

COMMUNICATING MISSIONS



DOWN
WALLS

DR. PERRY J. HUBBARD

Communicating Missions

Dr. Perry J. Hubbard

Copyright ©2006 Dr. Perry J Hubbard

All Rights Reserved.

Cover design by Ricardo Moisa

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, except as may be expressly permitted by the applicable copyright statutes or prior permission by the author.

Photographs and images are protected by copyright law.

Communicating Missions –

Index	p. 3
Acknowledgements	p. 4
Introduction	p. 5
1. The Message of Missions	p. 9
2. Communicating Mission - The Vision	p. 14
3. Communication Network	p. 25
Communicating Missions	
4. National	p. 29
5. Local Church	p. 37
6. Missionary	p. 42
7. Bible College	p. 46
8. Regional	p. 49
9. International/Other	p. 55
Communication Missions	
10. A Prayer	p. 57
Appendix One	p. 59
Jibacam Statement	
Appendix Two	p. 64
Resources	

Acknowledgements

No book is ever done without talking with others about the need for the book. Talking with others about the structure of the book. Talking with others about the grammar and punctuation of the book.

Thank you to all who communicated with me in different areas to make it possible to write this book and so be able to communicate with others.

Special thanks to Rick West for his encouragement to continue the process of writing and communicating.

Special thanks to my wife Nancy who helps me make sure that the communication makes sense.

Introduction

To be able to communicate missions and the need to be involved in missions we need to consider what is involved in the process of communicating. A simple look at what is involved and a few key concerns will be useful.

A good starting point would be the fact that communication revolves around information. The one communicating has gathered information to be shared with others. Those receiving the communication are in some way interested in that information or at least willing to be shown the value of the information that is being presented.

This assumes that there is interest on both sides of the equation. The one presenting the information is interested in and convinced of the value of the information. The one receiving the information is open to receiving in the information. But we cannot always assume that everyone is interested. It is also possible that one side or the other is unwilling to share or receive.

Being required to share information with others under pressure will make the process difficult and quite likely ineffective. Imagine a pastor preaching without conviction or concern for those in the congregation, or a teacher that has become tired of teaching, simply giving information. They are simply carrying out the task that has been given.

Being forced to listen is no better. Many required classes or lectures are tolerated for the sake of a grade by the student. Little is learned and little enthusiasm or commitment will be generated. The saddest situation would be when both sides have no interest.

One, being required to make a presentation and the other, required to listen to that presentation. The information may be very important or valuable but because of the lack of interest of one or both parties there will be no change, no impact and definitely no action taken.

Another critical aspect in communication would be the amount of knowledge possessed by the one presenting a given topic. The more one knows the more effective they can be in communicating in that particular area.

Yet greater knowledge is not a guarantee that the communication will be effective. In fact information presented in a poor manner may not even be heard. One can choose to present it in a manner that is too technical or makes people feel inferior. One can fail to lay needed ground work and assume those listening will fill in the gaps. A lack of awareness of what others really know and the real level of interest can result in a complete failure for communication to be effective.

It is interesting to note that some of the most effective communicators are not necessarily experts in the area being presented. Yet they can have a greater impact at gaining the interest of others and getting them involved. So communication is about much more than just sharing information.

This means we need to look at the emotions involved in communicating. There must be a desire to communicate, a sense of passion for the material being presented, that others can relate to. Building a sense of passion involves being able to deal with several key questions.

There is a need to have a clear idea of:

1. Why this information needs to be shared. Just giving information without direction and purpose is a waste of everyone's time.

2. What needs to be shared. This will vary with each different setting and each different group. Knowing when to share what will make our presentations more effective and generate more interest.
3. How to share the information. There are many ways to present information and knowing which method will be the most effective is important
4. The results we are expecting from the process. Not knowing what you want people to do with the information being given means nothing will happen.

These statements will help us measure the passion and focus of the one presenting the information to us.

There must also be a desire to receive what is being communicated. For the one receiving the information there are four possibilities:

1. There is a true desire to receive the information.
2. There is a willingness to hear the information.
3. There is an openness to be convinced that the information is valuable.
4. There is no interest or even opposition to what is being communicated.

Knowing what the interest level of a given group is will impact how information is communicated. It is easy to communicate with those who have the same passion as the one making the presentation (#1). Groups #2 and #3 will require a different approach as relates to the material shared and the interaction. The last group (#4) will be very difficult.

Knowing the level of interest and focus of those listening will help us in knowing how to answer the previous state-

ments about why, what, how and results. They will be quite different for each group.

These issues will always play a role in the decisions that will need to be made as we seek to communicate missions. The better we understand these issues, the better our choices will be as we seek to communicate to individuals and groups information about missions and give them an opportunity to respond to the information.

Chapter One

The Message of Missions

What do we want to communicate? This is a very important question to answer.

Communicating is not just about information. It is about having a message. It is about knowing why the information is important. Knowing how it will affect our lives. Knowing how it will affect the lives of others.

What is the message we want to communicate as we share our information? Communications that is just about giving information will accomplish very little. People have to know the message. Let us stop here and consider the meaning of the word message.

We are all involved in sending out messages. A message is a piece of information designed to provide another person the means to make a decision or take an action. It can be in the form of a gesture, a word, a short note, a letter, etc.

Some settings are very simple. A girl smiles at a boy and he thinks she is interested in meeting him. Or a note is given with a time or a word on it and the other person knows when to do something or what is needed to complete an expected action. These are the simplest messages.

Others messages are longer and more involved, but the idea is the same, providing needed information from one person so that another can respond. To be an effective message the information must be useful and allow others to respond.

There is another category of messages that involve codes. These are sent so that if anyone else reads them they will not understand. Only the one sending the message and the in-

tended receiver have the knowledge or skill to decipher the code. We need to be careful that our messages do not become codes that only a few can understand.

It will be obvious that when talking about the message of missions we will not be dealing with simple gestures and single words or even short phrases. At least not in the initial stages of communicating. There may come a time when a single word like love will provide what is needed. This will be possible because of other messages that have been shared prior to that moment.

Relationships like marriage are like this. After years of sharing and living together there comes a time when single words and gestures are all that is needed for a spouse to be able to respond. This is because much has been learned through many other messages and times of sharing together.

So we need to begin to build an understanding of missions. We need to communicate the content and purpose of the message so that as people listen they will begin to see the value of this message and be able to respond. Let us consider the content of this message.

Missions is a message of hope. There is hope for those lost in sin. There is hope for those who are confused and struggling with life. There is hope to be able to understand why we are who we are. There is hope to find value in life. There is hope to see God and know our creator.

There are many false messages being shared around the world about meaning and purpose. There are many false messages being shared about how to find inner strength and peace. We have the only message of hope that actually works. Missions is about bringing to the world this message. Missions is understanding that people need to hear this message of hope.

Part of this message is that we have a critical role to play in carrying the message of hope to the world. We have been given the task of proclaiming the message of mission, the gospel of Jesus, to the world. So what does this mean? What should we be thinking about as we work through the process of getting people involved in communicating this message? There are four areas that we will need to focus on in order to answer these questions.

We need to do everything we can to ensure that:

1. Everyone has a chance to hear the message of missions.
2. Everyone knows the part they can play in getting this message to those who need to hear it.
3. Everyone knows what is happening as a result of what they are doing. They need to know that what they are doing is effectively contributing to others hearing the message of missions.
4. Everyone is prepared to deal with the obstacles that may interfere with people hearing the message of missions.

Think about the parable of the good Samaritan. There was a man who desperately needed help. He could not help himself. There are three people who had the ability to help him. They represented a message of hope. Two of the three denied him that hope. They had the ability; they had the resources, but chose not to help. The Samaritan was the least likely to offer help, but he did. He knew what it meant to be without hope and to struggle. He also knew that it was more than just taking the man to a place for help but being sure that the help would last long enough for him to recover and be well.

