

## **PREPARATION FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN MISSION**

*Mark 16:15-20; Ephesians 4:11-15; Galatians 1:15,16.*

The church is the divinely constituted body through which the gospel is preached and believers are nurtured. The church must faithfully keep to the divinely appointed mission preaching and teaching fellowship and worship (Acts 2:42) and maturity of believers. On Paul's first missionary journey, he launched out from Antioch to many cities. His second mission was a fellow-up of the former outreaches (Acts 15:36). In another time, he went over all the regions of Galatia and Phrygia to strengthen all the disciples.

### **1. MISSIONARY WORK AND ITS DEMAND**

*Mark 16:15; Nehemiah 2:11-12; John 13:6-9; Isaiah 28:7; Galatians 1:15,16; Acts 8:5; 2 Corinthians 12:15.*

Jesus Christ mandated the church to teach the whole gospel to the whole human race. A believer who possesses the mind of Christ should be committed to ministering the word not only to fellow students but to non-students on the campuses in every town, city and nation. Conversation of the fruits of evangelism aims at moulding, nurturing, integrating and discipling new converts (Matthew 28:20).

Educational ambitions and other mundane pursuits must not blur our vision (Proverbs 29:18) of bringing souls into the kingdom. Every believer is a missionary every sinner a mission field. We are saved to serve, born to burn and planted on our various campuses to bear fruits. All members of the body of Christ are therefore expected to function effectively (1 Corinthians 12:12-18). Genuine love for God (Deuteronomy 6:5) and passion for soul should motivate us to sacrifice everything for the success of the work. No price was too great for Paul to pay, no sacrifice was too high to make and no difficulty or problem was too much to endure so that he should reach out with the gospel. There is therefore the need to prepare now; in order to be ready at the end of our studies.

### **2. PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR MISSIONARY ASSIGNMENTS**

*John 4:4,34; Luke 19:10; 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 6:12; Acts 13:2; James 5:16.*

Having a goal is very important in missionary work. Jesus steadfastly maintained His goal despite the attempts of the woman to side-tract Him with trivial question. For Charles Spurgeon, the great commission was the great goal of His life. Without goals the routines of life can easily become the ruts of life. We shall examine some basic physical, mental, social and spiritual qualities which when fully surrendered to the Holy spirit can be maximally used for the missionary assignment.

#### **A. Physical qualities: such qualities include:**

- i. Sound health;
- ii. Physical energy (1 Timothy 2:3-4).

#### **B. Mental qualities:**

- i. Mental alertness.
- ii. Intellectual capability.

#### **C. Social qualities:**

- i. Good human relation must have the ability to get on with other people.
- ii. Good communication.
- iii. Self-discipline, self restraint, prudence (1 Corinthians 6:12). Plan to have a small-sized family.
- iv. Ability to secure-cooperation and win the respect and confidence of others. Other social qualities are good moral values, transparent honesty, enthusiasm and the desire to achieve set goals.

#### **D. Spiritual qualities:** To be an instrument in the hands of God, a missionary minded student must be:

- i. Genuinely born again (2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Timothy 2:6-7,19-21).
- ii. Sanctified and living a purified life (Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:16; Luke 1:75).
- iii. Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

- iv. Living consistent Christians life (John 8:31).
- v. Consecrated and committed (Luke 18:28).
- vi. Totally obedient to the word of God (John 14:15).
- vii. Possess Christ-like qualities of love, gentleness, and meekness (John 13:34; Galatians 5:22), wisdom vision/burden (Nehemiah 2:5-8). Those who have most powerfully and permanently influenced their generation are men who have direct vision and burden from God (Luke 13:6-9). Patience – ability to bear all things in seemingly difficult situation (2 Timothy 4:5) is essential.
- viii. Constantly reading, studying and meditating upon the word (1 Timothy 2:15; Joshua 1:8). Literatures and other edifying Christian books.
- ix. Prayerfulness. Your prayer for missionary work needs to be effectual (sacrificial) and fervent. A student of prayer, experiences intimate relationship with God. Also, possession of a teachable spirit (1 Timothy 4:13), implicit obedience to God and submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit are imperatives in the lives of potential missionary.

Spiritual maturity is indispensable. There is no place for a novice, or a new convert in effective missionary assignment.

### 3. INVOLVEMENT IN MISSIONARY ASSIGNMENTS

*Romans 10:13-18; 1 Corinthians 9:16; Numbers 10:29; 2 Corinthians 8:1-3; 9:1-5.*

A believer needs to be actively involved in missionary work. Our involvement should be through personal evangelism (direct, indirect, friendship, literature and after-fellowship approach), specialized evangelism (respiere preset and sports group outreaches, etc) and carriage evangelism (taxi, bus, train, canoe or aircraft). Commitment of our time, talent, treasures and our resources are essential part of our involvement in missionary assignments. The Macedonians though poor and persecuted, rejoiced at the opportunity of giving to the work of the gospel. One way to be involved in missionary assignments is to give towards mission.

#### **The various area of work in missionary assignment includes:**

- i. Maturation of converts (ministry to the new converts) including integration through systematic instruction and fellowship, caring and rehabilitation of needy converts.
- ii. Multiplication of converts involving planting local churches to conserve souls (Acts 9:31-32) and starting DLCP in newly established universities and other campuses.

God has called all beneficiaries of His grace, irrespective of gender, tribe, nation, tongue and present circumstances, to **“go tell others”** of the spiritual opportunities available for the good of their souls. There must be no excuse, delay or procrastination. Do we pray **“Thy kingdom come”**, but never say **“Here am I, Lord send me?”** Today you have the opportunity to commence your missionary work. Someone said and I quote. “Some will gather money (certificates) along the path of life, some would gather roses and rest from worldly strife; but I would gather students from among the thorns of sin, for money cannot enter in that land of endless day. And rose that are gathered soon will wither along the way. But on the laughing saved students as I cross the sunset sea and the gates swing wide to heaven I can take in with me.