

The Goal



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Let us repeat the description of this very important ministry which we mentioned briefly in the “Introduction” chapter. [Slide #1 of the PowerPoint]

The Ministry of Missions Mobilization is the hard work of:

- Approaching the churches and leaders, winning their confidence, and promoting missions events,
- sharing the missionary vision in events, and
- facilitating changes and projects so that the churches will participate effectively in the Great Commission.

The goal of this chapter is for each mobilizer to become well equipped and effective wherever God has called him or her to work, while continuing to look for opportunities for broader impact. They say that only 10% of the **Mexican** churches are involved in sending missionaries to the unreached. [2] We cannot settle for this situation! We urgently need to multiply our present efforts while still waiting for God to reveal even more daring plans. This chapter is directed towards those who already have a basic knowledge of missions but want to do more in promoting missions.

I. The Three Stages of Missions Mobilization [3]

The work of missions mobilization can be grouped into three **stages**. These stages correspond to the three parts of the definition in the above text box.

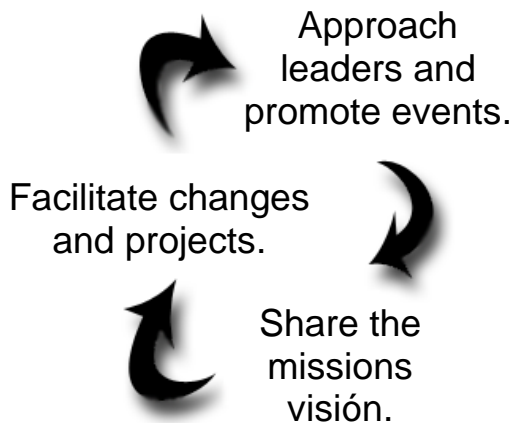
The first step is **approaching** the influential people in your own church and your network of contacts. One must always be on the lookout for opportunities to organize some kind of event to share the vision for missions. We will make some suggestions regarding events and recommendations for approaching pastors and leaders.

When the opportunity to **share the missions vision** arrives, we want to do it in the most compelling and effective way. We will give some tips for dynamic teaching methods.

The last stage is to **facilitate** changes. This could be the formation of the missions committee in the local church, or maybe the church needs help getting connected to the missions community. Maybe they are ready to jump into some specific missions projects. This was covered adequately in the previous chapters. These three stages are constantly repeating themselves, as seen on the left.

II. The Great Variety of Missions Events [4]

This list of possibilities is made up of testimonies that we are hearing from many places in **Mexico**.



The Three Stages of Missions Mobilization

Here is a fun exercise you can do in a missions event when the people need to stand and stretch. It goes like this...

"Everybody stand up!
To reach all the ethnic groups:

We have to pray!"
(Stretch your hands as high as you can, trying to touch heaven.)

"We have to go!"
(Everybody runs in place)

"We have to giiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiive!"
(You take your wallet out of your pocket, hold it way up in the air, and take a huge step forward with one foot, as far as you can, stretching the legs and the back muscles.)

- Begin in your own local church with all the teaching opportunities that are available. These could include Sunday school, discipleship meetings, small groups, youth meetings, one-on-one informal meetings or a Missionary Saturday (see page 6).
- When you have a special missions event in your church, invite people from other churches. It is a good idea to recognize them as special guests. They could be from other churches in your denomination or from your area.
- Offer a missions event to a pastoral alliance, preferably one in which your church is involved.
- You can contact the Director of Missions and Evangelism of your own denomination. Their concept of missions is probably just local missions. Using the word *missions* to establish some common ground, lead them gently towards world missions, using Acts 1:8 to expand their horizons, program, and structure. If the denomination is large, you might help them form their own missions agency.
- You can offer *Your Church* in the Bible institute of your denomination.
- You can offer *Your Church* in other Bible institutes and seminaries. This way future pastors will graduate with the knowledge of missions.
- [5] Investigate the missions events calendar for **Mexico** on the internet and invite someone to attend an event with you.

- Join **COMIMEX**.
- Maintain a data base of contacts to follow up on the growth of their missions vision.
- Sell *Your Church* and missions materials wherever you go.