It is not just about knowing the message, it is not just about communicating the message, it is about making it possible for the message to have an effect that will last.

In item four above we talked about dealing with obstacles. There will be obstacles to overcome. There are two groups of obstacles. The first group relates to what prevents us from getting the message out.

1. Lack of interest
2. Lack of resources
3. Lack of leadership
4. Lack of follow-up

The second group relates to those who will be receiving the message

1. Poor preparation of those sending the message
2. Poor understanding of those receiving the message
3. Poor selection of methods and materials used

The goal of this material is to help us deal with these obstacles so that not only will our message be heard but those hearing the message will be able to respond to that message.

Our ability to succeed in overcoming obstacles depends greatly on how effective we are in helping people deal with the first three areas mentioned. The more people who clearly understand the need the more effective we will be. The more people who are truly equipped to help in communicating the message - the more effective we will be. The more people who know what the results should be and can see those results - the more effective we will be. Being effective in the first three areas makes it much easier to deal with the issues and obstacles that are part of the fourth area.

Marriage and friendship give us great examples of the value of communication. When both spouses are committed to building a marriage, when both are willing to plan and prepare properly for their marriage, when both know what to expect from each other, then it is easier to overcome the ob-

stacles that will come. Then we have a real hope for a strong marriage and others will see the benefits of marriage.

In friendship it is the same. When those involved are committed to being friends, take time to learn how to be a friend, and have a real understanding of what comes from true friendship then they will overcome the obstacles that will come. They will reveal to others what friendship means.

This is what we need to do in letting ourselves and others hear the message of missions. We need to understand how important it is for others to hear. We need to see the value in planning for everyone to get involved. We need clear guidelines as to what should happen as we become involved. We need to be ready to deal with the obstacles that will come. If we do this we will become involved in missions and the message of missions will be heard by those who need to hear it.

The greatest danger is assuming people know and understand the importance of this message, or that somehow they will find out the information in a timely manner. If this were true then we would not need schools and other means to training. If this were true Jesus would not have needed to come and tell us of God's love. If this were true the world would be right, each man can and will find his own way to God.

However that is a contradiction of all of man's history and of scripture. All have sinned and come short (Ro 3:23). There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death (Pr 14:12). Man does not find peace, only war and hate. Man will not save himself, but will destroy himself and others.

The message of missions needs to be heard and we need to hear know how to become a part of sharing that message to the world. That is our mission and our message.

Chapter Two

Communicating Mission

The Vision

Do we know what we want to see happen as we share the message of missions? Do we have a vision of the results we want? Do we know who will be helping to communicate and who we will need to reach?

Effective communication of a message may start with a clear understanding of the content of the message but it also needs a clear understanding of what we want to happen. We need a vision of what the end will look like. So let us take a little time here to consider what is involved in a clear definition of the concept of a vision.

Vision, or the ability to see, exists at four levels.

Level One – The statement “I see” relates to my ability to perceive the world around me. I am aware of physical reality, color, movement and other visible events. It relates to the function of my eye and my brain’s ability to recognize what is communicated to it from the eye. The clearer my vision, the better is my awareness of what is around me. Vision at this level also involves training the eye to see. Knowing what to see in a particular place is also very important. An untrained eye can miss many things that are clearly seen by those who have trained themselves to recognize what is present.

Level Two – The statement “I see” carries the added meaning of “I understand.” I begin to understand the meaning of what I see. For example I will learn what certain colors mean to a particular group of people. I will learn what the gestures I observe mean in different settings and places. It also means

being able to see or understand what someone is trying to communicate to me. A simple example would be a person giving directions to another person who then responds with “yes, I see where to go.” Understanding is based on the clarity of our vision or ability to see how various pieces of information relate to each other.

Level Three – The statement “I see” means I have an image of what could be, what could exist. At a basic level it is how a carver works. The carver looks at a piece of wood and must be able to see the finished product before beginning or the carver will not be able to accomplish the task at hand. The carver must know what can or cannot be made from that piece of wood based on the size of the piece, the type of wood and any other concern involved in the process of carving. Vision at this level is the ability to see something that does not yet exist, but given various conditions and resources, could exist. It is the ability to see both a present setting and a future possibility.

Level Four – The statement “I see” means I know what it will take to get from here to there. I have an awareness of the steps involved, the resources and skills needed, and the time that will be involved. It is like a builder who looks at a piece of land and holds a plan in his hand. He can see the steps involved in taking the piece of land and building a house on the land. He can see the equipment that will be needed, the supplies that will be needed and the people that will be needed for that to happen. He will also have a good idea of the time involved for each step along the way. He will also see the relationship between the various steps involved in making the vision of the house a reality.

A key aspect of this level of vision is the ability to define the changes that need to occur to get from the present setting to the completed vision. It also allows us to evaluate the attitudes and relations that exist to know how they will impact

the process and progress of reaching the vision. This includes being able to anticipate the obstacles and problems that may be encountered in reaching the vision.

Vision is about seeing something that does not exist yet but can. It is about knowing where we want to go and knowing what the results will be going in that direction. Vision is also about knowing where we are now and what it will take to get to where we want to be. Vision is about understanding what is happening and what needs to happen and how it will affect those involved.

It is important to realize that we cannot ignore where we are and what we have to work with. A vision that ignores that information will most likely fail. Mistaken assumptions of resources and attitudes may result in a quick failure. If we do not evaluate this information we will not prepare properly in developing the needed resources and personnel and we will not be ready to deal with those who may oppose what is being done as well as other obstacles that most certainly will appear.

A clear vision at all levels will help us make critical choices.

Jesus had a vision from his father that guided his life. He reviews it in John 17 as well as expands on the vision. In this review we learn several important lessons that will help us as we deal with a vision for communicating mission to those who need to be involved.

Lesson one: This deals with the authority to carry out the vision. Jesus states in verse two that the Father had granted him authority over all people to accomplish the vision set before him. This is a reflection of Jesus first sermon in which he quotes the passage from Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners,
NIV

Even as early as twelve, Jesus knew he was sent for a purpose and let his parents know that his delay at the temple was so that he could be about his Father's work. And as he closes out his time on earth he tells the disciples in Mt 28:18 that all authority has been given to him.

If there is no authority to do the work then no matter how great and wonderful the vision may be, it will not happen. When there is authority, and the power that comes with such authority, than there is no obstacle great enough to prevent success for those who are working towards that vision. In Jesus case even death and the grave were not strong enough to interfere with accomplishing the vision. This leads to lesson two.

Lesson Two: This deals with having a clear knowledge of the vision. Jesus clearly states the focus of the vision he has been given. It has two parts. In John 17:2 he states that all this is happening to make it possible for him to give eternal life to all those that are given to him by the Father. The second part is linked to the first. To make eternal life possible, then Jesus task was to make a way for the people to know the only true God, and Jesus whom he sent. This is the core of John 3:16. Knowing God and knowing Jesus which results in believing, will bring eternal life.

We need to have a very clear idea of what the vision is and what is driving that vision. The vision for Jesus was people receiving eternal life, and the driving force was making it possible for the people to know God and Jesus.

Lesson Three: This is about defining clearly the results that should be expected. There are three of these suggested in John 17:6-8.

Revelation – Jesus states that he has revealed the Father. God is clearly seen and they know that God is the source of Jesus’ activity and power and vision.

Obedience – The result of the revelation is that they have obeyed the word that has come from God through Jesus.

Belief – We can receive truth, we can even obey it with no real change. Jesus states that the other result is that they believed Jesus is sent by God.

