



IMB  
**MISSIONS  
COLLEGE**

# Missions Scope: Introductory Missions Training

## **What is Missions Scope?**

Missions Scope is a broad-spectrum overview of key topics for effective missions. A variety of fundamental, intensive, biblically-based topics will be covered. This track will be facilitated by experienced field missionaries and is designed to help the participants both apply and equip others in these topics.

## **What are the desired outcomes for Missions Scope?**

It is our desire that those who complete the Missions Scope Track will return home with a solid understanding of the six components of the missionary task and a basic strategy plan for engaging the people or place that their church is partnering to reach.



**INTERNATIONAL**  
MISSION BOARD

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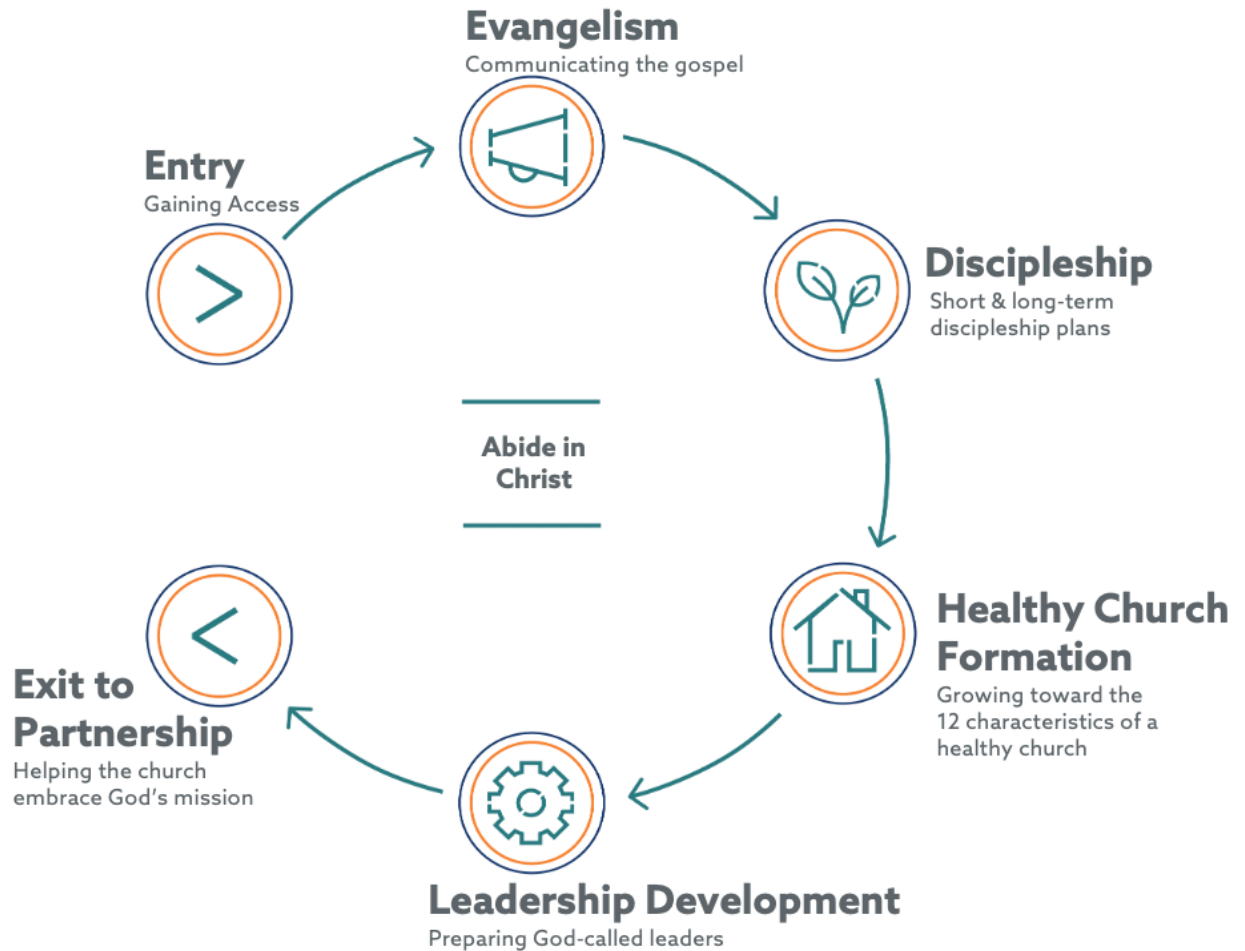
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# Overview of the 6 Components of the Missionary Task<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The Components of the Missionary Task for the training manual come from the IMB Foundations document.

