. Group insight is deeper than individual insight in solving problems. Teams keep leaders accountable and do more than individuals. “Teams share the credit for victories and the blame for losses. This fosters genuine humility and authentic community. Individuals take credit and blame alone. This fosters pride and sometimes a sense of failure.”\footnote{Ibid.}
Jeffry A. Timmons, Andrew Zacharakis and Stephen Spinelli say building a team adds credibility. Building a team should be gradual and strategic. As the organization grows, key people should be placed as needed. Placing capable people who can multi task and take on many duties should be identified with a start-up situation. Every team member should wear many hats. The ability to build a strong team is the first market test.\(^{47}\)

Business people need to know that marketing is crucial to the success of any business. Marketing is all the contact the company has with anyone in the outside world. Jay Conrad Levinson describes marketing as:

Marketing includes the name of your business; the determination of whether you will be selling a product or a service; the method of manufacture or servicing; the color, size, and shape of your product; the packaging; the location of your business; the advertising, public relations, Web site, branding, e-mail signature, voicemail message on your machine, and sales presentation; the telephone inquiries; the sales training; the problem solving; the growth plan and the referral plan; and the people who represent you, you, and your follow-up. Marketing includes your idea for your brand, your service, your attitude, and the passion you bring to your business.\(^{48}\)

Levinson says that marketing is the ability to change their minds or to keep their mindset if they are inclined for doing business already. It is truth made fascinating and influencing people.\(^{49}\)

Marketing is quite an important aspect of business which needs to be mastered for any organization to thrive. Business builders should be encouraged to really master this important art. These and other aspects of business are taught at the writer’s business seminar to encourage them to build viable businesses. Zimbabwe prospective business builders always look forward to the


\(^{49}\)Ibid.
teaching with great expectation, and many of them go back to their homes and communities ready to start and grow their businesses.

**Funding Short-term Missions**

One of the greatest tasks in missions, whether short-term or long-term, is raising money to go for missions. It takes significant money to take those mission trips. It takes faith and daring to be able to go year after year. The writer has made 23 missions trips to Africa and 11 in a row to Zimbabwe. It takes some work to build a network of friends and partners to frequently go overseas to preach the gospel. When one thinks of the results of all this it produces the encouragement to keep raising the money and going year after year for missions.

According to the Scriptures, Christian workers expect to be supported by those to whom they minister: “Let him who is taught in the Word communicate unto him who teaches in all good things.”

Jesus instructed His disciples to “take no gold nor silver, nor copper in your belts . . . for the laborer deserves his food.”

Paul reinforces this wisdom by concluding: “Those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.”

The Scriptures do not seem to encourage receiving support from unbelievers. However, Brian Rust and Barry McLeish say that Nehemiah 2 indicates it may be acceptable. King Artaxerxes gave soldiers, supplies, and letters of recommendation to Nehemiah. On the other hand, John, though not instructing Gaius to refuse gifts from unbelievers, reports that some workers have accepted nothing from the heathen 3 John 17. The authors argue that all money is God’s, regardless of who possesses it at the time. “To accept a gift from an unbeliever may open the door for us to share more of our ministry, and

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50 Galatians 6:6 (KJV).
51 Matthew 10:9-10 (NKJV).
52 1 Corinthians 9:14 (NKJV).
Jesus Christ, later on. Another view argues that accepting a gift from an unbeliever may leave us open to their influence as to how it is used. In the end, we must decide for ourselves what is appropriate for us and our ministry.\(^{53}\)

God told Aaron that the Levites who were the priests of Israel were to be funded by gifts from God’s people as they had no other source of income.\(^{54}\) Moses was commanded by God to take an offering from the people for building the tabernacle.\(^{55}\) Moses told them what they were supposed to bring and what to contribute.\(^{56}\) Everyone whose heart was willing gave. The church at Antioch took an offering for famine-stricken believers in Judea. They sent their gifts to the church elders through Paul and Barnabas.\(^{57}\) Paul worked as a tentmaker to support his ministry. At times he received support from the church at Philippi.\(^{58}\) Paul, however, frequently taught believers to give to the needs of the saints.\(^{59}\) “Paul also gently persuaded the Corinthian church to give by using the Macedonian church as an example. He compared two churches hoping that the Corinthians would outdo the Macedonian in the grace of giving.”\(^{60}\)

Communication is one of the most crucial aspects of support-raising. There are four important methods for communicating support needs: letters, appointments, presentations and materials. Letters are by far the most popular method of communicating for support, though not


\(^{54}\)Numbers 18 (NKJV).

\(^{55}\)Exodus 25:1-9 (NKJV).

\(^{56}\)Exodus 35:5-9 (NKJV).

\(^{57}\)Acts 11:27-30 (NKJV).

\(^{58}\)Philippians 4:14-19 (NKJV).

\(^{59}\)2 Corinthians 8:7 (NKJV).

\(^{60}\)Rust and McLeish, 15.
the most effective. Setting up appointments is another effective way for raising support. Well-utilized email is another way of communicating vision with supporters. Another way is presentation in front of individuals or a group of people. Thomas H. Jeavons and Rebekah Burch Basinger say that Christian fundraisers should look beyond the organization’s needs and goals to the blessings donors will experience from their generosity. They say:

Donors are to look at the life-enriching relationship with God that can be deepened through the practice of giving, especially when that giving takes root in and expresses a person’s faith. Paul’s example shows us that when Christian fundraisers can evoke that kind of giving, then donors hearts grow bigger and, Philippians 4:18 goes on to explain, the specific need toward which the gifts are directed will be amply supplied. Giving donors real and meaningful ways to participate in the life of the organizations they support may be crucial to helping them have this kind of experience of giving.

It is important that each missions organization establish the method that works for them. They should involve the donors as much as possible so that their heart and soul are in the support of the missions work and the missionary.

The missionary or missions organization should do its homework before attempting to solicit funds from a donor or donors. There must be some cultivation before solicitation. Scott Sheldon says: “It is necessary to convince the corporate prospect that they ought to have a business interest in what you are doing and building a stronger relationship. As you study the corporation with which you have relationships, you should ask yourself what you can do that

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61 Ibid.

would give the company an advantage in what they are trying to accomplish. This can lead to large contributions.” Sheldon concludes:

Like research, cultivation must receive a high priority from the non-profit agency. A successful solicitation almost never occurs without sequential, strategic cultivation. The best cultivation involves relationship nurturing and building. Such cultivation works most effectively when the agency can develop and maintain human links between the agency and the corporate prospect. The amount of cultivation required will vary by the prospect. . . . Cultivation is the prelude to solicitation.

Betty Barnett of Youth With A Mission discusses four pillars of fundraising: friend raising, generosity, communication, and prayer with promises. Friend raising, instead of fundraising, captures support raising, broadening and promoting the richness of the relationships that God wants to build. Generosity should not always be that of others, but the recipient’s generosity towards other people. Communication is God’s design for interdependence. It is vital to the needs of missionaries. The fourth pillar, prayer with promises, denotes the missionary’s dependence upon God. Mal Warwick also says it is “Friend-raising before fundraising.” Fundraising letters are not always the best friend raising tool there is. Fundraising letters are thank you letters. However, good fundraisers will send special letters dedicated exclusively to thanking donors. They thank their donors promptly. Mal Warwick offers some pointers for effective donor acknowledgments. Donors should be reassured that it was a good idea to send a gift. It is important to reinforce their original belief that the group they are supporting is effective, caring and worthy of their support. New donors should be welcomed to the family. Their generosity

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64 Ibid., 70.


should be praised. They should be told that by joining other supporters they are having significant impact on kingdom work. Gratitude should be expressed and reaffirmed. Examples of recent organizational successes they can feel proud of should be given.⁶⁷ Thank you notes should be sent out. Thank you notes increase subsequent appeals. They increase donor loyalty and build long-term relationships with donors.⁶⁸

Short-term missionaries burning with the word of God in their hearts and holding their Bibles without the funding to go to the nations of the world will not be of any help. It is important to gain all the wisdom required to be able to raise all the money needed to go and preach the gospel. The writer could not have gone on the many short-term missions trips if he had not continued, or if he does not continue, to gain knowledge about how to raise the necessary funds needed to go and make a difference. It is important to know how to share the vision and get the provision for missions.

