

MESSAGES FROM MISSIONS

Intro. Seen a lot of missions. Not a travelogue. Not a criticism but a sober look at Lord's work. Usually misty-eyed when talk of missions. Need to be wide-eyed. Not speaking of one group bec among many on 3 continents outside N.Amer. 2 things heavy on heart--purpose and program of missions. Goal and Guarantee. Objective and Outworking. Don't think of a particular person to whom you give or a mission or of home vs foreign but of overall program of God.

Speaking of missions in general - not specialized missions e.g. hand letters

I. Objective of Missionary Work--Indigenous Churches.

A. Impt of local church.

1. Use of word. 7:1 over body of X.

2. Use of ch. 1 Tim 2:15. Lots of NT devoted to ch organization. Hopkins in Ger. No objective. Paul planted churches. Cf. epistles. Acts 14:23; 15:41--not to hold evangelistic meetings. e.g. success among Baptists in Italy bec planted churches.

B. Impt. of Indigenous principles.

1. Examples. Acts 6. Acts 8:25--didn't organize Jerusalem mission to Samaria. Acts 14:23. e.g. Makawe station. 50yrs and no native they could trust. When read reports find out about the number of churches not stations. Number of national pastors not missionaries.

2. Encouragements to Indigenous church. Anything that builds national ch. Evangelism which aims to build churches not just leave converts. Trans of Script into vernacular. Bible schools all impt for training leaders. Missionary should aim to work self out of a job.

II. Outworking of Missionary Work--Indoctrinated Xns. No distinction here bet home and foreign. Need for this just as great or greater at home.

A. The Command. Matt 28:18-20. Disciple only finite vb in commission.

B. The Examples. P and Tim, 2 Tim 1:13. Peter and Mark.

P on journeys. Acts 19:9; 18:26. 2 Thess 2--remember not when I was with you. Cf SIM literature.

C. The Contents.

1. The exact message of the gospel. 25 words or less I asked Swaziland missionaries. Arminian-perversion strong.
2. Methods of growth. Sanctification. 1 Tim 6:3. Holiness movm'ts' inroads.
3. Method of church govt. Place of women. Elders? 9x wholesome doctrine in Pastorals and not once elsewhere. Such doct. means proper govt in ch. Esp. place of women missionaries.
4. Eschatology. When does the Lord come? They are getting perversions from USA schools. Or they're getting an attitude that it doesn't matter. It's most imp't for a ch to know where it's young people are being trained.

Concl. This is plea for intelligent interest in the work. All examples from faith missions. Churches who support faith works are ones to insst on nec changes. Doors are closing but don't get panicky. Ask questions of mission representative like you would of a candidate for pastor. After all you're going to put as much money into missio as you pay the pastor prob. Remember the commision. This sermon to further efficiency; to stimulate detailed interest; to inform for intelligent praying and giving. When Churches are est. and Xns indoctrinated then we're doing the job of missions-- not merely when we're sending out missionaries.

SIM plea. 8 Medical Technicians, 60 nurses, 22 men teachers, 26 women (for non-Biblical schools), 20 other teachers, 6 builders, 2 business, 1 Linotype, 1 artist, 4 stenographers, 93 general missionaries (for trekking, station work). NO Bible teachers. When send out linotype they don't ask him to be a nurse. When send out a man trained in Bible they usually ask him to do 1000 other things.