

EMBRACING THE
ACTS 1:8
CHALLENGE



A Leadership Guide

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CONTENTS

Introduction: Our Church Has Accepted the Acts 1:8 Challenge. Now What?	5
Chapter 1: Prepare -Empowering a designated leader of missions and developing mission teams, strategies, and plans to take the gospel to our community, state, continent, and world.	13
Chapter 2: Learn -Bringing mission awareness and interaction to the entire church body, training members for service, and connecting them to missionaries and mission needs.	19
Chapter 3: Pray -Asking God for kingdom perspective and world-wide vision, interceding for Christian workers, and unevangelized peoples.	27
Chapter 4: Give -Increasing the financial support of the Cooperative Program and other Southern Baptist cooperative missions.	35
Chapter 5: Go -Enabling a growing number of members to directly participate in short-term, long-term, and marketplace opportunities to minister and spread the gospel beyond our church's walls.	43
Chapter 6: Tell -Involving an increasing number of members in intentional, culturally relevant evangelism.	51
Chapter 7: Send -Providing members with opportunities to hear and respond to God's call to vocational mission service.	57
Chapter 8: Multiply -Participating in church planting and facilitating church-planting movements.	63



INTRODUCTION

**Introduction: Our Church Has
Accepted the Acts 1:8 Challenge.
Now What?**

The Acts 1:8 Challenge is not another program or ministry model to emulate. The goal of the Acts 1:8 Challenge is for your church to be a worldwide mission center, engaging in intentional kingdom-growing efforts in “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.”

When your church said “yes” to the Acts 1:8 Challenge, it completed a simple registration process and provided general information about its mission involvement. The information was shared with each of the four Acts 1:8 Challenge “partners”—the International Mission Board (IMB), North American Mission Board (NAMB), the appropriate state convention, and local association. These partners can assist, encourage, and service churches who have accepted the Acts 1:8 Challenge in becoming strategically engaged in the Great Commission through personalized involvement in specific arenas of ministry and outreach.

When a church embraces the Acts 1:8 Challenge, it is like saying, “We are committed to developing a comprehensive missions strategy.” Many churches are effective in this endeavor already. Others are renewing or beginning their Acts 1:8 Challenge journey. In every case, those churches are committed to leading their members through a process of intentional, integrated, comprehensive, and year-round mission learning, praying, giving, and going. Members are equipped, encouraged, and expected to get personally involved in the Great Commission. A dynamic, synergistic mission mindset is integrated into the overall ministries of the church.

Each church may have its own unique approach, but there are several basic elements that are sure to be included. Rather than being another program of the church, the Acts 1:8 Challenge actually becomes part of the basic DNA of a church as it takes responsibility for reaching the world with the gospel. With the help of the Holy Spirit, a fresh and renewed Great Commission mindset will be assimilated into the fiber, framework, and overall focus of the church, and be much more than a compartmentalized program of the church.

If you have not already done so, read and study the 2005 doctrine study from LifeWay Christian Resources, *The Acts 1:8 Challenge: Empowering the Church to Be On Mission*. This study provides a biblical view of the Acts 1:8 Challenge, and will be an important resource to have on hand as you implement an Acts 1:8 Challenge vision in your church. (You can purchase the study at any LifeWay Christian Store, order the study online at www.lifeway.com, or call the catalog store at 1 800 448-8032.)

An additional resource to study is *The EKG: The Heartbeat of God*. This book will help lay the theological foundation for understanding and implementing the Acts 1:8 Challenge. This book may also be purchased at any LifeWay Christian Store, or ordered online at www.lifeway.com.

As a church that has embraced the Acts 1:8 Challenge, you are encouraged to engage in eight specific **kingdom-growing responses**. Rather than a “checklist” of criteria, these biblical responses should be seen as suggested opportunities for personalized and customized participation. Under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, each church is challenged to respond in the following ways, and to develop comprehensive strategies for mission involvement in their own Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and ends of the earth:

- **Prepare**—empowering a designated leader of missions and developing mission teams, strategies, and plans to take the gospel to our community, state, continent, and world.
- **Learn**—bringing mission awareness and interaction to the entire church body, training members for service, and connecting them to missionaries and mission needs.

- **Pray**-asking God for kingdom perspective and worldwide vision, interceding for Christian workers and unevangelized peoples.
- **Give**-increasing the financial support of the Cooperative Program and other Southern Baptist cooperative missions.
- **Go**-enabling a growing number of members to directly participate in short-term, long-term, and marketplace opportunities to minister and spread the gospel beyond our church's walls.
- **Tell**-involving an increasing number of members in intentional, culturally relevant evangelism.
- **Send**-providing members with opportunities to hear and respond to God's call to vocational mission service.
- **Multiply**-participating in church planting and facilitating church-planting movements.

These eight responses are further developed in the chapters to follow. Ideas and resources will be offered to assist you in creating a balanced approach to implementation.

This leadership guide is one of many valuable resources that will help keep your church focused on the four mission fields and the eight kingdom-growing responses. Included in these pages are practical, hands-on, action-oriented ideas, resources, and strategies. All of the worksheets in this leadership guide can be duplicated for your church's use as you lead others to embrace the challenge.

As you follow the Holy Spirit's leadership in the Acts 1:8 Challenge, you need to develop a clear perspective on where you are going. Here is a brief overview of the four Acts 1:8 Challenge mission fields:

- **Ends of the Earth**-*This mission field encompasses the vast reaches of our world where many people have not yet heard about Jesus.* We are intentionally starting with this field because an international perspective of missions gives us the broadest view of the size, scope, and significance of the world's spiritual need. The overwhelming fact is that a large portion of our world's population is without Christ and is disconnected from any Christian witness. The "ends of the earth" mission field includes people from various cultures, languages, religions, and with ethnic diversity. Another barrier to communicating the gospel is that about 60 percent of the world's population learns by hearing rather than by reading. Among the Last Frontier peoples (those with little or no access to the gospel), 75 percent live in these oral cultures. We must respond to the overwhelming lostness of our world with a Spirit-directed sense of urgency, intensity, preparedness, and excellence.
- **Samaria**-*This mission field includes the United States, Canada, and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.* It cuts across racial, ethnic, linguistic, and socio-economic boundaries to embrace every person who lives within the borders of these nations. The "Samaria" mission field reflects an intentional strategy to impact one of the largest unevangelized populations in the world. The United States is now the world's third largest mission field (in terms of the number of lost people), behind China and India. There are an estimated 235 million lost people in the United States and Canada. That number represents about seven out of 10 people in these countries who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The population of our continent is growing faster than our mission force and much faster than the number of new churches. One of the common barriers in reaching the "Samaria" field is the lack of awareness and increasing apathy by the general population regarding its spiritual condition. Complacency among our churches and a lack of evangelistic vibrancy are also contributing factors.

There is a stark reality concerning the “Samaria” mission field: if we lose North America, we greatly limit our ability to impact the world for Christ. The United States and Canada must be a strategic focus of our churches’ mission involvement.

- **Judea**- *This mission field is the state in which we live.* Each state or region is symbolically a “Judea” mission field with its own unique spiritual climate. In addition, there are tremendous cultural, traditional, racial, political, economic, and ethnic differences in each state and region. For instance, Alabama is distinct from Alaska. Maine is considerably different than Missouri. Each “Judea” mission field presents its own unique challenges and opportunities for cultivating a pervading Christian witness and influence. Strategies for sharing the good news of Jesus must be coordinated, communicated, and customized to each context. The message of the gospel never changes, but the method of sharing it may be different from people to people. The key is to develop relationships and share the gospel in an authentic and relevant way. Forming statewide and regional partnerships is also vital for successful saturation of the gospel. Many regions of our nation share a common spiritual deception sometimes referred to as “cultural Christianity.” For example, in surveys, almost eight out of 10 people in America describe themselves as “Christian,” but when asked about basic biblical beliefs that define the Christian faith (such as Jesus being the only way to God or salvation by grace alone), only about three in 10 appear to have a personal relationship with Christ. Many of these embrace a works-based religious affinity rather than the relational, grace-oriented gospel of the Bible. It is quite possible for people to live in a nominally religious region of “Judea” and have no connection with the true gospel.
- **Jerusalem**- *This mission field is the city or surrounding community where we live.* Every church is planted in a particular “Jerusalem” setting. The people in our neighborhoods or community are the specific focus of this mission field, where the members of our churches work, attend school, shop, and do business. Being salt and light (see Matt. 5:13-14) is critical to the effectiveness of our witness in the “Jerusalem” mission field. It involves a daily influence of our church members in the lives of others. The opportunities for building relationships by interacting with lost people and showing genuine compassion for others are much more readily available. Our “Jerusalem” is the first place we go when we step outside the walls of our church building. A Christian will often come in contact with dozens of people who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in the course of his or her daily routine. Many churches serve in major metropolitan areas and large cities. Others serve in town and country areas or in rural settings. Some areas are extremely affluent while others are in great poverty. In all cases, customized strategies for sharing the good news of Jesus can be developed. Partnerships with other churches in a local association present unique possibilities for joining together in reaching a city or community for Christ. New churches are needed to reach the people of your Jerusalem that your church, for whatever reason, can not.

It is important to note that these mission fields do not necessarily have to be defined in terms of geography. For instance, Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth may also be interpreted ethnically, linguistically, and culturally. One church, for example, defined their Judea as “people with whom we feel comfortable” and their Samaria as “people with whom we do not normally interact.” In addition, a church may have very real opportunities to make an international impact in their own community or region. Wherever your church finds these fields, God wants you to have a kingdom influence in the hearts and lives of all people.

The Acts 1:8 Challenge is a kingdom assignment given by Jesus to His church. It is clearly intended to be a comprehensive strategy flowing concurrently in our Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. We must respond to all Acts 1:8 Challenge mission fields at the same time. Every Christian and every church must embrace this awesome assignment if we are to be used by God effectively in advancing His kingdom.

One of the first and most helpful exercises is to customize your church's Acts 1:8 Challenge perspective. God has planted your church in a unique place and given you a grand purpose. The Lord desires to reach the world with the good news of Jesus right where you are.

Use the following worksheet to identify your church's Acts 1:8 Challenge mission fields and begin connecting each field with contact people in the specific partnership areas. Be specific about the designations of your fields. You may already have some affinities, connections, and partnerships in each of the areas. There may also be key people in each field you use as contact persons. For additional partnership information, contact your association, state convention, and mission boards and ask for names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of those who will customize each mission field for your church.

