

Straight Street for Church Planters

Unit 6 - Missions

Scripture Helps:

Desired outcome from this unit: For participants to know what God would have them to do now based upon the things that He has recently convicted, convinced, and corrected them about. To understand the call to missions in a way that is contagious to other believers.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Missions: For the church planting team to develop a rough draft of the mission statement for the new church.

Reflection and Thoughts

I. What is God saying to me in His Word?

Jesus said, *“That which I see the Father doing, that I do also. My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working. I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does”* (John 5:17-19, NIV).

Activity: Read Acts 9:1-19 and focus on verses 4-5. Pray and ask God to speak to you through these verses. Take time for personal cleansing for unhindered access to the Spirit.

Helpful Web sites

www.namb.net
www.sbc.net
www.wmu.net
www.imb.org
www.onmission.net
www.churchsmart.com
http://www.namb.net/root/departments/media_and_mobilization_group/

“He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ ‘Who are you, Lord’ Saul asked” (Acts 9:4-5, NIV).

The first words that Saul heard from Jesus were, *“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”* Simply put, Jesus was asking Saul, *“Why are you doing this? Why are you persecuting me?”* The “why” question was an important question that our Lord was asking Saul. It is a question that you should ask yourself often throughout the church planting process; you can be certain that others will. People will want to know why you do certain things and probably even more important to them is that they will want to know why you want them to do certain things. So often, we do things without asking ourselves why am I doing this, or for whom am I doing this? In the rough times of ministry the only thing that will keep you there is the call. We too often look at situations in terms of good or bad; is it good or bad for my family and me? Or bad is defined by something bad that happens to us. We have to come to the point of seeing that events are good if they are good for the kingdom and bad if they are bad for the kingdom. There are

Notice in Acts 9:5 that Saul did not answer the Lord's question, and instead, he asked the Lord a question. He said, *Who are you, Lord* (sir)? Saul was not yet acquainted with Jesus personally, but the bright light, and the voice of Jesus, convinced him that one from heaven was indeed speaking to him. In just a matter of moments, Saul went from being on a self-serving personal mission to being on mission with God. Note the change in the *will* of Saul because of his conversion; Saul went from doing his *will* to doing the *will* of God.

Jesus said, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working" (John 5:17-18, NIV).

"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me" (John 6:38, NIV).

In *Basic Training for Church Planters*, you will be asked to develop a mission statement for your new church plant. In order to write an effective mission statement you will need to know the answers to these two questions: **1. Where are you now?** (your current condition—both as church/core group and community) and **2. Where you are going?** (your vision, as directed by Scripture).

For the purpose of the next portion of this study, you will consider where you are now and where you are going. You will also draw from the following commentary excerpt that emphasizes how Saul was convicted, convinced, and corrected by Jesus Christ.

*The charge exhibited against him is, Why persecutest thou me? Observe here: First, before Saul was made a saint, he was made to see himself a sinner, a great sinner, a sinner against Christ. Now he was made to see that evil in himself which he never saw before; sin reviled and he died. Note, a humbling conviction of sin is the first step towards a saving conversion from sin. Secondly, He is convinced of one particular sin, which he was most notoriously guilty of, and had justified himself in, and thereby way is made for his conviction of all the rest. Thirdly, the sin he is convinced of is persecution: Why persecutest thou me? It is a very affectionate exhortation (*correction), enough to melt a heart of stone (from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.). *Word was added for clarification and is not part of the original text.*

Activity: Answer the following:

A. Where are you now? (your current condition)

1. Presently what has God **convicted** you about? Take time to allow the Spirit to speak. Do not rationalize or be evasive. What is the Spirit saying needs to be changed in your life, relationships, family and ministry?

Make a list here.

What has God said to you in His Word about this?

2. Presently, what has God **convinced** you about? Make a list here. (Be sure to determine and include how you have discerned the difference between your personal convictions and these biblical, divinely inspired convictions.)

Now, go back through the paragraph that you just wrote and circle key words that jump out at you or have special meaning to you. Using the key words that you circled, complete this sentence.

At this time in my life, I believe God would have me to (include the biblical reasons)...

