

YOUR CHURCH CAN CHANGE THE WORLD



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by Jill Suzanne Hatcher/José Luis
Santana

**A self-teaching course that contains all the
information, resources, tools, and teaching activities needed
to establish an effective missions program in the local church.
For pastors, missions committees, and mobilizers.**



Department of Missions Education

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Preface to the Fifth Revision

On behalf of the Department of Missions Education of COMIMEX (The Missions Cooperation of Mexico), it is a great pleasure to present this **fifth revision** of *Your Church Can Change the World* (*Your Church*). We hope this book will be a powerful instrument in the hands of the missions mobilizers that God is raising up in this generation.

This course has been years in the making. It all started with the “Missions Saturdays” (see page 6) that were organized around Mexico City in the beginning of the ‘90’s. We soon realized that we needed a compilation of these missions teachings, so each teacher put his or her favorite theme into writing. Juan Carlos Gómez and Elizabeth López edited this compilation and presented it to the Mexican delegation to the Second COMIBAM (Missions Cooperation of Ibero-America) Congress of World Missions in Acapulco in 1997. I was named director of the Department of Missions Education and assumed the responsibility for promoting *Your Church* in Mexico. For the 2003 annual meeting of COMIMEX in Guadalajara, a **first revision** was prepared by Martha Cortez. It contained the same text in a new format and included new resources, maps, statistics, and images.

After 10 years it became increasingly difficult to train new mobilizers with a material that was becoming obsolete. A complete revision was needed to reflect a new teaching philosophy:

*The **second revision** of *Your Church* was designed so that any mature Christian could find it lying in the street, pick it up, read it, open the CD, and start a ministry of missions mobilization with all the knowledge, resources, information, contacts, tools, and teaching activities that had been developed in the Department of Missions Education of COMIMEX.*

This new revision was presented at the 2007 annual meeting of COMIMEX in Ensenada, Baja California. Upon seeing *Your Church*, Carlos Scott, then president of COMIBAM, recommended that it be used in every country in Latin America. The **third revision** was necessary to prepare the book for this wider distribution and it was presented at the COMIBAM meeting of October, 2009 in Colombia. It was then translated into English and 200 digital copies were distributed at the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation. The **fourth** and **fifth** revisions reflect minor updates. The distribution strategy for the coming years is:

- Formally publish the fifth revision in Mexico.
- Create a version of *Your Church* for each country in Ibero-America using the COMIBAM network.
- Create a version of *Your Church* for many of the larger denominations.
- Promote *Your Church* globally via the websites www.tuiglesia puedecambiaralmundo.org in Spanish and www.yourchurchcanchangetheworld.org in English.

Our hope is that *Your Church Can Change the World*, with its simple, reproducible, self-teaching format, will facilitate a grass-roots missions movement from every ethnic group where the church of Jesus Christ has been established. That is how it should be! Where the church already exists, there should also be a missions movement to those unreached ethnic groups that are still waiting for the beautiful feet of a Christian messenger. Together we can do it!

May God be glorified in all the nations.

Your servant in Jesus,

James Heimberger
 Department of Missions Education
 The Missions Cooperation of Mexico

Acknowledgements and Art Credits

This book is the result of the efforts of many people over the last twenty-five years. First, I would like to thank my colleagues from the Central Region of COMIMEX who used to meet around the table in the Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church on Humbolt Street in Mexico City. The Missions Saturdays and all the ideas that gave rise to *Your Church* were born there. Next, Martha Cortez polished the material and opened my eyes to the use of images to communicate ideas more effectively. I then worked with Mobilization 2000, where we tried to prepare an “army of mobilizers.” In that project we learned how to achieve a multiplication of people who could mobilize their own churches, and thus the idea of a self-teaching material.

I would like to thank my wife, Robin Heimberger, who has revised these writings many times to correct my spelling and grammar. She has also endured all that raising up this ministry implied: constantly loaning money, turning the house into a print shop and warehouse, always having workers in the house, and my frequent absences.

