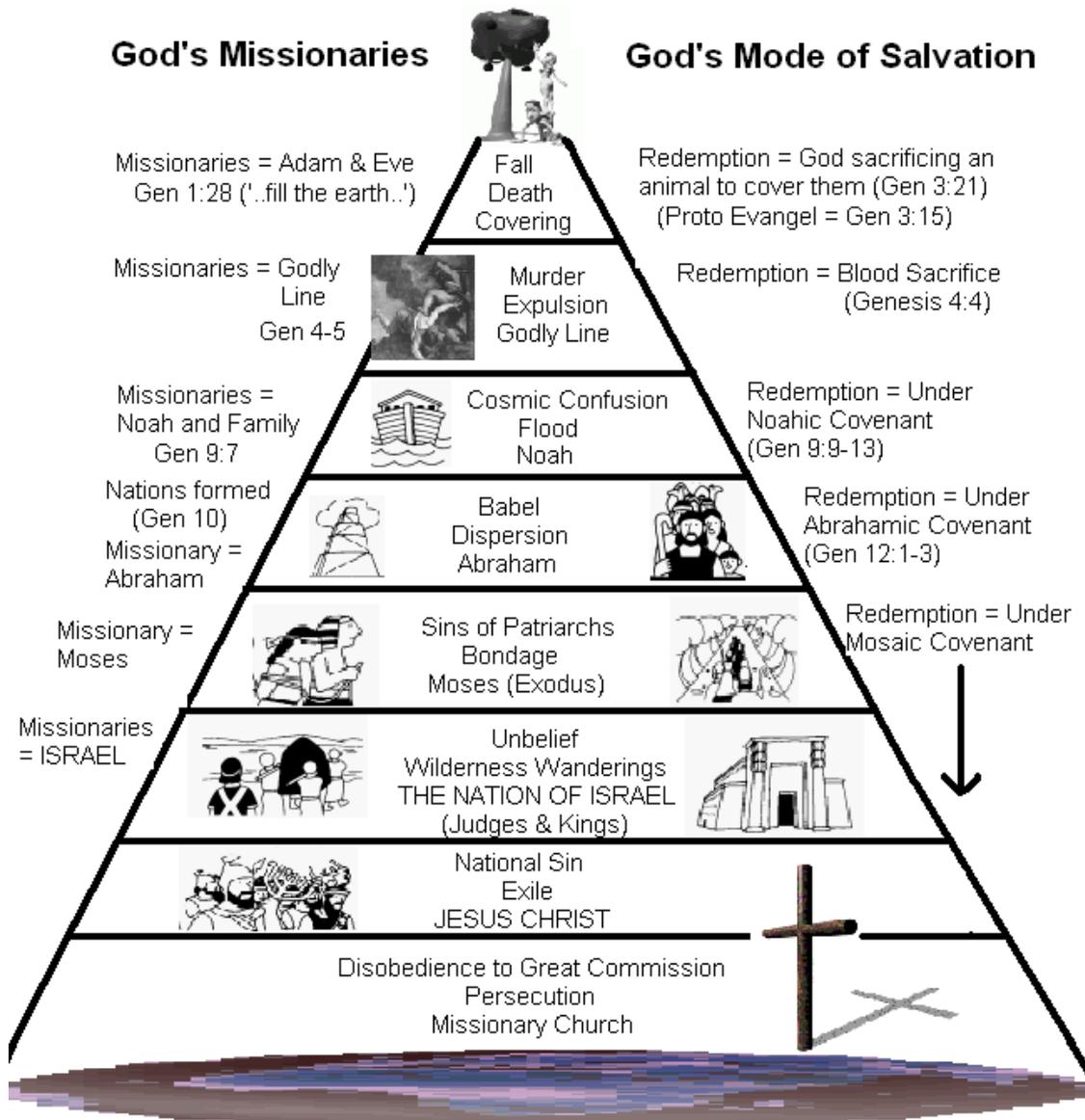


Lesson 1 - Missions in the Bible

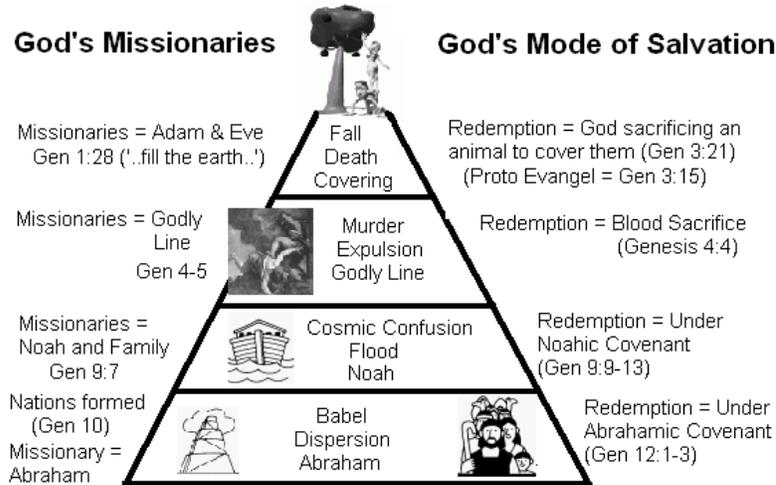
(1) INTRODUCTION: Missions IS The Basis of the Bible.

We often hear the question "What is the Biblical Basis of Missions?" This question implies that missions is just one of many topics covered in the Bible and we need 'proof texts' to justify it. In this lesson you will see that the whole Bible is actually God's missionary manual!

GOD'S MISSIONARY INTENTION



(2) A REDEMPTIVE PATTERN (Genesis 1-11)



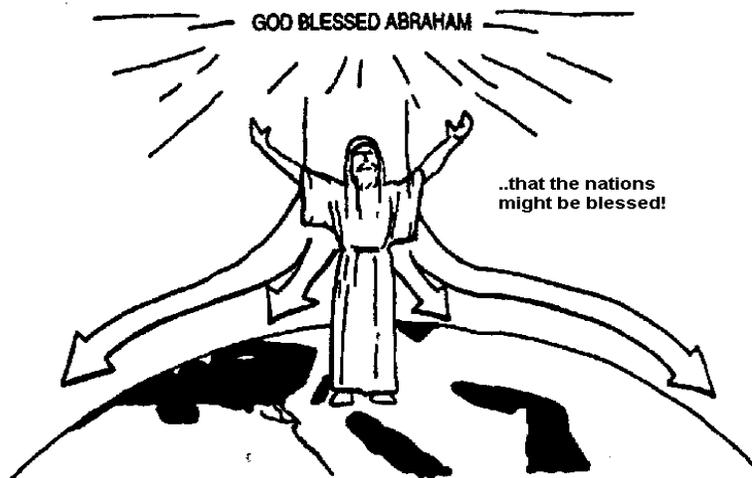
Genesis 1:28 reveals God's heart – to fill all the earth with people bearing His image.

In Genesis 1-11 we see the **UNIVERSAL NATURE** of God's mission.

Redemptive Pattern =
Sin → Judgement → Grace

(3) A REDEMPTIVE PEOPLE – ABRAHAM (Genesis 12:1-3)

"Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
Gen 12:1-3 (NKJV)