When approaching churches and leaders, the moment will come when they say [6], "You have finally convinced us about cross-cultural missions, but we do not know where to start. **How do we take the first step?**" This is the perfect moment to schedule the *Your Church* course in their church.



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III. Approaching Pastors and Leaders [7]

Moisés López, founder of **COMIMEX**, was asked, "What is the best way to spread the missions vision?" He answered, "Personal contact with pastors!" The pastors are the leaders in the church, but they are already saturated with activities and concerns. How can we interest them in a task that, at first glance, appears to imply even more sacrifice on their part? The word *approach* gives the idea of a friendly, trusting relationship. Here are some tips to achieve that.

- A. **Have contact with them.** - This may seem obvious, but it is very basic. Many times we get so involved in our own ministry that we do not take the time necessary to establish the trust of our own pastor or other pastors. How can we do this?

- Join a pastors' alliance. One of the goals of **COMIMEX** is to be represented in all the pastors' alliances in **Mexico**.
- Be genuinely interested in the activities of the pastors' alliance and those of your pastor.
- Establish personal contacts and make friends, not as teacher but as collaborator.

The Church exists for world missions! The Bible speaks about missions on every page! If you are not involved in missions, you are in sin!



Mobilizer

According to this guy, my whole ministry has been useless!



Pastor

**In missions,
everyone
wins!**

B. Have a humble attitude. - Because of our passion for missions we sometimes come across too aggressively. Observe the reaction a veteran pastor might have upon hearing these strong statements from a young mobilizer. We must be careful! We can turn pastors and leaders off with our attitudes and our enthusiasm. The following are tips we can use to show a humble attitude.

- Have a profound respect for the pastor and all he does; he gives his life to care for and increase God's church. The sacrifice is great and the salary small; the pastor is really the solution, not the problem.
- Be aware that, at first glance, the pastor will feel threatened by world missions in regards to finances, time, and personnel.
- Try to be a friend, listen to him, feel his struggles, and share his dreams.
- Always be subject to the pastor when working in his church. It would be a grave error to start making plans for programs, finances, and personnel with the members of his church without consulting with him first.
- Understand that the pastor is usually the teacher in the church, and if we bring information he is not familiar with we put him in an uncomfortable position.

C. Be positive. [8] - If world missions really are the greatest movement on earth, we can be positive!

- In cross-cultural missions, everyone wins! God wins because he receives the glory, adoration, and thanks; the sending church wins because it receives a blessing; and the nations win because they hear the gospel!
- God is a missionary God. He is already doing missions and invites us to work with him. That is the difference between a father who says to his son, "Go mow the lawn," and one who says, "Come with me and let us go mow the lawn together!"

D. **Be an example.** - Larry Walker, of Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment (ACMC) said, “Missions mobilization is like a rope; you do not push a rope, you pull it! In missions we do not push people; we need to pull them along.”

To do this, you need to be out front in knowledge, projects, missions support, prayer, and commitment. You need to show in your own life what you want others to become. Do not even think about mobilizing if you are not personally supporting missionaries with your own prayers and finances.

E. **Practical ideas** - It is unlikely that a pastor with no missions vision will open the doors of his church for a Missionary Saturday unless he has had some previous contact. Here are some ideas for that first contact.

- Pray for the pastors.
- Invite the pastor to a missions event.
- Pay for the pastor to attend the event.
- Give the pastor missions books.
- Introduce him to other pastors who have a missions vision so they can share their experiences with him.
- Loan him a missions DVD.
- Take the pastor to visit the mission field.
- Drink a lot of coffee with him!



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The Challenge [9] - This image is very effective in showing how at first a pastor could be skeptical of world missions.

The Challenge!