I would like to thank Samantha Zermeño, who was a great help in preparing the images for print, among other ministry tasks. Thanks to José Luis Santana, who taught me to use Photoshop. And finally, I would like to recognize my office assistants, Oswaldo Mendoza, Ana Mendoza, and Verónica González, whose long hours made it possible to offer the *Your Church* packages at a reasonable cost. Above all, I thank God, the owner of the harvest. May he shower his blessing on each of these servants for their hard work and sacrifice which made all this possible.

I would like to thank and give credit to all who cooperated with the artwork in *Your Church*:

- For the cover, thanks to José Luis Santana for his talent with Photoshop and to Jill Suzanne Hatcher for giving us permission to use her beautiful, original collage.
- Thanks to Víctor Guillén for the original artwork that appears on pages 13, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25, 27, 51, 70, 75, 76, 77, 79, 81, 83, 84, and 101. Thanks to Donna Waguespack for her work in retouching these pictures.
- Thanks to Manuel Vivanco for posing as the pastor.
- Thanks to Josué Ruíz Johnson for posing as Johnny Mobilizer.
- Thanks to Robin Heimberger for the photographs of the pastor as well as others.
- Thanks to Samantha Zermeño for her extensive work with Photoshop, Illustrator, and Publisher.
- Thanks to Alejandro Rodríguez for his excellent photographs.
- Thanks to DepositPhotos.com.

Printing and Distribution Agreements

Permission is granted to informally copy or print this material, not for profit, for use in the ministry of missions mobilization. We ask that the COMIMEX logo be visible everywhere it appears, except on page 49. We request that the preface be printed as is, but you may add a paragraph at the end to describe your own participation with *Your Church*. You may modify the material to adapt it to the needs of your country or denomination. You may add your logo and remove the references to Mexico as necessary (References to México have been highlighted in yellow for easy identification.) All artwork credits must appear next to the images as in this book. My name must appear as the author because the images were purchased through my account.

Proposal for a Missions Saturday

Your Church has been presented successfully in various events and contexts:

- Plenaries and workshops in missions conferences,
- study groups, Sunday school, and sermons in local churches,
- as a course in Bible institutes and seminaries, and
- workshops for mobilizers.

A special event for the local church which has been very popular is the “**Missions Saturday**,” in which a church sets aside an entire day to learn about missions. Below is a recommended program. A church can schedule the first Missions Saturday before committing to all three. This schedule should be adapted to your culture. (Mexicans eat a late lunch.)

First Saturday

9:00 – 9:45	Paradigm Changes
9:45 - 11:00	Missions in the Old Testament (I)
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:00	Missionary Testimony
12:00 – 1:00	Definitions
1:00 – 2:00	The History of Missions
2:00 – 3:30	Lunch (Mexicans eat late!)
3:30 – 4:30	World Needs
4:30 – 4:50	Video: <i>The Unreached – Touching God’s Heart in the 10/40 Window</i>
4:50 – 5:00	Close with prayer

Second Saturday

	(about a month after the first)
9:00 – 10:00	Missions in the Old Testament (II)
10:00 – 11:00	The Needs in Mexico
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:40	Missions in the New Testament
12:40 – 1:30	The Local Church and Missions
1:30 – 2:00	(Any theme not covered from the first Saturday)
2:00 – 3:00	Lunch
3:00 – 3:40	Praying for the World
3:40 – 4:30	Financing Missions
4:30 – 4:50	Video (of your choice)
4:50 – 5:00	Close with prayer

Third Saturday (as soon as feasible)

The third Missions Saturday is designed to work with a reduced number of people who are ready and willing to work the new missions committee. It is important to emphasize that all decisions having to do with activities and structures within the church must be made with the pastor’s approval.

10:00 – 12:00	The Missions Committee in the Local Church
12:00 – 12:30	Coffee break
12:30 – 2:00	Work session with the prospects for the new committee
2:00 – 3:00	Lunch
3:00 – 4:00	Adopt-A-People
4:00 – 5:00	The Ministry of Missions Mobilization (Optional)

Introduction



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Welcome to the exciting ministry of missions mobilization! The fact that you have this manual in your hands shows that your heart beats with God's heart, and we know his desire is to glorify himself in all the earth and to reach all the ethnic groups with the message of salvation in Jesus Christ. To that end the vision of **COMIMEX** is:

Every local church in Mexico doing its part to reach the unreached ethnic groups of Mexico and the world.