ABRAHAM'S SEED = INSTRUMENT TO BLESS THE NATIONS

HIS CALL = Cross-Cultures, pioneering, forsaking idols (Joshua 24:2), in faith (Hebrews 11:8-10), obedience and separation.

A REDEMPTIVE PEOPLE – ISRAEL

"And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.'" Exodus 19:3-5 (NKJV)

(4) A REDEMTIVE PURPOSE - WITNESS

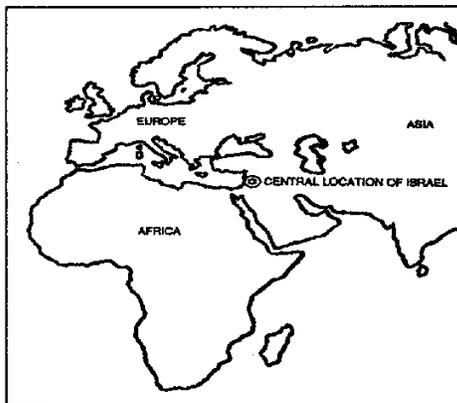


Israel had an obligation to witness to the Gentiles: Exodus 14:18; Psalm 67; Ezekiel 20:9

"But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles among whom they were, in whose sight I had made Myself known to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt." Ezekiel 20:9 (NKJV)

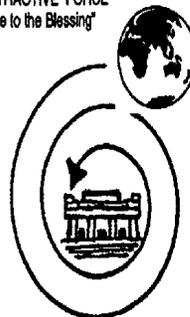
(5) A REDEMTIVE PURPOSE – SANCTIFICATION

"And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." Exodus 19:6 (NKJV) – HOLINESS, LOYALTY, SERVICE
See Micah 6:8 – this is how they were to live among the nations & they had ample opportunity.

