

## **Why Mission Work is Important to the Local Church**

By Bob Young

Being involved in mission work is a vital part of the work of a local church. This article outlines some of the reasons mission work is important to the local church.

### **Mission work is important because it is part of God's Word.**

The Bible emphasizes mission. The emphasis of the Bible on taking with the message to the world is seen in the Great Commission given by Jesus and in the instructions to the Apostles in Acts 1:8. The word mission has as its root the concept of sending. Jesus sent his followers into the world; Jesus sends us into the world. That is the basic concept of missions.

Paul's intent to establish and strengthen local churches can be seen in Acts 14:21-23. Mission work includes evangelism and sharing the good news, but is also includes developing local churches, members, and leaders unto spiritual maturity.

### **Growing churches are almost always involved in mission work. I believe this is true because of the ways in which mission work impacts the local church.**

- Mission work reminds us of God's purpose in this work, of God's purpose for the church, and that God's purpose is our purpose. We are here for God and we are doing his will. When we understand this truth in the area of missions, we are more likely to apply it at home.
- Mission work gives the local church a high sense of spiritual endeavor. Prayer, dependence on God, interdependence on others, and increased spiritual focus help move the local church forward.
- Mission work helps the local church experience the power of the gospel when the local work becomes difficult. Mission work feeds local evangelism, building confidence in the power of the Word.
- Mission work encourages the local church to develop a global perspective.
- Mission work lets the local church and its members realize that they are involved in something bigger than themselves.
- The challenges of mission work make it hard to get into and stay in maintenance mode. Mission work helps the local church toward a missional, evangelistic, outreach focus in every part of church life.

### **Mission work is important to the local mission church that is on the receiving end.**

A sending church that takes seriously the Great Commission and the purpose of God to save the world through Christ is a blessing to the receiving mission church. The example of the sending church helps the mission church become spiritually mature. The spirit and attitude of the sending church, coupled with the advice and counsel of mature Christians who are willing to be sent and to share, helps the mission church develop teachers and leaders so that it can become self-responsible, directing and supporting its own work in the world. The example of a church dedicated to planting new churches motivates mission churches to also become missionary churches.