

Growing a Global Ministry Passion

Introduction

The words “missionary” and “missional” get used a lot in Christian circles, but what do they really mean?

At its core, missional means to live in participation with God’s redemptive mission in the world.

God Himself is missional:

God the Father — the First Sender

God the Son — the First Sent

God the Holy Spirit — the One who continually sends the Church

Mission flows from the very being of God. The Father sends the Son, the Son sends the Spirit, and the Spirit sends the Church. Mission is not the Church’s invention — it’s the continuation of God’s sending love.

Therefore, being “missional” isn’t a new church strategy or trend; it’s a reflection of God’s very nature. Mission is not just something God does — it’s who He is.

And because the Church is the body of Christ, *mission is not just something the Church does — it’s who the Church is*. We are a sent people, participating with a sending God.

Yet churches often seem passionate about everything except God’s global mission. We’re passionate about worship, theology, small groups, and community — all good things! But these are meant to flow from God’s heart for the lost and His desire that all people hear His name and be saved.

“

Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you’re not saved yourself, be sure of that!

- Charles Spurgeon



VISION CAST

What:

Growing our passion for God's Mission starts with growing our passion for Christ – the One who was sent and who now sends us.

Why:

The Father's heart is for the lost and the nations, and he desires that all might be saved (1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9).

Why It's So Important:

Growing as a disciple means growing in our passion for Jesus and becoming more like him. Jesus is passionate about his Father's commands, and is missional, therefore we should be as well (John 20:21).