## ENTRY<sup>2</sup>



In order to carry out the missionary task, we must have access to people who need to hear the gospel.

### Four Elements of Entry:

- **Research:** We need to know who the unreached people groups of the earth are and where unreached peoples and places are located.
- **Presence:** Most of the unreached people groups and places of the world are found in countries that either do not grant missionary visas, or that severely restrict missionary activity.
- **Identity:** We need an identity which lowers suspicion and allows local national friends and neighbors to feel comfortable.
- **Communication Ability:** Missionary teams need to be able to engage people they are trying to reach with an appropriate level of language competency and cultural awareness.

<sup>2</sup> IMB Foundations document, pp. 96-99.



# Worldview

## What is worldview?

"Worldview is a collection of the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ through which people within a specific culture \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ and interact with it."

Worldview influences our core beliefs and helps us answer questions like ...

- Who are we?
- How did we come to exist? How did the world come to exist?
- Is there a God? Or other spiritual beings or forces? If so, what is our relationship to him, or them?
- How do we determine right and wrong? Good and bad?
- Why is there evil and suffering in the world?
- What's our purpose in life?
- What happens when we die?

## Why study worldview?

Understanding worldview enables us to **p**\_\_\_\_\_ more specifically.

Understanding worldview helps us establish a more beneficial **p**\_\_\_\_\_ among our unreached people and places.

Understanding worldview allows us to **c**\_\_\_\_\_ the gospel more effectively.

Understanding worldview helps us identify **b**\_\_\_\_\_ and **b**\_\_\_\_\_ to the gospel.

It is critical to understand worldview because it is the **f**\_\_\_\_\_ through which a person or people hears and understands the gospel.

## How can we learn the worldview of our unreached people and places?

- R\_\_\_\_\_ everything you can get your hands on.
- Gather i\_\_\_\_\_ from others who have more experience.
- Compile d\_\_\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_ for your unreached people and places.
- M\_\_\_\_\_ the geographic boundaries of your unreached people and places.
- Ask the r\_\_\_\_\_ q\_\_\_\_\_.
- Spend as much t\_\_\_\_\_ as possible with the r\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_.
- O\_\_\_\_\_ as much as you can! Be a l\_\_\_\_\_ and a l\_\_\_\_\_.
- Compile your r\_\_\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_ and share it with your team.



