

KEEP MISSIONS INTEREST HIGH THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

By Paul Brannan

It is not enough to have a successful missions convention. If the challenge of missions is not kept before the congregation throughout the year, the level of faith promise giving will begin to drop. There are a number of things that can be done to minimize or prevent this erosion.

SCHEDULE FREQUENT MISSIONARY SPEAKERS

- ❑ Having missionaries come throughout the year is a key to a successful missions outreach.
- ❑ Missionaries impart vision and burden, two things that the American Christian desperately needs.
- ❑ Over the course of the year, make sure that you schedule missionary guests to speak in each type of weekly service that you offer. This means that if someone has the habit of attending only one service each week, sooner or later they will be exposed to missionary speakers in that service.
- ❑ When an unexpected scheduling conflict arises, rather than canceling the missionary service, make room for the missionary to give a ten-minute presentation and receive an offering. Both your congregation and the missionary will be blessed.
- ❑ A missionary visit should never be considered an interruption but rather an opportunity.
- ❑ A missionary visit each month is not unreasonable.
- ❑ When missionary visits fall below one each quarter, it will be very difficult for congregation to maintain a high level of consciousness of world need.

PLAN A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH TO MAKE MISSIONS SUNDAY SPECIAL

- ❑ By doing this on the first Sunday of each month you can take advantage of the special, "World Missions Edition" of the Pentecostal Evangel.
- ❑ It could be called, "Window on the World"
- ❑ It need not be long but it should be interesting.
- ❑ You may read excerpts from missionary letters.
- ❑ Make a call to the field and talk with a missionary during the service.
- ❑ Show a short video. Monthly Missions World Newsbreak videos are available by subscription that report on current happenings in missions around the world:
- ❑ Experience indicates that missions giving will be considerably greater when the offering is received immediately following the video.

INCLUDE PRAYER IN YOUR MISSIONS OUTREACH

- ❑ Publish the names of the missionaries that you support in your bulletin on a rotating basis.
- ❑ Include missionary requests in your prayer list.
- ❑ Pray publicly for urgent missionary needs.

- ❑ Distribute a list of the missionaries supported by your church including the names of their children, ages and special days.
- ❑ Place pictures of missionaries around the walls of the sanctuary with details of their location and ministry. During special prayer the people can move from one area to another, interceding for the missionaries by name and need.
- ❑ Current prayer requests for missionaries, the missionary work, crises and disasters are made available through the offices of World Missions and can be received by email at: intercessor@ag.org

TAKE A GROUP OF LEADERS TO THE DISTRICT, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL FUNCTIONS

- ❑ This could include the board and the missions committee.
- ❑ They will probably learn more about missions there in 24 hours than they have learned in a lifetime.
- ❑ Many districts provide district or sectional missions activities.
- ❑ Take advantage of the opportunities to be informed, motivated, and inspired.

PARTICIPATE IN MISSIONS TRIPS

- ❑ This may be a foreign missions project overseas or a home missions project here in America.
- ❑ Youth trips of one to two weeks are available through Ambassadors in Missions (A.I.M.)
- ❑ Adults may go on medical, construction, witnessing and prayer teams for up to two weeks.
- ❑ Your church may sponsor a team or participate with other churches or the district.
- ❑ A missions trip is guaranteed to turn your people on to missions. Excitement is contagious and will spread throughout the congregation.

KEEP YOUR MISSIONS COMMITTEE ACTIVE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- ❑ Where the committee is large, an executive committee should be named which will meet monthly.
- ❑ The committee will:
 1. Discuss missionary needs and support.
 2. Determine the distribution of missions funds.
 3. Correspond with the missionaries.
 4. Plan activities for missions Sunday.
 5. Promote the prayer emphasis for the missionaries.
 6. Continue the plans for next year's convention.

ENCOURAGE MONTHLY MISSIONS ACTIVITIES IN EVERY DEPARTMENT

- ❑ There is a missions outreach for every age.
 1. Children – Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade (BGMC)

2. Youth – Speed the Light
3. Women – Equipping the missionary’s home
4. Men – Light for the Lost

CONDUCT AN ANNUAL MID-YEAR MINI-CONVENTION

- ❑ This will encourage those who have made a faith promise to continue their faithfulness.
- ❑ It will encourage those who are lagging behind to complete the faith promise already made.
- ❑ It gives opportunity for new member to participate.
- ❑ It renews excitement about missions.

AS PASTOR, KEEP MISSIONS IN FOCUS

- ❑ Preach at least once each quarter on soul winning and the Christian’s responsibility to participate in the evangelization of the world.
- ❑ Weave frequent missionary stories into your preaching.
- ❑ Demonstrate your passion for missions
- ❑ Make God’s priorities the goals for your life.

CONSISTENCY IS THE ANSWER TO BUILDING A STRONG MISSIONS VISION

- ❑ Keeping missions before the congregation is simply conveying God’s love for the lost and our responsibility to partner with Him for their salvation.
- ❑ A few things done with regularity will give better results than an occasional splash.

THE PASTOR IS THE KEY!

- ❑ If the pastor displays his own burden for the lost, the congregation will usually follow.
- ❑ Although the pastor must and should delegate much of the work in keeping missions before the people, he must never abdicate his responsibility by passing off all leadership for missions to the committee.
- ❑ The pastor is the spiritual leader and has the duty before God to lead the flock into a love for the lost both at home and abroad.

**IF WINNING THE LOST IS THE TOP PRIORITY FOR THE
GODHEAD...SHOULDN'T WE GET INVOLVED?**