MYTHS & MECHANICS



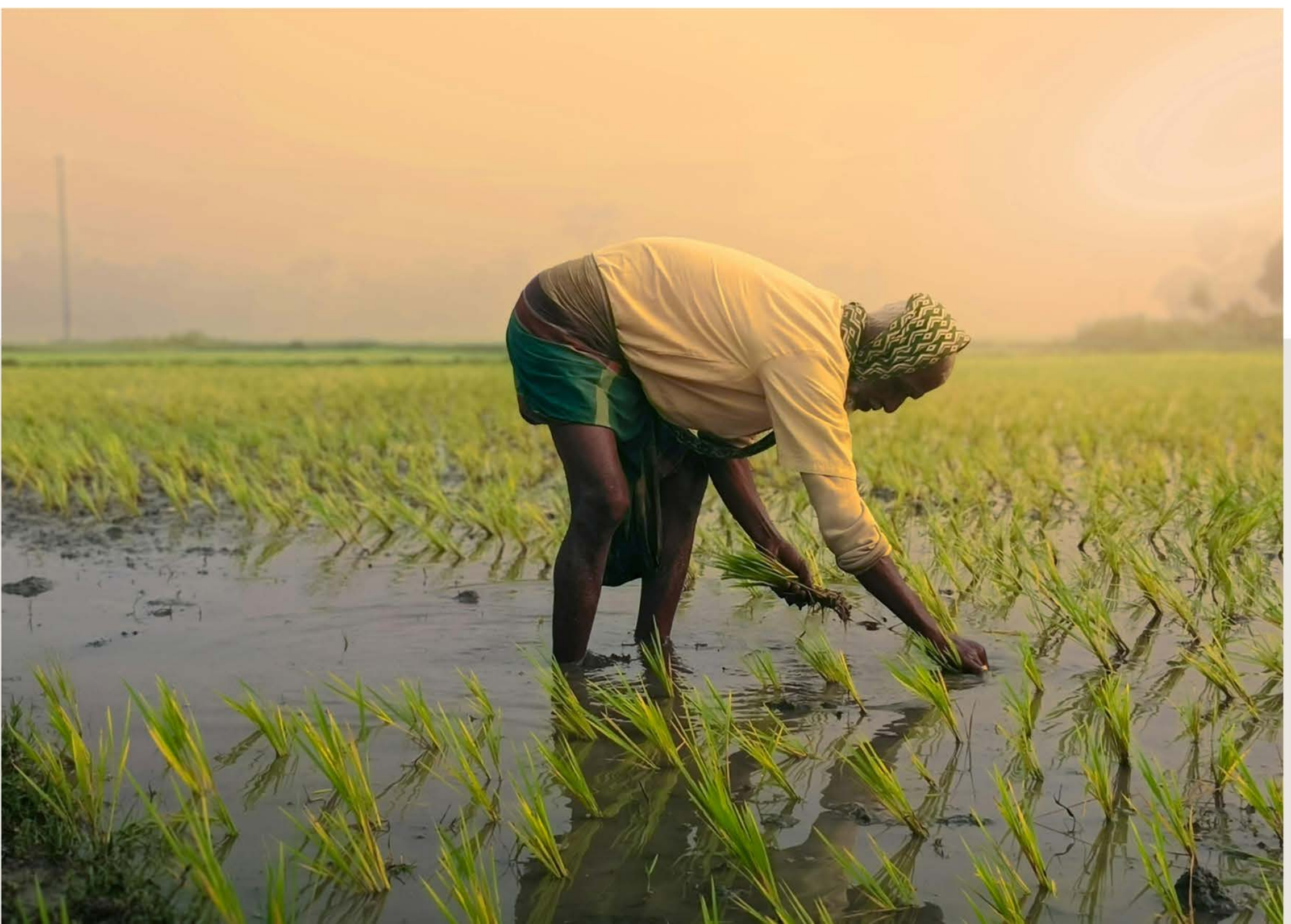
Myth #1

Mission is optional.

Reality: Living life on mission isn't just an option for the church, it's a command that comes straight from Jesus himself (Matthew 28:18-20). It is vital that the church focus on mission, both in our own communities and around the world.

“Mission is not an extracurricular activity of the church. Mission is the purpose of the church.

- Paul Beeghly



Myth #2

Once the church is more established, then we can start thinking about missions. We need to see our community transformed before we think globally.

Reality: Mission is not the final step of a healthy church – it's the essence of a healthy church. Jesus' ministry had no building, budget, and minimal (earthly) help. While we're not Jesus, we should not place more importance on these secondary items than on fulfilling his commandments. A passion for one's community and for the nations are an outflow of a passion for the lost and God's commands.



Myth #3

Missions is only for a select few: missionaries, missions committee, missions pastor, etc.

Reality: God wants to use the whole Church to bring the whole Gospel to the whole world! Mission is not the job of a few specialists; it's the calling of every disciple. All believers are called to emulate Jesus, the Sent one, and become more like him. When we are following Jesus, mission is inevitable!



INTEGRATION IDEAS

God chose the church to be the primary vehicle to carry out his mission; he doesn't need us but invites us to participate. As leaders in the church, we can missionally disciple its people through a variety of avenues. Here are a few...



STAGE

- Mission-centric preaching and prayer from the pulpit. The pulpit is the most visible, and first place, for the congregation to know something is important to your church.
- Preaching faithfully through Scripture and explaining the implications of the Gospel Sunday after Sunday: God is a missionary; God has a passion for all peoples; the Gospel is for all people everywhere.
- Introduce your people to missionaries and challenge them to get involved. Celebrate when leaders are multiplied in your church and sent out to the nations.

STAFF

- Encourage staff to find ways to integrate missions into the specific ministries they oversee.
- Educate staff on how growing in a missional mindset is also growing in a Christ-like mindset. Helping people grow as disciples is helping them grow as missionaries—whatever their context and role is.
- Make sure your staff know and are invested in the missionaries your church sends out. Find ways to make missionaries feel like vital members of your staff that are simply working remotely.

SMALL GROUPS

- Make sure missionaries on furlough get plugged into a small group while in the U.S. and encourage ongoing relationships when they return to the field.
- Pair small groups in your church with missionaries you send for ongoing connection, prayer, and meeting their practical needs.
- Require small groups to participate annually (or more frequently!) in missions. Missions does not have to be overseas but could be engaging with ministries/service opportunities that serve refugees and immigrants in your community.

HOW TEAM CAN HELP

TEAM works with you.

The local church is the primary vehicle God uses for world evangelization, and as your global ministry passion grows, so will the Kingdom. TEAM's primary goal for the last 135 years has been partnering with churches for missions. By offering church resources and experts in sending, we want to join you in sending out your people for missions.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

TEAM Church Resources