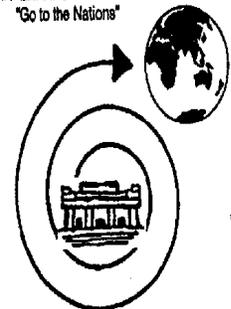


Israel's Strategic Location at the Crossroads of Three Continents: Africa, Asia and Europe.

AN ATTRACTIVE FORCE
"Come to the Blessing"



AN EXPANSIVE FORCE
"Go to the Nations"



The Two Forces

TEMPLE

Examples

Queen Sheba (1 Kings 10:9)
Kings of the Earth (2 Chron 9:23)

MISSIONARIES

Examples

Joseph, Daniel, Esther, Jonah

(6) REDEMPTIVE PARALYSIS



Israel failed in keeping God's demands (Exodus 19:6; Micah 6:8), which would have made her an effective witness in the nations, and was therefore taken into captivity (Ezekiel 20:30-38, Daniel 9:11). Israel was dispersed among the nations (Assyrian exile 722BC, Babylonian Exile 587BC) and actually this prepared the way for the nations to be reached – Jews migrated to all important commercial and trade centers of the known world.

"Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore, the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him." Dan 9:11 (NKJV)

(7) REDEMPTIVE POWER

The Messiah's Mission:

"Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'" Isaiah 49:6 (NKJV)



Two Symbols of Christ's Mission

Matthew 10:5-6 (The Twelve – to Israel only)
 Jesus' main target was to reach the Jews with His message (Matthew 15:24) but He always had the ultimate aim of training His Jewish disciples to reach all nations – this is especially seen in His final words to them (Matthew 28:18-20)

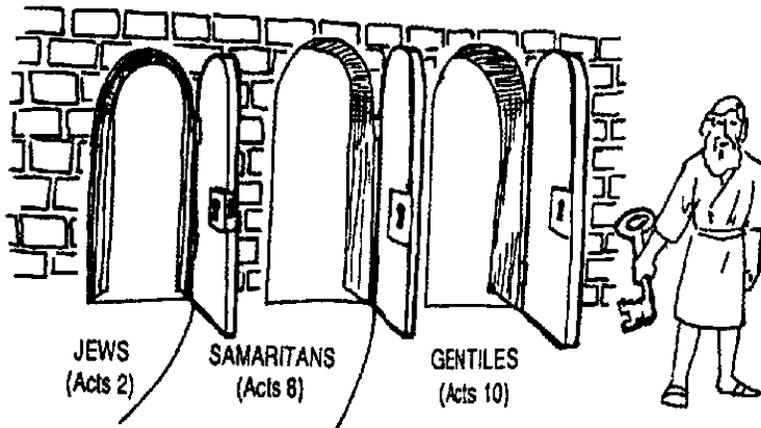
Luke 10:1 –the 70 (70 nations of Genesis 10)
 Luke 4:25-27 & Matthew 15:24-28 show that Jesus did reach out to Gentiles. Jesus identifies Himself as the Saviour of the Samaritans (Luke 9:51-55). He was preparing His disciples for a Spirit empowered ministry in all nations...