OUR CHURCH'S ACTS 1:8 CHALLENGE MISSION FIELDS AND MISSION PARTNERS

(complete and use as reference)

I. Our Jerusalem: _____
(city/region/association)

Name of association _____
Associational missionary/Director of missions _____
Acts 1:8 Challenge contact person for association _____
Address _____
City/State/ZIP _____
Phone number _____
E-mail _____
Web site _____

II. Our Judea: _____
(state/province)

Name of state convention partner _____
Acts 1:8 Challenge contact person for state _____
Address _____
City/State/ZIP _____
Phone number _____
E-mail _____
Web site _____

III. Our Samaria:
North American Mission Board
Acts 1:8 Challenge Contact: Church Relations
4200 North Point Pkwy.
Alpharetta, GA 30022-4166
(770) 410-6321
ActsOne8@namb.net
www.namb.net

IV. Our Ends of the Earth:
International Mission Board
Acts 1:8 Challenge Contact: Church Services Team
P.O. Box 6767; 3806 Monument Ave.
Richmond, VA 23230-0767
1 800 999-3113
ActsOne8@imb.org
www.imb.org



CHAPTER 1

PREPARE

Empowering a designated leader of missions and developing mission teams, strategies, and plans to take the gospel to our community, state, continent, and world.

As your church embraces the Acts 1:8 Challenge, it is crucial that a gifted and effective leadership team be established to guide your implementation efforts. Your church may have had a mission team or mission committee in place for years. It may be that you are currently building such a team of key mission leaders. Either way, this would be an excellent opportunity to reorganize, reenergize, and refocus toward embracing the Acts 1:8 Challenge. Churches have used several designations for such leadership teams:

- On Mission Team
- Global Priority Team
- Acts 1:8 Challenge Lead Team
- Mission Council
- Mission Committee
- Acts 1:8 Challenge Team
- Global Impact Team

Regardless of your team's name, the work is the same. These catalytic mission leaders will set the pace and lead the entire church toward greater worldwide impact.

Look first at the make-up of your church's mission leadership team. Again, the name of this catalytic group of mission-minded leaders may be different from church to church, but their work and responsibilities will be very similar.

The role of the senior pastor in working with this team is vitally important. It is worth stating again that he must be at the forefront of embracing the Acts 1:8 Challenge. In a very real sense, the pastor is the primary leader, cheerleader, initiator, and instigator in the missionary focus of the church. While there may be occasional exceptions to this, the most effective churches in establishing a comprehensive, worldwide mission impact are those where the pastor champions the cause.

Many churches have a designated mission leader (pastor, other staff member, or layperson) who can serve as the coordinator for the mission leadership team. In developing your church's team, consider those key leaders who are already involved in missions. This may include the people in charge of Women on Mission®, Baptist Men on Mission, women's or men's ministry, and mission education for youth and children. These mission-minded advocates can provide valuable insight as part of your church's mission leadership team.

The Acts 1:8 Challenge leadership team must embrace the responsibility of mobilizing church members for specific kingdom-growing responses to the Great Commission (prepare, learn, pray, give, go, tell, send, multiply). The team should seek to ensure that the mission strategy is both churchwide and year-round. This is accomplished through adopting a customized comprehensive approach of personalized mission involvement in each of the four fields (ends of the earth, Samaria, Judea, and Jerusalem). The following steps are suggestions for mission leadership teams beginning this exciting process. They may also be used as a helpful guide for churches that already have such leadership teams in place:

1. Pray for a fresh, clear vision of God's heart for the world.

A fervent, focused season of prayer for God's vision and leadership is essential for all those involved in embracing the Acts 1:8 Challenge. It is essential that mission leaders be active seekers of the Holy Spirit's

guidance as they discern how to lead their church to be fully involved in God's history-long, worldwide mission.

2. Establish a Mission Leadership Team.

If you do not already have a mission leadership team, this is the time to form one. If you have an existing team, consider whether it needs to be renamed, with a refocused identity toward embracing the Acts 1:8 Challenge. As you identify people to serve on this team, be sure to include the appropriate leaders of existing mission organizations. More than likely, these people are already sold on the concept of Acts 1:8. There may also be leaders from within the congregation who have expressed affinities toward a certain area of missions. Good organizational and communication skills are helpful.

Realizing that churches vary in size and structure, it is difficult to make one model fit all in regard to a mission leadership team. Larger churches may actually have more than four teams relating to each of the four mission fields. Smaller churches may have some overlapping of people relating to the four fields. Again, size of the team is not the critical issue. A focused, committed group of leaders will provide a very manageable model.

The mission leadership team must learn the art of delegation regardless of the church's size. This team is not responsible for doing all the work of missions but serves to mobilize the church members in each of the kingdom-growing responses in each of the four fields. The effective mission leadership team recognizes the task is beyond its own ability to achieve without the help of many participants and partners.

The need for spiritual sensitivity by this team cannot be overstated. God's Spirit will guide each church into the areas of mission involvement as He opens doors of opportunity. Recognizing those opportunities and encouraging members to respond in obedience of service is the primary goal of the "prepare" response.

3. Communicate the vision.

The burden of communicating the vision is primarily a job for the pastor. Other key members need to endorse this renewed mission emphasis passionately and publicly. When the mission leadership team accepts the Acts 1:8 Challenge personally, they become advocates for others to get involved. The contagious spirit of Great Commission fire begins to spread rapidly among the congregation. As the Lord gives clarity and direction to the mission leadership team, a specific strategy for embracing the four fields will begin to take shape. Keeping the church informed along the way is vital to the overall success of the team's work. This communication may be most helpful in the early stages of development of a churchwide, year-round strategy.

Consider these ideas to help you communicate the vision of the Acts 1:8 Challenge.

- Plan a worship service around the Acts 1:8 Challenge theme. During the service, commission the church's mission leadership team to their role. Invite one or more of the team members to share their passion and perspective of missions.
- Offer regular updates of the mission team's work through newsletters, announcements in worship services, or brief reports on the strategies being implemented.
- Identify mission efforts under the Acts 1:8 Challenge name. Title a column in your church newsletter or create a focal point in the church (such as a display or bulletin board) identifying Acts 1:8 Challenge events and efforts.

- Read and give copies of the following resources to your mission leadership team.

The Acts 1:8 Challenge: Empowering the Church to Be On Mission, by Nate Adams, available October 2004. This study, the 2005 doctrine study from LifeWay, serves as a strong reinforcement to the overall Acts 1:8 Challenge. Church members will develop a sound, biblical overview of God's historical pattern and plan for His church to embrace His kingdom purpose.

Empowering Kingdom Growth: The Heartbeat of God, by Ken Hemphill. This Broadman & Holman book walks you through the history of God's kingdom, tracing its roots and tracking its resiliency through the pages of the Old Testament and the teachings of Christ. Christians will be encouraged to embrace a life focused on God's kingdom.

Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Mission, by John Piper. Read of God's desire for all nations to worship Him and how missions fuels worship in the church.

4. Coordinate budget and calendar.

It takes major coordination of budget and calendar planning to achieve a comprehensive approach to missions. A churchwide, year-round strategy takes time as well. Annual planning by the mission leadership team should look at least 12 to 24 months ahead for the most effective coordination to occur. Events such as mission fairs, promotional campaigns for mission offerings, and training for mission trips (local and otherwise) take planning, creativity, and involvement. Many churches include the minister of missions (or mission leadership team representative) in strategic planning with the staff and/or church council. This allows for effective coordination for seasonal events and assures that missions has a priority in the overall planning of the church. Coordination with other ministry leaders of the church is vital. Proper coordination of a churchwide mission strategy encourages the church to embrace the Acts 1:8 Challenge as part of its DNA. It becomes who we are as a church and not just something we do.

5. Evaluate the process.

Every church has room for improvement when it comes to reaching the world for Christ. The mission leadership team should take time for an annual evaluation of the church's progress and effectiveness in developing the most comprehensive mission strategy possible. It is always wise to include feedback from those who participated in the various mission projects as part of the evaluation process. Be sure to evaluate the involvement and focus in each of the Acts 1:8 Challenge mission fields. Brainstorm together to develop fresh, new, and creative ways to mobilize your members in the Great Commission. Discuss ways to broaden the church's mission vision, praying, giving, and going as part of the evaluation process. Think through each of the eight kingdom-growing responses and consider innovative ways to expand your church's reach. Look at the strengths and weaknesses in each area and build upon the strengths. Keep the partnership connections current and updated in each of the fields. Make calls to each of the primary partners to inquire about new ideas and emphases being considered.

Use the worksheet provided at the end of this chapter as a tool to assist you in the "prepare" response for the Acts 1:8 Challenge.

PREPARE WORKSHEET

1. List prayer concerns/plans for Acts 1:8 Challenge efforts in our church.

2. Write the names of potential/current mission leadership members, including those who are effective leaders in administration, mission education, prayer, stewardship, mission projects, and evangelism. Consider people who will represent the four fields and the eight kingdom-growing responses of the Acts 1:8 Challenge.

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3. Check those communication tools/activities we will use to share the vision of the Acts 1:8 Challenge with our church.

- Worship services
- Sermon
- Newsletter
- Church Bulletin
- Web site
- Doctrine Study
- Other _____

4. Consider the current budget expenditures and calendar plans for the next 12 to 24 months. What budget and calendar items should be examined more closely to implement an Acts 1:8 Challenge strategy in the church?

5. How will we evaluate the effectiveness of our Acts 1:8 Challenge efforts?



CHAPTER 2

Learn

Bringing mission awareness and interaction to the entire church body, training members for service, and connecting them to missionaries and mission needs.

Members will pray, give, and go more passionately and effectively if they know about mission efforts and how to participate. Mission education helps to not only make people aware of the mission needs throughout the world, it also helps train them to become involved in meeting those needs.

Mission education is most effective when it is churchwide and year-round. It must be integrated into the overall DNA of the church by consistently keeping the Great Commission at the forefront of all the church desires to accomplish. The “learn” response is strategically connected to all the other kingdom-growing responses. Unless members are made aware of the mission needs and opportunities in the various mission fields, they will not become involved. “Learning” usually precedes “doing.”

NAMB and Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) sponsor organizational approaches to mission education, and staff members at both entities, as well as your state convention and many associations, can help you start units or assist you in evaluating and give direction to existing ones. For further information, contact NAMB at (770) 410-6000, or visit www.namb.net/educate; WMU at (205) 991-8100, or visit www.wmu.com; and your state convention and association partners.

While the “learn” response is often facilitated through church-based, age-graded mission education organizations, these are not the only ways to build awareness among members of mission efforts. Sermon illustrations, video and print resources, missionary speakers, mission fairs, and mission projects are all ways members can learn about mission efforts and be informed, inspired, and challenged to further their understanding and participation.

Following are some ideas, resources, Web sites, and contacts to help you facilitate learning about the four fields. As you read and consider each selection, place in the block the symbol that corresponds with your current or potential use of the idea or resource.

- ✓ = Already use idea or resource
- * = Implement this idea or resource immediately
- ? = Consider future use of this idea or resource

Ideas and Resources for Learning About Jerusalem

- Contact your association missions staff or office to determine what training events are available for missions awareness and involvement. Make sure appropriate people in your church, especially members of your mission team, are receiving the association newsletter so they can be aware of such events and registration information. If you have completed the “Our Church’s Acts 1:8 Challenge Mission Fields and Mission Partners” worksheet, you can find contact information on your association. If you have not completed that sheet, visit www.ActsOne8.com to locate your association and receive contact information.
- Invite someone from your association office to speak to your church about the work in the association.
- Working with your associational missionary, plan a vision tour of your association. This may be an actual tour of the communities and churches within the association. Learn what current ministries are being done, needs that are being explored, and untapped channels of service in which your church can be involved.