# Worldview Comparison

|                            | Christianity                                           | Islam                                                                                                    | Hinduism                                                                                     | Buddhism                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Holy Book</b>           | Bible                                                  | Qur'an                                                                                                   | The Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita                                                         | Buddha's teaching, Four Noble Truths, The Eightfold Path                                                   |
| <b>Great Teacher</b>       | Jesus                                                  | Muhammad                                                                                                 | Millions of gurus                                                                            | Siddhartha, Gutama, the Buddha (or enlightened one)                                                        |
| <b>God</b>                 | Yahweh                                                 | Allah                                                                                                    | Brahma                                                                                       | Not relevant, speculation about "god" inhibits one's pursuit of enlightenment                              |
| <b>God's Attributes</b>    | Trinity (three persons in one being), personal         | Singular person, impersonal                                                                              | Impersonal, Brahma shows itself in millions of forms - each form has a different personality | "god" - all things spiritual, do not speculate about "god" as that inhibits one's pursuit of enlightenment |
| <b>Condition of Man</b>    | Sinful                                                 | Good                                                                                                     | Neutral                                                                                      | Suffering, pain, unsatisfactoriness, (dukkha)                                                              |
| <b>God's View of Man</b>   | Everyone is sinful and stands in need of God's grace   | Each person must prove himself worthy of Allah in order to escape his wrath, wrongdoing will be punished | Indifferent                                                                                  | N/A                                                                                                        |
| <b>Salvation</b>           | In Christ alone                                        | Good works                                                                                               | Good works                                                                                   | Denial of all personal desire, cessation of suffering through a path of detachment                         |
| <b>Jesus</b>               | God and Savior                                         | A prophet                                                                                                | Possibly one of many ways to Brahma                                                          | A good teacher, an enlightened one                                                                         |
| <b>After Life</b>          | Judgment, eternity in heaven or hell                   | Judgment, either to suffering and destruction                                                            | Reincarnation until Nirvana is reached                                                       | Reincarnation until Nirvana is reached                                                                     |
| <b>Absolute Truth</b>      | Yes                                                    | Yes                                                                                                      | No                                                                                           | We all experience truth differently                                                                        |
| <b>Why Does Man Exist?</b> | To glorify God through knowing him and making him know | To be representatives of Allah and his servants on earth                                                 | No specific reason                                                                           | To pursue enlightenment                                                                                    |





## Table Discussion: Entry and Worldview

*Please discuss the following questions at your table and be ready to share with the large group.*

How would you best summarize the **ENTRY** component of the missionary task?

Why is it important? Which of the four elements (research, presence, identity, and communication ability) need your focus in your local context and where your church is partnering internationally?

When does **ENTRY** begin?

What are the two most important takeaways from the talk on worldview? Why is **ENTRY** and understanding worldview important for all the components of the missionary task?

How can you use what you learned about worldview to better access the people or place where your church is partnering internationally? What about in your own local context?

## Table Discussion: Research

What kinds of steps can you be taking to prepare even before you arrive on the field? Remember:

- **Read** everything you can get your hands on.
- Gather **information** from others who have experience with your unreached people and places.
- Compile **demographic data** for your unreached people and places.
- **Map** the geographic boundaries of your unreached people and places.

Where will you find the information above? Who would be some good resources to help you to access this information?

How can you be prepared for when you arrive on the field? Remember:

- Ask the **right questions**.
- Spend **time** with the **right people**.
- **Observe!** Be a **listener** and a **learner!**
- Compile your **research data** and share it with your team.

What kinds of questions might you ask? Who would be good sources of information? Are you typically one who observes and listens, or do you usually feel like you have the answers? What steps might you need to take to prepare yourself to be a learner?

## Reflect & Apply

 **Something I already knew:**

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 **Something new I learned:**

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 **Something I still have questions about:**

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 **Skills I want to apply:**

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## EVANGELISM<sup>3</sup>



### Why Must We Proclaim the Gospel?

Salvation from sin is the greatest need of every person in the world, and no one can be saved unless the gospel is communicated with them.

**Definition:** Evangelism is the proclamation of the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit with the aim of persuading people to repent and believe in Christ.

**Evangelism always means *proclamation*,** and it always involves communicating the message of the gospel using language the lost can understand.

**Evangelism is proclamation of the *gospel*.** In order to be biblical evangelism, the full message must be presented, which includes the holiness and love of God, the sinfulness of every human being, the atoning sacrifice and victorious resurrection of Jesus for our sins, and the necessity of repentance and faith.

**Evangelism is proclamation of the gospel *in the power of the Holy Spirit*.** We present the gospel message, but only the Holy Spirit can turn a person's heart and mind toward Christ.

**Evangelism has the aim of *persuading people to repent and believe in Christ*.**

Evangelism is more than mere presentation of the gospel; it is persuasion with the gospel. Evangelism necessarily includes a call for the hearer to repent of sin and believe in Christ.

<sup>3</sup> Taken from "IMB Foundations document, Key Terms and Concepts, "Evangelism."

## Evangelism & Contextualization

The process of connecting biblical revelation to a specific culture in a way that the gospel can be understood and lived out in culturally meaningful ways.

It involves making the gospel and the church as much at home as possible in a given cultural context, think of the dominant concern of the people with whom you are sharing the Gospel.

