

PRACTICAL TIPS ON MISSIONS

There are practical things that are needed in the field. Although, these may not always apply in all situations, they are worthy to consider before going to the mission field, especially to particularly difficult people groups.

1. Selection Criteria

- Physically, emotionally, spiritually healthy
- Adaptable
- Committed disciple (already witnessing and discipling in home base, strong in the Word and prayer, obedient to Christ)
- Vision for missions (strong desire, Scriptural promise, focused prayer)

2. Training

- Adequate disciple-making skills
- Cross-cultural exposures
- Special skills to meet some physical needs of target people group and for survival in the field
- Language skills

3. World-wide Challenges for Would-be Cross-cultural Missionaries Emerging

- Exploding non-Christian population
- Persistent restrictiveness of remaining people groups that still have not heard the Gospel
- Problems of reaching across cultural barriers and being believed, trusted and understood

- Shift of the church's population centrum from the developed West to the Third World
- Growing eagerness of Third World Christians to have a substantial role in the mission effort
- Need for church planting strategies to fit countries where Christians may receive no outside support
- Shift of church's membership base from the church of the haves to the "church of the poor"
- High incidence of physical need within unreached people groups
- Ambition of the leadership of many of these unreached groups to "catch up" with the prosperity and power of the developed world

4. Practical Triad for Success

- Superior personnel (highly committed disciples)
- Superior training (commitment to training)
- Superior strategy for actualizing (steps to be taken)
 - Vision of the work to be accomplished
 - Identification by name, location and needs of target people group
 - Prayer focused on target people group
 - Adoption of specific target people group for prayer and other resources
 - Mobilization of personnel
 - Training required to work with target people group
 - Engagement in actual contact with target people group
 - Assessment of results
 - Partnership between established local ministry with the home ministry

5. Other Practical Tips

- Creative evangelism – needed especially for target people groups resistant to the Gospel
- Thinking small – humble forms of worship, regular meetings in homes or in other safe environments
- Accepting local nationalism and cultural values – removing cultural biases
- Supportive of the local administration – avoid attacking the local government
- Being relevant – contextualizing without losing the essence
- Being ready – make use of any opportunity for the Gospel