- Connect with missionaries who are serving within your association. Visit and invite them to speak to your congregation about the work and how your church can be personally involved.
- Link your church's Web site to the association's Web site for further information on the work.
- Attend and encourage church members to attend the annual association meeting, if applicable. Contact your association office for details on when and where that is held.
- Participate in Associational Missions Week. Check with your associational missionary to determine dates. For further information on this week, visit www.namb.net/amw.

Ideas and Resources for Learning About Judea

- Contact your state Baptist convention office (or visit the convention Web site) for a listing of staff assignments and contact information. To locate contact information for your state office, see the listing at the end of this guide, or visit www.ActsOne8.com. Work with appropriate state staff on statewide and individualized training events for mission awareness and involvement within your Judea.
- Subscribe to your state Baptist paper and visit its Web site. Contact the circulation manager for the paper (your state convention office can give you specific contact information) to learn how to have copies sent to each member, or provide copies in bulk for members to pick up in the church.
- Invite someone on the state staff or a missionary in the state to speak to your congregation about the work. To locate missionaries in your state, contact your state convention office.
- Contact your state convention office to determine print or video resources it has to help you share with your congregation about the work in the state.
- Link your church's Web site to the state convention's Web site for further information on the work in the state.
- Participate in a state missions promotion, if applicable in your state. Many state mission offering materials include study materials about ministry and missions efforts in the state.

Ideas and Resources for Learning About Samaria

- As often as possible, and in as many settings as possible (worship service, mission groups, prayer meetings, etc.) show video segments on the work of North American missionaries. Two excellent video resources include the subscription-based *E-ssentials for the On Mission Church* and the annual North American Missions Emphasis video, both produced by NAMB. To order E-ssentials, call 1 800 634-2462; e-mail essentials@namb.net; or visit www.essentials.tv. The North American Missions Emphasis video is sent to Southern Baptist churches by mid-January of each year. For further information call (770) 410-6321, or e-mail aaeo@namb.net.
- Participate in the annual North American Missions Study. Materials are free and provided in the North American Missions Emphasis kit sent to each church by mid-January and on the Web at www.AnnieArmstrong.com. To learn more about the study, visit the Web site, e-mail aaeo@namb.net, or call (770) 410-6321.

- Invite NAMB missionaries to speak in your church, or consider doing a telephone interview using a speaker phone. To locate missionaries, call (770) 410-6357, e-mail missionaryspeakers@namb.net, or visit www.namb.net/missionaries.
- Subscribe to and distribute the free “Your Church on Mission with God” bulletin inserts each month in a Sunday program or newsletter. This is a joint publication of IMB and NAMB and provides up-to-date information on missions in Samaria and the ends of the earth. To subscribe, call 1 800 866-3621, or visit www.imb.org/resources.
- Participate in a NAMB vision tour to a specific mission effort in the United States and Canada. To learn more about this opportunity, call Church Relations at (770) 410-6321, or e-mail ActsOne8@namb.net.
- Subscribe to and distribute mission-related magazines to your church members on an ongoing basis. Refer to relevant articles in sermons and at other times. Even if you do not currently have mission education groups in your church, providing curriculum-type magazines will be of great benefit in raising awareness of mission efforts and needs. Magazines to consider are:
 - *On Mission* (to subscribe, call 1 888 239-3990, or visit www.onmission.com)
 - *Mission Leader* and *Missions Mosaic* (to order, call 1 800 295-6536, or visit www.wmystore.com)
 - *Missionary Moments* (to order, call (615) 244-2355, or visit www.cpmissions.net)
- E-mail ActsOne8@namb.net for further ideas and resources or to be connected to a NAMB staff member who can assist you further in learning about Samaria.
- Learn about mission opportunities in Samaria by visiting www.namb.net, specifically thebridge.namb.net and www.namb.net/dr.

Ideas and Resources for Learning About the Ends of the Earth

- As often as possible, and in as many settings as possible (worship service, mission groups, prayer meetings, etc.) show video segments on the work of international missionaries. Excellent video resources include *Global Harvest*, *The Task*, and *Kids on Mission*, all produced by IMB. To order, call 1 800 866-3621, e-mail ActsOne8@imb.org, or visit www.imb.org/videolink.
- Participate in the annual International Missions Study. For details about the study and ordering information, call 1 800 968-7301, or visit www.wmystore.com.
- Subscribe to and distribute the free “Your Church on Mission with God” bulletin inserts each month in a Sunday program or newsletter. This is a joint publication of IMB and NAMB and provides up-to-date information on missions in Samaria and the ends of the earth. To subscribe, call 1 800 866-3621, or visit www.imb.org/resources.
- Invite IMB missionaries to speak in your church. If you are unable to host them onsite, consider doing a telephone interview using a speaker phone. To locate missionaries, call 1 800 999-3113 to request a list of missionaries on stateside assignment, or e-mail imb@imb.org.
- Subscribe to and distribute mission-related magazines to your church members on an ongoing basis. Refer to relevant articles in sermons and at other times. Even if you do not currently have

mission education groups in your church, providing curriculum-type magazines will be of great benefit in raising awareness of mission efforts and needs. Magazines to consider are:

- *The Commission* (on-line publication at www.tconline.org)
 - “To the Ends of the Earth” (to order, 1 800 866-3621, or visit www.imb.org/resources)
 - *Mission Leader* and *Missions Mosaic* (to order, call 1 800 295-6536, or visit www.wmystore.com)
 - *Missionary Moments* (to order, call (615) 244-2355, or visit www.cpmissions.net)
- Participate in an international missions vision trip. Call Church Services at 1 800 999-3113, or e-mail ActsOne8@imb.org.
- E-mail ActsOne8@imb.org for further ideas and resources or to be connected to an IMB staff member who can assist you further in learning about the ends of the earth.

Ideas and Resources for Learning About All Fields

- If your church has a Web site, feature links to the Acts 1:8 Challenge partner sites. If you do not have a Web site, periodically include a list of these sites in your church bulletin or newsletter. Besides the sites for the four fields, include links to www.sbc.net, www.cpmissions.org, and www.bpnews.net.
- Plan commissioning services (see the chapter on “Send” for more information) as a tool to help church members become aware of mission needs and how your church is meeting those needs.
- Enlist mission volunteers to share testimonies and reports after they have participated in mission experiences—as individuals or as part of a group or team.
- Encourage your church members to visit missionaries and ministry sites when they travel for business or pleasure. Encourage them to take photos and share their observations.
- Conduct a churchwide mission fair, missions conference, or mission celebration to highlight the work being done in all four mission fields.
- Participate in church or associational mission awareness events such as On Mission Celebrations (OMC). For more information, contact your state convention’s OMC coordinator or call the OMC office at NAMB, (770) 410-6398. You may also e-mail onmissioncelebrations@namb.net, or visit www.onmission.com/omc.
- Secure a copy of *Missions Plan Book* published annually by WMU to assist you in preparing various missions emphasis. To order call 1 800 968-7301, or visit www.wmystore.com.

LEARN EVALUATION WORKSHEET #1

Place a check in the blocks under each field if you effectively use this avenue to help members learn about missions. Add other ideas you use, and evaluate those, as well.	JERUSALEM	JUDEA	SAMARIA	ENDS OF THE EARTH	ALL
Missionary speakers					
Participation in mission projects and experiences					
Publications (mission magazines, newsletters, state papers) made available to members					
Mission education organizations					
Member's testimonies about mission experiences					
Observe mission emphasis weeks and offerings					
Contacts established with appropriate staff					
Participate in training events					
Participate in a vision tour					
Use mission videos					
Links published on church Web site or printed material					
Commissioning services used to educate					
Use of mission fairs, On Mission Celebrations, and Global Impact Celebrations to highlight work					

LEARN MORE WORKSHEET #2

Prepare an action plan for increasing the “learn” element of the Acts 1:8 Challenge. Use the information from Learn Worksheet #1 to identify the ideas and resources you want to pursue immediately. As an example, in your Jerusalem block, you may want to write: “*Plan association vision tour. Call association office.*”

Jerusalem

Judea

Samaria

Ends of the Earth



CHAPTER 3

PRAY

Asking God for kingdom perspective and worldwide vision, interceding for Christian workers, and unevangelized peoples.

When God's people pray earnestly for missions and missionaries, they can expect great results. Prayer has a way of opening our eyes to the mission fields around us and around the world, helping us gain a kingdom perspective and worldwide vision of what God wants to do through us. Many mission opportunities go unnoticed and unattended as a result of our failure to see through the eyes of Christ. We must be committed to praying for the workers in each mission field and unevangelized peoples around the world.

Scripture tells us that when Jesus saw the multitudes in Jerusalem, He was moved with compassion. His words to the disciples reflect this kingdom response: "*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field*" (Matt. 9:38, NIV). Jesus said for us to pray. His mandate is enough, but leading people to pray in response to mission needs is strategically connected to becoming involved in other kingdom responses. As we pray, our hearts are often drawn toward further action.

Responding to the Acts 1:8 Challenge by mobilizing members to pray is one of the best ways to get a large number of people involved. Praying for God's mission advancement is often a first step toward becoming personally involved in the Great Commission. Prayer leads to participation. When we pray, God has a way of touching hearts with the things that touch His heart. People who engage in this kingdom response often catch God's passion for the world to know about Jesus.

The mission leadership team must keep prayer as a primary focus of the church's mission endeavor. This can be accomplished by offering churchwide, year-round opportunities to pray for specific needs and names. There are many prayer resources available for churches to engage in Great Commission prayer. Using the following examples and ideas, design your unique Acts 1:8 Challenge strategy for mobilizing members to pray for missionaries, mission causes, and missions opportunities.

Following are some helpful ideas, resources, Web sites, and contacts to help you facilitate praying for the four fields. As you read and consider each selection, place in the block the symbol that corresponds with your current or potential use of the idea or resource.

- ✓ = Already use idea or resource
- * = Implement this idea or resource immediately
- ? = Consider future use of this idea or resource

Ideas and Resources for Praying for Jerusalem

- Contact your association office to learn of specific prayer resources it has to facilitate individual and group praying for churches in the association. The association may have a designated prayer coordinator for the association. Your association newsletter will have prayer requests from local churches and pastors. Designate someone in your church to receive specific prayer requests from the association and communicate those with the church on an ongoing basis.
- Incorporate an annual week of prayer for local missions as an element in your church's worship. Contact your association office for ideas on how to engage your congregation in praying for specific needs in the association.
- Lead your church to adopt an unevangelized group in your community. Work with your association staff to identify such groups and discover what types of outreach and ministry are being done with the group. Begin the process of building a relationship with that group of people by praying for them and sharing needs and other information with your church family.