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."
 Matt 28:18-20NKJV

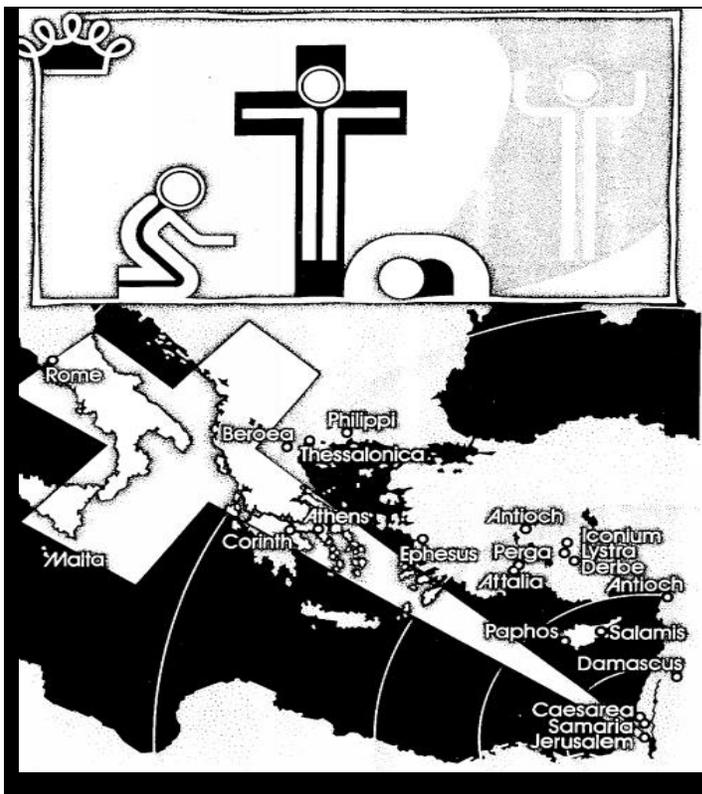
"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
 Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

This promise was outworked in the early church and beyond as we can see in Acts.

PETER'S KEYS OF THE KINGDOM



"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
 Matt 16:18-19 (NKJV)



Westward sweep of the Gospel.

Holy Spirit lead Paul's missionary team westwards not allowing them to go back east (Acts 16:6-10) – this is a prophetic sweep that has been traveling westwards ever since (through Europe, to America and to S.E.Asia).

This will continue until every ethnic group is reached.

"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 24:14NKJV

The prophetic vision of Revelation 7:9 will come to pass.

Rev 7:9 – *"a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb"* (See also Rev 5:9)

Lesson 2: Becoming a Missions Church

(1) God's Intention

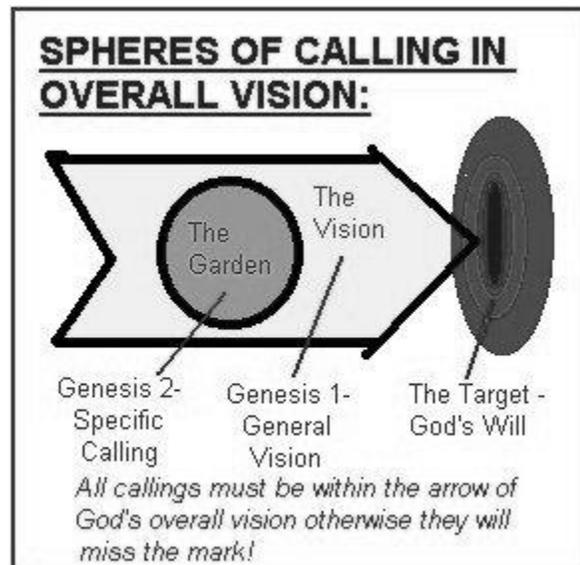
Genesis 1: Shows God's missionary intention for all mankind – to fill the earth with people bearing His image, ruling and reigning with Him (Gen 1:28). After the fall God repeats this intention through the various covenants (especially Abraham – Gen 12:1-3) and is the intention He has for us as New Covenant people.

Genesis 2: Shows that God plants a specific “Garden” or “Sphere of Calling” for each of us within His missionary intention. We all have different gifts and ministries but they should all be within God's missionary intention.

One Vision Many Callings.

