

Why Does Global Missions Matter to the Local Church?

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Introduction



The American church has become hyper-focused on local outreach, at times to the abandonment of global missions. Since COVID, missions budgets have been slashed, and Christian colleges are eliminating or cutting back on their missions departments. With this change, younger generations are, at best, unaware of missions history and, at worst, label it colonialism and reject it completely.

Global missions matters to the local church because it matters to God. It's how he plans to reach the nations... through the local church!





VISION CAST



What:

Global missions is for every believer and every church to be involved because God's heart and purposes are global.

Why:

We can all fall into the trap of thinking the world revolves around our local community, our church, and ourselves. A global missions perspective helps us stay obedient to the Great Commission and connected to the big “C” Church and God’s work in all his peoples.

Why So Important:

The Gospel compels us to not only love and serve those near and like us, but to ask “Who is my neighbor?” in the most expansive way, rather than the most limiting (see Luke 10:25-37).

MYTHS & MECHANICS



Myth #1

Missions is colonialism

Reality: While there have been historic ties between missions work and colonialism, there is a growing effort to repent from these practices and to partner with local churches and ministries rather than imposing Western cultural values.



Myth #2

The world is reached, we don't need to send missionaries anymore

Reality: Global interconnectedness is growing. However, there are over 7,400 unreached people groups encompassing over 3 billion people worldwide who lack access to the Gospel. While the internet and its global reach is an avenue for evangelization, physical missionaries are needed in places of least access and to evangelize, disciple, and partner with local believers.



Myth #3

We should focus on local needs rather than global needs

Reality: Investing time and resources in local and global needs does not need to be mutually exclusive.

Oftentimes, congregational passion in one sphere can feed the other and be a part of a holistic, whole-world Gospel focus.



A close-up photograph of a woman with short, dark, curly hair, smiling warmly as she hugs a child from behind. The child has long, dark hair and is wearing a grey headband. The woman is wearing a light green shirt and a small earring. The child is wearing a grey shirt and a large, dark, heart-shaped earring. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

WHY MISSIONS MATTERS

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Global missions matter to the local church because they are at the heart of God's redemptive plan for the world. Here's why every local church should be engaged in global missions...



1. It's a Biblical Mandate

Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) wasn't just for individual missionaries—it was for the Church. Every local congregation is called to be part of God's mission to make disciples of all nations.

2. It Strengthens the Church's Faith & Vision

Engaging in global missions expands a church's perspective beyond its immediate community. It reminds believers that the Gospel is for all people and fuels a deeper reliance on prayer, generosity, and trust in God's provision.

3. It Reflects God's Heart for the Nations

From Genesis to Revelation, God's heart is for all people to know Him (Genesis 12:1-3, Psalm 96:3, Revelation 7:9). When a local church engages in global missions, it aligns with God's greater purpose.

4. It Encourages Discipleship & Multiplication

Supporting and sending missionaries models what it means to be disciples who make disciples. It inspires church members to share their faith both locally and globally.

5. It Builds Partnerships & Strengthens the Global Church

No single church can reach the whole world alone, but through partnerships, churches can plant new churches, equip leaders, and meet spiritual and physical needs across the globe.

6. It Revitalizes the Local Church

Churches actively involved in missions often experience renewed passion for evangelism, prayer, and generosity. Missions work brings fresh testimonies and a sense of purpose to the congregation.



BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE



The Bible is filled with God's call to missions, showing His heart for all nations to know and worship Him. Here are some key passages that highlight the biblical foundation for missions...



1. The Great Commission – Jesus' Command to Make Disciples

Matthew 28:18-20 – “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 that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Jesus' final instructions to His disciples make it clear that missions is central to the Church's purpose.



2. God's Promise to Bless All Nations

Genesis 12:1-3 – “I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

God's covenant with Abraham shows His plan to bless all nations through His people.



3. The Gospel is for All People

Romans 10:13-15 – “For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?”

Missions is necessary for people to hear the Gospel and be saved.



4. The Nations Will Worship God

Psalm 96:3 – “Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!”

Revelation 7:9 – “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”

Missions is ultimately about leading people to worship God.



5. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Missions

Acts 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Missions is Spirit-empowered, starting locally and expanding globally.



6. The Church's Role in Sending Missionaries

Acts 13:2-3 – “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”

The early church actively sent and supported missionaries.



7. God's Desire for All to Be Saved

1 Timothy 2:3-4 – “This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Missions aligns with God's heart for salvation for all people.



INTEGRATION IDEAS



- Do a Scripture study on understanding what God says about missions
- Go on a short-term trip
- Participate in a reputable course or study on global missions:
 - [Perspectives](#)
 - [Explore book](#)
 - [16:15](#) resources



HOW TEAM CAN HELP



TEAM works with you.

A hallmark of TEAM is partnering with the church to equip and send global missionaries; we refuse to do what we do independent of churches, pastors, and ministries like you. We offer multiple resources to help you engage your congregation in global missions, everything from short-term discernment trips ([TEAMtrek](#)), [online resources](#), [coaching](#), and finally short-term, mid-term, and long-term [sending](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



- *When Everything is Missions*, 16:15 Guys
- *Missions*, Andy Johnson
- *Let the Nations Be Glad*, John Piper

Please reach out with any questions you have.
Email us at church.engagement@team.org.