- Schedule a prayerwalk at your local school campus(es) before classes begin in the fall. Some churches schedule this for the day or weekend prior to the national See You At the Pole rally in early September. For information about conducting a prayerwalk in your community, call (770) 410-6333, or visit www.studentz.com/prayer. For more information about See You At the Pole, call (817) 447-7526, or visit www.syatp.com.
- Encourage members, especially students, to practice “prayer evangelism” activities such as neighborhood prayer surveys, which involve going door-to-door asking for any special prayer concerns and actually praying for families while on their doorstep. An excellent resource for this is found at www.namb.net/evangelism/prayer/tps.
- Lead members to participate in “prayer ministry moments” during their regular weekly activities and routine. For example, encourage intentional brief stops by the local fire station, police department, city hall, school, or a particular business and ask to see the chief, mayor, principal, or manager. With their permission, offer to pray for them personally.
- The “Great Commission Prayer Ministry” strategy encourages believers to renew a personal passion for Jesus through praying unceasingly and to reclaim the congregation as a house of prayer with a passion for lost people. For more information or to download a free copy of the “Great Commission Prayer Ministry” booklet, visit www.namb.net/prayer.
- Open your church facility to host local prayer groups or prayer events.
- Enlist members to establish “Lighthouses of Prayer” in your community. This ministry involves praying for families living near you—five to the left, five to the right, and 10 across the street. To learn more about becoming a Lighthouse of Prayer, visit www.namb.net/prayer. To order the *Lighthouse of Prayer Starter Kit* (ISBN 0840096828), call the NAMB Customer Service Center at 1 866 407-6262, or visit www.namb.net/catalog.
- Keep the names of local missionaries, people groups, specific mission needs, mission partnerships, and missions projects before your congregation on a regular, ongoing basis by including prayer requests and needs lists in your church bulletin or newsletter.
- Promote the use of the daily prayer guide at www.OneInAMillionPrayer.com.

Ideas and Resources for Praying for Judea

- Incorporate the annual week of prayer for state missions as an element in your church’s event calendar. Information and promotional materials for this emphasis are available from your state convention office.
- Contact your state convention office to learn of state-specific prayer resources and to identify the prayer coordinator for the state.
- Lead your church family to adopt missionaries assigned to or living in your state. Contact your state convention office to locate such missionaries, or visit www.namb.net/missionaries. For information about adopting IMB missionaries who are on stateside assignment in your state, e-mail imb@imb.org

- Lead your church to adopt an unevangelized group in your state. Begin the process of building a relationship with that group of people by praying for them and sharing needs and other information with your church family.
- Contact your state convention office to determine what prayer resources are available for intentional prayer focus in the state.

Ideas and Resources for Praying for Samaria

- Discover what mission partnerships are in place between your state convention and other states. Pray for the efforts and opportunities this partnership affords.
- Coordinate special churchwide “days of prayer” and other focused times of extended prayer and fasting, such as the annual National Day of Prayer emphasis (www.nationaldayofprayer.org).
- Incorporate the annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions as an element in your church’s worship. Information and promotional materials for this prayer emphasis is mailed annually to each church. For further information, call (770) 410-6321, e-mail aaeo@namb.net, or visit www.AnnieArmstrong.com.
- Use information from the booklet *Missionary Moments* as a part of worship services. This publication features two Southern Baptist missionaries and prayer requests each week. To obtain copies of *Missionary Moments*, contact the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program Office at 1 800 722-9407, or visit www.cpmissions.net.
- Lead your church to be part of a developing prayer movement focused on revival of God’s people and spiritual awakening in North America. Register at www.OneInAMillionPrayer.com.
- Involve church members in praying for missions by promoting the use of the quarterly “PrayerGram” newsletter, which includes daily prayer requests from North American missionaries. Subscribe by visiting www.namb.net/evangelism/prayer/prayergram.asp, or call (770) 410-6333.
- Obtain recent prayer requests of North American missionaries by contacting the NAMB Prayerline at 1 800 554-PRAY (7729), or visit www.namb.net/prayer.
- Sign up to receive the Weekly Window on North America e-mail that contains seven missionary requests and Prayerline requests to share during weekly church prayer meetings. It is also posted on daily prayer at www.namb.net/prayer.
- Discover prayerwalk opportunities/projects at thebridge.namb.net.

Ideas and Resources for Praying for the Ends of the Earth

- Coordinate special churchwide “days of prayer” and other focused times of extended prayer and fasting, such as the “Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization.” For information visit <http://ime.imb.org/dayofprayer>, or call the IMB Contact Center at 1 800 999-3113.
- Schedule a prayerwalk. For information about conducting an international prayerwalk and for requests from the field for prayerwalking teams, call the IMB, 1 800 999-3113.

- Incorporate the annual Week of Prayer for International Missions as an element in your church's worship. Information and promotional materials for this prayer emphasis are mailed annually to each church. Information is available on the Web at www.imb.org.
- Lead your church family to connect with an IMB missionary family. For information about connecting with IMB missionaries, e-mail imb@imb.org.
- Lead your church to adopt an unreached people group. Begin the process of building a relationship with that group of people by praying for them and sharing needs and other information with your church family. For further information, visit www.imb.org, or e-mail peoplelink@imb.org. For additional information about specific people groups, visit www.peoplegroups.org.
- Keep the names of missionaries, people groups, specific mission needs, mission partnerships, and missions projects before your congregation on a regular, ongoing basis. To obtain recent prayer requests of international missionaries, contact the IMB Prayerline at 1 800 395-PRAY (7729), or visit <http://imb.org/compassionnet>.
- Use information from the booklet *Missionary Moments* as part of worship services. To obtain copies of *Missionary Moments*, contact the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program Office at 1 800 722-9407, or visit www.cpmisions.net.
- "Today's Prayer" provides strategic prayer items by e-mail every day, Monday through Friday. Subscribe at http://subscribe.imb.org/subscribe_more.asp.
- Obtain recent prayer requests of international missionaries by contacting the IMB Prayerline at 1 800 395-PRAY (7729), or by visiting www.imb.org/compassionnet/prayerline.asp.
- The Global PrayerGram includes daily prayer requests and answers from the international mission field and is mailed monthly. Subscribe through the IMB Contact Center at imb@imb.org or 1 800 999-3113. For an online version, visit <http://imb.org/compassionnet>.
- Wednesday Window on the World is a one-page prayer guide for use in Wednesday night prayer meetings. It includes two prayer requests and one answer. The prayer guide is posted weekly at <http://www.imb.org/CompassionNet>, or you can receive it by e-mail every Tuesday. To subscribe, go to http://subscribe.imb.org/subscribe_more.asp.
- Prayer items that are critical (generally life or death) and are not ongoing situations often qualify as urgent. They are processed immediately and sent by e-mail. Subscribe at http://subscribe.imb.org/subscribe_more.asp. They are also on the Web at www.imb.org/CompassionNet.
- PRAYERplus links a church or group, such as a Sunday School class or WMU group, with an unengaged people group within the Last Frontier. This commitment is one of prayer that will open work among people groups not typically focused on due to size, location, and so on. Churches and groups may contact the International Prayer Strategy Office to participate. Call 1 888 462-7729, or e-mail prayeroffice@imb.org.

Ideas and Resources for Praying for All Fields

- Include a church prayer ministry coordinator, a prayer ministry director, or an international prayer advocate as part of your church's mission leadership team. Consider having a prayer ministry

coordinator for each of the Acts 1:8 Challenge mission fields. These coordinators can assist with creating, planning, and implementing personal opportunities for members to participate in Great Commission praying in each specific area. For more information, job descriptions, and training for church prayer coordinators, call (770) 410-6333. A prayer mobilizer can encourage and enable members to become intercessors for the world by helping them discover prayer as the foundation for missions. For more information on selecting and training an international prayer advocate, call IMB at 1 800 999-3113, or visit www.imb.org/resources.

- Lead your church's prayer ministry coordinator to assemble a prayer council comprised of people who are responding to God's call to prayer and mobilizing others in the church to pray. The church prayer ministry coordinator, along with the church prayer council, should begin planning a comprehensive prayer plan for the church that is biblically based and Great Commission oriented. A resource for this is www.namb.net/prayer.
- Set aside a bulletin board or display area in the church to post missions prayer requests and resources for the four mission fields.
- Obtain copies of *Loving the Lost Prayer Guide*, a free booklet to help Southern Baptists pray for Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and Jews. To order, call the IMB Contact Center at 1 800 999-3113, visit <http://resources.imb.org>, or e-mail imb@imb.org. This booklet will enrich your prayer life and encourage you to respond in Great Commission prayer.
- Ask children, youth, and adults to pray for missionaries in public worship. This encourages participation by all generations and serves to instill the practice of Great Commission praying in the hearts of present and future church leaders.
- Include all mission volunteers in a commissioning service during worship. Use this as a time to promote praying and the results that come from this privilege. Enlist prayer partners for each mission volunteer.
- Consider a prayer room that can contain prayer requests from Southern Baptist missionaries and especially those going on mission trips from your church. This room can contain maps and visual aids to encourage specific, ongoing prayer. Call (770) 410-6333 for resources and information to help establish a prayer room.
- Consult the prayer calendar in *Missions Mosaic* and *Open Windows* to learn missionary names and locations so you can pray for them by name.

PRAYER EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Determine how well your church is balancing prayer for the four fields. Place a P in each field you believe receives attention in the item listed below. After you have completed the chart, note areas to focus on for improvement.	JERUSALEM	JUDEA	SAMARIA	ENDS OF THE EARTH	ALL
Prayer coordinator selected for Acts 1:8 Challenge efforts is aware of resources for the field					
An effective prayer plan is established which identifies prayer concerns in the field					
Ongoing and urgent prayer needs for the field are known and prayed for daily					
Field-related prayer resources are received and circulated to church members					
Focused prayer services for the field are held during special emphases					
Follow-up on answered prayers from the field are communicated to the church					
A prayer room or other designated area is provided for pray-ers stocked with information on the field					
Missionaries and other mission workers know that members are praying for them					



CHAPTER 4

Give

*Increasing the financial support of the
Cooperative Program and other Southern
Baptist cooperative missions.*

There is a tremendous cost involved in reaching the world with the good news of Jesus. Every member of a church that embraces the Acts 1:8 Challenge must be encouraged to continually give sacrificially to missions. The key is stewardship. Good stewardship demands that we acknowledge that God owns everything. He has given us the privilege of serving as managers of those resources.

God has entrusted the church with an abundance of financial resources. These include the time, talent, energy, and expertise of each member of the church. These resources must first be released for God's use in His worldwide mission endeavor. When Christians are spiritually motivated to give, they are able to accomplish significant things together for the sake of God's worldwide mission.

Encouraging members to give generously to missions through the Cooperative Program and other Southern Baptist mission offerings creates a sense of being personally invested in God's kingdom work, as well as being part of a worldwide mission effort that includes thousands of other churches. Together, these funding channels provide a solid infrastructure through which churches can give and impact the results of mission efforts throughout the world. Jesus certainly knew that our money is directly connected to the passion of our hearts. Our giving is a reflection of our true love and loyalty. No pastor should ever hesitate to encourage his members to give to missions. It is the greatest financial investment a believer can make.

