

Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the General Director



What Went Wrong with Global Missions?

Oops! My editors tell me I should never write anything negative. They maintain there is a positive way to state whatever. Today, that's what I say, "Whatever." My dear editors, forgive me—just this once. Rules are made to be broken (now, foreign missions policy that is another story).

I need to arrest your attention—would do printable somersaults if I could—and pull you into reading this article. So, what exactly has gone wrong with missions? Probably a number of things, but I will deal with only one in this *Cross-Cultural Perspectives*. (By the way, I do hope you read this feature every month. It's my opportunity to discuss relevant missions topics with you.)

We've all heard of indigenous church principles—Missions 101 stuff. We are to establish self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating churches. Surely all of us are striving to do that (See, *that's positive!*). However, sometimes we fall short of taking the national church full circle by neglecting to teach *their* responsibility in sending and supporting missionaries to other needy nations. It's standard knowledge that the Great Commission is for all Christians, not merely the North American Church. Where did we go wrong with missions? Global missions means just that—*global* missions. That calls for taking the Gospel to the whole world, and then the converted continuing the assignment. Like Brother Urshan used to say, "The whole Gospel to the whole world, by the whole church."

Traditionally, North American missionaries went overseas, opened fields, established churches, and (I'm convinced) did their best to bring them to spiritual

maturity. However, at times, we fell short of imparting a burden for missions in the hearts of our people, or establishing a plan for giving to evangelism outside the borders of our particular nation. This may have left the impression that missionary work is something done by western Christians. This thinking is changing. Thank God. Our regional missions program is off to a great start. Where do we go from here?

Include courses on missions in your Bible school program. For more information and great resources contact Randy Adams, author of *World Missions* at GRCAtogo@aol.com or lshirley@upci.org; or Daniel Scott at Fmrdsa@aol.com concerning his book *A Divine Partnership*; or Jim Poitras at Jimpoitras@aol.com for a new resource being released on the *Biblical Theology of Missions*.

1. Send delegates to missions awareness seminars in your area.
2. Emphasize missions involvement and giving in your nation. Be deliberate. People respond to what you expect, the vision you cast, and where you place importance.
3. Post PIM letters and revival reports on available bulletin boards. Highlight unreached nations in your region.
4. Send out revival reports or missions updates in monthly communications to ministers.
5. Send teams or ministers on cross-cultural encounters (and, where possible, encourage the local or national church to cover the expense.)
6. Establish a systematic (preferably monthly) plan for missions giving.
7. Encourage the appointment of a national promoter of missions to oversee the missions program (giving and going) for each country.
8. Promote faith promise giving. The principles of God's Word transcend time, geographical location, and culture. Faith promise works!

If you have any other suggestions of how we can better promote missions within our nations, please let me know. Let's make the wrong way right!