### Every Christian Contextualizes!!!!

- Authentic Contextualization recognizes that people can follow Jesus while maintaining their ethnic cultural \_\_\_\_\_.
- It's not about erasing cultural distinctiveness but rather expressing faith in ways that resonate with a \_\_\_\_\_ context.
- In summary, contextualization seeks to make the gospel relevant and accessible while remaining \_\_\_\_\_ to Scripture.

### Fear<sup>4</sup>

**Cultural Context:** In some contexts, fear is a dominant value. People fear spirits, supernatural forces, and unseen powers. Fear drives behavior, rituals, and community dynamics.

**Gospel Presentation:** (1) Emphasize Christ's victory over fear and (2) highlight God's protection.

### Shame

**Cultural Context:** Honor and shame play a significant role in many cultures. Shame arises from broken relationships, dishonor, and community disapproval.

**Gospel Presentation:** (1) Explain Christ's redemptive work and (2) share stories of transformed lives.

### Guilt

**Cultural Context:** Western cultures often emphasize guilt and innocence. We focus on individual responsibility and legal standing.

**Gospel Presentation:** (1) Present the law and (2) introduce Jesus as the solution.

### Balance All Three

**Holistic Gospel:** Remember to share the complete gospel and recognize that guilt, shame, and fear are interconnected.

<sup>4</sup>Müller, Roland. *Honor & Shame, Unlocking the Door*, (CanBooks, 2010).

## Bible Storying: “Jesus Heals a Paralytic”

### Four important values to consider when telling Bible stories<sup>5</sup>

- **Biblical:** Have a physical copy of the bible open, it is God’s words that we are sharing through story. The stories should be told in a manner that is faithful to the original stories from the Bible, taking into consideration the best use of key words and considering the biblical background. They must be told as they are in the Bible without adding/removing details.
- **Understandable:** The biblical narrative is presented using language that will be completely understood by the hearers.
- **Complete (Unbroken):** - One should preserve the absolute integrity of the stories, presenting them without breaking the flow of the narrative in order to provide explanation.
- **Reproducible:** A principal purpose is that the hearers can reproduce stories faithful to the biblical narrative and tell them to others.

### Questions to Facilitate Dialog and Learning

- Review Questions
  - What happened first, second, ...
- Four Simple Questions
  - What did you like about the story?
  - Was there something you did not like or that was difficult to understand about the story?
  - What do we learn about people in the story?
  - What do we learn about God/Jesus in the story?
- A Fifth Question for Believers
  - How can we apply what we learned in the story?
- A Final Question
  - How are you going to learn the story? – Answer: I’m going to tell it to someone else.

<sup>5</sup> Values and Questions taken from the Contaré Manual, Keith and Penny Stamps.



## Getting to the Gospel Without Syncretism

What is syncretism?

Give some examples of teachings or actions that might lead to syncretism.

What tips would you have for avoiding syncretism?

## Reflect & Apply

 **Something I already knew:**

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 **Something new I learned:**

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 **Something I still have questions about:**

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 **Skills I want to apply:**

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## Table Discussion: Defining Discipleship

*Please discuss the following questions at your table and be ready to share with the large group.*

How would you define **DISCIPLESHIP**?

How do you see **DISCIPLESHIP** modeled in your local U.S. context?

## DISCIPLESHIP<sup>6</sup>



**The central command of the Great Commission is to make disciples.**

**Definition:** Disciple making is the Christ-commanded, Spirit-empowered duty of every disciple of Jesus to evangelize unbelievers, baptize believers, teach them the Word of Christ, and train them to obey Christ as members of His church who make disciples on mission to all nations.

The essential tools for discipleship are **the word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God.**

The purpose of discipleship is to make disciples (to present every man and woman complete in Christ), only some of whom will become pastors or missionaries. Not every disciple is called and gifted by God to start, lead, or teach a church, and we must not denigrate or discourage those who are not. Disciples include strong believers and weak saints, dynamic leaders and quiet servants alike. While our workers may focus their attention on those whom God has gifted to be leaders, we must not neglect others or relegate them to second-class status in the church. We must establish discipleship patterns and practices that encompass all the members of the body of Christ.