Giving our resources allows us to reach beyond our isolated scope of influence by empowering others to share the good news of Jesus. Our gifts serve as the fuel that drives the dynamic mission enterprise of Southern Baptists locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Giving allows us to reach around the globe with the gospel.

As members embrace the Acts 1:8 Challenge, a gracious spirit of Christian stewardship begins to grow. People who develop a strong sense of personal identity with the Great Commission are more likely to contribute financially to the cause. Personalized mission experiences lead to faithful, even sacrificial, giving. There are many resources available to promote the kingdom response of "giving." Church members need to hear the need and be encouraged to respond. Creative planning, communication, and implementation for the mission offerings are essential. Some churches provide resources for their own mission projects through their annual church budget or through a special mission offering for that purpose. These funds may be used for training members, assisting with travel costs, and for resources and materials used on the mission field.

Many churches encourage their members to give to mission offerings during specific times of the year and in coordination with a week of prayer for those particular purposes. Other churches find strength in mission giving through a unified annual mission offering that distributes resources to the four mission fields. Either way, churches must begin to step up to a new level of mission giving as they embrace the Acts 1:8 Challenge.

Below are some opportunities for participating in the kingdom-growing response of "giving."

Opportunities for Giving to Jerusalem

Local Baptist associations offer opportunities for churches to partner in the "Jerusalem" mission field. Associational gifts are often part of a church's annual budget. Many churches give a certain percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their local associations. These funds are used for staff salaries, ministry and missions programs, and for training pastors and leaders.

For more information about association missions offerings, contact your local Baptist association office.

As you consider your church's giving to the association, these ideas may help you evaluate your level of giving.

- Obtain a copy of the allocations of your association missions budget from your association office.
- Interview your association staff to get specifics on projects supported by local churches through their gifts to the association.
- Have someone from the association speak to the missions leadership team and to the church about the use of funds in the ministries of the association.
- Use the Giving Worksheet at the end of this chapter to evaluate your church's history of giving to the association.

Opportunities for Giving to Judea

Most state conventions have a specific mission offering for missionary work in the "Judea" mission field. The emphases for these offerings may vary from state to state, but they generally relate to statewide mission opportunities related to evangelism, church planting, and education. Some states also emphasize special mission offerings for disaster relief, children's homes, and other such mission opportunities. State conventions are generally funded through a percentage of the Cooperative Program gifts of the churches in their state, and these special offerings.

For more information about your state's missions offering and how Cooperative Program gifts are invested in "Judea" mission efforts, contact your state convention.

As you consider your church's giving to the state, these ideas may help you evaluate your level of giving.

- Participate in giving through the Cooperative Program.
- Participate in giving to the state mission offering. Obtain a copy of the allocations for your state mission offering by contacting your state convention office.
- Interview someone on the state staff to get specifics on projects within the state.
- Have someone from the state office speak to the missions leadership team and the church about the use of funds in the ministries of the state.
- Use the Giving Worksheet to evaluate your church's history of giving to the state mission offering.

Opportunities for Giving to Samaria

NAMB's primary support comes from the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO®) for North American Missions. When churches give through the AAEO, 100 percent of their gifts are used for missionary salaries and ministry supplies. This offering is the lifeblood for missionaries in North America. It allows them to share the message of Christ, plant new churches, and strengthen other churches. Each church becomes a strategic mission partner in reaching the "Samaria" field as it gives to the AAEO.

For more information about the AAEO, call (770) 410-6321, e-mail aaeo@namb.net, or visit www.AnnieArmstrong.com.

As you consider your church's giving to North American missions, these ideas may help you evaluate your level of giving.

- Visit www.AnnieArmstrong.com to learn specific ways AAEO supports missions in North America. You may also e-mail aaeo@namb.net, or call (770) 410-6321.
- Participate in the annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions. Materials to support this emphasis are available by calling NAMB at (770) 410-6321, e-mailing aaeo@namb.net, or visiting www.AnnieArmstrong.com.
- Use the Giving Worksheet to evaluate your church's history of giving to the AAEO.

Opportunities for Giving to Ends of the Earth

IMB's primary support comes from the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® (LMCO®) for International Missions. These funding channels allow Southern Baptists to fund the largest mission-sending force in the world. The LMCO is named for Lottie Moon, a devoted missionary to China. It is an annual offering received by churches to benefit international missions. Every dollar given to this offering—100 percent—goes to the overseas budget for supporting more than 5,500 missionaries and their ministries. Funds are used to cover the costs of travel, housing, language learning, and missionary child education for these families. Giving to the LMCO allows each church to join a strategic global effort to reach the whole world with the good news of Jesus.

For more information about the LMCO, call the IMB Contact Center at 1 800 999-3113, or visit <http://ime.imb.org/lottiemoon/>. For promotional resources, visit www.wmu.com.

As you consider your church's giving to international missions, these ideas may help you evaluate your level of giving.

- Visit www.imb.org to learn specific ways the LMCO supports missions throughout the world.
- Participate in the annual Week of Prayer for International Missions. Materials to support this emphasis are available by calling the IMB Contact Center at 1 800 999-3113, or e-mail imb@imb.org
- Use the Giving Worksheet to evaluate your church's history of giving to the ends of the earth.

Opportunities for Giving to All Fields

The Cooperative Program (CP)

The Cooperative Program is the most effective, efficient, far-reaching, consistent, missionary funding enterprise in the history of Christian denominations. It unifies all Southern Baptists as strategic mission-giving partners. Each church decides how much they give to the CP through their annual budget. The funds are sent to the state convention, which keeps and uses a certain percentage (varies by state) to do work in the state. The remaining portion of funds are sent to the SBC Executive Committee, which sends 50 percent to the International Mission Board and 22 percent to the North American Mission Board.

Associations do not receive CP dollars directly; however, many states use CP to partner with and support their associations.

For more information about CP, call 1 800 722-9407, or www.cpmissions.net or www.sbc.net. You may also contact your state Baptist convention Cooperative Program Office for information.

The World Hunger Offering

When a dollar is contributed to the World Hunger Fund, unless otherwise designated, 80 cents is sent to the IMB and 20 cents is sent to NAMB to support hunger projects in the United States and Canada. That means 100 percent of your gifts are used to minister to hungry people in Jesus' name. More than likely, someone in your state, and perhaps in your association, benefits from these hunger funds.

For more information about the World Hunger Fund, visit www.faithandfamily.com, www.imb.org/worldhunger, and www.namb.net/hunger.

Use the following worksheet as you develop your church's strategy for the response of "giving" in the four mission fields. Prayerfully consider your church's goals for each offering. Be sure to assign specific responsibilities and timelines for promotion and implementation.

MISSIONS GIVING WORKSHEET

Based on your church's recent financial records, determine a history of your church's giving to missions. Record percentages and amounts given. After you have completed the first part of the worksheet, evaluate the level of giving. How has giving changed through the years? What have been factors influencing any changes?	3 YEARS AGO	2 YEARS AGO	1 YEAR AGO	GOAL FOR THIS YEAR
Associational missions - Jerusalem				
State missions - Judea				
North American missions - Samaria				
International missions - Ends of the Earth				
Cooperative Program - All Fields				
World Hunger - All Fields				

What factors have influenced the change of giving over the past years?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

What plans do we need to put into place to help us increase our support in giving to accomplish the Acts 1:8 Challenge?

In Judea:

In Jerusalem:

In Samaria:

In Ends of the Earth:

In All Fields:



CHAPTER 5

GO

Enabling a growing number of members to directly participate in short-term, long-term, and marketplace opportunities to minister and spread the gospel beyond our church's walls.

When members begin to embrace the Acts 1:8 Challenge through the responses of learning, praying, and giving, the Lord often burdens their hearts about personally participating in missions by “going.” This is one of the most exciting aspects of mobilizing members for the Great Commission, and one that churches should encourage. Helping your church members assess their readiness for serving in the field is crucial, and encouraging them in opportunities to serve is perhaps the best training they can receive.

The call to “go” is a fundamental, biblical response to Jesus’ command for His church. The opportunities for going on mission are endless. Today’s world is more accessible to churches than at any time in history. Churches members can participate in short-term mission trips and still reach people that a previous generation could only reach through prayer and sending others.

Christians can also be equipped to go as missionaries into the marketplace and local communities—significant mission fields in the twenty-first century. Encouraging members to be aware of their mission fields in everyday life is part of the mobilizing process. They should recognize that their families, friends, coworkers, and colleagues all represent significant opportunities for sharing the good news of Jesus.

Direct involvement through mission trips or volunteer mission projects is available from many sources. Following are some ideas and contact information as you lead your members to “go” in response to the Acts 1:8 Challenge. As you read and consider each selection, place in the block the symbol that corresponds with your current or potential use of the idea or resource.

- ✓ = Already use idea or resource
- * = Implement this idea or resource immediately
- ? = Consider future use of this idea or resource

Ideas and Resources for Going to Jerusalem

- Publicize and encourage opportunities for involvement within your own church’s ministries. For example, if your church has a food pantry, help people understand that those who serve in this ministry are missionary servants. Encourage people to explore their skills and gifts for service by first participating in church-related service opportunities.
- Plan to conduct a “Marketplace Missionary” commissioning service during a worship service. Focus the sermon on the Christian’s challenge to share the gospel in whatever workplace setting (including the home) God places him or her. Invite workers to commit themselves to see and use their profession or volunteer service as opportunities to be ambassadors of Christ.
- Contact your association mission staff to discover opportunities in your association and community for short-term and long-term service. Associational camps and ministries such as food pantries, clothing closets, thrift stores, and such are excellent places for someone to serve and determine their skills and gifts for mission service.
- Encourage and equip church members to develop relational bridges through ministry over which they intentionally share the gospel of Jesus Christ. *His Heart, Our Hands: A Ministry Evangelism Toolkit* is a resource to get your church started in ongoing ministries. It provides a community needs assessment, as well as guidance in choosing the ministry best suited for your church, getting started, sharing your faith, and designing the ministry. To order, call 1 866 407-6262, or visit www.namb.net/catalog

- Involve church members in ministry evangelism events called “kindness explosions.” These activities include creative ways of sharing God’s love with lost people. Providing free bottles of water at community or sporting events, washing windows at a local school, taking snacks to local businesses, returning shopping carts for customers at grocery stores, and including a gospel witness in the process can be very effective. A “Servant Evangelism” guidebook offers effective and biblical witnessing strategies based on acts of kindness. To order, contact the NAMB Customer Service Center at 1 866 407-6262, or visit www.namb.net/catalog.
- Create “construction mission teams” from among the congregation. These teams can be used for special projects in assisting widows and other churches, and meeting needs locally, nationally, and internationally related to construction. Contact your association, or see the volunteer needs list posted at <http://thebridge.namb.net/> for possible projects in your own community or surrounding area.
- Create “church assist teams” for the purpose of supporting and strengthening churches in your area that need assistance. For example, a church may need help in staffing a Vacation Bible School or other such event. The assist team could provide supportive manpower from student and adult volunteers. Contact your association or state convention office for information.
- Adopt a local fire or police station and provide firefighters and police officers with year-round ministry, such as providing snacks and leading a weekly Bible study on location for those who wish to attend.

