**Connected to the Community and Wired to the World**

**Pre-Mission Planning**

**I would encourage pastors before they commit to financial commitments to really access the health of the Church.**

1. Do you have leaders, systems, policies, mission statements?
2. Is the vision of the church known? Is it stated? Is it defined? Is it embraced?
3. How are the finances of the Church? Are you living within your financial obligations?
4. How are the buildings? Are they in good repair and clean?
5. If you do not have a healthy church and try to go full speed in missions obligation you will only frustrate your church, embarrass your leadership and stress yourself.

Missions is supported several ways through our churches.

**Before I signed on to support a missionary or a mission entity I would ask a few questions.**

1. Who are they connected with?
2. Is the person reputable and the persons or group they are connected with?
3. Is this person or mission in good standing with my fellowship?
4. Is this mission something that lines up with my churches vision and mission?
5. What percentage is going to the actual mission?
6. How long is my commitment?
7. Is my district supportive of this mission? Does it line up with their mission and vision?
8. Am I going to get field reports of the progress? How? And how often?

**Sample of components of a mission’s budget.**

1. **Career Missionaries**.

The most important thing we can do is get boots on the ground.

2**. Church Planting**

CP&D, Church planting pastors

3. **Compassion Ministries**

Convoy of Hope, Teen Challenge, Compact (Hillcrest Children’s home)

3. **Competent Projects.**

Life Publishers, Fire Bible, Global University, Network211, Maps, Healthcare Ministries

4. **Colleges and Universities**

Southeastern University, Southwestern, Global University

6. **Community Outreach.**

How are you contextualizing the message of Christ to your community? How are they seeing the message and life of the gospel in the everyday actions of your church?

Contextualization is consistent with the call of Christians to be a light in the world. The church is called to love those who are living differing stories.

The church is also called to persuade those who are living differing stories of the truthfulness of the gospel. To pursue this calling, our message must be understandable!

“You have to know it to show it. You have to show it to sell it.” - Harry Hunter

7. **Campus Ministry.**

Youth Alive, Chi Alpha, Church involvement in the schools (Elementary to High School).

8. **Camps**

District Camps

9. **Church Ministries Programs.**

STL, BGMC LFTL and Women's Mission’s

10. **Crisis Events (Disasters)**

11. **District Missions Office**

**How do you raise the Missions budget?**

1. Preach about missions and stir the heart of the congregation about the Kingdom of God. Don’t sell AG Programs communicate Kingdom dreams that the AG is involved in.
2. Create an atmosphere of missions in your leadership.
3. Start supporting missions as a family so that leadership sees not only your words but your action.
4. Create a Missions team.
5. Consider percentage of your general funds to be set-aside for Missions.
6. Create a budget based on the mission’s dream you have developed from the components you have decided to support.
7. Plan a great Missions convention.
8. Schedule missionaries at different times on your church calendar.
9. Let the children take up a BGMC offering in the Sunday morning service.
10. Show missions videos.
11. Read missionary letters before the offering.
12. Interview a missionary.
13. Skype a missionary in to the service and interview him.
14. Do a sectional Missions Convention. Share the speakers and the costs.
15. Let missionaries do home groups.
16. Have a missionary on an off night and let him share his heart.
17. Challenge the students to make faith promises for their Speed the Light goals.
18. Send a team on a mission’s trip each year from your church. They raise their own budgets.
19. Never be afraid to allow for a competent missionary to present to your congregation. If they move you they can move your people.
20. Be a team player! This is a fellowship!