B. Where are you going? (your vision)

In Unit 3 – Vision, you were asked to identify key Scriptures that pertain to your church plant and write out the vision that God has given you for that plant. Now go back, review what you wrote, and answer this question. **What needs to take place spiritually, personally, and professionally in your life to help move you closer to that vision?**

Activity – List those things that you think need to happen to help move you closer to the vision that God has given you.

SPIRITUALLY:

PERSONALLY:

PROFESSIONALLY:

II. What is God saying to me through others?

Activity – Share your vision with someone else. Ask them to share with you what they think needs to happen in your life for you to move closer to the vision that God has given you. (This is a good place to help your spouse feel she is an integral part of your ministry.) Write down their responses and compare them with the list that you made in the previous activity. Take note of any common expressions or themes between your vision and their suggestions.

List suggestions from others here (what are the implications if you have nothing to write here?):

Now go through the list and circle only the suggestions others have made that God has already spoken to you about.

List those suggestions here:

On Mission Opportunities
Contact your State Director of Mission, the North American Mission Board, SBC, or the WMU for information on how you can be involved with On Mission Opportunities.

www.namb.net
www.wmu.org

Did you sense a call from God out of one or more of these experiences? If so, what was that call?

III. What is it that I am supposed to be doing?

Jesus said to Saul, “Get up.” He would later say to Ananias, “Get up.” At some point God may say to you, “Get up and move from where you are, get going, and get on with it.” There comes a time when a person must get on with what God has called him to do and be.

In *Beyond Entrepreneurship*, Collins and Lazier help explain the relation of vision and mission statements. They write, “To grasp the difference between (vision) and mission, think of pursuing a guiding star across a mountain range. Your vision is the guiding star, always out there on the horizon, never attainable, but always pulling you forward. Your mission on the other hand, is the specific mountain you are climbing at the moment.

While assaulting that mountain, all your focus and energy goes into that specific ascent. But once you reach the top, you sight again on the guiding star (your vision) and pick yet another mountain to climb (your mission). And, of course, throughout the entire adventure, you remain true to your core values and beliefs (p. 63).

“Unlike (vision), which is never achieved, a mission should be achievable...Once a mission is fulfilled, you return to vision to set a new mission” (p. 74)

Once again, note a portion of the above quote - *Your mission, on the other hand, is the specific mountain you are climbing at the moment.*

As stated at the beginning of this unit, this study was an attempt to help you know what God would have you to do at this time in your life based upon those things that He has convicted, convinced, and corrected you about.

Activity: How can you help others to hear and respond to

God's call to missions?

Which of those events described above in your call can you duplicate to help others?

Describe your role in helping others hear and respond to the call of God to short-term and long-term missions involvement.

Determine specific ways to do that.

Activity: Write your mission.

Complete this statement as clearly and briefly as you can.

The specific mountain that I am to climb at the moment is...

Now, get up and go take that mountain!

www.churchsmart.com

www.lifeway.com

Dr. H. Gerald Colbert
gcolbert@namb.net

Discovery Tools –
Contact John Shepherd of the
North American Mission Board,
SBC at jshpherd@namb.net

Additional Helps and Resources:

This study was not intended to help you to develop a personal mission statement, though that could have been achieved with the addition of a few statements and learning activities. An excellent resource for discussing and writing your mission statement is *Focus* by Terry B. Walling, ChurchSmart Resources. Two excellent resources are available for your use if you desire to know what your mission is in regards to leadership roles. The first is ***Developing Your Ministry Roles*** by Dr. H. Gerald Colbert, North American Mission Board, SBC; the second is ***Jesus on Leadership: Discovering the secrets of servant leadership from the life of Christ*** by C. Gene Wilkes, LifeWay.

Missiology: An Introduction to the Foundations, History, and Strategies of World Missions by John Mark Terry, Ebbie C. Smith, and Justice Anderson (editors), Broadman and Holman, 1998.

Terry B. Walling suggests 4 steps for implementing your mission.

1. Understand yourself.
2. Determine your life roles.
3. Develop one-year objectives.
4. Set monthly objectives.

Discovery Tools:

“Discovery Tools is a self-assessment resource that helps you discover how God has designed you to be involved in church planting. You will explore your call into ministry, spiritual gifts, passion, ministry preference, and past behaviors and experiences.”