Ideas and Resources for Going to Judea

- Contact your state convention to determine mission opportunities in which your church can participate. Post details of such opportunities in your church newsletter or bulletin, and encourage members to participate in short-term mission projects throughout the state.
- Locate missionaries in your state and discover special needs and projects they have for which your church can provide help. This may be something as simple as collecting ministry supplies or doing a short-term project on site of the ministry location. To find information about missionaries serving in your state, contact your state convention office, or visit www.namb.net/missionaries.
- Consider having your students participate in a World Changers or PowerPlant project within your state. Students are encouraged to meet the physical and spiritual needs of residents in cities and low-income communities by participating in construction projects, home repair, community ministries, and church planting. To learn more about national World Changers and PowerPlant projects, visit www.studentz.com/wc and www.studentz.com/powerplant.
- Visit <http://thebridge.namb.net> frequently to discover mission project opportunities posted for your state. If you are unable to gather a group for such projects, encourage individual participation of your members.

Ideas and Resources for Going to Samaria

- Participate in national initiatives such as Strategic Focus Cities. Several major cities in North America have been highlighted for massive evangelistic, discipleship, and church-planting efforts. The goal is to bring the gospel to several heavily populated cities using media, special events,

ministry projects, and personal witnessing. To learn more about the Strategic Focus Cities initiative, visit www.namb.net, or e-mail mdodson@namb.net to find out how you can get involved.

- Lead students to participate in national World Changers and PowerPlant projects. Students are encouraged to meet the physical and spiritual needs of residents in cities and low-income communities by participating in construction projects, home repair, community ministries, and church planting. To learn more about national World Changers and PowerPlant projects, visit www.studentz.com/wc and www.studentz.com/powerplant.
- Encourage youth and college students to participate in student mission groups, which are designed to assist churches and campus groups in conducting student mission projects in North America. These projects include resort ministry, inner-city ministry, new church work, and construction work. For more information, call 1 800 462-8657, e-mail volunteers@namb.net, or visit www.studentz.com/smg
- For information on volunteer mobilization opportunities in North America, visit thebridge.namb.net where you can search for projects by date, type, and location. You can also call NAMB's Volunteer Mobilization Team at 1 800 462-8657, or e-mail volunteers@namb.net.
- For information on special ministries such as resort/leisure, trucking, ministering to internationals, and creative arts ministries, visit www.namb.net/evangelism/specialministries.
- For assistance in planning a volunteer project, consider the online resource "Volunteer Mobilization Logistics Manual: Creating Better Pathways for Greater Kingdom Growth," available online at www.namb.net/vols/logistics.
- Encourage young people to consider summer, semester, and US/C2 missionary positions through the NAMB. Information on these short-term mission experiences can be found at www.answerthecall.net.

Ideas and Resources for Going to Ends of the Earth

- Lead students to participate in International World Changers projects. These projects provide students an opportunity to use Bible clubs, children and youth ministry, drama, school programs, prayerwalking, sports, and light construction to build relationships, share personal testimonies, start Bible studies, and assist in planting new churches. For information about International World Changers, call 1 800 999-3113 (ext. 1355), or visit www.thetask.org/iwc.htm.
- Receive information on international volunteer opportunities by calling 1 800 999-3113, or visiting <http://going.imb.org>
- For international volunteer mobilization opportunities through IMB and WMU, visit <http://going.imb.org> or www.wmu.com. Mobilization resources are also available through WMU by calling 1 800 968-7301.
- For information and opportunities for overseas service, explore options at <http://going.imb.org>, or order the booklet "Opportunities for International Service" at <http://resources.imb.org>.
- For help in preparing for an overseas mission project, a downloadable guide titled "Volunteers in Mission Preparation Guide" is available at <http://going.imb.org>. A leader's guide called

“International Mission Training Institute Manual for Volunteers” is also available. For more information, call the IMB at 1 800 999-3113.

Ideas and Resources for Going to All Fields

- Create “construction mission teams” from among the congregation. These teams can be used for special projects in assisting widows and other churches, and meeting needs locally, nationally, and internationally related to construction. Contact your association or state convention office for construction project opportunities, or see the volunteer needs list posted at <http://thebridge.namb.net>.
- Lead members to participate in disaster relief efforts locally, nationally, and internationally. Tasks usually include such things as food preparation, cleanup and recovery, repair and rebuild, communications, crisis counseling, and childcare. Volunteers can receive practical training through their association or state convention and can respond whenever and wherever disaster strikes. For more information about Southern Baptist disaster relief, contact your state convention office, call NAMB at 1 800 462-8657, or visit www.namb.net/dr. You can also access church, family, and associational disaster relief preparation manuals at this site.
- Enlist members to be part of “medical mission teams.” Nurses, doctors, dentists, emergency medical technicians, and others may be included from among your congregation. This group can be available to serve locally, nationally, or internationally on special medical missions projects. “Medical mission team” information is available nationally at www.namb.net/ccm, or for international opportunities, visit <http://going.imb.org>.
- Lead Sunday School classes and other small groups in your church to appoint their own mission coordinator. These key leaders can work in cooperation with the mission leadership team to involve their group in various mission projects and partnerships.

Use the following worksheet as a tool to plan your church’s strategy for mobilizing member to “go” in response to the Acts 1:8 Challenge.

“GO” WORKSHEET

Determine how well your church is “going” in service to the four fields. Using a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being the most effective), evaluate the items below for each field. After you have completed the chart, note areas to focus on for improvement	JERUSALEM	JUDEA	SAMARIA	ENDS OF THE EARTH
Church members are aware of mission project opportunities for individual and group efforts.				
Updated information on mission opportunities is kept on file so information can be quickly assessed and given to those interested.				
Church members know which skills and requirements are needed for mission projects in the field.				
The church encourages and plans for short-term mission projects in the field.				
The church encourages and plans for long-term or ongoing mission projects in the field.				
Church members are aware of missionaries serving in the field with whom they can connect for short-term and long-term projects.				
World Changers and PowerPlant projects are encouraged and information is made available to interested youth and adults.				
Members know how http://thebridge.namb.net and http://going.imb.org can help them connect to mission projects.				
Members are trained for "going" to the field.				
Members are encouraged to use their "marketplace" skills in mission service in the field.				



CHAPTER 6

Tell

*Involving an increasing number of members
in intentional, culturally relevant evangelism.*

Sharing the good news of Jesus through intentional, culturally relevant evangelism efforts is the responsibility of every believer. Many Christians rarely share their faith because they fear rejection or have a lack of confidence. Pastors and church leaders must take the initiative to provide training, opportunities and experiences to members for the kingdom-growing response of “telling.” This response is often learned best as we model it for others. There are also excellent resources and tools available for equipping and preparing believers to share their faith.

Mobilizing members to become evangelistically active is a major priority for those concerned with fulfilling the Great Commission. Making disciples demands winning souls for Christ. We need a Spirit-directed revival in the area of sharing our faith with those who are lost. This kingdom response is vital to our assignment of “being witnesses” of Jesus in every arena of life. Knowing how to “tell” the gospel message is essential in every mission field, from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

The most powerful tool any believer possesses is a personal testimony of his or her salvation. Our story is a valuable resource in presenting the good news of Jesus to others. It is hard to argue with a satisfied customer. Telling others about Jesus in response to His Acts 1:8 Challenge involves not only sharing our story but also sharing His story in culturally relevant ways. Not everyone responds to the gospel in the same way. We need to become aware of the “worldview” of those with whom we share.

As the local church responds to the ministry needs throughout the four mission fields, opportunities will be created for members to share their faith. Responding compassionately to human needs build bridges of relationships and open doors for an evangelistic witness. It is important to remember that sharing the good news of Jesus is the most compassionate activity in which we can be involved. We must be intentional in our evangelistic efforts.

Pastors, staff members, and mission leaders should model telling others about Christ. Offering opportunities for training can promote confidence. Mentoring others in the process of sharing their faith is a very practical and effective model for this response. Following are some helpful ideas and resources to assist you in mobilizing your members to tell His story.

As you read and consider each selection, place in the block the symbol that corresponds with your current or potential use of the idea or resource.

- ✓ = Already use idea or resource
- * = Implement this idea or resource immediately
- ? = Consider future use of this idea or resource

Ideas and Resources for Telling in All Fields

- Excellent evangelistic training tools are available, such as the *FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy* or *The NET: Evangelism for the 21st Century*. For information about *FAITH*, contact LifeWay Christian Resources at (615) 251-2477. To learn more about *The NET*, visit www.namb.net/evangelism/thenet.
- Equip believers in your church to be effective witnesses in one day or as little as one hour. The One-Day/One-Hour Witnessing Workshop contains all the materials you need to help believers develop the skills necessary to share their faith with confidence. All the teaching materials are available FREE and can be downloaded from www.namb.net/onedaywitness.

- Lead members to make a personal commitment to share the gospel. Plan a special soul-winning commitment event such as “On Mission to Share Jesus” Sunday to create an exciting atmosphere for personal involvement. For tips on conducting an “On Mission to Share Jesus” Sunday in your church, call (770) 410-6000, or visit www.namb.net/evangelism.
- Help the women in your church know how to best share their faith with other women. HeartCall resources are excellent tools to facilitate this. To learn more about HeartCall, visit www.namb.net/evangelism, or call 1 866 407-6262.
- Involve members in planning and participating in evangelistic block parties either at the church, off campus, or in a neighborhood park. Key ingredients to an effective block party usually include free food, games, prizes and activities for children, a festive atmosphere, and a friendly invitation for all to attend. Balloons, fire trucks, petting zoo, face painting, music, and clowns are excellent for attracting people. Teams may be enlisted to share gospel tracts. A manual titled *SEE: The Evangelistic Block Party* is available. To order, call the NAMB Customer Service Center at 1 866 407-6262, or visit www.namb.net/catalog.
- Incorporate an evangelistic emphasis in your church’s recreation ministry through programs such as Upward Basketball®. This is an excellent resource for recruiting players from the community to be involved in sports. An awards banquet can be an effective tool for sharing the gospel at the end of the season with players and parents. To find out more information about *Upward Basketball*, call 1 800 585-4721, or visit www.upward.com.
- Enlist athletes in your congregation to participate in “sports evangelism teams.” A number of sports can find a platform for ministry in local prisons and communities. Sports can open doors for sharing the gospel in many international venues as well. For more information about sports evangelism, call 1 800 999-3113 (ext. 1512), or visit www.teamisf.com.
- Seek out opportunities in your community to provide outreach in special events such as road races, auto shows, arts and craft fairs, and so on. Work with the coordinator of such events to determine what kinds of things your church can do that will afford the opportunity to witness and tell people about your church.
- Assess the need for a literacy missions ministry in your local community. Provide leadership training and offer literacy and language help, such as English as a Second Language, literacy, and sign-language classes. For help in ascertaining the literacy needs in your community, visit www.namb.net/ccm. For more information about Literacy Missions Ministry, call (770) 410-6360. The “Local Church Literacy Missions Needs Survey” is available by calling (770) 410-6000.
- Find out if services for adult non-readers and non-English-speaking adults already exist in your community. If not, consider developing a reading and writing ministry for adults or a Conversational English Workshop. For more information, visit www.namb.net/literacy.
- Enlist students to serve as campus missionaries as a way of reaching secondary school campuses in your community. Students can pray for fellow students and, in some cases, offer student-led Bible studies on campus before or after school. For more information about the Campus Missionary strategy, call (770) 410-6345, e-mail campusmissionary@studentz.com, or visit www.studentz.com/cm.
- Develop drama ministry teams as an outreach tool for children, students, and adults to share the good news of Jesus. Many drama ministry resources exist. Contact LifeWay Christian Resources (www.lifeway.com) or your local LifeWay store.

- Use the free Evangelism Planner to assist you in developing a comprehensive evangelism strategy to reach your world. Contact your state evangelism office or the Personal Evangelism Unit at NAMB at (770) 410-6000 to learn how to receive a free copy.
- Maximize your evangelistic outreach through construction projects by implementing the Baptist Builders Evangelism Strategy. To learn more, visit namb.net/bbuilders, call 1 800 462-8657, e-mail volunteers@namb.net, or contact your state convention construction coordinator.
- Encourage members to become refugee sponsors or friends through resettlement programs. Members are involved in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of those who have been displaced by war, famine, violence, or persecution. For more information, call (770) 410-6353, or visit www.namb.net/refugee.
- Enlist members to serve with migrant ministries in your community. For information about involving your church in this type of ministry, contact your local association office or state convention ministry evangelism staff.
- Locate international students or ethnic language groups in your area and consider providing Bible study classes or perhaps a mission church to reach these groups. Members may also be enlisted to host international students in their homes during the Christmas season. Contact your local association to determine what groups are in your area.
- Introduce members to the concept of “culturally relevant” evangelism by guiding them to understand various worldviews. The Camel Training Manual offers hope for a new relationship between evangelical Christians and the world’s hundreds of millions of Muslims. To order, visit <http://resources.imb.org>
- Train church leaders and parents to share the gospel with children. *Sharing God’s Special Plan with Children Resource Kit* includes materials designed to teach adults to recognize when a child is ready to receive Christ and to guide them in sharing the gospel. To order, call 1 866 407-6262, or visit www.namb.net/catalog.
- A language tutorial resource called “Effective Language Learning: A Story of Hope” is available on DVD (set of 3) from the IMB at <http://resources.imb.org>
- “Tell the Story: A Primer on Chronological Storying,” a resource for telling those who learn by hearing, is available with a study book and CD from the IMB at <http://resources.imb.org>
- A study course for developing church planting movements overseas called “Stimulating and Nurturing Church Planting Movements” is available from the IMB at <http://resources.imb.org>
- Register your church with the Evangelism Response Center (ERC) at NAMB to receive the names and addresses of people who have responded to evangelistic invitations in TV, radio, and print media in your area. Registering allows you to make follow-up contacts to provide affirmation, materials, and ministry outreach. To request a registration packet, contact the ERC at (770) 410-6383, e-mail erc@namb.net, or online at www.eronline.net.
- Schedule an ERC Telephone Encourager training for your church. Your people will be equipped to receive calls at their own convenience on their own phones from people who are responding to evangelistic invitations in TV, radio, and print media in the United States and Canada. This provides an opportunity for Christians active in witnessing to reach out beyond their own

communities. It also provides a way for the homebound, and others whose physical activity may be limited, to be active in church outreach. To request training, contact the ERC at (770) 410-6383, e-mail erc@namb.net, or online at www.erconline.net.

- Tell everyone you know about sharing Christ through short term missions. Search for projects or post needs on thebridge.namb.net.
- Tell others about Christ while ministering in a disaster. Visit namb.net for information or contact your state convention disaster relief director.

“TELL” WORKSHEET

Answer the questions below to help you evaluate how well you are equipped to promote the “tell” response of the Acts 1:8 Challenge.

What methods have been most effective in helping our church members share their faith?

When was the last time we offered formal evangelism training? What method or materials did we use?

What training opportunities exist on the associational level that we can connect with?

What training opportunities exist on the state level that we could connect with?

How will we promote them?

What tracts and other witnessing helps does our church provide to members?
How do the members obtain these for use?

What are the current intentional evangelism ministries in our church?

Who are the best “tellers” in our church? How could their skills and enthusiasm help others (mentors, trainers, etc.)?



CHAPTER 7

SEND

Providing members with opportunities to hear and respond to God's call to vocational mission service.

Many Christians have a stereotype of missionaries as people who have superior skills and spirituality. In reality, missionaries are very ordinary people who have responded to God's extraordinary call. As we pray, learn, give, and go in response to the Acts 1:8 Challenge, the Holy Spirit often speaks to our hearts in specific ways. Sometimes we are sent on a Great Commission assignment as a result of the Spirit's activity in our lives.

NAMB and IMB define "missionary" as "a person who, in response to God's call and gifting, leaves his or her comfort zone and crosses cultural, geographic, or other barriers to proclaim the gospel and live out a Christian witness in obedience to the Great Commission."

Missionary assignments come in various shapes, sizes, and dimensions. Being "sent" into the harvest field is an exciting and rewarding experience. In many instances, missionaries are engaging people with the gospel in vocational roles such as teachers, farmers, engineers, and medical professionals. In some parts of the world, Christian workers must use creative approaches to gain entry into countries.

God has a great history of using simple, ordinary people in reaching others with the gospel. Making yourself available is the first step in being sent on a Great Commission assignment. Typically, God calls and sends those who are faithfully serving where they are planted. As we continue to be obedient in our service, the Lord opens doors of mission opportunity along the way. Our willingness to say "yes" to these opportunities is another important step in being sent. Once this happens, we are ready to become involved in one of life's greatest adventures.

It is an occasion for great celebration when someone is called from a local church to be sent out as a missionary. It should be one of the highlights in a church's history to have missionaries called and sent from their midst. That is New Testament Christianity revisited (see Acts 13:1-3).

Being sent by the Lord on a mission assignment may involve specific, short-term volunteer service. It also may involve becoming a vocational or career missionary. People from all walks of life—students, professionals, and retirees—find themselves being sent as missionaries. There are several opportunities for specific mission service in the four Acts 1:8 Challenge harvest fields. In each case, the assignment involves contributing to the process of evangelization and the establishment of new churches upon sound doctrine.

What follows are some of the opportunities and contact information available for this dynamic kingdom response. Create a file in which you place brochures, articles, business cards, Web site addresses, and other informational items about these opportunities. Assist and encourage individuals who are seeking to invest their time in mission endeavors to look through the file for ideas and information on how they may serve.

Sending to Samaria

For information on serving with NAMB, call 1 800 462-8657, e-mail call@namb.net, or visit www.answerthecall.net.

- Career missionaries are individuals who have answered a call to full-time vocational ministry. The missionary candidate must have a sense of call into mission service, possess adequate training and experience, and meet NAMB missionary policy and guidelines. This pathway is for a full-time worker, jointly appointed and supported by NAMB, the state convention, local association, and partnering churches. Career missionaries engage in evangelism, church planting, church and community ministries, and special ministries.

- US/C2 missionaries are college graduates who serve two years under joint appointment with the NAMB, state conventions, and associations. Students serve in areas such as church planting, church and community ministry, and resort ministries. In the case of couples, one or both may be considered as the primary worker.
- Nehemiah church planters are individuals who have been trained at a Southern Baptist seminary, have completed a short-term student internship while in school, and are jointly appointed by NAMB, the state convention, and association to plant one church or multiple congregations.
- Mission Service Corps (MSC) missionaries are self-funded missionaries who serve for four months or more. They work in an assigned ministry that supports the evangelism and church planting efforts of NAMB and its mission partners. MSC missionaries serve full time (an average of 20 hours per week) in their mission assignments.
- Summer and Semester Missionaries are students who have completed their freshman year in college. These students serve four to 10 weeks or one to five semesters assisting local churches, campus ministries, and NAMB missionaries with evangelism and church planting. They receive travel, stipend, and insurance from NAMB. Room and board are provided by the place of service.
- Innovators are self-funded college missionaries who have completed their freshman year in college. They work at secular jobs while assisting local missionaries and churches in evangelism and church planting. The term of service varies according to the ministry setting.
- Sojourners are high school students who have completed their junior year of high school. They work with missionaries and churches in evangelism and church planting projects in the United States and Canada. They receive travel and insurance from NAMB. Room and board is provided by the place of service.

Sending to the Ends of the Earth

For information on serving with the IMB, call the Initial Contact Coordinators at 1 888 422-6461, visit <http://going.imb.org>, or e-mail initial.contacts@imb.org.

- Career missionaries are the foundation of the IMB's mission efforts. They invest a lifetime in cross-cultural evangelism, church development, and church planting movements. They are skilled at using their professional, technical, and ministerial skills for sharing the gospel and leading the lost to Christ.
- Apprentice: All long-term international missionaries will serve an initial three-year term as missionary apprentices. Apprentices who are successful at learning the language, adapting to the culture, and the evangelism church planting team may become eligible to be reclassified to one of two long-term categories: career missionaries or missionary associates.
- Missionary associates are appointed to a four-year term (often renewable). This is an alternative to career for experienced individuals over age 30 who are called and gifted by God, but who do not meet career qualifications due to age, education, or personal preference to serve only one year.
- Journeyman missionaries are single, "twenty-something," college graduates, who desire to be on mission with God. These young adults must be willing to commit to a two-year assignment under God's leadership with a heart for evangelism that results in indigenous churches. For more information, visit <http://www.go2years.com/>.

- International Service Corps missionaries are at least 21 years of age and must also have education and experience that meet the field requirements. These men and women serve alongside career missionaries in a variety of assignments around the world. They are singles, couples, and young families who are willing to make a two- to three-year commitment and who desire to make an eternal impact on an ever-changing world. For more information, visit <http://www.go2years.com/>.
- Masters Program missionaries are individuals who are 50 years of age and older and are available to make a two- to three-year commitment to serve overseas, using the maturity, skills, and experience they have gained over a lifetime. For more information, visit <http://www.go2years.com/>.

The following questions will help you determine how your church currently helps people respond to God's call to career missions, as well as help you consider ways to improve that response.

“SEND” WORKSHEET

We present the overwhelming need for missionaries and encourage individuals to respond to career missions.

Ways we do this include: _____

Ways we could do this better include: (missionary speakers, share up-to-date mission needs, and statistics, etc.) _____

We offer opportunities for individuals to share their call to missions and affirm them in doing so.