If our vision is from God, and is to accomplish the work of God, then we will need to see these results in what is done. People will see it as from God. They will be willing to obey the directions given and will believe in its importance to their lives.

Jesus also lets us see that a clear vision will open the door for further development and vision. Jesus looked at what he had done in the lives of the disciples and then swung his view beyond that moment to let us see that fulfilling God’s vision would allow future generations to become part of a growing vision of a people united in God (Jn17:20-1).

In looking to the future he also helps us see that reaching a goal or fulfilling a vision will involve dealing with various needs to adapt and grow.

In pursuing a vision there will be:

1. Opposition and thus a need for protection (John 17:14-5). This opposition has three sources, the evil one, the world and ourselves. Satan obviously does not want anyone to be closer to God and any attempts to encourage such a relationship to develop will be opposed. The world is more concerned about itself and its needs and will often reject and oppose anyone who says this is wrong. We also by virtue of our own weaknesses and sin will tend to oppose such movement towards God.

The reality of opposition then indicates a need for protection. This does not mean isolation. If it did then Jesus could have avoided all of the suffering he experienced. As an individual finds God, God could simply remove them from this world or at the least heal, correct or overturn any opposition that may appear. If this were the case it would seem that converting the world would be easy.

But this is not the case. The vision is about protection within the setting where the vision is being made a reality. It is about being able to deal with the obstacles that come not in our strength, but in the one who is the source of the vision.

2. Strength will be needed to carry out the vision. This strength will grow as we experience God's joy (John 17:13). Jesus wanted the disciples to have a full measure of the joy that he had. This joy was not based on an emotional state but in a relationship. Our emotions are very unstable. True friendship, true love is more stable and remains intact even when our emotional state varies. God's presence is absolutely stable and is completely unaffected by our emotions or what is happening around us. Our emotional state in rela-

tion to accomplishing the vision can vary from depression and discouragement to elation and victory. In all of this, the vision God is revealing remains unaffected and constant. The better we understand this, the stronger we will become, because we will not be dependent on our emotional state, which is unstable, but on God's presence, which is constant. Therein lays the joy that Jesus wants us to experience. It is this joy that helped Jesus maintain his focus on the vision even in the most difficult of times.

3. Commitment will be essential to carrying out the vision. Jesus says that we need to be sanctified (John 17:17-19). We need to be set apart by God for this work. Jesus adds that to make this possible he will sanctify himself so that we can be called and set apart by God. This reveals just how serious this vision of mission is. Our human ability to make a commitment will need to be lifted to a higher level. We call this sanctification. Being called, set apart by God to do His work in the power of the Spirit.
4. Separation from the world will be the basis of this vision (John 17:14, 16). This is not about becoming more and more at home here. This is not about creating a pleasant home to dwell in. This is not about creating heaven on earth. It is about becoming more and more aware that we are meant for another place, another relationship. It is about knowing God and helping people to see that truth.

As we understand these realities we will be able to do what Jesus and focus our vision, so that the world may believe that God sent Jesus to earth to save man from sin. We will renew

this vision with each group that is touched, with each new generation as it comes of age, with each new age, as we progress to the day of our Lord's return.

Within each master vision there are smaller elements that help each person and group become a part of the overall vision. We see this in Saul's vision on the Damascus road, Peter's vision of the sheet filled with all kinds of animals, and Paul's vision of the man from Macedonia.

Jesus said all authority is mine and then He gave us a series of commands. We will have to apply that authority to every setting. Jesus said disciple everyone - we will have to deal with how to do that with each group. Jesus said to baptize them in His name - we will have to understand what that means in each cultural milieu. Jesus said teach them everything - we will have to learn how to do that teaching at every level of understanding and awareness.

This vision of mission has two parts:

1. What happens in the church.
2. What happens in the world.

The second relates to our efforts to take the gospel to the world. We will not be dealing with that in this context. We will deal with the first. What should be happening in the church which in turn makes the second aspect possible.

What happens in the church involves two stages. Being sure that everyone in the church is:

1. Aware of the mission of God
2. Able to participate in carrying out this mission.

We realize, of course, that it is hard to participate if we are not aware of what is happening. It is a common statement

made by one who did not attend an event that they would have come if they had only known when and where to go. To accomplish this will means making it possible for people to participate. The more we are aware, the more we can participate. The more we are aware, the more we will know the ways in which we can participate.

This will involve providing:

1. Training in key areas
2. Awareness of the resources available
3. Structures to facilitate development

All three of these require us to learn to communicate what God has revealed so that others will be able to see at all four of the levels previously discussed. The better we do then the more effective we will be at sharing the vision so others will see and become involved in sharing that vision with others.

Before we move on we need to understand that there will not be one answer, one method, one structure that will work for every person, every church and every setting. This is because we all live in different places, with different resources, skills and environmental factors that will affect how we share the vision and how we get people involved.

We are people who live in many countries and environments. From the Amazon jungle of Brazil, to the interior village of Paramakatoi in Guyana, to the mega city of Mexico City. Some live by a river, on an island, next to the coast or far inland. Some have no transportation and must walk everywhere, others depend on animals like horses and mules, others will have access to busses, cars, boats and planes. Each of these impacts how we will make people aware.

Our lives will be different. We will need to communicate with young and old, with uneducated and highly trained peo-

ple. Even the education process will vary from place to place, from a one room school house to a highly developed university. In all of this the life experiences of groups will be different. Rural communities, farming communities, fishing communities, and business communities will affect the choice of materials and communication. What is important and what is valued will be different and will affect our structures, methods and relations as we seek to build awareness and involvement.

Each of these will have a different time awareness. One has a slow pace with a focus on people, the next a fast past where having schedule is important. Add to that the possibility of trying to do all of this in multiple languages, from a trade language to a tribal language. Learning what the differences are and how to work within each setting will be important in communicating the message of mission.

So then what good is a vision if no one can understand what it is? When Jesus said he came that they may have life and have it to the full (Jn 10:10) what will that mean as we share the vision in each context. What good will this vision be if we do not understand the cost? Jesus said he came to serve (Mt 20:28). Paul speaks of an acceptable gift (2 Co 8:12). What does it mean to serve in each context and what will an acceptable gift be, a basket of fish on an island, a bag of potatoes in Peru, or what? What good is a vision if we cannot explain it like Jesus did through parables? We need to use stories, examples and materials that relate to each context to be effective.

If the vision is to communicate the mission and its message so that the church will get involved, then we must use many methods and settings to do so. There will be no one manual, one system, one approach but many. Jesus did not use one method to reach the people with the vision God placed in his

care. He taught, he used scripture, he told stories, and he used questions and more.

We need to see, have a clear idea of the reality around us. We need to see, understand what the vision is about and its impact on us. We need to see, be able to define what it will take to accomplish the vision. We need a vision that is clear enough for us to aim at and reach, but will allow us to see further once we have reached that point.

For this place and time the vision is communicating the mission so that the church will be aware of its importance, and so they will see how to become involved.

Chapter Three

Communication Network

Before we continue with the discussion of how to communicate the mission to the church and its people we need to understand what this involves. Knowing who will be communicating to whom will help us be more effective in the use of our resources and time.

There are eight different groups that will need to be involved in helping the entire church to be properly informed and our efforts at communication to be coordinated.

1. National

Depending on the nature of the church in a given country we will have one of two structures that are responsible for oversight of the church and its ministries. If there is only one district as there is in many countries, i.e. Guyana or Guatemala, then the District Board will be the key group. If we have several districts as in Mexico or Colombia, then there is a National board with several district boards who will have a part to play in coordinating the communication process for that country. At this level the National board will be the central body but would share some of its duties to the district board.

