5TH DIMENSION: OPENING ALL AROUND (EVANGELISM & MISSIONS)

Love Looks Outward

LOVE GOES TO THE WORLD

Acts 1:8 AMP
But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."

Mark 16:15 AMP
And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Isaiah 6:8 AMP
Isaiah's Commission
Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

QUOTE A
"We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God."
John RW Stot

QUOTE B
"**Many Christians love evangelism** as long as someone else is doing it."
Ed Syetzer

ACTS 18:8 IN CONTEMPORARY TERMS

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

- Evangelism, in its purist form, means **taking the Gospel to people outside the Church!**
- Evangelism and Missions are often mentioned in the same breath and are often used interchangeably. Although evangelism is part of Missions, in its simplest form, it can be seen as two concepts.

- When done with extensive financial backing, Evangelism can yield greater results; however, it can still be done with limited financial resources. The reason being that it happens in your local vicinity.
- Missions often involve travel and longer distances, so they require more financial resources.

IS THE TERM "MISSIONS" PROBLEMATIC?

- In the modern-day church, it can very often be problematic. The main reason for this is that Missions, in its essence, require the missionary to **step out of** his or her **comfort zone**.
- If we highlight stepping out of one's comfort zone, it leaves us with a choice, YES or NO. If I am bold enough to answer no, it makes one feel uneasy and perhaps having to offer further explanations.
- So, an easier response will be, **we don't really have to go far anymore**. We live in global villages and people **from every nation can be found on our doorstep**.
- Even though all of this may be true, the reality is that **the majority of the people who are global citizens** and find themselves on our doorsteps **do not necessarily intend returning to their nations of origin**. Thus, reaching them with the Gospel may not result in them carrying the Gospel back home!

THE CHURCH GRAPPLES WITH UNDERSTANDING AND PROMOTING "MISSIONS" – ACADEMIA AND THE DIPLOMATIC WORLD SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND IT BETTER

1. Collins English Dictionary: Academic and Diplomatic

A mission is an important task people are given to do, especially one that involves travelling to another country.

A special embassy sent to a foreign country for a specific purpose. "A group of people who have been sent to a foreign country to carry out an official task.

2. Collins English Dictionary: Christian

A group of people sent by a religious body, especially a Christian church, to a foreign country to do religious and social work.

WHERE DOES EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS FIT IN?
Should it be regarded as:

- Specialised functions.
- Electives (for those who choose it).

Does **Acts 1:8** suggest a type of a promotion or graduation staircase?

The Local church
It should first and foremost be part of the thinking and planning of any local church
Acts 1:8, when studied in the original language, does not suggest moving to new levels. It rather suggests constantly expanding/adding to your reach.

- Be active in Jerusalem – that is the main place where God has placed you. Bloom where you are planted!
- As you gain momentum in Jerusalem, now venture out and add some initiatives in Judea, whilst not neglecting the work in Jerusalem!
- Now, as you manage to have momentum in both Jerusalem and Judea, you now start to look for opportunities to start impacting Samaria. But in no way do you neglect Jerusalem and Judea.
- Finally the same strategy applies to The uttermost parts of the World!

Networks and Structures (we are connected to)
As much as we can agree that Evangelism and Missions should be birthed from the local church, there is also the responsibility and mandate on higher forums like Networks and Structures to be equally passionate about it.
The bigger your capacity, the bigger your responsibility and mandate.

There are certain mandates that fall within the scope of the local church, and then there are other mandates that require more financial and human resources.

WHO HAS TO FUND THE DREAM?
This is one of the other obstacles hindering mission and mission involvement. Sadly but true, missions are a costly endeavour.

In scriptures we see Paul as our main example of missions, therefore his example on funding missions is also relevant.

Romans 15:24 AMP
Whenever I go [on my trip] to Spain—I hope to see you as I pass through [Rome], and to be **helped on my journey there by you**, after I have first enjoyed your company for a little while.

Philippians 4:15-18 AMP
And you Philippians know that in the early days of preaching the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of [a]giving and receiving except you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs. Not that I seek the gift itself, but I do seek the profit which increases to your [heavenly] account [the blessing which is accumulating for you]. But I have received everything in full and more; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent me. They are the fragrant aroma of an offering, an acceptable sacrifice which God welcomes *and* in which He delights.

2 Corinthians 11:9 AMP
And when I was with you and ran short [financially], I did not burden any of you; for what I needed was fully supplied by the brothers (Silas and Timothy) who came from Macedonia (the church at Philippi). So I kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so.

Summary

- Paul informs the church in **Rome** that he will visit and is expecting them to sow towards his ministry as he travels to Spain (**Romans 15:24**)
- Paul praises the church in **Philippi** for being the first church to partner with him in missions. (**Philippians 4:15-18**)
- We see Paul referencing the support from **Philippi** when speaking to the church in Corinth. (**2 Corinthians 11:9**).

WHAT DOES MODERN DAY MISSIONS LOOK LIKE?
Regardless of the time and era, the basic premise of the mission is to establish the work of the Kingdom in places where it is non-existent and then contribute to the development of the church.

In order to realise the above goal, the mission can find expression in any of the following activities:

- Direct soul winning campaigns. This can be mass evangelism or one-on-one.
    - Open Airs
    - Tent Crusades
    - One-on-One Friendship Evangelism
    - Marketplace Ministry
- Discipling new converts
    - Ensuring that new converts are taken up in the local church and actively discipled.
      Matthew 28:19 AMP
      Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
- Training of local Evangelists & Preachers
    - Conferences
    - Seminars
    - Bible Colleges
- Assisting with the building of Church structures
    - Assist with land acquisition
    - Assist with physical building programs
- Assisting with Organisational training
    - Facilitating good governance
- Community upliftment and development
    - Schools
    - Medical Missions
    - Job creation programs
    - Addressing other social challenges (Project Lilly)