

## **Bible Baptist Church's Understanding of NT Missions**

We believe that the heartbeat of every NT church is the Great Commission responsibility which was given to the Lord's candlesticks (Matt. 28:19,20; Acts 1:8; et.al.). Local churches must follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit as they seek to saturate their own community and neighboring communities, while increasing their vision for a world that is in need of the same.

How can local churches possibly accomplish what God wants each of them to do in respect to the Lord's Great Commission command unless each sets out to accomplish this commandment God's way? The answer is that churches cannot expect to be successful unless they seek to accomplish it God's way. So, what is God's way of reaching our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth?

*First*, it must be done through **PREACHING!** One who reads the NT will notice how that the apostles went out under the authority of their own local church, and are seen "going" everywhere *preaching!* They preached in homes, on the streets, by the rivers, in the jails, in the synagogues, on ships, in the courtrooms, in the schools, and anywhere else where they were afforded the opportunity! Often, upon the preaching of the good news of Jesus Christ, many in these places received *the word of God not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God*, and upon repentance of their sins and belief in the gospel they were wonderfully saved. As a result of these newly "made disciples," a NT church was planted in that locale, and these "disciples" were baptized into these newly formed assemblies.

*Secondly*, as was just mentioned, it is necessary to **ESTABLISH LOCAL CHURCHES** after the conversion of these new believers, so that they may be baptized under the proper authority of a NT church. Too many missionaries have mistakenly called "preaching stations" churches. These early churches soon became self-supporting, self-governing, and even self-propagating indigenous churches. These early apostles were not there for social betterment. They did not come to start compounds, schools, hospitals, orphanages, and then after ten or fifteen years start a local church. No, they planted a local church after the need arose because of conversions. It is good to have and maybe even necessary to have in some instances schools, hospitals, orphanages, and such like; however, the purpose for the missionary being *sent* is the proclamation of the gospel and then the establishment of a local church in that locale when the need arose because of conversion.

*Thirdly*, after these churches had been established, then came the responsibility of **TEACHING THEM** to observe the "all things" of the Word of God. The apostles began to teach these new disciples the *words of God*. The apostles also trained nationals to take over the work so they could move on and repeat the whole process of the Great Commission again and again.

This is the need of the hour, nothing has changed in the last 20 centuries. God's plan is still the right way. We ought to focus our efforts biblically. We must return to the responsibility that we have as the Lord's churches to plant other NT churches at home and abroad.