The command to make disciples extends to every believer. This is not reserved for a small spiritual elite. Everyone in the body of Christ is necessary for any disciple to grow to maturity in Christ.

Disciple making should result in disciples who make disciples who make disciples, in an ongoing process of reproduction.

<sup>6</sup>IMB Foundations document, pp. 76; 104-109.

# Empowering Nationals for Making Disciples

Discipleship brings tough challenges when we can meet regularly with people, but the challenges can be immense when we are forced to do it from a distance.

## Three Keys to Empowering Nationals for Making Disciples

1. Keep it Reproducible
2. Focus on the Few
3. Give Real Responsibility

### Keep it Reproducible

- Goal: In our absence, we want national believers equipped for devotion/obedience to Jesus
- This may require adaptation to the needs and realities of the people you are discipling – orality, limited resources, time, worldview, etc.
- Modeling/Assisting/Watching while we are together helps us to see what is being reproduced in others and to adapt our discipleship for greater reproducibility

### Focus on the Few

- The clear pattern of Jesus/Paul was investment in the few rather than the whole
- You have limited time, but if we can effectively disciple a few we can multiply ourselves – we would rather effectively disciple a few rather than poorly disciple many
- Look to existing national churches as possible partners in the work and as people to invest in
  - Through national partners we can expand the mission force if we invest in them (we may need to teach new methodology to national church)

### Give Real Responsibility

- When working with national partners or new believers in an unreached area we must give them actual responsibility in the task – trusting the Holy Spirit in our discipleship
- Allow your national church partners or local believers in an unreached area a role in evangelism/discipleship of new believers
- Expect responsibility from the national partners or believers in an unreached area to avoid dependency/frustration



## Table Discussion: Adapting Discipleship Models for Context

*Please discuss the following questions at your table and be ready to share with the large group.*

During the previous table discussion, you thought about how discipleship looks in your local U.S. context. Evaluate how effective you think these discipleship models will be in the place where your church is partnering.

Considering the context where your church is partnering, what do you feel is most needed now to contextualize discipleship among the people?

What tools and methods do you use in your discipling of others? Does your method of teaching match the preferred learning style of your target people group or place?

Brainstorm: How do you train for discipleship when you do not live on the field?

## Reflect & Apply

 **Something I already knew:**

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 **Something new I learned:**

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 **Something I still have questions about:**

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 **Skills I want to apply:**

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## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT<sup>7</sup>



Biblical leadership is essential to the wellbeing of every local church, and God calls different people to lead in different ways. The New Testament specifically identifies two offices of church leadership: pastors/elders/overseers, and deacons. As we develop leaders in local churches, we prioritize training pastors/elders/overseers. Healthy churches require faithful, well-trained pastors, and we must have healthy churches led by such pastors to fulfill the Great Commission.

The qualifications for offices of church leadership are found in 1 Timothy 3:1–13 and Titus 1:5–9. The most obvious characteristic of these qualifications is that the majority of the things listed have to do with character and family life. In essence, a church leader is to be an exemplary disciple of Jesus.

Specific pastoral qualifications may be broken down into three categories: what the leader must **BE**, what the leader must **KNOW**, and what the leader must **DO**.

**BE:** The pastor should model the character of Christ. (1 Timothy 3:2-3; Titus 1:7-8)

**KNOW:** The pastor/elder/overseer must know the Bible and he must know doctrine. He must know them well enough to be able both to teach them accurately and to discern and refute false teaching. (Titus 1:9)

**DO:** The pastor/elder/overseer must be able to teach the content of the Bible and sound biblical doctrine well. He must also be able to detect and refute false teaching. He must be able to manage and care for God's church (1 Timothy 3:5), and to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12). As preparation for this, he must be able to lead his own household well. These are skills that need to be developed, not simply through the sharing of information, but through mentored practice as well.