**Prayer in Missions**

Missions is the heart of God. Without touching the heart of God people will not have the heart for God. One reason the modern day church is lethargic is because the lack of prayer and fasting. The Lord Jesus said, “The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”⁶⁹ The church ought to be praying for the Lord to send it laborers. One of the reasons the Lord is not sending in laborers and therefore souls are not coming into His kingdom is the prayerlessness of the church. In order

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⁶⁷Ibid.

⁶⁸Ibid.

⁶⁹Matthew 9:9 (NKJV).
for more men and women to be thrust into the harvest fields of the world, His people need to pray. Andrew Murray says:

The other reason for the neglect of the command is: We believe too little in the power of prayer to bring about definite results. We do not live close enough to God to be capable of the confidence that He will answer. . . . Let us pray for a life in union with Christ, so that His compassion streams into us and His Spirit assures us that our prayer is heard. Such prayer will obtain a twofold blessing. There will first be a desire for an increase in the number of men entirely given up to the service of God. That there are times when men actually cannot be found for the service of the Master as ministers, missionaries, or teachers of God’s Word is a terrible blot upon the Church of Christ. . . . The other blessing will be equally great. Every believer is a laborer. As God’s children, we have been redeemed for service and have our work waiting. It must be our prayer that the Lord would fill all His people with the spirit of devotion, so that no one may be found standing idle in the vineyard.70

All the people that God called for His work were people who prayed. Even His Son started His call with forty days of prayer and fasting.71 Here His disciples asked, “Lord, teach us to pray.”72 He taught them, and some of them in their life time went out and did great works for God. There is power in prayer. After Jesus ascended to heaven, His disciples waited in the Upper Room for ten days and the Holy Spirit was poured on them. The Scriptures say, “They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.”73 They saw the Master pray, and it became a pattern for them to pray to the extent they kept an hour of prayer.

J. Oswald Sanders said:

Mastering the art of prayer, like any other art will take time and the amount of time we allocate to it will be the true measure of our conception of its importance. We always contrive to find time for that which we deem most important. To most, crowding duties are a reason for curtailing time spent in prayer. To busy Martin Luther, extra work was a

70Andrew Murray, With Christ in the School of Prayer (Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1981), 70.
73Mark 16:20 (NKJV).
compelling argument for spending more time in prayer. Hear his answer to an inquiry about his plans for the next day’s work: “Work, work from early till late. In fact I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer. If our view of the importance of prayer in any degree approximates that of Luther and Luther’s Lord, we will somehow make more time for it.”

Those who spend time with God in prayer become busy for God. Those who do not spend time in prayer become so busy they won’t have time to pray. No wonder there are fewer takers for the work of missions. If the church will teach and encourage people to pray they will have more people to unleash to the nations of the world.

The Hope for All Nations teams begin praying and fasting several weeks before embarking on a short-term mission. On the mission trip they take time to pray as a team and with the host families they will be staying with. As they do this, miracles happen. Many lives are changed for the glory of God.

Preparing for Missions

What compels the church for missions? Missions is grounded in the character of God, the commands of Christ, the compulsion of the Holy Spirit, and the state of the lost along with those who have not heard the gospel. God is holy and hates sin and does not want anyone to perish. Jesus says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” God has made salvation available through his Son Jesus Christ. Ken Mulholland attests, “Unless people hear and believe the Gospel, they will receive the judgment of God, which they deserve. As a holy God, He cannot

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75 John 3:16 (NKJV).
accept sinners until they have been redeemed. Missions, therefore is based on both God’s holiness and His love.”\textsuperscript{76}

Christ gave the Great Commission to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”\textsuperscript{77} “Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”\textsuperscript{78} This was not a call for everyone to be a missionary. It was a commission for everyone to be involved in discipling all nations. The Holy Spirit compelled them to share Christ and His Word: “When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”\textsuperscript{79}

The church of Christ must be enthusiastic in reaching nations for Christ. Mulholland says it plainly, “Without missions, those who sit in darkness have no opportunity of coming to the light, no alternative. Considering the present and eternal condition of unregenerate man, missions is essential and urgent . . . A local church which plans and sacrifices to invest generously in missions will significantly impact the scope of the Gospel. . . . When we let ourselves be available to God, He has a variety of means ready to involve us in world evangelization.”\textsuperscript{80}

Going on a short-term mission is one practical and quick way to be involved in the Great


\textsuperscript{77} Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV).

\textsuperscript{78} Matthew 28:20 (NKJV).

\textsuperscript{79} Acts 4:31 (NKJV).

\textsuperscript{80} Mulholland, 7.
Commission. Short-term missions work gives the opportunity to grow in faith and break down the barriers that separate God’s people of differing cultures.\textsuperscript{81}

T. W. Essex says that missions are important because Jesus Christ commanded believers to go forth and evangelize. Essex says, “Evangelism is not an optional accessory to our life. It is the heartbeat of all that we are called to be and do. . . . The second reason that missions and evangelism are important is this generation of Christians is responsible for this generation of souls on the earth. . . . A third reason missions and evangelism are important is that we must be engaged in the fight for truth.”\textsuperscript{82}

It is important to pray for those who should go on short-term missions as Jesus prayed for those who would be His disciples.\textsuperscript{83} The biggest group the writer has taken on one mission trip is fourteen people. The smallest group has been four. Larger groups pose logistic challenges. Smaller groups may deprive of travel discounts and too much work for the few. About 10 to 20 make a reasonable team.

The writer has used travel agents and consolidators to get cheaper rates for mission travel. They search the best routes and lower fares for the team. Team members should have passports which are valid to most overseas countries. Where visas are required they should be applied for ahead of time. A relevant clinic or hospital can advise for the pre-trip immunizations needed for each country being visited. Having travel insurance is also a necessity for the unexpected such as; trip cancellation, death of a love one or sickness of a team member. This will help to make changes on the itinerary easily.


\textsuperscript{83}Luke 6:12-13 (NKJV).
After making arrangements for the travel logistics it is important to prepare the team through a series of meetings. David C. Forward says that the secret to successful mission trips is preparation and training of participants. The key to preparation is in the team meetings convened in the months leading to the trip. About eight to twelve team meetings should be held. Four objectives to the team meetings should be: building morale and team camaraderie, enhancing biblical understanding of mission work, developing language skills and cultural understanding of the host community and preparing for the physical skills and logistic arrangements required for the trip.\textsuperscript{84}

One important aspect of the short-term missions trip is raising money to go on the mission. Forward suggests four common approaches to paying for the mission trip: “(1) Each individual pays for himself or herself; (2) The church mission budget pays for the entire team; (3) Scholarships are awarded based on need; (4) Some combination of the first three.”\textsuperscript{85} The sending church should be encouraged to support those going on the mission trip individually and corporately. Forward says,

\begin{quote}
When the entire church becomes involved in mission funding, the burdens are shared, but so are the rewards. When the team leaves, they will benefit from a multiplicity of prayer partners; when they return, the congregation listens with interest and pride to their report. Another method of raising mission funds is for team members to write to friends, family and other church members. Other fund-raising ideas include: banquets, dinners, talent shows, chili cook-outs, bake sales, pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners, etc.\textsuperscript{86}
\end{quote}

The team should prepare spiritually for the mission. Prayer should be regular and specific for the mission. Forward suggests, “Pray for the needs of your fellow team members, your hosts, and the people you will meet. Ask God to prepare your heart to be a servant, useful, to the

\textsuperscript{84} Essex, 17.

\textsuperscript{85} Ibid., 69.