2. Local Church

The local church would have the responsibility to deal with communicating to its membership and reporting to whichever board is over it.

3. Missionary

In most cases missionary appointment or approval will come at a national level and so the missionary will be responsible to communicate with this group. It would also be responsible to communicate with other groups but should do so under the direction of the board. This will allow for coordination of efforts and thus reduce duplication.

4. College

The college or training program of the church in a given country should be responsible for the task of clearly informing all students of the importance of missions and what the church will expect from them in promotion of missions and maintaining a clear flow of communications. This can take the shape of courses and seminars on missions, special services promoting missions and other events.

5. General/Regional

In Latin America we have a unique situation. We have many countries involved in a single structure to promote and support missions. As a region we have organized a missions board called JIBACAM. We will need a clear understanding of how each country and its missions activities relate to this regional body and how JIBACAM relates to the many countries which have missions programs within the region. There may be missionaries that will be promoted and sent through the cooperation of those who are part of JIBACAM. JIBACAM will also be involved in organizing training and programs that benefit the entire region. We will need to clearly understand the communication issues for this organization to function properly. If the region organizes itself into a conference, whether as a regional or general conference our effectiveness in communication and sharing of information and resources will benefit all.

6. International

There should be some form of communication from other groups and countries, within our international church, involved in missions within our structure. In North America there is Global Partners. The Caribbean General Conference and the Philippine General Conference both have active missions organizations. It will be good to develop a system of communication so we can know what each group is doing and where we can partner together to advance the work of missions. This probably should be done at this time through JIBACAM. If the region organizes itself on a broader scale JIBACAM would still be able to function in this capacity.

7. Other mission agencies

It will be good for us to be aware of other agencies working in the places we will be doing mission work. This can be useful in finding programs of training for those called to missions, language acquisition programs and sharing of resources and ideas in various areas of ministry. Being connected to those who are doing translation work, key transportation, such as MAF, and literature development can help our plans and programs immensely as well as saving time and energy. If someone has already produced needed resources then why do the work again. The more we communicate with these groups the more we effective can be in missions. Who should be involved in this communication will depend greatly on what area of mission we are dealing with. Let me suggest a few examples to show what that means.

- Local church missions development – This could be done by either local church and district.

- Missionary Training – This may be the responsibility of the group sending the missionary, either a national church missions committee or JIBACAM.
- Language and literature resource – This may be the responsibility of the missionary as relates to the country where they are serving.

8. God – While we all will say talking with God is expected it is still wise to remind of us our need to be constantly communicating with God and seeking His guidance in all of activities. It is dangerous to merely assume it is being done. At every level we need to be spending time seeking out God’s direction and submitting our plans to God for his blessing and where necessary his correction.

AS we enter the next section we will discuss these areas as presented here. This does not mean any area is more important than another. Actually communication in all areas is critical to the development of effective communication. As we become more effective in all of these areas our ability to communicate the mission so all can hear, understand and participate in the mission will increase.

The goal in each section will be identify key lines of communication, define the issues and make some suggestions. We must realize that no suggestion will apply to every setting. We need to be willing to adapt to each of our situations and find the most effective way to meet the need to communicate.

Chapter Four

Communicating Missions - National

Depending on the nature of the church in a given country we will have one of two structures that are responsible for oversight of the church and its ministries. If there is only one district as there is in many countries, i.e. Guyana or Guatemala, then the District Board will be the key group. If we have several districts as in Mexico or Colombia, then there is a National board with several district boards who will have a part to play in coordinating the communication process for that country. At this level the National board will be the central body but would share some of its duties to the district board.

Let us deal with this topic from a National church level with several districts. If there is only one district then you will need to combine the recommendations as relate to national church and district church. We will look at the district level and then look at the national level.

A district should have at least one person who will accept the responsibility to communicate missions to the district, its churches and relate to the national church. This means selecting a method of sending information to each church to keep them informed of the following items:

1. Missions resources – It is important to let the churches know what is available to help them in promoting missions. If these resources are maintained and shared from a central point then more can share in their use. It will be important to maintain a list of these resources and provide that information to the churches. It may also be useful to maintain a list of recommended resources that can be obtained for use by the church.

2. Missions training – It is important for the district to be involved in providing training for its leaders and members in the area of missions. This would be coordinated through a district missions leader.
3. Missions finance – It is important for the district to know what funds are being raised to share that information with all of the churches as well as the national church. There needs to be a means of gathering this information and reporting it. At the same time it will be important to report on how those finances are distributed. This may also include establishing a budget to help in supporting the activities of the district director.
4. Missions prayer – It will be helpful if the district is involved in gathering prayer information as relates to missions involvement in the district. While each church may do this, it is likely that in some settings this will not be possible and the district will need to gather the information and provide it to the churches for prayer.
5. Missions reports – It will be helpful for the district to keep the national church informed of what is happening in the district in regards to missions promotion.
6. Missions call – It may be good for the district to maintain a list of those being called to missions in to follow-up on them and develop a discipleship program to guide them as they follow the call they have received. It will most likely be the districts responsibility to evaluate the life and ministry of those being called so as to be able to make recommendations to the national church regarding life, commitment, gifts and call.
7. Missions statement – There will be a need to develop a Missions Statement for the district. This needs to be done so that it relates to the Missions Statement of the national church and assists in the development of a Missions Statement of each local church. This

should be communicated to each church to help in this process.

8. Missions promotion – The district missions director should encourage the promotion of missions at several levels. This depends on the level of organization of the district. The director should also be aware of what kinds of materials are needed for each group and work at obtaining these and providing them.
 - a. Local Church – Be available to speak and advise local churches in the development of missions.
 - b. District conference – Prepare presentations and reports of missions activity for conference in order to promote involvement in missions
 - c. Women – Assist women the development of their programs to help include missions in the program
 - d. Men – Same as women
 - e. Youth – Through camps and conferences promote missions
 - f. Pastors retreats – Challenge pastors to teach and promote missions
 - g. Bible School – When there is a school present, in the district, assist in the promotion of missions.
 - h. Sunday School – Coordinate obtaining and distribution of Sunday school materials related to missions. This is done in cooperation with the director of Christian Education or Sunday Schools.

National – Where there is a national church over multiple districts many of the above will apply. In those cases the national director of missions needs to assist in those areas where the district would have direct responsibility. Here are a few suggestions to help in coordinating activities among

the districts. A national director of missions will have several other responsibilities. (Note: If there is only one district then the above would be the responsibility of the district leadership.)

General Areas

1. Missionary – They will be responsible to establish communication guidelines for any missionary sent by the church. This would include reports on finance, ministry, family and personal issues. These reports would be made available to the districts and the churches. They would also coordinate communication of the missionary with the districts and local churches.
2. Missionary with JIBACAM – The national church would be responsible to communicate with JIBACAM regarding any missionary being sent out in cooperation with JIBACAM. This information would then be shared with the districts for distribution to the churches. As before it would be the same kinds of information as related to a missionary sent out under the national church.
3. Vision – They would be involved in setting the vision of missions for the national church. This vision would include areas of mission, purpose of mission and goals to accomplish the mission. This would be shared with districts to help them in formation of their goals and plans.
4. Schools – Provide guidance to the schools in incorporating the vision of the national church into the development of the schools curriculum.

Missions resources –

Work with the districts in developing of resources and maintaining lists of resources for promotion of missions.

Missions Training –

Establish a plan for providing training for the leadership of the church. This should include the District Superintendents and the District Board as well as the District Missions Director.

