



There is a lot of talk today in church circles about being missional in our approach to the local church. But what is the mission and what are missionaries and what should we do about both?

I know that misinformation and an incorrect perception of what a missionary was and what they did kept me from responding positively to what I knew to be my God given purpose.

There was a popular insurance commercial on TV that used the catch phrase ***"everybody knows that!"***. I think when it comes to missionaries and partnerships with them, the presiding thought is everybody knows that.

But I have discovered that everybody doesn't know that. This doesn't make people evil or unintelligent but there are a lot of folks who are either un-informed or mis-informed. It would be impossible to cover every aspect of missions in one article.



But I do hope to begin to shed enough light on the subject to help those who are called respond and go, and those who are called to send, respond and send.

Just the terms Mission and Missionary conjure up a variety of responses in people, some very emotional and this could be either negative or positive. A lot of negative response is elicited from foreign nationals from nations who have long been the recipients of missionary influence. Some of the negative connotation can be understood when you uncover things that have been done under the pretense of being on mission for Jesus Christ. And although we should not hide from the facts of the negative past or adverse results of misguided organizations or individuals, we must come to terms with the reality that the church, a.k.a. the Body of Christ, has a presence in many of the nations on the planet because someone dared to go.

We should applaud and appreciate those who have gone before us and make our modern-day missionary efforts possible. Every aspect of what it takes to do missions or ministry in other nations other than our own is easier because of someone else doing something before us. The Body of Christ is God's idea every part is to supply to accomplish the common purpose of mission. Thank you to our partners!

Together we are reaching the four corners of the earth with the light of the gospel!

PLEASE CONSIDER PARTNERSHIP WITH US IN THE POWER OF GOD'S PURPOSE!

Over the past 37 years, Steve and Cindy Shoop have invested their lives in ministering the Gospel of Jesus as missionaries.



Their passion for helping people has provided them with the opportunity to serve in a variety of ministry positions, as well as the privilege of living in three different countries in Africa. Today, Steve and Cindy reside in the state of Ohio after living 25 years in southern Africa. Steve continues to express his gift in ministry both in the United States and the nations of the world. Steve has a passion in developing leaders who are established in God's love, grace and peace that comes through the righteousness of faith. Gospel Training International's vision is found in their ministry slogan,

"TRAINING FOR LIFE, TRAINING FOR MINISTRY".

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