\textsuperscript{86} Ibid., 72.
leaders and your teammates. Ask church members to pray for your spiritual development and sensitivity as you prepare for the trip."^87 Robert Munger says, “Prayer is essential to do the work of God. In fact, prayer allows God to do his work through us. It’s His way of receiving all the glory for what he accomplishes through our labor. As we see Him answer prayer, we see that he is indeed an active, living and loving God. And so does the world.”^88

There are several things to take into consideration when in the host country. Cindy Judge gives some tips on how to be a good guest. She says that one should show respect for the host by using the proper greetings and titles, especially to the eldest in the group. It is courteous to ask new acquaintances about their families. It is good to be a good observer and listener, and to ask polite questions. It is important to dress appropriately to show honor to the culture. It is necessary to act discreetly with the opposite sex. Whatever they may be, it is good to show gratitude for accommodations given. A good guest should never show temper. It is necessary to get permission to photograph people. It is important to show empathy and appreciation, and never pity, for the surroundings, and to be flexible with time.^89

Every short-term missions trip is an experience. There will always be good and bad things happen on the trip. The most important issue is that one obeyed the command of the Lord to go into all the world and preach the gospel. One will now have a story to tell his friends and family. It is good to mention the negative but not to let it overshadow the greatness of the mission trip. A report that shows the congregation what their money did is essential. A reunion of

^87Ibid., 115.


the team three or four weeks after their return is a good highlight of the mission. It will bring closure and lasting memories of the great mission accomplished.
CHAPTER V
RESPONSE TO PROJECT RESEARCH

The purpose of this project was to show that nations can be impacted by the gospel one country at a time as being experienced by the writer in his home country in Africa. This was substantiated by the study of the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul, review of the literature and interviews that were conducted with a missionary evangelist, three local church pastors and a pastor who grew up in Africa with his long-term missionary parents. All of them have been on mission trips to more than one country. The interviews were each tape recorded following an interview guide. This chapter presents the data collected from the interviews.

The five respondents are not novices with regards to short-term missions. The first respondent moved to the mission field with his parents. He came back to go to college in the states. His passion to see souls saved takes him back overseas many times each year to hold massive crusades for a short period at time. He established his short-term missions ministry independent from his parents who still serve as long-term missionaries. He preaches to multitudes and sees thousands come to Christ on each mission.

The second respondent is a pastor of a United Methodist Church in Kansas. He graduated from the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, in 2000. Upon graduation he started traveling back to his home country on short-term missions. He has gone back to his country to preach the gospel numerous times with teams and started a vocational school near his home city.

The third interviewee is the pastor of one the largest Southern Baptist Convention churches in the city of Tulsa. His church is does a lot of missions work. They have been involved
in short-term missions for over 25 years. They send mission teams to Africa and South America primarily. He himself has also participated in some of the short-term mission trips.

The fourth interviewee grew up in a missionary home. The family moved to Africa when he was very young. He came back to the United States for his college education. After graduating from college he went to Europe for a short-term mission internship and later returned to work with Teen Challenge in France for a year and a half. He later traveled with a ministry friend to 22 different countries around the world preaching the Gospel for four and half months. He became an assistant pastor for two Assembly of God churches in Oklahoma. In 1974 he started a church in the heart of Tulsa which at one time was one of the largest churches in that city. This church was heavily involved in missions. After resigning from this church he took a five year break and then planted another church in 1985 which he still pastors today. This church is engrossed with missions. It has supported many ministries within and without the church for short-term missions. On a few occasions this pastor has gone on short-term missions while pastoring.

The fifth interviewee is the pastor of an independent church in Bristow, Oklahoma. He has traveled on short-term missions to three African countries. His first short-term mission trip was to Ghana, West Africa, in 1993 while he was a seminary student. From then he developed a love for missions. His second mission trip was to Tanzania where he led a team from his church. His third trip was to Zimbabwe partnering with the researcher. Together they had a tremendous mission. His church is decorated all around with flags of different countries. He and his church have a great love for short term missions.

The first interviewee has visited fifty-two different countries around the world and preached in forty-five of them and led over a million of people to the Lord. It was his 30th
birthday wish that the Lord would use him to lead over a million souls to the Lord before he turned that age, and the Lord did it. The second has visited four African countries, and his main focus is his home country. He planted churches in the four countries he visited on short-term missions. He also started a mission school in one of them. The third has been to seven countries, and he and his church minister in several other countries. The fourth has visited and ministered in 46 countries. Before becoming a pastor and traveling for missions he lived in a few of them. The fifth respondent has gone for short-term missions to three strategic nations.

All the five different ministers have a passion for souls to come to the Lord. However, their mission emphasis is slightly different. The first interviewee’s main mission emphasis is crusade evangelism. He uses the Model of Philip the Evangelist in Acts 8. Philip preached, miracles happened, he healed the sick, baptized the believers, ministered one on one to the people and moved to another place. He does large gospel festivals, leadership conferences, literature distribution and humanitarian relief like digging wells. The second’s passion is to see the lost come to the Lord and to empower them with life skills. He started a vocational school in one of the countries he ministers.

The third interviewee’s emphasis is primarily evangelism. He does crusades among developing nations, and teaches develops leaders for those he ministers. He also does water well projects in some of the countries. They build churches for the people they win to Christ hiring some of the locals to help them. They build the church in a week and dedicate it with a big gathering where they also preach. In some of the countries they feed several hundred children. They also do dental and medical clinics taking doctors with them from their church. They also do door-to-door evangelism. They distribute water filters which they purchase in the United States.
They bring these water filters to the country where they are ministering on their short-term mission.

The fourth interviewee’s emphasis is evangelism. He and his church offer a major support role to those who are involved in short-term missions to different nations around the world. They try to work with mission groups that are on the ground and some that go frequently to the mission field. They support Bible schools, local churches, planting churches, and discipleship programs. They have helped a ministry in West Africa to plant over four hundred churches. The fifth interviewee has soul winning as their primary thrust, sharing the good news, loving people and building relationships. Preaching is the main emphasis for short-term missions.

Short-term missions are not smooth sailing and rosy. The first interviewee shared about opposition they faced from the Moslems who are about 30 percent of the population in Ethiopia. There was a lot resistance when they went there the first time. Posters were torn and announcement was slow. So attendance was low to start with, when miracles started taking place many people began coming to the meetings and attendance increased. This minister and his team try to go where no one else is going. Miracles draw family members of the healed to the Lord. The ministry passes out salvation booklets. The second respondent started one project and he is focusing on that project only even though invitations come from different parts of the country. The relationship of the team and those they visit brings encouragement to both sides. The experience expands. They feed on each other spiritually. Their team stays with the people. They stay in a hotel upon arrival to the country the first day and the last night before departure. They soon gain more experience of the culture.
The third respondent has seen many people saved. They have planted several churches in different countries where they have sent short-term missions team. They develop leaders so that the work can continue when they are gone back. They sent one of the local pastors to seminary in the host country. It is cheaper and more convenient for the pastor. He won’t have to leave the country and he already understands the culture. This interviewee’s church sends some young people for short-term missions on school breaks. About 50 to 60 young people go to Belize to preach to over 1,400 young people during school break. The experience is successful and rewarding. The fourth respondent shared about his ministry in France where he coordinated Teen Challenge France reaching young people, prostitutes and drug addicts. He was responsible for a rehabilitation center. A few years ago he visited the country of Togo where his parents had ministered greatly as long-term missionaries. His parents left the country a long time ago and both have now gone to be with the Lord. He was able to go on a short-term mission to re-enforce the work they started. The fifth respondent was struck by the hunger for the Word of God in the three countries he visited. People were coming to them instead of them going to the people: a different kind of setting. In Zimbabwe there was an element of empowerment. There were security issues in one West African country. Women on the team were more thoroughly searched than men. Praying out of enthusiasm, the men’s team was stopped from praying too noisily in the neighborhood. They went to hospitals and schools to minister. Missions gives more sometimes to the goers than the receivers.

