



MOBILISING - MENTORING - TRAINING

This Edition: *The link between the Church & Missions*



'Global missions is primarily the job of every local church.' - David Platt

'The mission of the Church is missions.' - Oswald J. Smith

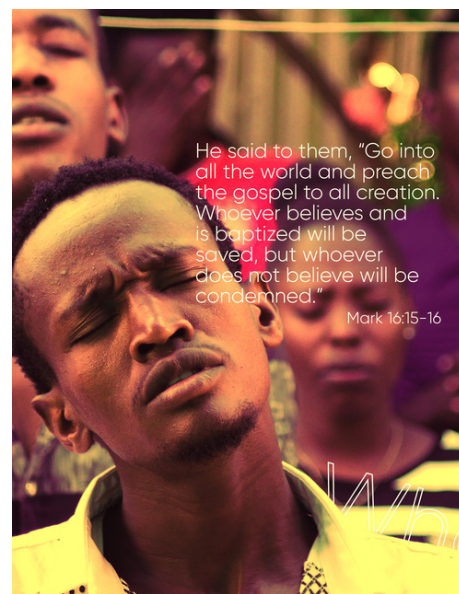
'Jesus lived a life to reach the unreached, and thus this is the core aim of every believer.' - Clinton

Churches' critical role in missions

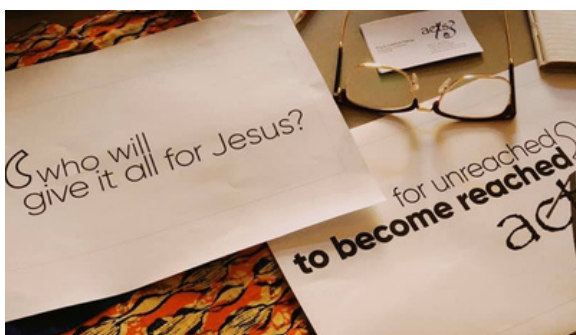
Missions depends on a functioning local and global Church to be truly fruitful and impacting. The deep desire of ACTS13 Africa is found in the book of Acts, chapter 13. We see the Holy Spirit, working through ordinary people within the church, spreading the Gospel cross-culturally. This is also a model for the African Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, two men (Paul and Barnabas) were set apart for missionary service. **The church, in obedience and faith, laid their hands on them and sent them out.**

Therefore, the primary focus of ACTS13/WEC is to partner with the Church in Africa in the sending out of their missionaries. The involvement of the local church in sending is paramount in the success of a cross-cultural worker.

It's never just the missionary on the field alone living out the Great Commission. Behind every missionary, there is an umbrella of support from church, family and individuals. **This umbrella of support is critical!**



In nearly every corner of the globe there is a church, but this doesn't always mean that it is a missional church. Many candidates inquiring about serving with WEC have robust discussions about their church's commitment to global missions. Mission agencies see this connection as vital. **So, what are some of the characteristics of missional churches?**



They believe that all people need to hear the Gospel.

'The Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20 is our charge, our call, and our task.' - Evelyn Mensah

The leadership has a heart for the Unreached Nations.

This core passion translates into a DNA of missions in the life and activity of the church.

Growth in the church is not just measured by numbers 'in' but also numbers 'out'.

How many are being sent out from the church? Leadership is not afraid to send out members for the sake of the expansion of the Gospel.

Messages from the pulpit commonly encourage people to find their role, and to live out the commands of God. People are encouraged to use their God given talents and skills for greater good.

Regular mission awareness in the life of the church takes place: Missional Church - God's passion, our purpose! Dedicated time to share about the needs of others around the world.

Opportunities are given to people for being involved in local & global missions. Church is connected to mission agencies and organisations where service is possible.

Budget & Finances are set aside for missions activities.

Money used that won't benefit the local church directly but will have impact on the kingdom of God.

Opportunities are given for individual growth by active participation in training, resourcing & practicing. Mentoring and member care are seen as a priority that is made available.



There are many more characteristics of a missional church but it is important to note that the church in all areas exists by mission, and therefore the church has the responsibility of mission. This means the current generation must know the history of how the gospel came to them and believe that **"global and local missions is every local church's reason for existence"**. The most that an individual can do is express their willingness, then the church helps determine their capacity to go.

"In every city there should be pastors who lead their people to make disciples where they live, work, and play, who impress upon their people the need to be involved in local ministry, and even lead some of their people to set aside the comforts of suburbia for the harsh realities of difficult places in their own cities for the sake of the gospel. Local mission is totally necessary. Not to the Detriment of Global Missions at the same time, global missions is tragically neglected." - David Platt

No matter the church's size, leaders are capable of developing people to be cross-cultural missionaries. (Nathan Garth)



Without my local church I would not be here today serving as a missionary in Ghana! When I was 14 years old, I shared with my church the desire of my heart for missions. Instead of shrugging me off, my church started a 14 year journey with me, encouraging, believing and journeying with me before I even headed to the field. When the time came for me to go, the church was ready with prayer, resources and finances, yet most importantly, they were ready to send me. Therefore, I see the vital importance of the local church in missions. (Peter H - ACTS13)

The Antioch church in the book of Acts is often pointed to as the model for us all. Antioch was filled with believers who were fully engaged in God's mission. **The question is, how can we all be like this?**



Try our Prayer App ?

acts13media@acts13africa.org
for more info. (Android phones)

- **Please pray for all our ACTS13 teams that they will have opportunities to share with the local church the importance of building a mission culture - A mission DNA!**
- **Please pray for some of the individual contacts that ACTS13 has. These individuals have a passion for missions, yet getting the local church on board is a challenge for them.**

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to pray for 'Unreached
People Groups'?**

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"The church was God's idea. It is his one and only organizational plan for world missions. Most of all, it is his Son's beloved, blood-bought bride." - Andy Johnson