

Missions Priorities

David Mays

Every leader and every individual who cares about missions has his or her own view of what is best or most important for the church to do in missions.

Actual priorities are those represented by the church's current investments and activities in missions. They can be assessed by taking a values audit or survey and/or confirmed by reviewing the church's current missions budget and missions activities.

Aspirational priorities are those which church leaders or the missions team would like to see enjoy greater missions promotion, activities and investments of the church. These aspirational priorities may become the church's actual priorities or strategies in missions.

If there is a large discrepancy between the current investments of the congregation and the aspirational priorities of leaders, extensive missions education may be required before new values can be implemented as missions priorities for the church.

Here are some typical priorities:

- a particular agency
- a particular country or nationality
- active hands-on involvement
- adopting a people group
- AIDS ministry
- Bible distribution
- caring for "our" missionaries
- children's ministries
- church planting
- consortium
- deaf or blind ministry
- educating church children
- emergencies and hinge opportunities
- evangelism
- feeding the hungry
- getting a large number of our people overseas
- giving as much as possible
- helping other churches in missions
- housing ministry
- improving quality of life
- involving our congregation
- Jewish ministry
- leadership development
- leveraging our resources
- local ministry
- maintain our giving percentage
- mission trips
- missions conferences
- mobilizing our people
- most bang for the buck
- Muslims or other religious group
- our denomination
- partnering with other churches
- partnerships
- people nearby
- poor and oppressed
- prayer
- quick results
- rapid response to immediate needs
- relationships with missionaries
- safety/low risk
- sending our own people
- short-term missions (discipling strategy)
- short-term missions (field strategy)
- social justice
- supporting fewer missionaries with more dollars
- supporting nationals
- supporting our own
- tentmaking ministries
- training national leaders
- translation ministry
- unreached peoples