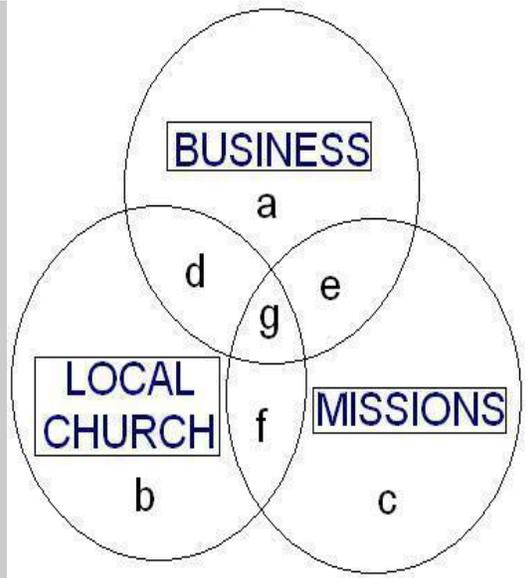
In the life of Nehemiah, we saw he had a VISION of Jerusalem broken down but to be rebuilt. His CALLING was to LEAD the work. Others caught the SAME VISION but with DIFFERENT CALLINGS (different areas of building the wall, different skills etc.). This principle is the same for Churches, Cell groups, Missions groups etc. Indeed, within one vision there may be another 'embryonic' vision waiting to be birthed for others to join (this requires one who will run with the vision).

Group or Individual Activity: Look at the diagram to the right and explain what it means in the light of what you've just learnt



(2) The Spectrum of Callings in the Early Church

We see the Early Church becoming a missions church in practice after the initial debate concerning reaching the Gentiles. The whole church started to align itself with the big arrow of God's intention (which Jesus reinforces – Matt 28:18-20 ; Acts 1:8). We see each member of the early church being placed within a specific "sphere of calling" or "garden" in which they could have a part in out working God's missionary intention through the church.



What were their activities in God's Mission?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____
- g. _____

Who is a Biblical example of each area?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____
- g. _____

Reflection: What area of the diagram do you feel drawn to? To do what?

(3) Becoming a Missions Church and Not Just a Church with Missions.

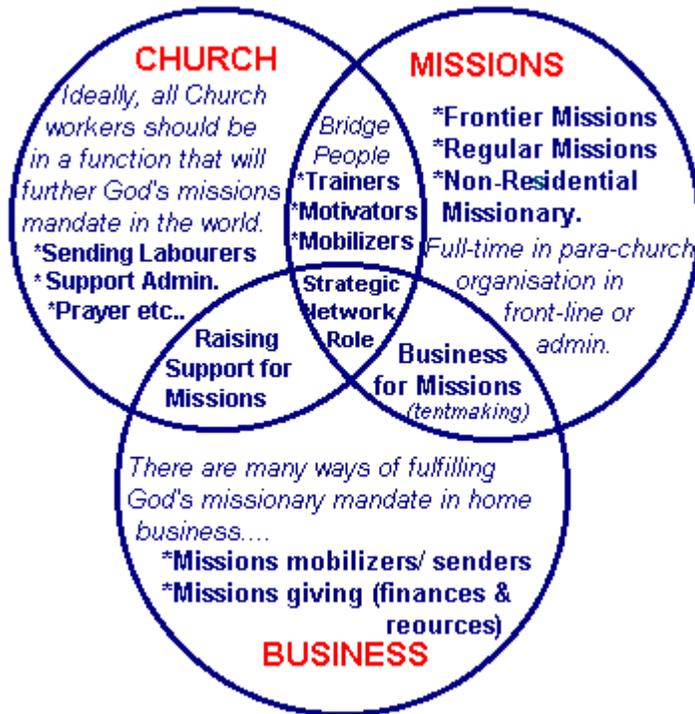
- a. Church as a whole must have WORLD VISION and all its activities must be strategically aligned to that vision (which includes reaching out locally and internationally).
- b. The majority of Christians in the church must be WORLD CHRISTIANS with WORLD VISION who will make a WORLD IMPACT. They will all have a different God-given role to play and should take their place.

A vivid picture of this is seen in Mark 14:3, 8-9 – Discuss how this is a beautiful picture of a World Christian with World Vision who has World Impact.

How can you individually and your church as a whole be more missions orientated? Discuss.

Lesson 3: Mobilizing For Missions

(1) Individual Mobilization



As we saw from the previous lesson, each individual in the Church needs to catch the church vision and take their place. The diagram to the left shows more definite roles to be taken in each area. Which area are you more drawn to? What activities could you be involved in?

(2) Church Mobilization

- Must have a **specific** missions vision – to particular people group/s with a specific role.
- This vision will be a **strategic** part of God's end time missionary movement – should focus on 10/40 window and on God's end-time move.



