

# LIFT

## Ministry Group June Resource

### Ten Things Every Missionary wished Pastors Understood.

*Fielded from Global Workers, Chaplains and Home Missionaries.*

1. **We are fellow ministers serving alongside you. We don't want to be elevated. We just want to be loved and valued.**
2. **We can be a catalyst to help you raise up missionaries in your local church by helping you build a global vision.**
3. **Integration into a new culture takes time. It can take a couple of years to learn the language, build meaningful relationships and adapt to the cultural nuances.**
4. **Sunday services are limited. Consider inviting missionaries to speak at a women's or men's event, children's service, small group meeting or Ministry Group gathering.**
5. **It's uncomfortable raising a budget. Partnership development is arduous work and it can take months to build enough relational equity with a pastor to gain a meeting or speaking opportunity.**



### Shop Talk:

#### Developing a Missions Culture in your church (Pt.1)

Over the next two months we want to help pastors establish a strong spiritual foundation for missions in the heart of their people, develop intentional strategies geared towards their particular church setting, and discuss a variety of practical ideas that can be implemented in any size congregation.

Before it can become a culture in our churches, a passion for missions must first be cultivated in our pastors. You cannot lead a culture shift in your church, if you are not personally passionate about it. Here are several ways to communicate your personal passion for missions:

- Befriend the missionaries in your District.
- Personally support a missionary/missionaries financially.
- Pray for your missionaries each week.
- Plan and participate in a missions trip.
- Send your missionaries a personal note of encouragement.
- Champion a missionary among your friends/fellow pastors.

You can also champion missions from the pulpit. What we declare from the pulpit has the potential to shift the direction and trajectory of a church. Missions needs more than an annual emphasis. An emphasis on missions should be directed from the pulpit by stirring our people with messages that bring missions into their daily lives. Here are some ways to do that:

- Preach on the Macedonian call: How God calls people into vocational ministry.
- Preach how generosity and compassion can spread the gospel around the world.
- Preach on what a missions-minded church looks like.
- Preach on the urgency of bringing in the harvest.
- Preach using real life examples from missionaries on the field.
- Invite missionaries to your church throughout the year to keep missions fresh in their hearts and minds.

**Discuss: What other ways can pastors champion missions personally?**

## Ten Things (Cont.)

**6. Be honest and upfront if you cannot support a missionary financially or lack availability to have them speak at your church. It eliminates any false hope or confusion.**

### ***Something to consider:***

**If you can't support them monthly or with a special offering: Gas cards, gift cards for food, and gift certificates for oil changes are great ways to ease a missionary's traveling and administrative expenses.**

**7. Respond to their emails and phone calls. This is a common courtesy we should respectively extend to our friends and fellow laborers.**

**8. Read their newsletter correspondence. Many of the questions pastors have are answered in those updates. They contain prayer needs, testimonials, and ministry developments.**

**9. Reach out to them when they are on the field. Ask what tangible and spiritual needs a missionary may be facing. Let them know they are seen and loved.**

**10. Consider the size of the mission field before turning away a missionary that is serving a region, campus or inner city work that you already support. Just as there are many churches that serve a community, it takes multiple missionaries to serve in those ministry contexts.**

**Next month: Ten Things Every Pastor Wished Missionaries Understood.**

## Intentional Strategies: Budgeting, Scheduling, Promotion.

In order for missions to become a culture, it must permeate all facets of church life including administrative structures like budgeting, scheduling and promotion.

**Budgeting:** One of the cornerstones of church health is good stewardship. We teach our people that one of the keys to financial health is implementing the principle of tithing. Yet, as a church, do we follow the same guideline? Is part of your annual church budget allocated to facilitating missions globally, nationally, and locally? Perhaps your budget will not allow for that, but you could budget in missions dollars to help supplement cash offerings taken up during a missionary visit. (We had a \$1,000 benchmark. When the offering was received, if it was only \$750, the church contributed \$250 to make sure every missionary left with at least \$1,000. As the church's passion for missions grew, we had to raise the threshold because they kept exceeding the benchmark.)

**Scheduling:** Be intentional! Plan your missions services in advance. Here are some ideas to discuss:

- Set the dates on your calendar at the beginning of the year. When missionaries call you already have dates to give them. Or, better yet, take the initiative to call them.
- Pre-determine how many veteran and newly appointed missionaries you will invite. (Our church scheduled in a missionary every other month. This included a STL service, 2 newly appointed, and 3 veteran itinerating.)
- Your church budget may not support picking up a new missionary, but there may be individuals in your church who will. Empower the missionary to ask for personal support. It will bolster the missions culture in your church when people are donating to support the church's missional goals while, simultaneously, supporting a missionary whose ministry they are personally passionate about.
- Ask the missionary to share a window about their ministry, but also have them preach. By having them preach the congregation will begin to see them as more than a guest, but as an extension of your church family. Give them the liberty to have altar calls and pray for people.
- For those you cannot schedule in for a service, take time to meet them for coffee and hear their vision.

**Promotion:** It is important to raise awareness regarding your missionary before they arrive in your church service.

- Ask that the missionary send you some prayer cards in advance so that your people can begin praying for them.
- Prior to the missions service, encourage your congregation to prayerfully consider how they can partner financially with the missionary.
- Utilize your social media, but be conscientious of the fact that some missionaries serve in sensitive countries and posting info about them could be dangerous for them.
- If you cannot have them in, ask them for a 2-3 minute video you could show highlighting their ministry. This could also be used to promote a missionary in the weeks leading up to an in-person service.
- Consider doing a live interview using Zoom with a missionary on the field.

**Discuss:** In what other ways could we build the missions culture within the administrative structure of our churches?