Results of each short-term missions endeavor are different from the other. The first interviewee shared how they ministered to about 300 native evangelists on each mission trip who would take the fire of evangelism to their communities. When he started going to one communist country it only had 3 percent Christians, now there are 20 percent Christians. Last fall the
president of Honduras invited him and other evangelists for a one day country wide revival. They ministered to over 40,000 students in schools. At the crusade center where he was stationed to preach and other centers they also had over 40,000 people in attendance. They gave medical aid to many people. He was able to distribute 5,000 of his books to the people. The whole nation of Honduras heard the Word of God in one day. He partners with long-term missionaries and local pastors who continue the work. The second respondent acknowledged that the short-termers get fed with the Word just as those they minister to. It is amazing how the gospel is received differently. The third respondent was very enthused about the evangelistic results of their short-term mission efforts. Hundreds were saved in Cambodia and thousands in Brazil. He reported the deepening of their team member spirit. Installing of a pastor is a key to strengthening the work. Educating the native pastor helps to strengthen the work because they speak the language, and understand the culture. This church sends part-time missionary associates who stay for a year. The fourth interviewee shared the passion and zeal he had when he and a minister friend traveled to 22 countries preaching in churches around the world. They exhorted many churches. The fifth respondent emphasized the importance of working with the local believers. They will be strengthened and the will continue with the work. In Tanzania they trained pastor and taught the church on giving: a needed subject for many developing nations. There was a sense of empowerment in Zimbabwe where they received an annual visit. Lessons included the importance of education, business and developing a culture of giving.

The ministers who were interviewed have each at different times taken some people from their church to go for missions. The minister who went to Honduras had 100 on his team on this particular mission. There were over 2000 short-term mission visitors in Honduras during that time. There are times he has taken 2 or 3 for a gospel crusade. They would get labors over there
to help them. Overall the first interviewee has taken about 500 short-term individuals for overseas gospel festivals. The second respondent used to take a car load as he went out to preaching in the neighboring countries in Southern Africa. The smallest team he has taken to Africa from America has been four, and the largest team has been 25 short-termers. The team stays with nationals except the first and last nights of the mission. They establish relationships with the nationals, and they enjoy it. The third respondent has sent out over 300 people for short-term missions at different times. Some of his people devote to going at the same time each year. The fourth respondent took a team from the church and some family members to West Africa to the visit the places where they had ministered as children of long-term missionaries. For eight years they sponsored a team of college students to Togo, West Africa. Last year they supported 14 ministries that went on short-term missions. The fifth interviewee has had eight people travel for short-term missions from his church. At one time they traveled with a dentist.

The response from nations for short-term mission teams is overwhelming. Nations are needy. All of the respondents said that they are always welcomed in most nations of the world. One mentioned that they welcome them with open arms. Schools are open any time. They are well received in most countries. The second interviewee noted that his denomination in the country they visit are happy to see his short-term mission teams. Once in a while they run into some bureaucracy, particularly about money matters. As they minister they focus on community rather than denomination. They minister to all people. The third respondent said that they are always welcome at any time. They always bring hope and healing, so they are always welcome. The nationals are always very responsive. They do dental and medical clinics. They encourage and support education. He is supporting a little girl for her schooling. Their church is supporting over 100 children to go to school. They do things that will open doors. They provide water wells
or water filters. This opens doors to meet with government officials. He has presented a Bible to
one of the country presidents. The fourth respondent said that the short-termers bring great
courage to the people they visit. The fourth interviewee said that nations are welcoming
and they are waiting. They are hungry and waiting.

One respondent said that every believer should have a passport so they can go on mission
trips. Another respondent said that short-term missions help those who can only go for a short
time. They focus on small manageable projects which are done quicker. Partnership between
long-termers and short-termers is crucial. Long-termers do big projects: short-termers do more
projects. The third respondent said that he believes in both long-term and short-term missions.
Short-term missions provide more people with opportunities. They may be transitions to long-
term missions. Out of the 300 short-termers three have become long-term missionaries. Short-
term missions feed long-term missions. It is critical for churches to do short-term missions.
Long-term missionaries cannot do it alone. Short-term missions are a great discipleship tool. It is
an integral part of long-term missions. It is preparation for long-term mission. It has value and
brings inspiration and encouragement. Some people are called to short-term missions only. The
two work together like planting and watering. It is a great opportunity for building relationships.

Raising ministry funds is an integral part of short-term missions. Some of the common
methods of raising ministry funds are: newsletters, emails, banquets, speaking in churches or
organizations. It takes faith and daring; trusting God that He is able. The second respondent said
that the Southern Baptist Convention put their money together to send missionaries to the field
for long-term missions. They expect short-termers to raise their own money. They promote their
fund raise but do not raise the funds for them. They can do letters, dinners or any way they can
contact people. They even let them ask for money from church people. The fourth respondent
said they do annual pledges from church people and friends of the church. It is important to have a clear project, and break it into small pieces. Networking with other people or ministries in the project is very important. The fifth respondent said that it is important to share the vision with others. One should share the vision and get the provision. It takes faith to raise money for missions.

One can only go as far as prayer will take him in short-term missions. All the interviewees said that without prayer not much work can be done in missions. One said that they pray and go. They pray for the mission and for safety. Another said prayer is central. It is like oil in a car. Another said that because prayer is the key they have monthly church wide prayer meetings. The fourth respondent said that he started a 24/31 Prayer Network to encourage the church to pray for revival, missions and world crisis. The fifth respondent has flags all around his church to remind the congregation to pray for the nations of the world.
The Great Commission is still as valid as it was two thousand years ago. It has not yet been completed. Jesus gave the command to go and preach the gospel to every nation. He also charged, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”¹ The body of Christ is being challenged to take some viable steps to win the world for Christ. Short-term missions are one way to fulfill the Great Commission. Without denigrating long-term missions, short-term missions get everyone to participate. Short-term missions are a quicker way to impact nations one country at a time. Jesus impacted Galilee, Samaria, and Judea using the short-term method along with His disciples. The Apostle Paul impacted his generation using the short-term program. Through short-term missions, the writer has been instrumental in changing his home country with the Gospel. Literature and interviews authenticated the validity of short-term missions. Not everyone can go and spend their life in a foreign land as a long-term missionary but many can go on short-term missions and change many countries.

The church should unleash the body of Christ to accomplish the mandate presented to Christendom. Short-term missions partnering with long-term involvement is the solution to fulfill this mandate. The few long-term missionaries are overwhelmed with what needs to be done to complete the Great Commission. The church of Christ worldwide should participate in taking the Gospel to the ends of the world. Equipping and sending locals is important for this generation to speed up the process of fulfilling the mandate. With the advent of fast technological modes of

¹Matthew 24:14 (NKJV).
transport today short-term missions should be the means of involving more people to participate in the Great Commission.

Travel to different countries was a great eye opener to this writer. He saw the openness of each country he visited. It was testing waters for possibilities of launching out his short-term missions ministry. Even though the primary thrust was bringing souls into the kingdom of God, each country and each mission trip was different. Being at the right place at the right time is important. The writer remembers standing in front of seven thousand people for the first time to preach, and two thousand crowding to the front to pray the prayer of salvation. Soon after that the Lord re-directed his mission emphasis to go to his home country to start doing conferences: which was a different strategy. Since 2003 he has labored in the month of May and June every year in Zimbabwe. This has been a time of impartation and empowerment. Thousands of people have come to Christ through this short-term mission effort. Hundreds of people have been discipled to reach their communities for God. Every believer should pray and find his place of labor in the kingdom of God.

The interviews with pastors and a missionary evangelist substantiated the researcher’s theory that short-term missions are a viable tool to fulfilling the Great Commission. The interviewees have been involved in short-term missions for many years. Once they got started they never stopped. Some of them have been involved in short-term missions for over 25 years. Some have visited and preached the Gospel in as many as 40 countries. One of them has led over a million people to the Lord in his short-term mission gospel festivals or crusades. The main emphasis of the short-term mission trips is evangelism, even though each interviewee does additional things like digging wells, distribution of water filters, feeding people, discipleship training, medical training, church planting, etc. For each interviewee the experience has not been
easy, but has been greatly rewarding. Some have faced resistance from other faith movements. Miraculously the Lord has helped them through.