Missions Conference –

The national director would be the key person in planning for a national missions conference. This would include the following activities

1. Schedule – Establish the time and place as well as frequency of such an event in the country.
2. Program – Work with key leaders to establish a program for the missions conference.
3. Finance – Set a budget for the conference and a plan for financing the conference.
4. Speakers – Communicate with any speakers and guest presenters who will be invited to the conference.
5. Communication – Be responsible to communicate the above information to those district and local church leaders who will be responsible for promoting the conference.
6. National Board – Inform the national board of the plans and seek approval of dates and venues and other area where such approval is needed.
7. District/Local Church - The National Director should also be ready to assist district directors in the plans they make for promoting missions in the districts and local churches.

Missionary Personnel –

The national director will need to prepare key documents and information related to people being called into missions and being appointed to missions.

1. Records – The director will need to maintain a list of those being called into missions for follow-up and discipleship
2. Application – The director will need to prepare a guideline or standard for those applying to missions. This should deal with the qualifications and life expected of those being called. It should include the following key areas.
 - a. Life – Statement regarding their life and walk with Christ and the ministry they have within the church and community.
 - b. Training – What training will be required of those who will be appointed?
 - c. Experience – What kind of ministry experience will be expected of those who are applying for missions.
 - d. Family – What will be expected as relates to the spouse and children if the candidate is married.
 - e. Application – Development of an application and procedure for those who feel called to missions.
 - f. Training – To establish guidelines for training as relates to cross-cultural ministry and living.

Supervision of Missionary –

The director will be responsible for the oversight and supervision of those being sent as missionaries. He will need to establish a process for communicating with them, a process for evaluating the work and ministry of those sent and a means of reporting to the National, District and local church what is happening.

Finance –

The director will need to develop a budget related to supporting the missionaries being sent. A process by which this is reported to all the different levels of the church will also be needed.

Other -

The missions director should consider consulting with others involved in the same process. Borrowing ideas from others and modifying them to fit ones own setting is always a good idea and saves a great deal of time and energy. A warning needs to be given - just because an idea works in one country or place does not mean it will work in yours. We always need to be ready to make changes when and where needed so that it fits who we are and where we are.

It will be good for the national missions director to establish a regular plan of communication with the Jibacam board in the development of all the above areas as relates to missions and communicating the mission. It will also be the responsibility of the national director to establish communications with other mission agencies that may relate to the national church and its ministries. Such groups would be translators, aviation, Bible distribution and other groups that provide services that would enhance the ministry and work of the church and of the work of missions.

Even as a country is involve in sending missionaries they may also be receiving missionaries. The national missions director should be actively involved in

communicating with those foreign missionaries being sent to assist in key areas of the church in their country.

Much more could be said in many of these areas. The point of this is not to be exhaustive in dealing with the subject but to provide suggestions and guides in dealing with the many areas of communication that will be dealt with.

Chapter Five

Communicating Missions – Local Church

Without the local church missions will have a shortened life. How well the local church is informed about missions and the part they have in promoting and supporting missions is crucial. The local church would have the responsibility to deal with communicating to its membership and reporting to the national director of missions.

We need to remember that missions does not happen without the local churches. Those called to missions come from local churches. The funds to support missionaries comes from the members of a local church. Those who are involved in praying for missions are members of a local church. Therefore communication to the local church regarding missions will be critical to the overall development and life of missions.

The local church will need a key person to deal with the process of communicating missions in the church and to those organizations and structures that make it possible for the local church to be involved in missions. This person may be the pastor but it also may someone selected for that role. If it is someone other than the pastor, then this individual needs to have a plan to keep the pastor informed about needs, plans and programs that relate to missions.

The first area of communication that needs to be developed is an awareness of what missions is. This can be done in a number of ways:

1. Sermons – The pastor can present and teach missions from the pulpit.

2. Resources – The church can maintain books and other materials that provide information on missions.
3. Programs – The missions person can organize programs, seminars, and conferences at the local church designed to help inform the members about missions and what their role is.

The second area of communication would be to develop a plan for missions through:

1. Vision statement – Writing a vision or purpose statement will help all involved to define what missions is and what the church needs to do
2. Goal statement – Defining what our goals are and how we intend to reach those goals will help determine what needs to be done and how to do it. There should be short range goals, (things to do now) and long range goals (what needs to be accomplished as a result of what we do now.)

The third area of communication would relate to connecting with other groups and leaders

1. Missionaries – This involves communicating with, praying for and building relations with missionaries that are sent or supported by the local church.
2. National/District structure – This involves understanding how the church relates to the overall structure and plan for missions within the country they are in. This could involve working together on training programs for mission leaders and pastors. The local church missions person needs to keep in touch with national/district leadership. This involves sharing information in such areas as
 - i. Conferences – Plans the church has to promote missions

- ii. Prayer – Sending and receiving prayer requests as relate to missions, missionaries and finances.
- iii. Training – Sharing information on training available in missions and promotion of missions.
- iv. Finances – Information on how to transfer funds from the local church to the national structure and receiving reports on how these funds are being used.

The fourth area of communication the local leader needs to deal with is what information to share with pastor, church board, various groups within the church and the entire church.

- 1. Finances – There needs to be a process that reports the missions funds raised and how they were used. This information needs to be available at various levels.
- 2. Prayer – The prayer requests and answers to prayer need to be made available to the church. The method of sharing must reflect the involvement of the different groups of the church. It could be as simple as posting them on a bulletin board, or printing them and handing each member a copy.
- 3. Meetings – The leader needs to make available information on various programs, seminars, missions courses and other meetings available to appropriate groups within the church. It will be important that the missions leader find ways to learn what is available in these areas and how to provide that information to the appropriate groups in the church.
- 4. Missionary – There needs to be a plan on how to communicate with any missionary supported by

the church and how to share that communication with the church.

The fifth area of communication will involve keeping the national church informed of what is happening in the local church

1. Conference – When, where and what the church is planning in regards to missions.
2. Finance – How much the church is hoping to send for the support of missions.
3. People – Has God called anyone into missions? This will also involve an evaluation of the person, their life and ministry in the church, and any recommendations that may be helpful in discipling and training those who are being called.

The missions leader will need to take time to learn about various methods of keeping the church aware of missions. This could include reminders such as a banner hanging in the church, or bulletin boards with information and regular announcements. The leader needs to have a plan as how to communicate and how often to communicate. Important aspects include:

1. Prayer for missions – This can be done daily, weekly, monthly; with the entire church, during worship, and with specific groups like prayer cells.
2. Finance – A method of letting people know how much has been promised, how much has been given and how its being used.
3. Information – Find different ways to keep people aware of missions and growing in their knowledge of missions.

A key factor in the allowing the mission leader to accomplish all of this is his/her ability to share the vision with others and get them involved in the process of communicating

missions. The more people involved in the communication process the more successful we will be in teaching missions to the people of the church.

Chapter Six

Communicating Missions – Missionary

Missions is about people going into the world and sharing the gospel in a cross-cultural setting. This means a person, couple or family leave their culture and enter into another culture. Here we want to look at all of the communication needs involved in this actually happening.

We will look at the communication issues of a missionary as a series of stages or steps.

Step One

God's call – This involves the pastor, a missionary, or some other individual or event that impresses on those being called that God is speaking to them about becoming a missionary. The person who is receiving the message needs to be ready to do several things:

1. Share with others that God is speaking to them. This will begin a process of sharing and testing that message.
2. Share with others their concerns and issues about obeying that call from God. This includes inquiring about what training and preparation needs to be done. This helps a person see how they need to grow in their relationship with God and what training needs to be pursued.
3. Share with others the talents they have received from God. This involves being actively involved in ministry and helping others to find God and grow in their relationship with God. It is in this area that one's giftedness for ministry will be tested and developed.

Step Two

Preparation – Those being called need to seek out opportunity for training and ministry.

1. Inform leaders of the desire for further training.
2. Inform others of the desire to be discipled.
3. Inform others of the need to be mentored in an active ministry setting.