<sup>7</sup> IMB Foundations document, pp. 114-118

## Table Discussion: Leadership Development – Pastors/Deacons

*Please discuss the following questions at your table and be ready to share with the large group.*

How would you best summarize the **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** component of the missionary task? Why is it important?

**1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9, 2:1-15.** What are the qualifications for local leadership?

**Read Ephesians 4:11-16.** What are the leaders of the church given to do?

**Read 2 Timothy 2:2.** What kind of disciple maker are they to be?

**Read 1 Peter 5:1-3.** How should they lead?

Brainstorm: How do you train and develop leaders when you do not live on the field?



## Table Discussion: Leadership Development for All Believers

*Please discuss the following questions at your table and be ready to share with the large group.*

The Apostle Paul is a great example of someone who developed leaders. Summarize what we can take away from these examples.

- Philippians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-9 –
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7 –
- 2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 1:5 –
- 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8 –

### **The “I/You Approach”<sup>8</sup> for multiplying leaders.**

Phase 1: I do the work, you watch me

Phase 2: I do the work, you help me

Phase 3: You do the work, I help you

Phase 4: You do the work, I watch you

Phase 5: You do the work, someone else watches you

(Similar to Model, Assist, Watch and Leave (M.A.W.L.))

How could the “I/You Approach” or the M.A.W.L. Approach be helpful as you train leaders to multiply leaders within their context?

<sup>8</sup> Payne, J. D. *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting*, (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2009), 126.



## Reflect & Apply

 **Something I already knew:**

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 **Something new I learned:**

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 **Something I still have questions about:**

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 **Skills I want to apply:**

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## HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION<sup>9</sup>



We are committed to planting healthy churches. A church is a group of baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are committed to each other to be the body of Christ to one another and who meet together regularly to carry out the functions of a biblical church.

As we plant churches, our doctrinal foundation will align with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

*"A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.*

*Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."*

The 12 Characteristics of a Healthy Church [on the following pages] are not a checklist for exit but rather a summary that describes what a sustainable church should be. We will teach and encourage church leaders to regard these characteristics as essential for church health. For this reason, in addition to planting new churches, the missionary task also can include strengthening and even revitalizing existing churches, helping them to grow into greater health.

<sup>9</sup> IMB Foundations document, pp. 110-113

## 12 Characteristics of a Healthy Church

*The following characteristics summarize this definition and are provided as a tool to help us describe and move toward healthy churches.*



**Biblical evangelism.** People come into the church because they have heard the full biblical message of the gospel and have responded in repentance and faith. They then continue to share the gospel with the lost in a lifestyle of evangelism.



**Biblical discipleship.** Members of the church intentionally invest in one another's lives to grow to maturity in Jesus Christ. This discipleship is characterized by transformed hearts, minds, affections, wills, relationships, and purpose, all in keeping with the Word of God.



**Biblical membership.** The members consist only of people who give credible evidence of repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who have been baptized as believers. Biblical church members are committed to one another, to assemble faithfully together with one another, and to be the body of Christ to one another.



**Biblical leadership.** The Bible recognizes two types of leaders in the church: pastors/elders/overseers and deacons. In the New Testament, the words "pastor," "elder," and "overseer" are used interchangeably, and refer to the same office (Acts 20:17, 28; Titus 1:5--7; 1 Peter 5:1-4; note that pastor = shepherd). The qualifications for these leaders are given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. They must be examples of faithful discipleship, and they must hold firmly to sound doctrine. They must be gifted by God to teach. According to Scripture, pastors/elders/overseers must be men. Scripture is clear that not everyone is gifted and called to teach and lead in the church, but all gifts are equally honorable and necessary to the church. The consistent pattern in the New Testament is for churches to have a plurality of pastors/elders/overseers. Deacons are servants of the church whose qualifications are listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. They are chosen as needed to perform tasks, which free the pastors/elders/overseers to devote themselves to the ministry of the Word and prayer.





**Biblical preaching and teaching.** Such teaching is central to the weekly gatherings of the church and consists of the exposition and application of Scripture. The church regards the Bible as the supreme, controlling authority over all it believes and does, and faithful Bible teaching saturates the life of a healthy church. A healthy church holds to the inspiration, inerrancy, authority, sufficiency, and clarity of Scripture, and interprets each text of the Bible responsibly in context, according to the norms of grammatical/historical interpretation.