The interviewees have each taken teams with them. Hundreds from their churches or organizations have been motivated and mobilized to go on short-term missions. Many of them repeatedly go back to minister in those foreign lands. Nations are opening up to the Gospel. All of them said they are welcomed in most countries they go to. Schools are opening up around the world for the preaching of the Word of God. All interviewees attested to the fact that short-term missions are valid and as important as long-term missions. The major factor is that more people are involved, and more work is done. Each missionary, short-term or long-term, wishes he did not have to raise money for missions: they would just prefer to go and make a difference. For most missionaries that is not the case. They have to raise the money to go to. That is the first test of faith for going on missions. God always proves that where He calls He provides. All the interviewees agreed that prayer is the key to success in missions. To be effective, short-term or long term missionaries should pray and enlist prayer from friends and family.

What happens in one country can be contextualized in another. Methods may differ in each country but the Message remains the same. What the researcher has done in Zimbabwe can be done in other countries. As a matter of fact other countries are calling his ministry to come and do what they have done in Zimbabwe to be done in South Africa, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, etc. Short-term missions are important. It is a viable tool that can be used to reach a generation for Christ.

The researcher recommends that churches mobilize members of their congregations to go for short-term missions. There should be more emphasis in churches on reaching the nations for Christ. Pastors should take the lead. Every pastor should at least take a mission trip overseas at
least once a year. The church should unleash its members and send them to needy countries of
the world to preach the Gospel. They should help fund short-term missionaries as they do long-
term missionaries. If short-term missions are as viable as long-term missions then funding them
is not optional. Every believer should be involved in going or supporting missions. The short-
term mission strategy was used by Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul. It is still a valid strategy to
accelerate the Great Commission.
## APPENDIX A

### APPROXIMATE CHRONOLOGY OF PAUL’S LIFE AND MINISTRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 5-10</td>
<td>Saul is born in Tarsus (Acts 22:3).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 15</td>
<td>Saul moves to Jerusalem where he is brought up and trained by Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 30</td>
<td>Pilate crucifies Jesus in Jerusalem (Mark 14-16).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 31-34</td>
<td>Saul persecutes the Way in Jerusalem and surrounding regions (Gal. 1:13-14; Acts 7:58–8:3; 22:4). At Stephen’s stoning, Saul is said to be a “young man” (Acts 7:78), likely in his twenties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 34</td>
<td>The risen Jesus appears to Saul on the Damascus road (Acts 9:1-19; Gal 1:16); Ananias baptizes and instructs Saul in Damascus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 34-37</td>
<td>Saul preaches in Arabia and Damascus (Gal. 1:17; Acts 9:19-22).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 37</td>
<td>Saul escapes from Damascus during the reign of Aretas IV of Nabatea (2 Cor. 11:32-33; Acts 9:23-25). He “goes up” to Jerusalem (“after three years” Gal. 1:18) to visit Cephas (Peter) for fifteen days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 47</td>
<td>Barnabas locates Saul in Tarsus and brings him to Antioch (Acts 11:25-26); they meet and teach the church for a “whole year.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 48</td>
<td>Saul’s second visit to Jerusalem (“after fourteen years” Gal. 2:1-10) with Barnabas and Titus; they hold a private meeting among the leadership (“the pillars”); the Jerusalem leaders affirm Paul’s gospel and recognize his apostolic call to the Gentiles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 48-49</td>
<td>Paul and Barnabas travel to Cyprus and southern Galatia with the gospel (Acts 13-14). This is called the First Missionary Journey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 49</td>
<td>Paul arrives in Antioch. It is reported that Judaizers were troubling the Galatians, persuading them to be circumcised. Paul responds with a fiery letter (Galatians), rebuking them for abandoning the gospel so quickly (Gal 1:6). The church at Antioch sends Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem because Pharisaic Christians were insisting that Gentile believers had to be circumcised and to observe Torah to be “saved.” The Jerusalem Conference convenes to decide the matter (Acts 15).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 50-52</td>
<td>Paul and Silas revisit the Galatian churches and establish churches in Macedonia and Achaia (Acts 15:36-18:21); 1 Thess. 2:2; 3:1-5; Phil. 4:15-16). Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth after Claudius had expelled the Jews from Rome (A.D. 49). He remains in Corinth for eighteen months. He writes 1 Thessalonians from Achaia after commending their faithfulness (1 Thess. 1:7-8) and writes 2 Thessalonians soon after.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event(s)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 53-56</td>
<td>Paul revisits churches and has a lengthy stay of more than two years and three months in Ephesus (Acts 18:23–19:41; A.D. 53-55). During this time he writes several letters to the Corinthians and makes two visits. He writes 1 Corinthians from Ephesus (1 Cor. 2:1). He makes a “painful visit” to Corinth from Ephesus (2 Cor. 2:1). He writes 2 Corinthians from Macedonia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 56</td>
<td>Paul works in Greece for three months (Acts 20:1-6). He writes Romans from Corinth (Rom. 15:25-27; 1 Cor. 16:3-5 and Acts 20:2-3) and then heads back to Antioch. End of Third Missionary Journey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 57</td>
<td>Paul travels to Jerusalem “to take aid to the saints” (Rom. 15:25; 2 Cor. 8-9).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 57-59</td>
<td>Paul is arrested and imprisoned in Jerusalem initially; then he is moved to Caesarea where he remains two years. Felix and Agrippa hear Paul’s defense. Eventually a new governor is installed and the apostle appeals to Rome Acts 21:27–26:32.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 62?</td>
<td>Paul is released from Roman imprisonment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 62-64</td>
<td>Paul travels to the limits of the west (perhaps Spain); other missionary travels cannot be ruled out. He writes Titus and 1 Timothy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 64</td>
<td>A catastrophic fire in Rome (July 64) precipitates increased persecutions of Christians under Nero.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 65</td>
<td>Paul is arrested and imprisoned a second time. He writes 2 Timothy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 66-68</td>
<td>Paul is executed (by beheading) during Nero’s reign.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Capes, Reeves, and Richards, 98-101.
## APPENDIX B

### SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time and Place(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>10 days in Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>3 weeks in Israel, Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>4 weeks in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>3 weeks in Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>5 weeks in Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>4 weeks in Zimbabwe, Swaziland, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2 weeks in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2 weeks in Kenya, Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3 weeks in Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>10 days in Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3 weeks in Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2 weeks in Togo and Benin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2014</td>
<td>3 to 4 weeks on Zimbabwe Mission trips</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Hope for All Nations Ministries International.
APPENDIX C

INTERVIEW CONSENT LETTER

EDWELL NHIRA
P. O. Box 722
Jenks, OK 74037, USA

January 24, 2014

Dear Pastor/Missions Leader/Missions Director:

Re: Request for an Interview

I am a Doctor of Ministry degree candidate at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary working on my thesis project on: Short-Term Missions: How to Impact Nations One Country at a Time. Your church/organization has been successful in short-term missions; I would like to hear about how you have succeeded in changing the nations you have reached with the gospel of Christ. I am asking to interview you on ten questions concerning your mission experience. The interview should take about 30 to 40 minutes.

Your participation will be a great help for my studies and will also enhance the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Thank you for your response.

Yours sincerely

Edwell Nhira, D.Min. (Candidate)
APPENDIX D

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

1. How long have you been involved in missions?

Responses:

1.1 Got involved in short-term missions in 1988
1.2 Exposed to missions early in life
1.3 Went to a charismatic college, ORU
1.4 Jumped into missions right after graduating from college

2.1 Started in 2000 after finishing D.Min. from SMU
2.2 Involved in Evangelism by apprenticeship
2.3 Worked with Bishop Muzorewa of the UMC in Zimbabwe 1988-1991
2.4 Pastored in Tafara, Zimbabwe, from 1980 to 1988

3.1 We do a lot of short-term missions
3.2 Been involved for 25 years
3.3 Work in Africa and South America

4.1 Grew up in missionary family with missionary parents
4.2 Pastored 2 churches and on staff on 2 all involved with missions
4.3 Short-term missionary in France for 1½ years
4.4 Traveled with a friend 4½ months around the world
4.5 Went to France 1967 as an intern 1969 and 1970
4.6 Started Christian Chapel a mission minded church in 1974
4.7 Started Harvest Church in Aug 1985 after 5 years after leaving Christian Chapel
4.8 My father would take us to Africa through Europe

5.1 My first short-term mission was in 1993 to Ghana, West Africa
5.2 I developed the love for missions from then on
5.3 Mission was with ORU missions
5.4 First ORU African American missions trip team
5.5 My second mission trip was to Tanzania
5.6 I led a team from my church
5.7 Third trip was to Zimbabwe in 2012
5.8 Joshua has made 2 trips: Tanzania and Zimbabwe
2. How many countries have you visited and which are they?

Responses:

1.1 Have visited 52 countries
1.2 Preached in 45

2.1 Have visited four countries
2.2 Preached in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi
2.3 Have started churches in these countries
2.4 We started a mission school in Botswana like those in Murehwa, Mutambara, Nyadire in Zimbabwe

3.1 Have visited over 7 countries
3.2 Some of them are; Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Cambodia, Brazil, Nicaragua, Guatemala

4.1 Have visited 46 countries
4.2 Examples: Niger, Nigeria, Angola, Mali, Spain, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Wales, Yugoslavia, Denmark

5.1 Visited 3 countries
5.2 These are: Ghana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe

3. What is your missions emphasis?

Responses:

1.1 Evangelism
1.2 Model Philip the evangelist Acts 8
1.3 He preached and miracles happened
1.4 He baptized, healed the sick
1.5 He ministered one on one
1.6 We do large gospel festivals, leadership conferences, literature distribution, humanitarian relief like digging a well

2.1 We are holistic like Jesus who began in the community identifying with the needs of the people
2.2 We try to meet the political, educational, social needs of the people
2.3 Evangelism, humanitarian, educational
2.4 We talked with Acting Chief Eddie Mubaya of Zimunya about building a vocational Center at Zimunya Skills Center
2.5 We give graduates a starters’ kit so they can go and practice and implement what they learned
2.6 The unemployment rate at the time was 75% and is now 80%
2.7 Mubayana came to America a few years later and helped to raise funds for the center

2.8 We encourage farmers to do gardening

3.1 Evangelism is primary

3.2 Tanzania—taught pastors in seminary in Arusha crusades to the Masai people

3.3 Cambodia—we did water projects

3.4 As people gathered we preached to them

3.5 Brazil—building churches in a week

3.6 We hire Brazilians to help build

3.7 We also do door to door evangelism

3.8 We dedicate with a big gathering

3.9 Guatemala—feeding 600 children week

3.10 Do dental clinic

3.11 Distribute water filters purchased in the states

3.12 Take medical doctors from churches

3.13 We send 3 teams a year of 25 to 30 people

3.14 We sent 75 to Guatemala

4.1 Working with ministries on the ground

4.2 We try to work with something that is on the ground

4.3 Evangelism

4.4 Bible schools

4.5 Local church

4.6 Media

4.7 Church planting

4.8 We have helped to build churches among the 444 villages that have been opened built since 1998

4.9 Funding outreaches

4.10 Discipleship

4.11 2013 we supported missions to 14 countries

4.12 Evangelism is our broader emphasis

5.1 To win souls is our primary thrust

5.2 To share the good news

5.3 Love the people

5.4 It is important to be in agreement with team and leader

5.5 Connect with ministries

5.6 In Ghana we ministered in 5 cities: we did plays, preaching

5.7 We went to the slave castles

5.8 We sang, preached, and laid hands on people

5.9 Prayed for those who wanted to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit

5.10 We stayed in homes and ate indigenous food

5.11 In Tanzania we went to 3 places and preached and taught the Word of God

5.12 Saw sacrifices, taught, preached and prayed for the people
4. What has your experience been in each country?

Responses:

1.1 In Ethiopia we faced a large Moslem population of over 30%
1.2 There was much resistance: posters torn, announcements slow, only 5,000 came
1.3 Miracles began taking place, crowds started coming to the meetings
1.4 Attendance came to about 55,000
1.5 Blind eyes opened, cripples working
1.6 The saved and healed connecting with the church
1.7 Endeavor to go where not many people are going
1.8 Miracles bring family members of the healed coming to the Lord
1.9 Passed salvation booklets, an apology for preaching Christ and how He heals in Indonesia

2.1 This is the first project for this participant
2.2 We are invited to different places in Zimbabwe
2.3 The team and people get help
2.4 Experience from the visiting teams and visited expand
2.5 Both feed each other spiritually
2.6 Taught to depend on God
2.7 Stay with the people most of the time
2.8 Stay in a hotel upon arrival first day and last day, day before departure
2.9 Gain more from the experience

3.1 We have seen many people saved
3.2 We have planted churches
3.3 Developed a leader, Gabriel, who is our point man in Santa Maria Dehesue among the Cachi
3.4 Sent him to seminary
3.5 Plant churches and disciple pastor to lead after teams leave
3.6 Over 50-60 of our young people go to Belize over school breaks to preach to over 1400 young people

4.1 The experience has been successful and rewarding
4.2 Coordinated Teen Challenge in France reaching young people, prostitutes and drug addicts
4.3 Responsible for a rehabilitation center
4.4 Participated in grading papers for International Correspondence Institute with 5,000 students then, now Global University
4.5 Father was president of a Bible school in Nigeria
4.6 Started first Assemblies of God church in Senegal which is 95% Moslem
4.7 There are 12 churches in Dakar
4.8 Started A/G churches in Lome, Togo, now there 67 churches in Lome
4.9 Lived longest in Bassar Togo
5.1 Struck by the hunger for the Word in all the places
5.2 Uniqueness of Zimbabwe was going to three places and ministering in different settings
5.3 People were coming to us where we were preaching
5.4 In Zimbabwe there was the element of empowerment
5.5 In Ghana there were security issues: women searched more thoroughly than men
5.6 They had to take off clothes, and had purse stolen
5.7 Prayed a lot, but stopped by hosts for too much noise in the neighborhood
5.8 Missions give more sometimes to the goers than the receivers
5.9 Went into hospitals, schools to minister
5.10 Planted a tree in one of the schools

5. What were the results of each mission endeavor?

Responses:

1.1 Multiplication process as about 300 evangelists are ministered to on each trip
1.2 Evangelist fired up and go to their communities on fire to preach Christ
1.3 Ethiopia is a communist country which killed Christians
1.4 Now over 20% Christian was just 3% Christian
1.5 Invited to Honduras by the country’s president
1.6 Had set a day of revival
1.7 All schools visited: 40,000 people ministered to in schools
1.8 In one of the many crusade stations spoke to a crowd of 40,000 people
1.9 Medical aid given to the people
1.10 Gave 5,000 books out to the people
1.11 Whole nation heard the gospel in one day
1.12 We help long-term missionaries
1.13 Partner with local churches which stay to continue to minister to the people when short-termers are gone

2.1 The team feeds just as the people we minister
2.2 Gospel received and experienced differently
2.3 Social gospel in Malawi and South Africa: gospel of grace more like the Corinthians

3.1 Evangelistic results: 100s saved in Cambodia and 1000s saved in Brazil
3.2 There is a deepening of team member spirit
3.3 Installing of pastor strengthens the work
3.4 Educate the pastors: helps more because they speak the language of the people
3.5 Pastor Mario has dual citizenship—he has vision for working with children
3.6 Part-time missionaries also help
3.7 Missionary associates stay for a year

4.1 Emphasized church planting and raising up leaders
4.2 On one mission went to 22 countries with a friend preaching
4.3 Ministered in local churches
4.4 Worked with the gypsies
4.5 Great experience
4.6 One weakness of short-term missions is not enough training
4.7 Helps and encourages the people
4.8 Planning is very important
4.9 Evangelism and soul winning thrust

5.1 Connecting with local churches is very important
5.2 Gain idea of being on the mission
5.3 Learned how to adapt to the people and culture
5.4 On a mission trip you are as strong as your weakest link
5.5 In Ghana we spent time praying together and reconciled quickly
5.6 In Tanzania, we educated pastors: teaching the word, tithing
5.7 In Zimbabwe they were receiving an annual visit
5.8 Empowering and educating people
5.9 Education, business, industries
5.10 Developing a culture of giving