See Romans 15:20

Practically this means:

- Identifying what people groups your church is to reach out to and adopt. This comes through prayer and being sensitive to the Lord's calling to individuals in the church.
- For each people group / area you sense the Lord is calling the church you need to identify the main activity. If it's an unreached area, then the main activity will be church

planting. If there are existing churches, then you need to work with them and provide training in gifted areas.

Discuss: What areas is your church called to reach out to? Doing what?

(3) Missions Partner Support

a. Three Stages of Mobilization

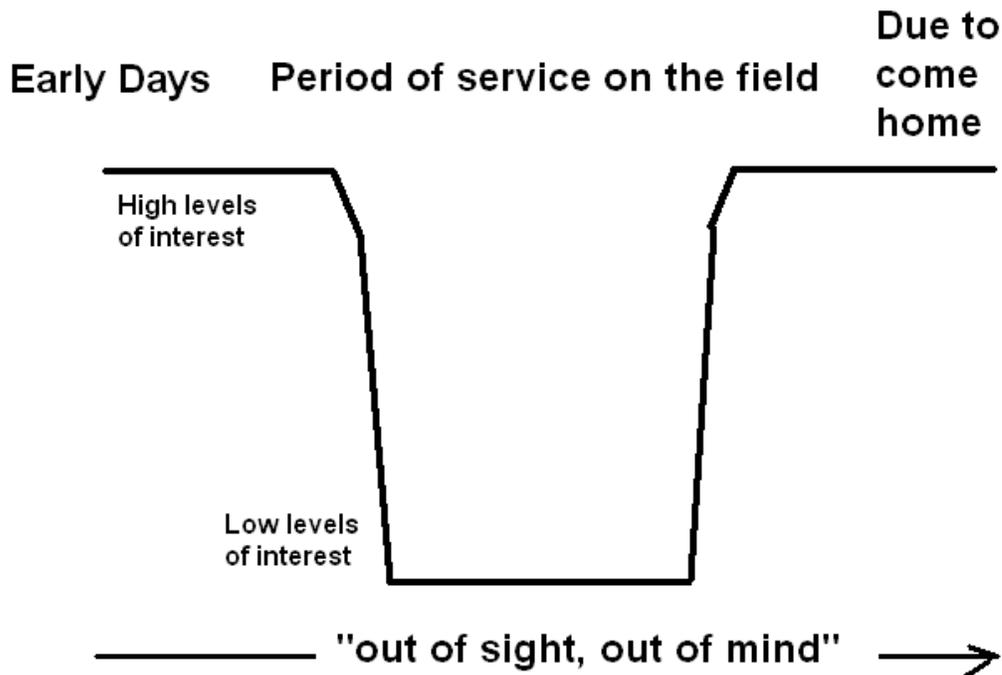
STAGE 1: Envisioning and Training

STAGE 2: Missionary Placing and Supporting

STAGE 3: Locals take over the work.

Often STAGE TWO is reached but the missionary team gets discouraged and gives up and STAGE 3 is aborted. The reason for this is that there is no or inadequate Mission Partner Support. Often work “at home” is all consuming and missionaries in time get largely forgotten. On the other side, for the most part, missionaries tend to “get on with it”, so nothing is done to address the issue.

