

WINDOW *to* *the* WORLD

A diagnostic tool for churches to assess their world missions ministry



MISSION
to the
WORLD

WINDOW TO THE WORLD is designed to enhance your perception. This diagnostic tool will help you assess the effectiveness of your church's missions ministry and identify specific areas for growth. By looking inward you can develop a more purposeful outlook on the world of missions opportunities. Your greatest insights will come by having several people from your church and/or missions leadership complete the inventory individually and discuss the results.



STEP ONE

Using the following scale, evaluate how well each statement describes your church:

- 5** Highly or always descriptive
- 4** Mostly or often descriptive
- 3** Moderately or sometimes descriptive
- 2** Partially or infrequently descriptive
- 1** Not or rarely descriptive

- _____ 1. We have an active, organized missions committee that leads and resources all our members and ministries.
- _____ 2. We believe that God's primary means and end for advancing His kingdom is the Church; it is at the center of what He is working with and what He is working toward.
- _____ 3. A significant percentage of our members participate in local and global missions trips each year.
- _____ 4. Prayer for missions is a meaningful and regular commitment throughout the ministries of our church.
- _____ 5. Our support of churches in other cultures is guided by our belief that they should be developing their own leaders, ministries and finances.
- _____ 6. While encouraging the interdependence of the larger body of Christ, we also affirm a natural emphasis on planting churches that share our theological convictions.
- _____ 7. Our missions vision is carefully developed, written, and embraced by church leaders.
- _____ 8. We affirm that the ministry of the local church can be expressed in biblically valid and culturally indigenous forms—even when the forms are different from our own.
- _____ 9. Our church gives sacrificially towards world missions.
- _____ 10. We are collaborating with other sending churches towards shared ministry goals.
- _____ 11. We affirm that the establishment of a biblical church necessarily requires a commitment to both ministries of the Word (e.g. evangelism, preaching, teaching) and deed (e.g. mercy and justice).
- _____ 12. We believe churches should be actively planting new churches, and so we want to support churches in other cultures that share this commitment.
- _____ 13. Our members see the Great Commission as their personal responsibility and know someone well who is serving in cross-cultural missions.
- _____ 14. We have identified specific areas of emphasis for our missions efforts, for long-term participation and concentrated support.
- _____ 15. We affirm that most of our missions resources should be directed towards church-planting efforts.
- _____ 16. We support the model of sending missionaries to serve as facilitators to indigenous leaders, and not only as primary pastors.
- _____ 17. The leaders of our church are champions of missions, through their personal participation and public commitment.
- _____ 18. We affirm the development of indigenous leaders and their primary role in the local church.
- _____ 19. Our congregation is regularly learning about missions through such means as sermons, presentations and missions courses.
- _____ 20. God has called the Church to be His primary instrument to evangelize people, extend mercy, and transform the culture around it; our preference is for such efforts to be ministries of the local church and not separate from it.

2

STEP TWO

Carefully transfer your scores from the questions to the corresponding number below. The descriptions refer to the main idea of each question, which may be a topic for your further consideration.

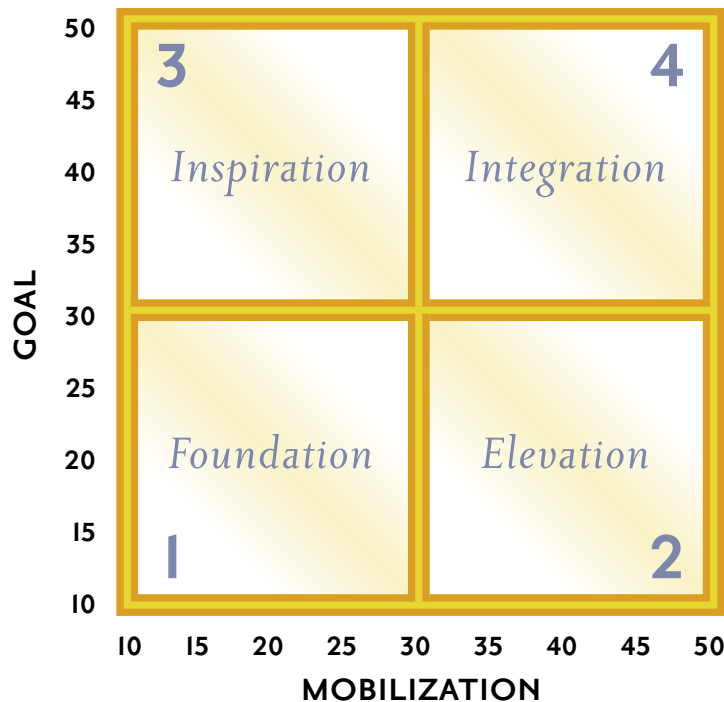
Total each column.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| _____ 2. Ecclesiology | _____ 1. Missions Committee |
| _____ 5. Sustainability | _____ 3. Short-Term |
| _____ 6. Theology | _____ 4. Prayer |
| _____ 8. Contextualization | _____ 7. Vision |
| _____ 11. Word & Deed | _____ 9. Giving |
| _____ 12. Multiplication | _____ 10. Partnership |
| _____ 15. Church Planting | _____ 13. Participation |
| _____ 16. Facilitation | _____ 14. Emphasis |
| _____ 18. National Leadership | _____ 17. Church Leadership |
| _____ 20. Commission of Church | _____ 19. Education |
| _____ TOTAL: Missions Goal | _____ TOTAL: Missions Mobilization |