6. How many people in your church or organization have participated in short-term missions?

Responses:

1.1 On the recent Honduras mission there were 100 on the King team
1.2 2,000 people from America came for this Honduras mission
1.3 Sometimes take 2-3 people
1.4 Getting ready to go to India with 6 people
1.5 Have taken over 500 people for short-term missions

2.1 Started with a car load of people then went into vans and then mini-bus
2.2 Some wanted to go to South Africa for shopping
2.3 Our business is to present the gospel; people are changed in the process
2.4 Our smallest USA team has been 4, largest 25
2.5 We stay in hotels 2 nights: first and last
2.6 Teams stay with the nationals
2.7 Teams have appreciated staying with host families than staying in hotels
2.8 One mission we stayed in a lodge
2.9 We establish relationships with those we stay with

3.1 Our church has sent about 300 people
3.2 Some devote to going same time each year

4.1 Six and half years at Christian Chapel
4.2 Gave over $200,000 each year for missions
4.3 For a number of years involved with 8 ORU short-term missions teams to Togo
4.4 Some members of the church going to Togo this year
4.5 And someone going to Paraguay
4.6 This small church has given over $800,000 for missions

5.1 We have had about 8 people from our church go on a mission trip
5.2 A dentist has travelled with us

7. What has been the response of the nations visited for missions?

Responses:

1.1 Most nations welcome us with open arms
1.2 Schools are very happy to see us come
1.3 Well received in most countries

2.1 Our denomination is appreciative of our short-term missions program
2.2 Once in while we run into bureaucracy, especially with regards to money
2.3 We focus on community rather than denomination: we minister to all

3.1 The nations visited have been very responsive
3.2 We sometimes do dental clinics
3.3 Encourage education and support students
3.4 Support a little girl for school
3.5 Over 100 children are supported to go to school
3.6 We do things that will open doors
3.7 As we provide water we meet civic leaders before digging wells or doing other humanitarian acts
3.8 Meet a lot of dignitaries
3.9 Gave a Bible to a president of one country

4.1 Lack of communication caused trouble
4.2 Bring great encouragement to the people

5.1 Nations are very welcoming
5.2 They are waiting
5.3 When you arrive they are waiting for you to return
5.4 Hunger for the things of God—young man read a book all night which he was not going to have again

8. What is your comparison of short-term missions and long-term missions?

Responses:

1.1 Short-term missions is like dating
1.2 Long-term is like marriage
1.3 Every believer should have a passport to go for missions

2.1 Short-term missions help those who can only go for a short time
2.2 Focus on small manageable projects
2.3 Specific projects get done quicker
2.4 Long-termers are needed
2.5 More support given to long-termers
2.6 The partnership of the two is very important
2.7 Experiencing national missionaries
2.8 Trust comes in here also; long-term missionaries trusted more
2.9 More support where there are long-termers
2.10 Have 2 missionaries from Africa: one Zimbabwean in Liberia and one in the Philippines
2.11 Short-termers do more projects

3.1 Believe in both long-term and short-term
3.2 Short-term missions give a lot of people opportunities
3.3 Transitions to long-term missions
3.4 One couple now ten years on the field who started as short-termer
3.5 Two young ladies started out as longer-term, now in Belize and Guatemala
3.6 Short-term feeds long-term
3.7 Out of 300, three have become long-term missionaries
3.8 It is critical for churches to do short-term: all long-term missionaries can’t do it alone
3.9 Short-term missions is also a great discipleship tool

4.1 Short-term missions is a part of long-term missions
4.2 Short-term preparation for long-term mission
4.3 Short-term missions has value and brings inspiration and encouragement
4.4 Some are called to short-term only
4.5 Missions brings a broad picture
4.6 It is good to connect to something that is legitimate
4.7 Brings encouragement

5.1 The two work together like planting and watering
5.2 Great opportunity for relationships
5.3 Friends from seminary are now making their field a home

9. What methods do you use to raise money for your short-term missions efforts?

Responses:

1.1 Done many things
1.2 Newsletters, emails, banquets, speaking
1.3 It takes faith and trusting
2.1 Our ministry organizes our projects: Compassionate Consultation Independent which started in 2001
2.2 Through the ministry speaking engagements are set up for us to speak in churches and Rotarians

3.1 Southern Baptist Convention put their money together to send missionaries to the field
3.2 We expect short-termers to raise their own money
3.3 They must be approved
3.4 We promote their fundraisers but do not raise it for them
3.5 Methods are: letters, dinners, any way they can contact people
3.6 We let them ask money from church people

4.1 We do annual pledges
4.2 We also do; banquets, dinners, and internet
4.3 It is important to have a clear project, break it up in pieces
4.4 Networking with other people on the project: other ministries

5.1 The problem is not a money problem, it is an idea problem
5.2 Share the vision and get the provision
5.3 The hindrance is pride
5.4 Walk in faith
5.5 If He is calling, He will provide
5.6 God will speak to people to help
5.7 Other ways to raise money: banquets and partners

10. How much involvement is prayer in your organization with regards to missions?

Responses:

1.1 We pray and go
1.2 We pray for safety

2.1 Prayer is like the oil in a car
2.2 Prayer is central

3.1 We have monthly church wide prayer meetings
3.2 Have Wednesday publication list—pray for missions
3.3 Prayer is key
3.3 As they go they pray

4.1 Prayer is very important
4.2 It is an important ingredient
4.3 We started the 24/31 Prayer network for the purpose of praying for revival and missions and world crisis
5.1 Nations became a part of my first trip
5.2 Our church has different country flags to remind us to pray for nations
5.3 We pray for nations and missionaries
5.4 We bring in missionaries to speak and update us for the purpose of prayer
5.5 Give people Jesus Christ and empower them to live: prayer does it
Dear Pastor/Missions Director/Missions Leader

Thank you very much for the opportunity you allowed me to interview you with regards to short-term missions. Your contribution was a great blessing to my thesis project on *Short-Term Missions: How to Impact Nations One Country at a Time*.

Again thank you and God bless you.

Yours sincerely

Edwell Nhira, D.Min. (Candidate)
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Introduction

It has been about two thousand years since the Great Commission was given. The spreading of the Gospel has been going on steadily. Long-term missionaries have sacrificed their lives and done the best they could to spread the Gospel wherever they could. To move to the next level another strategy should be implemented in order to accelerate the spreading of the Gospel. The short-term mission movement has emerged to spearhead the spreading of the Gospel to the ends of the world. Rightly so, this movement is the strategy that the Lord Jesus and the apostles used back in the early days. The movement is still valid today as it was then.

This manual helps those who are preparing to go for short-term missions and their senders. All believers are to all participate in the Great Commission. There is no valid excuse for anyone not to participate. Believers are called to go or to send those who can go. Meaningful relationships are being built between sending churches and receiving ones. As the Lord instructed, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matt 24:14). ¹ Thank you for answering the call to missions.

Preparing for Short-Term Mission

Doing the homework before launching on a short-term mission is crucial to the success of the mission. There are four areas to prepare when planning to go for missions: the heart, the

¹Unless otherwise indicated all Bible references in this document are to the New King James Version Bible (NKJV).
hands, the head, and the feet. It all begins with the heart. It begins with time alone with God.

Before going on a short-term mission it is important to have heard from God. Bible study, meditation on the Scriptures, prayer, and Scripture memorization are important before stepping out. This will build faith in the believer. It is necessary to prepare or sharpen some specific skills before going. Learning a few specifics about what the mission will be about is important. Preparing in the area one will be involved is important. It is necessary to start being involved in the area of ministry one feels called to.² It is helpful to read and find all the information about the mission to be embarked on: asking people from the culture one is getting ready to visit. It will be necessary to look for, pray, recruit and train others to join this exciting journey, and “allow them to give you counsel and encouragement in raising the prayer and financial support necessary to make this short-term a life-changing experience for everyone involved.”³ Careful preparation will increase the value of the cross cultural experience.

