

The Goal



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As mentioned in the introduction to this course, a **Mexican** missionary's personal testimony will motivate the congregation towards cross-cultural missions. Simply put, it is so people will be convinced that it **can** be done! The specific paradigms that will change are:

- Only super-Christians can be missionaries,
- you need dollars to send out missionaries, and
- the grasshopper syndrome! (inferiority complex!)

In general, the missionary's testimony has three parts: The missionary call, preparations before going to the field, and the ministry on the field. The idea is to show how all the theories the participants are learning in *Your Church* work out in real life situations.

I. The Call

The missionary should share how God gave him or her a missions vision, what process led to a missionary call, and how they were led to a specific mission field. Because the time is short, it is not necessary to describe in detail their conversion to Christ or previous ministry in the church, although it is important that people know that God calls Christians who are serving, not those just warming the pews.

There is no need to exaggerate the supernatural such as visions and lightning bolts, because we already know the mandate to go into missions is found throughout the Bible. The most forceful missionary testimony could simply be obedience to the Great Commission. What we want is for people to identify with the missionary call and be able to say to themselves, "Maybe God has been calling me, too, but I have not been listening!"

II. The Preparation

For most people, the idea of going to the other side of the world to share the gospel with an unreached ethnic group is such an overwhelming task that it paralyzes them. The reason for sharing about the preparation is to break down the process into concrete, logical steps, and show that there are many helps along the way. It is also important to be realistic about the possible obstacles, but that God is faithful to tear them down and take the missionary to the place he has called him or her to minister.

He or she should mention specific steps such as theological preparation, missionary training, short-term mission trips, how support is raised, emotional struggles, and the relationships with family and friends.



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Although the missionaries who go to the unreached ethnic groups are the church's heroes, we do not want to put them on such a pedestal that future missionaries get scared or discouraged. We also want others, who will never be missionaries, to see how they can help these candidates in the long process of preparation and in their ministries.

III. The Ministry on the Field

This is the part where we want to capture the imagination of the listeners. The missionary can talk about culture shock, difficulties in language learning, homesickness, the ethnic group in which he or she is working, customs, foods, and, of course, the ministry. Above all, the message we want to communicate is: The mission field is difficult, but God is faithful and sustains us and can use us despite our weaknesses, errors, and fears.

Have the missionary talk about personal experiences and about real people within the ethnic group he or she is working in. He or she should bring pictures and examples of local handicrafts to create a colorful atmosphere. The missionary should share his or her future plans so the listeners can see a global Christian who has given his or her life to fulfilling the Great Commission.

At the end of the missionary's testimony, ask him or her some pointed questions that could bring out some more useful information for the participants. You could also open up the time to questions from the group. If the church is not yet supporting missions, you might recommend the missionary's ministry as a first step (but only after getting the pastor's approval). Finish by praying for the missionary.

The best cross-cultural missions mobilizers are those who are on furlough in **Mexico** and are in the process of returning to the field. These are the ones who can speak convincingly by their examples. If one of these missionaries is going to help with a Missions Saturday by sharing his or her testimony, have them look over these two pages beforehand.