Step Three

Application – This involves formally applying for mission work. It will require the person to be able to effectively communicate the call God has on their life and show how they have endeavored to prepare for such ministry.

Step Four

Deputation Ministry – When one is called they need to be able to enlist others to help in this work they are being called to do. Effective communication of the location of the work, and what will be involved will be an important part of the ministry.

1. Enlisting people to pray for the mission
2. Enlisting people to support the mission
3. Enlisting people to help communicate with others the mission

Step Five

Report – With every work we are assigned to there is the need to report. Every year we expect those assigned work in the local church to give a report. We expect those assigned to ministry at the district and national level to give a report. We should also expect the missionary to give a report. These re-

ports will cover different areas and be directed to different people.

1. Personal life – Every missionary needs a small support group. These are people who can be trusted with personal needs and issues. Communication to this group should be regular and focused on key areas of need for growth and understanding in the work assigned. It can also be used as a place to share struggles and victories of a more personal nature.
2. Ministry – On a regular basis a missionary needs to prepare a report on the work and ministry they are involved in. This could be done on a quarterly basis. It would involve reporting on key aspects of the work and on the people that are being reached. Be careful in sharing things that could be seen as embarrassing or humiliating. Before sending this report it is always good to have another person work read through the material to make suggestions. This report should go to all key supporters of the work and key leaders of the missions board of the sending body(ies).
3. Prayer – On a more regular basis it would be good to present prayer requests regarding the work. This should focus on people being reached, key areas of work, and needs. It is also good to share the answers to prayer when they happen. This should be done at least monthly. Each missionary should develop a list of people who will pray for these items and send this report to them. They may also be asked to share this report with others in the church.
4. Finance – Any missionary will be expected to give a report on the finances received and how they are used as relates to the mission work they have been assigned. This is sometimes done quarterly and at least yearly. This report should be

sent to the board that handles their funds. A summary should also be sent to all churches and key individuals that support this work so they will be aware of how the finances are being used and if there are any other needs. Any requests for additional funds need to be cleared through the sending agency before the request is made to any church or individual.

Step Six

Home ministry – At various time intervals the missionary will return home to the supporting church or organization. As much as possible they should try to visit those who supported the work in order to give a more personal report and to rebuild their financial and prayer support. This report should include

1. Sharing significant ministry events
2. Introduction of key people that were reached
3. Teaching on missions to help the church grow in its understanding of missions.
4. Personal insights into living and growing as a Christian that have been gained as a result of their experience and ministry in another culture.

Step 7

Education – The missionary should always inform the sending agency of any needs for further education. This could be in area of ministry, personal growth, technical areas or cultural awareness.

Chapter Seven

Communicating missions – Bible College

While the local church is crucial to the life of missions, the bible college is critical in providing trained leaders who can communicate what missions is and why we are involved in missions. Let us look at a few key areas in which the bible college can communicate missions.

Vision Statement –

This is a statement that expresses why the school exists and what it hopes to accomplish. Missions should be a critical part of the vision statement. If the vision is limited to the home country and culture then it will be hard to generate much interest in missions and the world around us. If the focus of the bible college is only to train people for our own work and needs then the vision will be nearsighted. We will only see ourselves and not the world around us.

The bible school need to develop vision statements that reflect how they can be a part of reaching the world and provide training to that end.

Curriculum –

A school's curriculum is built around accomplishing its vision. If missions is a part of the vision then there will be a place in the curriculum for courses that focus on missions. If missions is part of the curriculum we will deal with the theology of missions, the issues of culture and ministry. There

will be a place for looking beyond the school's walls and seeing the world. The impact of other religions will be dealt with. Schools will communicate the importance of missions by what is included in the curriculum as relates to missions

Guest Lectures –

When possible, schools should invite missionaries and key missions leaders to visit the school. The goal being to provide information about missions and an opportunity to interact with those actively involved in missions. There would be also the opportunity to challenge students to become actively involved in missions. These events could be as part of the chapel services, special lectures in classes or week long seminars on key areas of missions and ministry.

Staff –

What will the staff look like at these schools? Will they be able to incorporate the vision of missions into their classes? Will they see in every course not just the one topic but how that topic relates to ministry in the whole world? The bible school staff will communicate missions by how they design their courses. Will the courses teach the students how to relate to those people of other cultures and religions and show them how to share the gospel with them?

Student life –

Student life should involve missions. There should be opportunities to learn about missions, interact with missionaries and learn about other cultures. There needs to be opportunities to be involved in prayer for missionaries. There may even be opportunities to visit another culture and learn first hand what is involved in being a missionary.

The administration needs to set guidelines that communicate the important of missions and help incorporate it into student life. These activities will encourage graduates to make missions a part of their ministry.

Chapter Eight

Communicating Missions – General/Regional

The regional missions board has a unique role in the area of communicating missions. It has already developed strong vision and goals statements to guide them in promoting missions in Latin America and the Caribbean. (See appendix 1.)

The regional missions board will focus on providing guidelines in key areas, providing networking to facilitate the work of missions, and help in developing key resources for promotion and training in missions. It will also have key oversight in identifying fields for joint mission activity and the supervision of those sent as part of joint mission efforts.

Vision – The regional missions board will need to communicate the vision of missions and its plans to accomplish their goals with those who are members of the regional conference. This will involve reporting on a regular basis what is being done to carry out the vision.

Guidelines – The regional missions board will have a key role in developing needed guidelines in specific areas of missions.

1. **Fields** – It will need to identify key areas for missions that will require the cooperative efforts of the members of the regional missions board. This should include an evaluation of the needs of the location, the cost of doing missions there, qualifications of the person(s) that need to be sent and length of commitment to this work.
2. **Missionary** – The regional missions board should be the main organization that prepares guidelines on life, training and qualifications of those who

will be approved to serve as missionaries. This would include guidelines for mentoring, discipleship and other areas of personal development of those being called to missions. This guide should be made available to all national mission directors.

3. Bible College – The regional missions board should assist the director of training in the development of curriculums related to missions and the development of key courses for those being called into missions.
4. Finance – The regional missions board should set up guidelines for raising funds for those being sent out under the regional missions board. This would include information on keeping records of giving, the process of forwarding funds to the regional missions board and a system by which the regional missions board would report back to those contributing finances on how those contributions have been used.
5. Mission Directors – The regional missions board should set up guidelines and descriptions of responsibilities and activities for mission directors. This would be a useful resource to assist those being assigned this important area of the church in each member country.

Training – The regional missions board should have a key role in the development of needed training as relates to missions and promoting missions throughout the region.

1. Mission Awareness – Seminars and books on missions would be developed by the regional missions board and made available for use by the member countries.
2. Missions Conference – On a regular basis the regional missions board should organize an international missions conference to promote missions

and provide opportunities for people from the region to share what is happening with missions in their country. This would also be a time to do more training in missions and promoting of missions within individual countries.

3. Missions Congress – Every 3-4 years the regional missions board should organize a missions congress where leaders will be elected and reports will be given on the work being done.
4. Missionaries – The regional missions board should be responsible to develop training programs for those being sent out as missionaries. They should also approve other training programs where this is deemed appropriate. The board should also be involved in developing training guidelines in areas of theological education and ministry experience for the missionary.

Missions communication – The regional missions board should function as a central point for gathering information related to missions activities of the member countries. There should be a number of methods developed to share this information with all who are interested.

1. Internet – Development of websites for this purpose. Two possible sites would be a general site used to provide key information on who the regional missions board is, what is happening, and information on conferences and meetings that are being planned. A second web site could be for the training department of the regional missions board. This site will have resources related to missions as well as information on courses and seminars being scheduled.
2. Prayer net – The regional missions board should be actively involved in gathering prayer requests and answers to prayer as relates to missions. These should be sent out to key people on a

monthly basis for them to make available to their churches and leaders.