**Biblical ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.** Baptism is immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and it is only administered to those who give credible evidence that they are born-again believers in Jesus Christ. All believers are expected to be baptized. A healthy church regularly celebrates the Lord's Supper in remembrance of the death of Jesus, as a visible sermon of the gospel, and in anticipation of His return.



**Biblical worship.** A healthy church offers to God worship that is acceptable to Him according to His Word, with reverence, awe, and joy. It sings psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs whose content is saturated with biblical truth. Its worship includes the public reading of Scripture, the testimonies of God's people, and prayer. As appropriate, it may also include corporate fasting. All of its worship aims to glorify God and edify His people.



**Biblical fellowship.** Members of the church love each other, encourage one another, and build each other up. They care for one another, serve one another, and bear each other's burdens. They are kind to one another and forgive each other. They teach, admonish, and exhort one another with the Word of God. They stir one another up to love and good works. They are involved in one another's lives and know each other well enough to be fruitfully involved in one another's discipleship.



**Biblical prayer.** Members of the church pray both privately and corporately. In their prayers, they worship God, confess their sins, thank God for His blessings, intercede for others, and ask God to meet their own needs. A healthy church prays fervently and frequently.





**Biblical accountability and discipline.** Members of the church hold one another accountable for their obedience to the Word of God, and leaders of the church watch over the flock that has been entrusted to them. When necessary, the church exercises church discipline according to Scriptural instructions, always praying and laboring for restoration of the erring brother or sister.



**Biblical giving.** Members of the church give freely of their resources for the support of those who teach the Word, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the advance of the gospel around the world. Healthy churches are financially self-sustaining or moving toward being financially self-sustaining. Experience has consistently shown that foreign financial subsidy damages the health of a church.



**Biblical mission.** Not only is the church organized to share the gospel and make disciples locally, but it is also organized and actively involved in taking the gospel to the nations. Members of a healthy church demonstrate the goodness of God in their works of mercy while declaring the gospel of Christ to the lost.

It does not matter where a church meets. Churches may meet in homes, factories, rented spaces, dedicated buildings, under the shade of trees, or anywhere that is available and convenient for them. Every follower of Christ, including cross-cultural workers, needs the teaching, worship, fellowship, and accountability of a local church. All of our team members need to engage faithfully in a local church where they live.

## Tools for Evaluating Church Health

**Name of Church** \_\_\_\_\_

**Self-Evaluation** - Place an "X" on the colored rectangle that best describes the church you attend.

**Red** - Not practicing

**Yellow** - Needs improvement

**Green** - Doing well

**Biblical Evangelism**



**Biblical Discipleship**



**Biblical Membership**



**Biblical Leadership**



**Biblical Preaching and Teaching**



**Biblical Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper**



**Biblical Worship**



**Biblical Fellowship**



**Biblical Prayer**



**Biblical Accountability and Biblical Discipline**



**Biblical Stewardship (giving)**



**Biblical Mission**



1. Is your church planting a new church(es)? Yes or No? If so, Where? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In which component of the missionary task is your church working in this place(s)?  
Entry   Evangelism   Discipleship   Healthy Church Formation   Leadership Development   Exit
3. When will the new church(es) be functioning independently from your church? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are the churches in formation practicing the two biblical ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper? Yes or No?
5. Is your church working with other national churches? Yes or No? If yes, which ones?
6. Is your church working with foreign churches? Yes or No? If yes, which ones?
7. Are there members of your church, not just the pastor, available to work with volunteers each day of a visit? Yes or No?
8. How could another church help your church in the missionary task?
9. Are there members of your church with a missionary call? Yes or No? If yes, to which people or place?



## Table Discussion: Healthy Church Formation

*Please discuss the following questions at your table and be ready to share with the large group.*

### Forming Groups in Context

- What types of gatherings already exist (social, familial, work-related)?
- How could discipleship be introduced into these natural group settings?
- How can intentional discipleship groups be formed within your context?