b. The Bathtub Syndrome

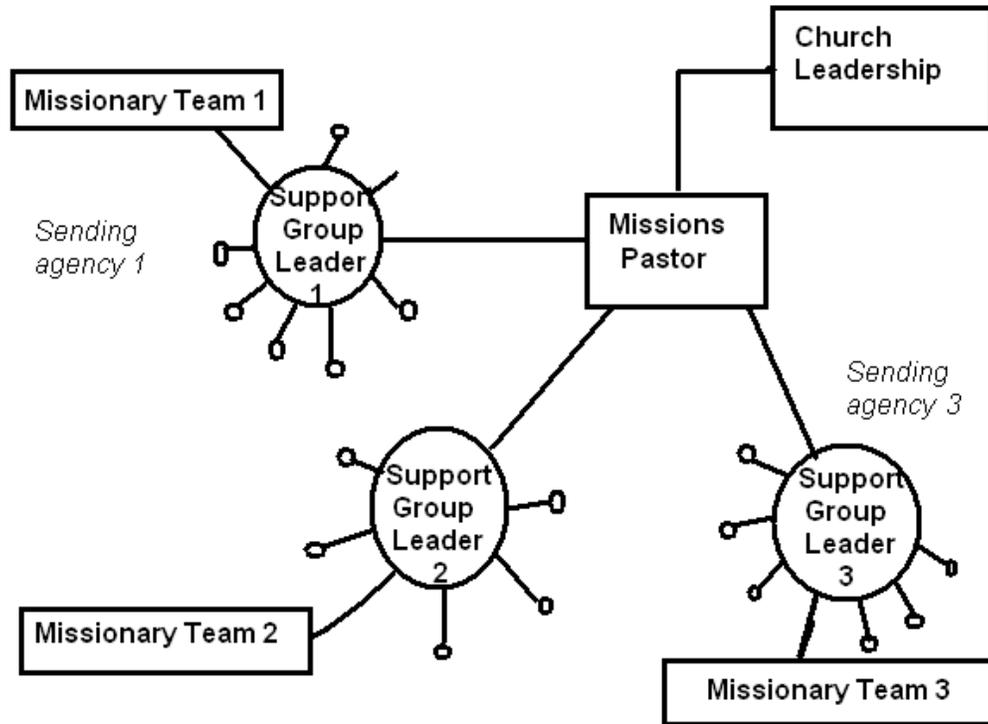


Keys that can make a difference:

1. Every congregation needs to respond to the Great Commission in a defined way. Going and sending are two sides of the same equation.
2. Those who are sent out remain part of the congregation, even though not visible week by week. This takes real effort to sustain in the minds of the local congregation and the Mission Partners themselves (the longer away the harder to sustain).
3. Maintaining a mission focus is the key responsibility of the leadership but overseas outreach is not the same as local outreach and needs to be overseen separately, or the local will ALWAYS supersede the trans-local.
4. Oversight for Mission Partner Support needs to be given to somebody who understands the needs (preferably the Missions Pastor) – someone who has been “*on the field*” preferably.
5. It is neither feasible nor particularly desirable for hands-on-support to be managed centrally. The best support is given by those who know the Mission Partner well and are committed to their personal vision and work, so support groups need to be formed from among them.
6. The ratio of 9:1 is ideal (the norm in secular warfare), but excellent support can be achieved with fewer than this if there is real commitment.

c. Mission Care within the Church Structure

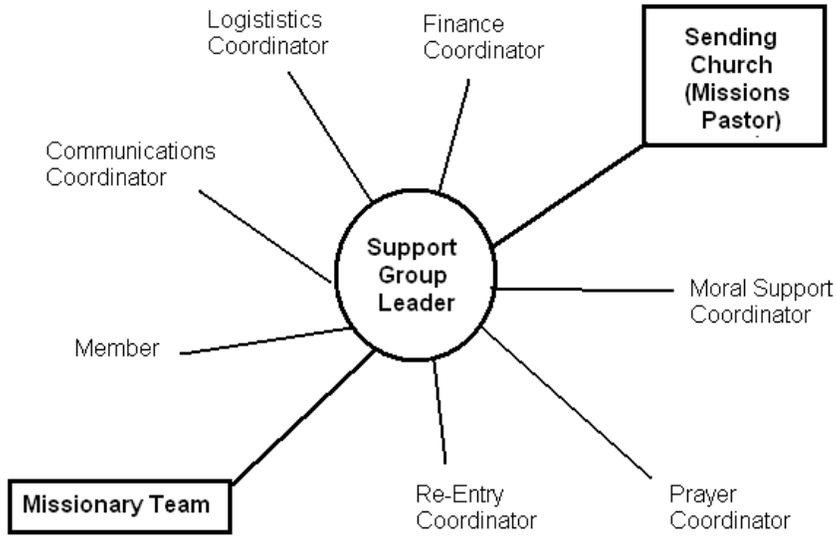
i. What it looks like.



Each support group needs to be raise up by the missionary team (part of their STAGE 1 requirement). The support group leader champions the missionary's cause within the wider church and is the communication link between support group members, the missionary and church leadership, calling the team together for regular prayer gatherings.

What are some other roles of the Support Group Leader?

ii. Functions of each Group



Suggest roles for each member:

Moral Support:

Communications:

Logistics:

Finance:

Prayer:

Re-entry: