



*How To
Engage Your
Church In*
MISSIONS

A GUIDE BOOK FOR MISSIONS



WHO IS THIS RESOURCE FOR AND HOW TO USE IT

This resource is designed for churches like yours that desire to make a significant impact in reaching the unreached with the Good News of Jesus.

Your church has the potential to be a catalyst for change for those who have yet to experience the love of Jesus. This guide will help your church become a powerhouse for the Gospel and embrace God's call to take Jesus to the ends of the earth.

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42%

*of the world
remains unreached*

—an unacceptable reality to God.

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?
And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they
preach unless they are sent?”

—ROMANS 10:14-15

UNDERSTAND THE CALL

Missions, at its core, is a response to God's directives found in Scripture. At the heart of it is the Great Commission.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

— MATTHEW 28:18-20

Jesus commands that every people group on earth must hear the Gospel. While many churches, organizations, and individuals have made great strides in taking the Gospel to the entire world, **forty-two percent of the world remains unreached. That is an unacceptable reality to God!**

Further complicating the challenge of reaching the unreached, two research studies from Barna on awareness of the [Great Commission](#), and the [global missions mandate](#) show that many Christians are not familiar with the term, nor do they understand the all-encompassing command of Jesus that it references.

Are we, as Christians, losing sight of God's call to reach all nations? Is the Church treating the Great Commission as merely a suggestion?

It is not that God has a mission for His church in the world, but that God has a church for His mission in the world. Mission was not made for the church; the church was made for mission.

—Rev. Christopher J.H. Wright

*This is a clear and **compelling call** to get on mission with God.*



The Great Commission is your invitation to participate in God's redemptive plan for humanity, extending beyond geographical and cultural boundaries.

"Go," He says, and "make disciples of ALL nations."

Are you ready?

WE ARE CREATED FOR GOOD WORKS

Did you know that as believers, we are crafted by God, not just for salvation, but to engage in good works? It is our identity and purpose in Christ. These good works, which include missions and evangelism, are not an afterthought but a part of God's divine plan for us.

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

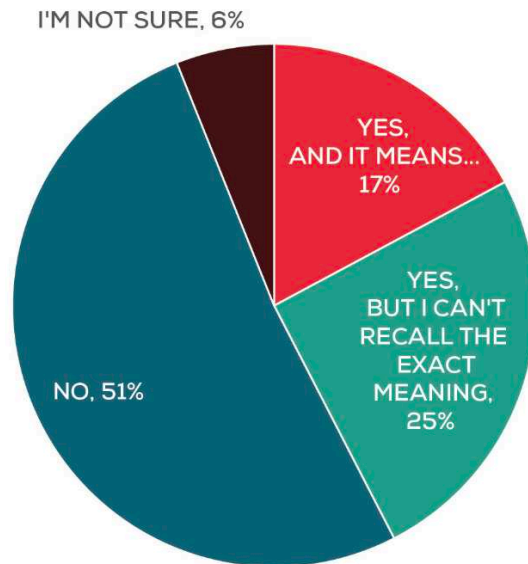
— EPHESIANS 2:10

Being created in Christ and designed for good works should motivate us to view missions as a core element of our Christian identity, not just an optional activity. We are designed to be ACTIVE participants in God’s redemptive story. Check out this [On Mission Video Series](#) from Dr. Ray Noah, co-founder of Petros Network, as he unpacks what it looks like to re-orient your life around living on mission with God.

Being involved in missions is not merely an external activity; it is an expression of our identity in Christ and obedience to His Word. We are called, equipped, and commissioned to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

This understanding of the divine mandate – we are ALL called to – should inspire us to participate in the Great Commission and unleash a Gospel movement.

According to a study done by the Barna Group,



51% of churchgoers claim they have never heard of the Great Commission.

While only 17% had heard and knew what it means.

[Link to the study by the Barna Group](#)



CULTIVATING A MISSIONAL MINDSET

Creating a culture of missions within your church involves more than organizing occasional mission trips or supporting missionaries. It is about embedding a missional mindset into the fabric of your church's daily life — **fostering a culture that sees every environment as a potential mission field and nurtures a deep, heartfelt concern for the unreached.**

“ New research reveals that many Christians today tend to believe missions is a calling for some (51%), not a mandate for all (25%). On the other hand, the vast majority of pastors (85%)—regardless of denomination—say missions is work that all Christians participate in.

—Barna, 2022 ”

EMBRACE AN INDIGENOUS MISSIOLOGY

Missiology reflects sincere people's best understanding of how the Church can carry out the mission of God. Dr. Ray Noah states, *"Current missiological thinking is quickly shifting to embrace the Church Planting Movement, especially among the unreached, which will ultimately lead to greater Kingdom advancement than at any time in Christian history."* An indigenous missiology works with local missionaries that are native to the community in which they are ministering. Here are some ways your church can embrace an indigenous missiology.

- **Partner with Organizations that Support Indigenous Missionaries:** Foster partnerships with organizations that support native missionaries who live in and understand the local culture and language. Check out this White Paper by Dr. Ray Noah on the Church Planting Movement, where he explains an indigenous missiology: <https://petrosnetwork.org/the-church-planting-movement/>

Applying these principles allows you to cultivate a missional mindset in your church that views every interaction as an opportunity to share Jesus. This is not just about preparing your congregation for occasional mission trips but transforming their daily lives into a living testimony of the Gospel.

By nurturing a heart for missions and a better understanding of how to live out the Great Commission, your church can make a significant impact in bringing the Good News of Jesus to those who have yet to hear it.



Unreached peoples are unreached for a reason.
They're hard, difficult and dangerous to reach.
All the easy ones are taken.
—David Platt



SEE EVERYDAY ENVIRONMENTS AS MISSION FIELDS

A missions mindset starts at home. How can you help your church see mission fields in their everyday environments — at home, at work, in their neighborhood, in their community? Here are some possible ways to begin:

- **Integrate Missions into Church Life:** Include missions in your church’s vision statement or values, making it clear that it is a priority. Regularly feature missions in sermons, prayers, and church activities. Check out this powerful [sermon](#) from Dr. Ray Noah, on being intensely missionary.
- **Missions Education:** Offer classes or small group studies that focus on missions. Create a course on the Great Commission — what it is and what it means for believers ([Resource on the Great Commission](#)). You might also check out this [small group video series](#) from Momentum Yes on taking the Good News to your neighbors and the world.
- **Missions-Focused Groups:** Create mission-focused discussion groups where members can share their experiences and challenges as witnesses in their daily lives. Here is an excellent resource from [The Stone Table](#), an organization that partners with global missions initiatives focused on taking the Gospel to the unreached. They offer an excellent course on the missional marketplace.
- **Pray For Opportunities to Witness:** Encourage members from your church to pray specifically for opportunities to share the Gospel in everyday interactions and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading.
- **Local Missions:** Organize local outreach events and community service projects where your church can be the hands and feet of Jesus in the local community.

CULTIVATE A HEART FOR THE UNREACHED IN YOUR CONGREGATION

Educate your church about the 42% of the world that still remains unreached and how ALL believers are God's plan for reaching them with the Good News of Jesus.

- **Host an Annual Missions Summit:** Dedicate a week or weekend of the year to missions at your church. Consider bringing in a special guest missionary to share their experience and inspire the congregation to support taking the Gospel to places it has yet to reach. Consider hosting a missions themed banquet and/or service project in the community to emphasize local outreach. Check out [Assemblies of God World Missions](#) for some great resources and themes for your missions summit.
- **Awareness and Prayer:** Regularly share updates about unreached people groups and highlight a different people group to intercede for each month. For more information on unreached people groups visit [People Groups](#). For specific ways to pray for these unreached people groups, visit [Stratus](#) — a great online tool that details both the spiritual and physical needs around the world.
- **Testimonies and Stories:** Personal testimonies from local and global missionaries can stir hearts and encourage your congregation to participate in your churches missions efforts. Check out this great resource for [testimonies and stories from the mission field](#).



STEPS TO LAUNCH A MISSIONS PROGRAM

A church that emphasizes missions is a church highly bless-able by God. And yet, the thought of starting a missions program can be overwhelming. It requires planning, dedication, and intentionality as you integrate missions into the very fiber of your church. We have outlined some key steps to get you started.



Through your praying for, giving to, and going on mission, people will receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus. And throughout eternity, they will thank you for being the conduit of God's amazing grace to them.

— Dr. Ray Noah



STEP 1: FORM A MISSIONS COMMITTEE

A missions committee is an integral part of becoming a missional church. This committee helps create the strategy and develop the focus of your missions program with intention and purpose. If your church doesn't have a committee, here is how you can form one.

- **Selecting Members:** Choose individuals passionate about missions and have diverse skills, such as organizational abilities, leadership qualities, and experience in missions.
- **Define the Vision and Goals:** The committee should clearly articulate the vision for missions in your church, setting both short-term and long-term goals.
- **Regular Meetings and Planning:** Establish a schedule for planning, prayer, and reviewing missions funding and updates from the field. This committee can help you think through and implement the following steps.

STEP 2: IDENTIFY POTENTIAL MISSION FIELDS— BOTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

- **Local and Global:** Have a local and global missions component to your church's missions program. There are probably unreached people groups in your backyard as well as overseas in the developing world. Both need Jesus.
- **Research and Prayer:** Research various local and global mission opportunities. When searching for global missions, consider all the unreached people groups and areas that need the Gospel. Incorporate this into a prayer time and seek God's guidance on where to focus. Here are two great resources for better understanding the great need for reaching the unreached: [The Joshua Project](#) and [People Groups](#).
- **Assess Resources and Low Hanging Fruit:** Evaluate your church's resources so that you know where to focus your missions efforts first. Who can you partner with to get started? Is your church connected to a missions organization or missionaries on the field? Likewise, what local missions and outreach organizations are active in your city that you can team up with? This would be a great place to start.

STEP 3: PARTNER WITH EXPERIENCED ORGANIZATIONS FOR YOUR GLOBAL MISSIONS EFFORTS

Partnering with non-profit organizations that do the work your church wants to engage in can help implement your mission's strategy.

- **Research Potential Partners:** Look for organizations with a proven record of helping churches with their global missions strategy.
- **Build Relationships:** Establish relationships with these organizations to understand their strategies, needs, and how your church can effectively partner.
- **Commit to Support:** Decide on the level of support your church can provide, whether financial, prayer, or through sending a group on a short-term missions trip to serve.

STEP 4: TAKE A GROUP ON A SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIP

Consider taking a short-term missions trip to allow members from your church to grow their appreciation for other cultures, shape their understanding of missions and expand their view of the Kingdom of God.

- **Practical Preparations:** Select an organization that does short-term missions trips and begin the process of planning and organizing the trip. Check out Petros Network's [short-term missions trip opportunities for your church](#).
- **Cultural Sensitivity Training:** Work with the organization to provide training sessions on cultural sensitivity, language basics, and understanding the social and religious context of the target mission field. Check out a series of videos, [Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions](#), from The Chalmers Center.
- **Feedback and Evaluation:** After a mission trip, request feedback from your team on their experience to learn and improve for future missions trips .
- **Long-Term Planning:** After returning from a trip, prayerfully consider developing a strategy for long-term involvement in that area, which may include continuous support and taking future missions trips to the communities served. Building these relationships on the missions field is essential to see firsthand the long-term impact and fruit of your missions program.



SUSTAINING THE MOVEMENT

Maintaining energy around your churches missions program is not just about the initial excitement and launch it is about building upon the launch. Regular missions features in your services and missions centered activities keeps missions top-of-mind for your congregation.

FUNDRAISING FOR MISSIONS

Encouraging your congregation to give to missions above their regular tithe can be a challenge. Below are two ways to build a culture of missions giving within your church:

- **Monthly Missions Sunday Offerings:** Dedicate one service a month to highlight a missions feature and receive an offering. Share stories from the missionaries you support or highlight a local or global missions organization you partner with and the impact you are making through them.
- **Missions Banquet:** As mentioned in the Missions Summit (p. 12) this event can be held anytime as a ticketed event, inviting your congregation to an evening all about missions. Feature a specific project or share and celebrate the global impact your church is making. This is an opportunity for people to give to missions. And we encourage you to share a fundraising goal for the year.

IN SUMMARY

By utilizing this guide and implementing the practices suggested here, your church can launch and maintain a vibrant and compelling missions program. Let the journey of missions be one of constant growth, learning, and deepening your reliance on God's provision and direction for your church.

Remember, missions is about being the hands and feet of Jesus both across the street and around the world. This is the desire of Petros Network. Our vision is to see a thriving local church within walking distance of every person on the planet. Why? Because we believe **the local church is the hope of the world** and has the potential to be the greatest expression of Jesus in the world today.

Thank you for downloading this resource. We are always excited to share with others how to take the Good News of Jesus to the ends of the earth.

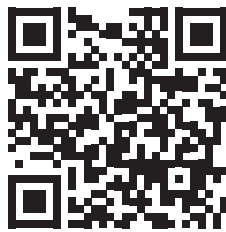
Together, let's answer the call!



WE BELIEVE WHAT YOU BELIEVE:

Where a person is born shouldn't limit their access to the *Gospel*.

Learn more about how we can partner with you to be the missions solution for every ministry in your church at petrosnetwork.org/for-churches



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Petros Network's mission is to strategically introduce Jesus to the unreached world.
Learn more at petrosnetwork.org



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