3

STEP THREE

This inventory will help you evaluate your church's missions ministry by considering both your aim and your progress. The assessment is based on two convictions: first, the Lord extends His kingdom primarily through the multiplication of nationally-led churches, and second, that churches should be mobilizing their members for world missions. Maximizing both your **Missions Goal** and your **Missions Mobilization** increases your church's contribution towards the Great Commission. On the graph below, plot the intersection of your scores for Missions Goal and Missions Mobilization. The plotted point will reveal an assessment that falls within one of four quadrants or windowpanes. Each windowpane is labeled by the key challenge facing your missions ministry, as further described on the next page.



4

STEP FOUR

This tool is most effective when you compare and discuss your evaluation with other members of your church. You may want to plot responses of several people on a single graph to help establish a consensus. Determine whether your missions ministry is actually aimed towards church planting, and how mobilized your church is towards this goal. Talk through each of the twenty categories and identify those most needing attention. Finally, create a plan to develop your missions ministry over the next two to three years.

The following suggestions should help get you started:

HIGH GOAL

CHALLENGE: *Inspiration*

Once you've confirmed where you're heading, you'll want to mobilize your church towards that goal. However, many churches find that the number of members engaged in world missions is relatively few. Perhaps missions is seen as a distinct department, an annual event, or a ministry to be started in the future. The challenge facing these churches is inspiration. MTW offers your church advice and resources, including *Setting The Pace*, a collection of articles on how to mobilize your church for world missions.

CHALLENGE: *Integration*

Your missions ministry is oriented towards church-planting movements in other cultures and is making progress in mobilizing members. Further development may include identifying select areas for improvement. The challenge facing such churches as yours is often that of integration, whereby the various parts of your ministry are more effectively working together. The articles in *Reaching the Summit* offer sound advice on taking a ministry from good to great.

LOW GOAL

CHALLENGE: *Foundation*

The challenge facing your missions ministry is establishing a solid foundation. Don't try to accomplish everything at once. Rather, begin with the essentials: develop your missions leadership, confirm your commitment to church planting, and create a plan to mobilize your church over time. These first steps are discussed in *Laying The Foundation*, a series of articles to help position your ministry for growth.

CHALLENGE: *Elevation*

It is very common for churches to respond to opportunities and requests without having a clear direction for their missions efforts. Or sometimes the vision may be clear, but church planting is not at the center of it. If either is true for your church, your greatest challenge may be re-orienting your ministry towards a higher elevation. The articles in *Setting Your Sights* will engage your leaders in a study of the importance of church-planting movements in other cultures.

LOW MOBILIZATION

HIGH MOBILIZATION

To assist you in your next steps, Mission to the World offers the materials mentioned above, as well as other resources to help grow your missions ministry. You may also want to speak with the MTW Church Relations Department about arranging a consultation.

Whatever the status of your missions ministry, be encouraged that the Great Commission is a gracious commission. It is the Lord Jesus Christ who is drawing people to Himself, and therefore we are confident of the outcome—that one day people from every tribe and language and people and nation will be worshipping the Lamb (Revelation 5:9). Our role is to be His instruments, fully prepared and available to be used in His service. To that end, may His passion for the world be our passion as well.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ORDER RESOURCES,
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AT:**

Mission to the World
1600 N. Brown Road • Lawrenceville, GA 30043
churchrelations@mtw.org • (678) 823-0004 • www.mtw.org