### Transitioning Groups into Church

- What additional elements (e.g., leadership, regular meetings, communal practices) are needed for a group to become a church?
- How can group members be invited to move from informal discipleship to becoming part of a committed church body?
- What steps should be taken to ensure that these new churches are healthy and multiply?

## The “INR” Guide: Indigenous, Non-Dependent, Reproducible

What are the three missions challenges?

Going from...

1. Lost → \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
2. Saved → \_\_\_\_\_
3. Healthy Church → \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Growth by multiplication is realized in an atmosphere where the work is:  
**Indigenous, Non-Dependent, and Reproducible.**

**Defining the terms:**

\_\_\_\_\_ : “Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native.”

\_\_\_\_\_ : “Unable to exist, sustain oneself, or act appropriately or normally without the assistance or direction of another.”

\_\_\_\_\_ :

1. To make a copy of something.
2. To produce something that is the same as or very similar to something else.
3. To cause something to happen again in the same way.

### **Overarching Principles That Ensure Reproducibility**

Principle #1:

- \_\_\_\_\_ do for others what they \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ do for themselves.

Principle #2:

- \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ others to do what they currently cannot do.

### **Keys to Making Your Missions Efforts Reproducible**

1. Live by the principle that “a little goes a long way.”
2. When using teaching materials – consider using what is available locally.
3. Train using the Model, Assist, Watch and Leave (MAWL) method.
4. Never do anything alone.
5. Questions to ask:
  - What does the Bible say?
  - What do others need in order to do what they should do?
  - Can others do this after we are gone?



## How Can We Give in a Healthy Way?

### ASK

- Ask God to specifically guide you as you implement new strategies among a people group.

### FOCUS

- Focus on “pre-evangelism” that benefits the entire community and establishes a context for the gospel to be heard.
- Focus on local resources and empower national partners.

### AVOID

- Avoid ongoing financial commitments.

## Reflect & Apply

 **Something I already knew:**

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 **Something new I learned:**

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 **Something I still have questions about:**

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 **Skills I want to apply:**

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## EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP<sup>10</sup>



Our goal is to complete the missionary task in each people group or place and then to exit to partnership with the new churches from the place or people as our partners in the ongoing task of global evangelism. We begin our work with this end in mind, and then continually evaluate toward this end as we go.

Using the components of the missionary task, we can ask five questions to help us determine when to exit from a people group or place:

- **Evangelism:** is the work of sharing the gospel within this people group or place being carried out faithfully and effectively by Indigenous believers and churches?
- **Discipleship:** are the churches within this place or people group faithfully and effectively discipling the believers whom God has entrusted to them?
- **Church Planting:** Are the churches within this people group or place healthy churches that display the 12 Characteristics of a Healthy Church? Are these churches faithfully planting other healthy churches on a consistent basis? Are they able to sustain church planting on their own?
- **Leadership Training:** Do these churches have trained leaders, and do they have systems in place to continue to train leaders in an effective and biblically faithful way?
- **Missions Focus:** Yet another criterion for exit to partnership is the missionary involvement of the churches in the people group or place. Are they effectively training and sending cross-cultural missionaries to other people groups or places?

### What about dependency?

Would our continued presence foster dependency on the part of local churches who are capable of fulfilling all of the tasks of a healthy church movement but who are reluctant to do so out of habit or out of deference to us?

### Ongoing Partnership

Exiting from a people group or place does not mean that we abandon them. Paul's example in the New Testament shows that he revisited churches, he wrote letters to them, and he sent other fellow laborers to them.

<sup>10</sup> IMB Foundations document, pp. 119-121.

## Table Discussion: Developing an Exit Plan

When do we need to begin preparing for exit to partnership?

How can we effectively evaluate the following areas?

- Evangelism
- Discipleship
- Church Planting
- Leadership Development
- Missions Focus

What steps do we need to take to avoid dependency?

## Reflect & Apply

 **Something I already knew:**

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 **Something new I learned:**

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 **Something I still have questions about:**

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 **Skills I want to apply:**

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]