



Philosophy of Missions
by Lead Pastor Rusty Russell and Missions Director Russ Smith
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The mission of New Day Christian Church is "to make disciples who make disciples." Jesus commanded us to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations (Mat. 28:19). What should the focus of the "Missions Team" at NDCC be?

"Missions" defined:

"Missions," in its simplest terms, is the sending out of missionaries to accomplish the mission of the church.

Historically, the Church defines a Christian missionary as "a messenger of the gospel of Jesus Christ, with a message from God, going forth by divine authority for the definite purpose of evangelism, church-planting, church edification, baptism, and the making of disciples."

Holman's Bible Dictionary says "The mission of the churches is to send out missionaries to all parts of the world until everyone has had the opportunity to hear the message of Jesus and accept Him as Lord."

The focus of the "Missions Team" at NDCC should be to assist the church in accomplishing the mission through the sending and supporting of short-term and full-time missionaries.

To accomplish this, think of these 4 key words: Partner, Communicate, Send and Plant.

1. **PARTNER** with missionaries that are making disciples.

Mat 28:19 NIV - "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..."

Luk 9:5 NIV - "If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them." (They did this in Pisidian Antioch.)

Some things to consider when choosing partners to support:

○ Think DISCIPLESHIP

▣ Which organizations are preaching the Gospel? (1 Cor 2:1-2)

▣ Which organizations are making disciples? A good ministry will concentrate on the "making" (evangelism) and the "discipling" (spiritual growth).

▣ Which organizations can we realistically support? (location, need, etc.).

▣ In which organizations can we truly make an impact?

▣ Which organizations are indigenous?

○ Think SIMPLE. Limit the number of overall missions. Simple is better. Less is more because we can focus on each one more effectively. Keep in mind the principles of Thom Rainer's book *Simple Church*.

○ Think LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL. Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) How can we reach people with the Gospel in our "Jerusalem," "Judea/Samaria," and "ends of the earth"?

1) Jerusalem = Local: Charlotte and Sarasota Counties

- 2) Judea/Samaria = National: United States
- 3) Ends of the World = International/Global: Foreign Missions

- Think CHURCH PLANTING. Are our partners planting churches? (See #4 below.)
- Think PARTNERSHIP. We don't want to just send money. We want to develop relationships with the missions we are supporting.

2. **COMMUNICATE** to the congregation. Partner with Lead Pastor and staff to create a "Missions Minded" congregation.

Here are some ideas and reminders:

- Keep the Lead Pastor and staff abreast of opportunities to host ministry partners or participate in ministry partner events.
- Work with Lead Pastor and Worship Leader to develop an annual promotion calendar to develop awareness among the membership of all supporting missions.
- Continue to organize 1-2 annual church-wide events like the Food Packing event. (Remember Simple Church: One annual event done well is better than multiple events that we are unable to promote effectively.)
- Consider marketing and promotion in small groups and Sunday school classes.
- Creatively encourage members to go on short-term mission trips. (See #3 below.)

3. **SEND** "harvesters" from NDCC into the harvest fields.

Luk 10:2 NIV - Jesus told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

To accomplish this, consider the following:

- Regularly offer short-term mission trips to visit our partner organizations.
- Do not require members to pay their own way but teach members how to raise their own support as a full-time missionary typically must do.
- Financially support NDCC "Timothies" who decide to enter mission field.
- Continue to fund the Bible college scholarship fund for NDCC members. Find ways to encourage NDCC members to attend. Perhaps give higher scholarships to first-year Bible college students as incentive to take the first step. Goal: NDCC high school graduates are 100 percent supported for the first year of one of our sister colleges.
- Support the local Bible college (Johnson Univeristy – Florida, formerly Florida Christian College)

4. **PLANT** indigenous churches. (Indigenous means "run by local indigenous people.")

There is no better way to spread the Gospel than to start new, indigenous churches. See article by Tim Keller. http://thenewcom.com/doc/Why_Plant_Churches.pdf

- Success of our partner organizations should be determined primarily (though not solely) on the number of thriving indigenous churches being planted.
- The goal of the Missions Team should be the successful planting of churches locally, nationally and globally, because this is the best, most proven, and most biblical way to "make disciples who make disciples."