3. Missionaries – The regional missions board should set up guidelines for missionaries to communicate with those who are supporting them. They should be actively involved in supervising this process to be sure effective communication is being done.

Bulletins – There should be regular communication from the key leaders and ministries of the regional missions board to the member countries, leaders and mission directors. A bulletin should be established to facilitate this process. As a part of this process, guidelines should be set for length of articles and other contents.

1. President of the regional missions board – Should prepare a quarterly article on missions and the work of the regional missions board
2. Executive Director – Should prepare a quarterly article on key areas of development and activities of the regional missions board.
3. Director of Training – Should prepare a quarterly article on key concerns related to training in missions.
4. Missionaries – Should provide an article at least once a year focusing key ministry activity, or a testimony of a person from the country in which they are serving.
5. Other – Regular reports of mission activity of member countries.
6. Information – Information on upcoming conferences and meetings.

Concerns for such communication

- a. Editor – There will be a need for someone to be assigned the responsibility of gather-

- ing the information and preparing the bulletin.
- b. Mailing – There will need to be careful planning in how this bulletin will be sent out. The means of sending the bulletin will affect the style and format of the publication. The internet would be the most reasonable way to get it to each country and leaders. From there each country would have to decide the best way to share it with others.
 - c. Length – This will be of concern as it relates to the cost of printing and posting of the bulleting. When developing communication tools we must always keep in mind what it will take to get it to the local church in each country. The longer the publication the greater the cost. This may determine how many articles will be in each bulletin and how much information can be shared.

Relations with other related mission Agencies

The regional missions board will be responsible to maintain communications with other related mission agencies, such as Global Partners in North America, and the departments of missions in the Caribbean and Philippines. They will also need to keep in touch with Area Directors in regions where there is no established missions agency and with the national leaders of those countries.

A regional missions board would need to maintain such communication in order to develop opportunities for sending of missionaries to those regions. This would involve developing an awareness of what is currently being done by those

agencies and the role the regional missions board can play in providing personnel to assist in the work.

1. Supervision – The need to define who will be directly responsible for supervising a missionary will be important. If there is no other related mission group working in that country then the regional missions board would have direct supervision. If there is an existing work then the regional missions board would need to communicate with that group to establish guidelines for supervision.
2. Partnerships – A regional missions board would need to work in developing partnerships with other missions agencies. This could involve finances, training and personnel.

All of these activities need to be clearly communicated with the member countries of A regional missions board so that a clear understanding of who is doing what and who will be responsible for what is developed. There will also need to be a regular process of sharing information with the other mission agencies.

Relations with other missions agencies – It will not be uncommon for there to be a need to make use of the expertise and resources of other groups to accomplish the work assigned the missionary. It will be the responsibility of the regional missions board to communicate with these groups. There will be a need to maintain open lines of communication to deal with use of resources, scheduling activities and dealing with any finances that may be required. Examples of such relationships would be with translators, aviation transportation needs, literature needs, etc.

Chapter Nine

Communicating the Mission – International/Other agencies

Any mission agency does not exist alone. There are others who are actively involved in missions work. They work along side of us in our country providing valuable resources for the work we are doing locally. It will be important to develop lines of communication with them.

Internationally – Each missions agency will have related groups within their denomination. Maintaining communication about several areas will be important to long- term development and partnership.

1. Missionaries – There will be times when missionaries from a related mission agency will be working in your country. It will be important to communicate with them regarding their job descriptions and assignments while residing in your country. It will also be good to determine if there will be any evaluation of their ministry expected of your structure and who would be responsible to carry out such an evaluation.
2. Projects – There will be involvement in various projects within your country. Establishing good communication regarding the finances related to the project, supervision of the project and evaluation of the process will be important to the overall success of such projects.
3. Teams – There may be times when groups of people will want to come and assist in various settings and ministries. It will be good to develop guidelines for hosting such teams, approval of teams and evaluation of these teams. Assigning a contact person will be helpful as well as a set of

guidelines for this person to follow when dealing with housing needs, providing food and transportation. It will be good to establish guidelines for churches and groups when requesting such teams to come to your country for ministry. Examples of such groups would be medical teams, construction teams, teachers, sports teams, etc.

Other Denominational Mission Agencies – It will be good to learn what other groups are working in our country and in countries where we are sending missionaries. Developing these relationships can lead to cooperative ventures in areas where one group does not have the resources to accomplish a given task. One of the more common joint ventures is the development of seminaries for higher level training of leaders in our countries. Building such relationships will strengthen our ability to make statements regarding critical social issues and needs.

Other mission agencies – In every country there are independent or interdenominational groups that provide key support work and specialty ministry. Such groups as mission radio (HCJV – an international radio station in Quito, Ecuador), aviation groups (Missionary Aviation Fellowship), translation ministry (SIL, New Tribes Missions) and medical work (Doctors without Borders) are examples of these types of ministries. Others focus on key age groups or needs like Youth For Christ, Ruimveldt Children's Home and Care Center and Child Evangelism Fellowship. The list of such groups is quite long.

We need to understand what other mission agencies are serving in our country and develop lines of communication with them regarding their ministry and how it can be used to assist in our work or how we can assist them. Creating such an information base will be a role of the missions director and board of each country.

Chapter Ten

Communicating Missions – A Prayer

This may seem like a redundant comment, but we need to be in communication with God at all levels in the work of missions. When we take time to talk to God about what he wants us to do and what we are doing to obey His word, then we will be successful in communicating missions at all levels.

Come let us pray together.

O God, our Father, help us to take the time to speak with you about your mission. Help us to take the time to study your word so that we will be able to hear clearly your love for the world and your desire to call all those who are lost and wandering back to their creator. Help us to hear the depth of your love for all people of all tribes and nations. A love so great that you willingly came to earth and sacrificed your life to provide the means for the forgiveness of all who would return.

Father help us to humble ourselves so that we will truly be servants, even as Jesus humbled himself to serve. So that in becoming servants, we will be able to communicate the gospel message. For it is with humility of heart and mind that we will be able to understand the needs of others and so find the means to break down the barriers that prevent them from hearing.

Father help us to be united in your vision and to make it our own. A vision that sees people from every tribe, tongue and nation gathering to worship you around the throne in heaven. Help us to set aside our pride so that we may join together to do the work of reaping a harvest of souls among those who

are searching and waiting to hear the wonderful truth of your love. Help us to hear each other and recognize that each of us is able to contribute to reaching the world with your love.

Father help us to share what you have given us. Help us to have faith in your ability to provide the resources to do the work you have given us. As our faith grows we will no longer look only at what we have but at what you are able to provide to those who are willing to give so that others will hear.

Thank you for your patience with us. Thank you for providing those who can teach us more about your mission and how to be involved. Thank you for providing leaders who can lead the way as we move forward in obeying your command to go to all the world with the gospel. Thank you for the blessings that will come as we reach out to people of other cultures and countries.

Thank you that you are always there to hear our desire to be your children. Thank you that you are always there to guide our lives and direct our hearts. Thank you for all that will be accomplished as we communicate with each other the call to missions. Thank you that as we communicate this vision, others will hear and respond to your love.

Bless us and abide in us so that the world may know why you sent your son Jesus. So they will understand the promise you have given that you will send your Spirit to dwell with us. So that they will know what it means to be a child of God.

