

How to Stimulate Your Church to World Evangelism

Dr. Bob Waldron

Executive Director

Missions Resource Network

The preacher of an average-sized church was overheard saying, "It would take a stick of dynamite to shake up the people of my congregation!" Perhaps, but we think there is a better way than blasting powder. In fact, we list below twenty-five ways to shake up the status quo of your church and make members more conscious of the world in which they exist.

1. Pray for your missionaries by name at each service. Lift up their hands to insure victory in battle.
2. Begin a World Bible School program, using your members to mail and grade Bible correspondence courses (WBS, Westover Hills church of Christ, 8332 Mesa Drive, Austin, Texas 78759, 512-451-4571).
3. Hang large flags in the foyer of the church building for every country in which you support a missionary or have active students in your WBS program. Miniature flags can be purchased for families to place in their homes as a reminder to pray for the people represented by the flags (Frontier Flags, P.O. Box 176, Branson, Missouri 65616; telephone 417-334-1776).
4. Support a missionary. Currently, approximately one thousand congregations in our fellowship are supporting about 480 missionary families. Yet, many local churches are not yet enjoying the thrill of sharing Christ with people of other lands.
5. If your congregation cannot support a missionary fully, then help with his or her support. Provide travel funds, working funds or resources for a special project such as the cost of printing a tract, broadcasting a radio program or conducting an evangelistic campaign. Churches of all sizes can do something in world missions.
6. Devote an entire page in the church directory to each missionary you help to support. Include a map, photographs and a brief description of his or her work.
7. Place a large, attractive map at the front of the auditorium. Near it, in lettering large enough to be seen clearly from the back, place an appropriate scripture passage or a phrase such as "Into all the world" or "One Lord, one faith, one world."
8. Use the classrooms and halls for displaying maps, flags, bulletin board posters, pictures and curios from the field. Always keep something of a missionary nature on display.
9. Subscribe to World Digest, a church bulletin insert featuring a summary of missionary news from around the world. (\$20 per year per pack of 50 copies for six issues per year. Order from Missions Resource Network.)
10. Invite a missionary to preach on world outreach once a quarter.
11. Send your preacher on one foreign evangelistic campaign a year.
12. Buy your elders and preaching staff one good book on evangelism a year.
13. Send leaders of your church to the World Evangelism Forum held each September at the Sunset Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, or to the Seminar in Missions, held each June

at Abilene Christian University.

14. Have a few moments for missions at the beginning of every Bible class, from kindergarten to adult. Include news from the field, prayer, information on the region in question, and spiritual needs there. You also can refer to a news item in World Digest (see item #9) or the Christian Chronicle.
15. Include one lesson on missions in all Bible classes at least every six months. Teach on missions for an entire quarter every three years. This means that a student would study world outreach during four quarters by the end of high school.
16. Work toward applying 30% of your budget to evangelistic efforts outside your immediate area.
17. Balance your congregation's outreach between (1) stateside, within you own culture, (2) stateside, outside your own culture, and (3) foreign cross-cultural. If possible, engage in some of all three of these levels.
18. Organize a missions committee that will accept responsibility under the elders for promoting missions in the congregation, communicating with your missionaries, determining missions policies, and making important missions decisions.
19. Conduct one or more local evangelistic efforts to bring the Gospel directly to those living within a ten-mile radius of your church building.
20. Encourage the preaching staff and elders to conduct home Bible studies and urge each one to set an evangelistic example by bringing, with God's help, at least one person to Christ per year.
21. Encourage the congregation to follow the example set by her leaders.
22. Encourage every church member to subscribe to the Christian Chronicle. (A lifetime enrollment is only \$10 per address for groups of more than 10.)
23. Hold a World Harvest Month in the fall of each year as a time of emphasis on world evangelism
24. Plan an annual Missions Weekend during World Harvest Month. Select missionary speakers, have an international banquet with food and dress from many nations, and take up a special offering for world evangelism.
25. During one weekend of World Harvest Month, conduct an all-night prayer service, mentioning every missionary by name and praying specifically for each nation of the world. Pray for one continent at a time with short films or talks separating the prayer sessions. Pray as one group or break up into smaller groups for some of the sessions. Try some of these suggestions for a period of time and you will discover that your congregation is coming alive to the mission of God! Increased zeal, dedication and church growth will likely result.