To be effective, ten days should be a minimum for international trips. This gives time to get there and recover from time travel, then do something worthwhile and build relationships before returning home. The decision should be made as to be a part of team or go solo and how much the trip will cost.⁴ The readiness to embark on a short-term mission is crucial in the success of the mission.


³Ibid., 98.

Raising Support

After having made the decision to go on a short-term mission, the next decision is how it is going to be paid for. David C. Forward suggests four common approaches of several ways to pay for a mission trip:

1. Each individual pays for himself or herself. This is easy to administer. It also avoids criticism and unsolicited words of wisdom from the congregation, because no church money is being used.
2. The church mission budget pays for the entire team. No one will be denied from participating based on his or her personal financial ability. Church and team leaders may feel they can exert more control over the team’s activities.
3. Scholarships are awarded based on need. This method allows those who are willing and able to pay for themselves to do so, while providing the financial assistance to permit other worthy participants with the means to join the team.
4. Some combination of the first three.5

Paul Borthwick the following suggestions for short-termers who need funding for their mission venture:

1. Plan ahead. Save your own money, even if it covers only a portion of the costs. Your church will be more willing to assist you if they know you are putting your own money into the project.
2. Communicate with others. If your church offers financial support for short-term mission, begin writing to the mission committee as soon as possible. They are more likely to favor your trip if you have included them in your plans from the beginning—rather than informing them only weeks before you depart.
3. Don’t be afraid to ask. If you know God has directed you on this short-term mission, it’s His job to provide the money. You can be confident in asking others for their support. Think of them as fellow coworkers—rather than thinking of yourself as a beggar.
4. Be creative. Initiate fundraisers. Find other creative ways to involve people in your support—perhaps a scholarship that funds cross-cultural education or some type of benevolent service.
5. Report back. Send a postcard to each of your supporters when you arrive at your destination. Follow this as soon as possible with a prayer letter. Include the people

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who support you. Let them know their role as partners extends beyond the financial giving to the service ahead.⁶

Here are some fund-raising ideas:

1. Car wash
2. Buy a brick
3. Dinner a la Heart
4. Talent show
5. Circus
6. Church-wide yard sale
7. Amusement fair
8. Trivial Pursuit marathon
9. Pancake breakfast
10. Road rally
11. Spaghetti dinner
12. Mystery trip
13. Treasure hunt
14. Chili cook-out
15. Bake sale
16. Gift-wrap table at mall or large store
17. Craft fair
18. Baby-sitting
19. Square dance
20. Auction of donated goods and services⁷

Types of Short-Term Mission Trips

Here are a few types of short-term trips:

1. Learning trips—These help people learn something about the needs of the world.
2. Try Us Out Trips—For those who want to think through God’s call to service up close to the missionary-in-action.
3. Construction Trips—Some groups often organize their entire trip around construction of a school, church or orphanage.
5. Medical and Dental Trips—Members of the healing vocations often take a few weeks a year to offer their services to clinics and hospitals. Duties range from


⁷Forward, 73.
drilling teeth to providing eyeglasses to delivering babies to teaching seminars on health.

6. Teaching Trips—Many countries welcome teachers who can give a few months, a year, or more—usually to Teach English as a Second Language.

7. Discipleship Trips—These jumpstart members of spiritual walks. Members come home looking for ways to be more involved in ministry.

8. Justice Trips—Those who go on these work with national Christians who are calling their own governments to accountability.

9. Event Trips—Organizations like Youth With A Mission and Operation Mobilization sponsor trips to coincide with national or global events such as the Olympics. Thousands of Christians are invited to make a time-specific commitment to street evangelism.

10. Unreached Peoples Trips—Some agencies sponsor research trips to unreached peoples—regions of the world where the Gospel has had little impact.

The Importance of Prayer

Prayer should be a priority in the life of short-termers. They should start praying way before going on the mission so that by the time they reach the field prayer should be as natural as breathing. Paul says, “Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power” (2 Thess 1:11). They should write friends emphasizing the need for prayer. They should engage their church in praying for them. A commissioning service should be held for the team the Sunday before they leave.

Travel Arrangements

Short-termers going overseas by air have for options for travel arrangements:

1. Travel agent: A good travel agent is a great resource. They will to find reasonable fares.
2. Airline: Short-termers can call the airlines directly.

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3. Consolidator: They offer great prices, often as much as 50 percent off the fares.\(^\text{10}\)

Time line for travel arrangements:

- Nine to twelve months before leaving short-termers should decide where they are going and how they are going there.
- Six to nine months before departure they should figure ground transportation and housing costs.
- Three to four months before leaving they should finalize ground transportation and housing arrangements.
- Sixty days before departure they should submit visa applications where applicable.
- Thirty days before leaving they should reconfirm flight schedule and flight numbers.\(^\text{11}\)

**Getting Ready for the New Culture**

It is important to respect cultural differences. Short-termers should know the cultural rules of their destination. Learning to speak their language will help to connect with the people.\(^\text{12}\)

Here are a few practical tips on being a good guest in a cross-cultural situation:

1. Show respect for your host by using the proper greetings and titles, especially to the eldest in the group.
2. Ask your new acquaintances about their families.
3. Be a good observer and listener, and ask polite questions.
4. Dress appropriately to show honor to the culture.
5. Act very discreetly with the opposite sex.
6. Always show gratitude for your accommodations and food, whatever they may be.
7. Never show your temper.
8. Be sure you get permission to photograph someone.
9. Show empathy and appreciation, not pity, for the surroundings.

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\(^{10}\)Forward, 95.


\(^{12}\)Forward, 131.
10. Be flexible with your time.\textsuperscript{13}

**On the Mission Field**

Here are a few tips for while the short-termers are over there. They should bring some Pepto-Bismol, pain relievers, sunscreen and insect repellent. They should watch their diet, and avoid overeating. Before they drink they should find out how safe the water is to drink. Those who work outside should drink plenty of water. It is a good idea to bring a basic first-aid kit. To avoid lost or misrouted bags, they should ensure the traveler’s name and address appears on the outside and inside of each checked bag. They should verify after check-in that the agent has given them the right number of claim tags for the bag checked, and that each shows the correct destination. Passports should be photocopied before leaving for the trip. Team members should sign a covenant and release of claim form in which they agree to certain behavior and act in the team’s interest. Regular team meetings and prayer should continue to be held on the field.\textsuperscript{14}

**Debriefing**

It is important for the team to have a debriefing meeting upon return. This could be held upon arrival back in their country on the day they arrive or a few days after.

**Conclusion**

Well planned and prepared, a short-term mission trip can be a great experience. Where God sends He provides. Most short-termers will always want to go back or even for a long-term venture. Praying before the trip and after will make people sensitive to what God wants to do

\textsuperscript{13}Cindy Judge, \textit{Before You Pack Your Bag, Prepare Your Heart: Short-Term Mission Preparation Guide} (Minneapolis: Campfire Resources, 2000), 22.

\textsuperscript{14}Forward, 161.
with their lives. Designing good travel arrangements will help travelers to be good stewards of God’s money and make the trips safer and enjoyable. It is important to study and understand the culture of the people one will be working with. Short-termers can be a source of strength to long-term missionaries and the local believers. Short-term missions is a viable strategy to fulfill the Great Commission. Jesus and the apostle Paul used it and it is still viable especially with the advent of technology and faster modes of travel.


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Edwell Nhira
IRB Approval 1795.021814: Short-Term Missions: How to Impact Nations One Country at a Time

Dear Edwell,

We are pleased to inform you that your above study has been approved by the Liberty IRB. This approval is extended to you for one year. If data collection proceeds past one year, or if you make changes in the methodology as it pertains to human subjects, you must submit an appropriate update form to the IRB. The forms for these cases were attached to your approval email.

Please retain this letter for your records. Also, if you are conducting research as part of the requirements for a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation, this approval letter should be included as an appendix to your completed thesis or dissertation.

Thank you for your cooperation with the IRB, and we wish you well with your research project.

Sincerely,

Fernando Garzon, Psy.D.
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