We ask this in your name. Amen

Appendix One

Jibacam statement of Purpose

JIBACAM -

Junta Iberoamericana y del Caribe de Misiones

The Missions Board of Latin American and Caribbean

Position Statement:

JIBACAM works for the recognition of common interests and related areas of ministry that result in the identification of a unifying purpose for the Wesleyan Church of Latin America and the Caribbean. Once the unifying purpose is identified, specific projects are defined that help to achieve that purpose.

Purpose:

The purpose of JIBACAM is to help the Wesleyan Church of Latin America and the Caribbean become a missionary force, capable of taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the nations of the world.

Objective:

The objective of JIBACAM is to glorify God by strengthening the national churches by providing the basic services needed for their development, so that they can contribute to the advance of the evangelization of their peoples, and thus achieve the conditions necessary for fulfilling the Great Commission.

Principle:

JIBACAM holds the fundamental biblical principle that the Church represented by the local churches, is responsible for doing missions, The local church is the primary agency for the preparation, sending and support of missions.

Strategic plan:

In order to achieve its purpose JIBACAM has a strategic plan consisting of five ascending steps.

- Step 5: Mobilize to missions
- Step 4: Equip for missions
- Step 3: Recruit for missions
- Step 2: Raise funds for missions
- Step 1: Build awareness about missions

Structure:

The organizational structure of JIBACAM is based on networks of cooperation. There are no hierarchies or bosses, only ministry networks with facilitators

Each region represents a network:

- Hispanic Caribbean
- Caribbean
- Central America
- Andean Countries
- Southern Cone and Brazil
- United States - East and Canada
- United States - West and Mexico
- Equatorial Guinea, Spain, Portugal

Fundamental Values

Shared Values:

Similar points of view and common objectives, maintain the unity of purpose that holds things together and serve as a guide.

Common Focus:

Vision and clear identities, values and defined ministerial objectives.

Independence:

Each representative member contributes from their own personal experience, knowledge and resources without having to radically alter their independence, personal characteristics and identity.

Open and voluntary communication:

The lines of communication are abundant and multidirectional thus permitting a greater flow of information and knowledge in a rapid manner.

Multiple Leadership:

JIBACAM does not have representation in each country, each country has representation in JIBACAM. Fewer bosses, more participating leaders contributing to the achievement of our purpose.

Integrated levels:

JIBACAM promotes a multi-level rather than a horizontal participation.

Relationships:

JIBACAM works for open and vital networks based on voluntary relationships that stay united through the interests of the participants who recognize that they receive benefits from the relationships. These relationships are and need to be strengthened from within, as they are the responsibility of everyone involved.

Strategies:

Network of continuous communication
Visit each country for fellowship
Training seminars and workshops
Missions Conventions
International Assembly

Alliances:

Jibacam promotes the establishment of regional cooperative alliances for:
Planting new churches
Supporting established works
Carrying out evangelistic and missionary efforts
Sending missionaries to the field
Sharing human and financial resources to achieve joint projects

Upcoming projects

Equatorial Guinea, Africa

Puerto Ayacucho, Amazonas, Venezuela

Ticuna Tribe, Alto Solimoes Region, Amazonas, Brasil

Time Frame

JIBACAM promotes work done through voluntary cooperation of participants requiring more time for the completion of the projects. Decisions are made by consensus and actions are carried out at the rate the participants involved in the process are able. The result of a project is the sum of the work of the participants.

Cost

Planning and coordination carry a cost of effort, time and money. A commitment of this level of responsibility and seriousness requires a significant investment.

Funds

JIBACAM is completely dedicated to faithfully administer the funds that the coworkers, friends and associates have entrusted to them to carry out its objectives

Distribution of funds

General administration 8%

Development 15%

Programs and services 20%

Preparation of missionaries 17%

Sending and supporting 40%

We are fully aware of the sacrifices that many make to send their contributions, and thus we are highly committed to use your investments wisely.

Appendix Two

Resources

Books

Accad, Fouad E. *Building Bridges: Christianity and Islam*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997.

Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment (ACMC). *Church Missions Policy Handbook, 3rd ed.* Peachtree City: ACMC, 1995.

---. *Missions Conference Planner*. Peachtree City: ACMC, 1989.

---. *Global Access Planner: Steps for Developing a Strategic Global Evangelism Plan for the Local Church*. Wheaton: ACMC, 1996.

Allen, Roland Allen. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1962.

Bacon, Daniel W. *Equipping for Missions*. Littleton: Overseas Missionary Fellowship Incorporated, 2004.

Beals, Arthur L. *When the Saints Go Marching Out! Mobilizing the Church for Mission*. Louisville: Geneva Press,

2001.

Beals, Paul A. *A People for His Name: A Church-Based Missions Strategy*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

Bonk, Jonathan J. *Missions and Money: Affluence as a Western Missionary Problem*. Mary Knoll: Orbis Books, 2004.

Borthwick, Paul. *Six Dangerous Questions to Transform Your View of the World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

---. *A Mind for Missions*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1987.

---. *How to Be a World Class Christian*. Waynesboro: OM Literature, 2002.

---. *Language Learning Is Communication – Is Ministry!* Pasadena: Lingua house, 1984.

---. *Community Is My Language Classroom!* Pasadena: Lingua House, 1986.

Chinn, Lisa Espineli. *World Mission Idea Book I*. Tulsa: Consolidated Printing Solutions, n.d.

---. *World Mission Idea Book II*. Tulsa: Consolidated Printing Solutions, n.d.

Crisci, Elizabeth W. *Missions Made Fun for Kids: Creative Ideas to Involve Children in Missions*. Colorado Springs: Accent Publications, 1993.

Griffiths, Michael. *A Task Unfinished*. Crowborough (Great Britain): OMF International, 1996.

---. *Get Your Church Involved in Missions*. Robesonia: OMF Books, 1990.

---. *Give Up Your Small Ambitions*. Lewisville: Accelerated Christian Education, Inc., 1993.

---. *Lambs Dancing with Wolves: A Manual for Christian Workers Overseas*. London (UK): Monarch Books, 2001.

Kane, Herbert J. *Understanding Christian Missions*. Fourth Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.

Laszlo, Marilyn. *Mission Possible*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998.

Lum, Ada. *A Hitchhiker's Guide to Missions*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1984.

Lutz, Lorry. *When God Says Go*. Grand Rapids: Discovery House Publishers, 2002.

MacArthur Jr., John. *The Ultimate Priority*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1983.

Mays, David. *Cultivating a Missions-Active Church*.

Peachtree City: APMC, 1999.

---. *How to Get Your Congregation Involved in Missions*.

Peachtree City: APMC, 1997.

---. *How to Operate an Effective Missions Leadership Team in Your Church*. Peachtree City: APMC, 1999.

---. *Building Global Vision: Six Steps to Discovering God's Mission Vision for Your Church*. Peachtree City: APMC, 1996.

---. *Becoming A World Changing Church*. Atlanta: APMC, 2006.

Miley, George. *Loving the Church; Blessing the Nations: Pursuing the Role of Local Churches in Global Mission*.

Waynesboro: Gabriel Publishing, 2003.

Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad, 2nd ed.* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

Taylor, William D. ed. *Too Valuable to Lose: Exploring the Causes and Cures of Missionary Attrition*. Pasadena, William Carey Library, 1997.

Telford, Tom. *Today's All-Star Missions Churches: Strategy to Help Your Church Get into the Game*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.

- - -. *Missions in the 21st Century*. Charlotte: United World Mission, 1998.

Tunncliffe, Geoff. *101 Ways to Change Your World*. Waynesboro: OM Literature, 2000.

Weiss, Christian G.. *God's Plan; Man's Need; Our Mission*. Lincoln: Back to the Bible Broadcast, 1971.

Websites

www.acmcnetwork.com

www.calebproject.org

www.mrd.org

www.mislinks.org

www.urbana.org

www.uscwm.org