The hard work of approaching the churches, winning their confidence, sharing the missions vision for unreached ethnic groups, and helping them take their first steps to get involved in the Great Commission is called "**missions mobilization.**" We trust that this course, *Your Church Can Change the World*, (*Your Church*) will be a powerful tool in this important ministry, and that through you, many churches will respond to the challenge of supporting the apostles of this generation. The ministry of missions mobilization will be dealt with in depth in the last chapter of this book, while in this introduction we will give a brief description of *Your Church* and an orientation to the materials in the *Your Church* package.

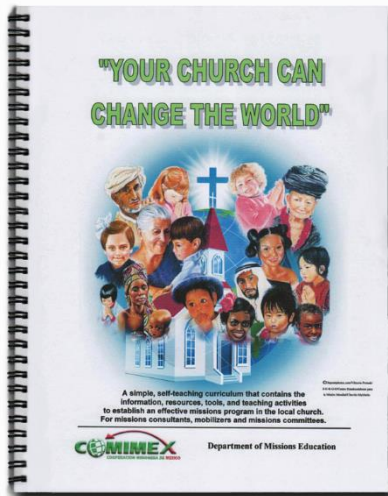
I. A Description of *Your Church Can Change the World*

Your Church is a basic orientation that helps a church or denomination take its first steps towards cross-cultural missions work. The themes and activities are organized in a way that challenges the inadequate **paradigms** that exist in our churches and leads the participants through the following process:

A. **Catch the vision** - We have learned that in order to catch a missions vision, you have to understand three things at the same time:

- The **biblical plan of missions** in the Old and New Testaments,
- **definitions** of new words and concepts that describe the world and missions work, and
- **statistics** which describe the current needs regarding the ethnic groups in **Mexico** and the world, and the degree of penetration of the gospel among them.

B. **Get motivated** - By studying the history of missions, hearing the testimonies of **Mexican** missionaries, watching missions videos, and participating in some fun activities, the participants experience that sense of excitement that motivates them to go or to support missions.



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C. **Get to work!** - After catching the vision and getting motivated, the Holy Spirit moves the participants to ask, “What can I do?” The following themes address that desire:

- Praying for the World,
- Financing Missions,
- The Local Church and Missions,
- The Missions Committee in the Local Church,
- Adopt-A-People, and
- The Ministry of Missions Mobilization.

The participants leave this short process with the vision, the motivation, and the tools to form a missions program in their church.

II. The Materials in the *Your Church* Package

The materials in the *Your Church* package were designed to facilitate your ministry in missions mobilization. The maps, charts, and images will help your teaching be more effective. There are also many didactic activities to enhance the teachings. Our friend, Johnny Mobilizer, seen on the left, will tell you how to conduct these activities. Besides the **teacher’s manual**, described above, the package contains:

- **The student manual**, which follows the outline of the teacher’s manual, point by point. The participants can take notes in their manuals and take home some of the more important images. The student manual is found in three different files, which makes it easier to print color copies in large quantities for events. You can print a set of originals from the *Student Black* file, make the desired number of copies with a normal copier, and then add the color images from the *Student Images* file with your own color printer.
- The **PowerPoint presentations** greatly enrich the teaching of *Your Church*. The PowerPoints, the teacher’s manual, and the student manual follow the exact same outline. In the text of the teacher’s manual, the numbers in brackets [] indicate when to change the PowerPoint slides.
- The **youth manual**, *The Great Commission*, contains fun, effective studies on basic missions concepts in a question and answer format, with crossword puzzles, word finds, and unscramble-the-word games. A basic knowledge of the teacher’s manual is necessary to teach the youth manual.
- The *Your Church* **promotion triptych**.
- The **100 Christians Said triptych**.
- All the PowerPoints and WORD files for the above resources are available at www.yourchurchcanchangetheworld.org for free downloads.

Hi! My name is Johnny Mobilizer and I am going to help you conduct some really fun and meaningful teaching activities! (You may change my photos for someone more suitable to your context.)



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The www.yourchurchcanchangetheworld.org website serves as a meeting place for everyone using *Your Church*. There you will find all the latest updates to the material, new resources, important links, and ideas for mobilization.