Ways we do this include: _____

Ways we could do this better include: (testimony opportunities, attending/hosting commissioning services, etc.) _____

We offer counsel and help to those people exploring career missions.

Ways we do this include: _____

Ways we could do this better include: (identify spiritual gifts, formal career counseling, etc.) _____

Information is made available on the various pathways for service through NAMB and the IMB.

Ways we do this include: _____

Ways we could do this better include: (providing Web site and other contact information, making brochures and other printed material available, etc.) _____



CHAPTER 8

MULTIPLY

Participating in church planting and facilitating church-planting movements.

Nothing is more exciting in a family than the arrival of a new baby. The same is true in a “multiplying” congregation when a new “baby church” is born. The parenting church is strengthened and blessed by the arrival. Its members have been part of something supernatural and very significant.

One of the most challenging but rewarding ways of responding to the Acts 1:8 Challenge is to become part of planting new churches and facilitating church-planting movements around the world. Statistically speaking, new churches tend to reach more people for Christ per church member than older, more established churches. Not only are new churches one of the most effective means of reaching people for Christ, but new churches tend to reach people that existing churches cannot. Because God has chosen the church to be His vehicle of choice for delivering the gospel to the nations, multiplying ourselves ought to be a major priority. It makes the Acts 1:8 Challenge a process that comes full circle for God’s glory.

Healthy churches plant other healthy churches. This can be accomplished through a “parenting” process or by becoming a church-planting partner with other churches. A kingdom mindset leads to a desire to multiply. New churches being born are a sign of health and life. When a congregation moves into the realm of church planting as a Great Commission strategy, they have become spiritually ignited by His power and presence.

Church planting is a strategic undertaking that involves several key players and significant planning. There is a great need for new churches to be planted in our cities, states, throughout North America, and around the world. We need nothing short of a miraculous church-planting movement to impact the world for Christ. Some churches will be able to start many new churches; others will be able to partner along the way.

A seven-step process for effective church planting has been developed by NAMB to assist churches as they seek to embrace the kingdom-growing response of “multiplying” in the United States and Canada. These steps include the following.

1) *Casting a vision for multiplying.* When it comes to casting a vision for church planting—the most powerful motivation will be your ability to say, “I know that this is what God wants us to do.” Jesus said, “Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest” (John 4:35, NASB). The church leader whose eyes are open to the needs of the community will be receptive to reaching people groups that are unreached. Casting the vision means keeping the vision before the people. Effective leaders weave the vision for the new work into their messages, their church programs, through the Sunday School and small group ministries, and other forms of church communication.

2) *Identifying the ministry focus group.* In your community, there are areas that have no church. There are areas that have several yet those that exist do not reach all segments of the population. Identifying the ministry focus group is much more than focusing on a particular people for a new church plant. It is the process of developing a portrait of people that reveals their spiritual aspirations, their real and felt needs, their values, their lifestyles, and the way they look at their world.

Demographic and psychological data is very helpful to assist a church to identify the people with whom they intend to focus. The data is often available through the local association or state convention.

3) *Enlisting planters and partners while clarifying roles.* Enlisting the right church planter is critical to the new church’s success. Assessment tools are available to help ensure that the prospective planter will be effective in his or her role.

Engaging multiple partner churches for a church plant is a task that should not be ignored. For starters, requesting partnerships is biblical. Paul, in his letter to the church at Rome, boldly asks the

church to partner with him in starting a new work in Spain (see Rom. 15:24). Paul's ministry is replete with examples of establishing partnerships to accomplish these goals. An obvious benefit of multiple church planting partners is that they can share the load.

Sixty percent of Southern Baptist churches average fewer than 100 adults in worship. For some of these smaller congregations, becoming a planting church could be very intimidating. For these, becoming a partner church can be a great entry point into Great Commission mission work. Clarifying the role each partner plays will help ensure a healthy new work and promote continued involvement as a partner church.

4) *Discovering and committing resources.* The book of Acts reminds us that it has always taken resources to get the job done. Churches today need to step forward to discover and commit resources as part of their biblical missionary and stewardship responsibilities. When people embrace a vision, it only becomes a reality when they commit their financial resources.

As the partnering church leader, you must help the planter communicate the vision. If the vision is from God, it should be communicated with passion and clarity. Partnering churches should play a key role in providing resources for their new congregations. Through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, partner churches will pledge their support and undergird the planting of new churches. The partnering church focuses and coordinates the efforts.

5) *Mobilizing partnering congregations.* Mobilization-whether it's money, teams, or resources-is about people. It is about putting feet to our faith and provision to our promises. In Romans 15:24, Paul prepared the church in Rome for mission mobilization. Mobilization is the process of fulfilling the partnering commitment.

Hard work is a good description of what it takes to effectively plant a church with members of the partner congregations. It is not uncommon for the partnering church to get excited about planting a church but when it comes time to start, the momentum is difficult to maintain.

6) *Supporting the birthing process and ongoing evaluation.* Paul understood that churches are not born fully mature. Like people, they go through developmental phases. Partnering churches that are aware of these phases will be able to provide the needed support and ongoing evaluation resulting in the new church moving from milk to meat.

The partnering relationship is always more than providing a name or money. There are steps that can be taken during the incubation and early stages of the new church's life to help ensure church health throughout the congregation's lifecycle. Just as prenatal classes help prepare couples for the joys and challenges of parenting, well-equipped pastors and leaders can prepare a church for the joys and challenges of new work partnership.

7) *Celebrating and communicating church multiplication.* The partnering role should be seen as a journey with many stops and opportunities to learn, grow, and celebrate. Consider these questions: What percentage of your members knows the story of how your church (the partnering congregation) came into existence? Do you celebrate the church mileposts and anniversaries? Is there excitement in the church about being family?

Church reproduction is filled with opportunities to celebrate mileposts in the life of the church plant. The partnering church should celebrate the birth of a new church, its first birthday, major milestone achieved, and the addition of souls into God's kingdom.

It is essential that church planting be a priority for your church's mission awareness and involvement. Resources are available to help you communicate the concept to your church members and help them become enthusiastically involved in planting churches which will increase the opportunities to share the gospel with all people.

As you read and consider each of the following selections, place in the block the symbol that corresponds with your current or potential use of the idea or resource.

- ✓ = Already use idea or resource
- * = Implement this idea or resource immediately
- ? = Consider future use of this idea or resource

Ideas and Resources for Multiplying in Jerusalem

- To discover needs in your community and people who are not being reached for Christ, consider doing prayerwalks (see prayer chapter), videotape people's response to spiritual questions and play those for your church, conduct surveys of the community, and participate in ministry evangelism activities.
- Visit www.churchplantingvillage.net, a premier Web site for churches and their partners, including more than 700 tools for effective church planting. You will find excellent resources such as Multiplying Church Networks materials and "Seven Steps to Plant a Church: Partner Church Edition."
- Order "Calling Out the Called," a tool to help local churches mobilize and involve their members in evangelizing and starting new churches for unreached people and population segments locally, nationally, and internationally. For further information, call (770) 410-6234.
- Order *New Churches Needed: Church Planting Resources Kit*, an in-depth study of how church members of all ages can become involved in lay church planting to reach our nation for Christ. To order, call 1 866 407-6262, or visit www.namb.net/catalog
- Contact your association office for information on new church plants and opportunities to start new churches in your association. Consider sponsoring or partnering with one of these plants as an extension of your church's outreach.
- Contact your association staff to find out how your church can be involved in training and planning for new congregations in the association. Many opportunities exist, and your association staff can help you determine your level of assistance in new plants.
- Consider the resource of Probe 2, a tool designed to help church planter strategists identify and understand the people groups and population segments living in a city or community in order to evangelize every unreached group with a culturally appropriate church-planting strategy. To learn how to obtain and use this resource, call (770) 410-6222, or visit www.namb.net/cp/Readiness/probe.asp.

- Consider using volunteers to expand ministry outreach. You can post projects and search for volunteers on *thebridge.namb.net*.
- Learn more about how a PowerPlant project in your community can strengthen or inspire a new church start. For more information, visit *studentz.com/p2*.
- Participate in the Multiplying Church Network, clusters of church leaders representing various churches who meet regularly to pray for, plan, and learn how to lead their congregations to reproduce themselves in starting healthy, growing, and reproducing congregations. To learn more, call (770) 410-6214, or visit *www.namb.net/cp/Mentoring/CP_process.asp*.
- To do a self-assessment of how God may be preparing you for church planting ministry, download the “Discovery Tools” booklet (in Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese) from *www.churchplantingvillage.net*.

Ideas and Resources for Multiplying in Judea

- Contact your state convention office for information on new church plants in your state and opportunities for partnering in the process.
- Contact your state convention state missions director to find out how your church can be involved in training and planning for new congregations.
- Investigate the possibilities of connecting with a church planter in your state for the purpose of starting a new work. For information related to North America church planting, visit the Church Planting Multiplication Team Web site, *www.namb.net/cp/multiplication*, and the Church Planting Recruitment Team site, *www.namb.net/cp/recruitment*.

Ideas and Resources for Multiplying in Samaria

- Investigate the possibilities of connecting with a church planter for the purpose of starting a new work. For information related to North America church planting, visit the Church Planting Multiplication Team Web site, *www.namb.net/cp/multiplication*, and the Church Planting Recruitment Team site, *www.namb.net/cp/recruitment*.
- Encourage support of the Nehemiah Project, a cooperative intern strategy with Southern Baptist seminaries to intentionally prepare and equip church planters to plant healthy churches. To learn more, call (770) 410-6218, or visit *www.namb.net/cp/Recruitment/Nehemiah.asp*.
- Secure a copy of *Reaching a Nation Through Church Planting* by Richard Harris. Call (770) 410-6237.
- Secure and read *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age* by Ed Stetzer, available at LifeWay Bookstores, or *www.lifeway.com*.
- To learn more about various church planting resources available to churches, associations, church planters, and their teams, call (770) 410-6000, or visit *www.namb.net/cp/Multiplication*.

Ideas and Resources for Multiplying in Ends of the Earth

- To learn how church-planting movements in international settings begin and grow, read *Church Planting Movements* (in-depth book); “Church Planting Movements” (condensed version in booklet form); or, watch the “Church Planting Movements” on VHS tape. These resources are available at <http://resources.imb.org>.

Becoming a church-planting congregation is a process that involves partnership, teamwork, and sacrifice. All of the primary mission partners can network together in this effort. Use the following worksheet to begin developing resources, strategies, and contacts for planning churches in each of the mission fields.

"MULTIPLYING" WORKSHEET

Use this worksheet to identify ways your church can assist in the response of "multiply" in the four fields.

Current Church Planting Activities

Jerusalem: _____

Judea: _____

Samaria: _____

Ends of the Earth: _____

Activities to Pursue

Jerusalem: _____

Judea: _____

Samaria: _____

Ends of the Earth: _____



The Acts 1:8 Challenge is a cooperative missions challenge to the local church from partner entities of the Southern Baptist Convention. Together, our desire is *Empowering Kingdom Growth* through the local church.

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