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The pastor responds to the missions mobilizer:
*“You are asking me to invest money, time, and personnel...
 Which I do not have;
 To evangelize ethnic groups...
 Which I did not know existed;
 Using structures and strategies...
 That I did not know about;
 For reasons and motives...
 I do not understand...
 To save souls...
 That will never attend my church?!”*

IV. Sharing the Missions Vision [10]

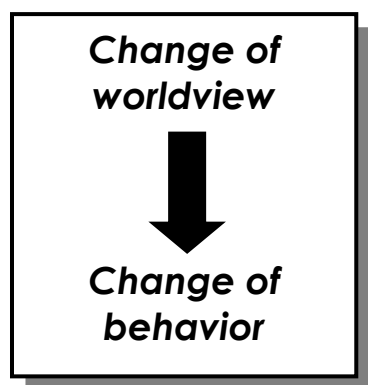


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Did they get excited or did they get bored?

We should mention a few general principles about teaching. First, a class can impact, encourage, and change people, or it can bore them to tears. Teaching is more than simply presenting information, it is communicating new ideas and concepts in a way that changes the life of the listener.

Secondly, we do not try to directly change the listener's behavior, but rather his or her worldview. [11] We want to subtly change the listener's concept of God, God's will, reality, the needs in the world, the Bible, the church, and his or her purpose in life. You can see how some of the chapters of *Your Church* speak to this change of worldview, and how some speak more to changes in behavior. (We called this *Catch the vision* and *Get to Work!* on page 7 of the "Introduction.") Given a new worldview, changes in behavior follow. Having established this background, here are some tips for teaching *Your Church* more effectively. [12]



A. **The sound** - Speak loudly and clearly, use the microphone correctly and adjust the tone so that everyone can understand without straining. People tune out quickly if they have to make an effort to listen. Do not just turn up the volume; that sometimes distorts the sound. Also, try to minimize the background noise.

B. **Variety** - The lessons of *Your Church* are interspersed with testimonies, videos, and activities. The speakers can also take turns for a change in voice and teaching style.

C. **Repetition and anticipation** - At the beginning of each lesson, tie it in to the previous one. And mention what is coming up next. Each chapter of *Your Church* builds on what they have previously learned.

D. **Stay on the topic.** - Many speakers use the title of a chapter just to launch into another motivational sermon about missions. All the different themes start to sound the same and they lose their impact. Follow the sequence of the tutor's manual, the student's manual, and the PowerPoints and you will not have any problems in this area.

E. **Be yourself.** - True teaching is heart to heart, not head to head. Do not be afraid to use humor. Let people see your personality, show them your heart's desire for the nations, and share your own experiences in supporting missionaries.

F. **Statistics can inspire or bore.** - One important statistic achieves more than a chart full of numbers. Sometimes people do not have a good grasp of numbers - some cannot feel the difference between a thousand and a million! Use round numbers. The charts and graphs of *Your Church* were designed for a maximum impact. Be sure the listeners understand the concept of percentages and proportions.



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Be careful when using graphs and statistics.



**Use all five senses
when teaching!**

After promoting events and teaching the missionary vision, we come to the third stage in missions mobilization – facilitating changes and projects. Here is the motto of a mobilizer: [14]

***Missions teaching without a plan,
Will end up in the trash can;
A project without the vision,
Will shortly lack provision!***

G. **Examples [13]** - Creation is full of examples we can use to explain every concept we wish to communicate. Do not teach a concept without an example! What is culture shock? Share a story so they can understand what culture shock feels like. What is a Hindu? Share examples of their unusual beliefs.

H. **Questions** - People forget 90% of what they hear, but remember 90% of what they repeat with their own words. Jesus always asked the people questions. Read Mark 8 and count how many questions Jesus asked.

I. **Use all 5 senses.** - Hearing - speak loudly and clearly; vision - use visuals (videos, whiteboard, Power Point); smell - talk about countries without toilet paper; taste - talk about the missionary in Africa who had to eat insects; touch - bring in objects from other cultures.

J. **Preparation** - The more prepared the teacher and students are before the class, the more impact the lesson will have. Do not try to stand up and teach spontaneously from the PowerPoint presentations without having studied. You must read the teacher’s manual until you learn each point and can explain it in your own words. Then study the student’s manual and the Power Points to see how the three resources work together.

K. **Integrate the teaching with what the students already know and do.** - For example, when talking about prayer, ask the students how they can incorporate prayer for missions into the prayer meetings the church already has. When talking about finances, show how we all waste money in the small details of daily life.

L. **Symbols** - Decorate the meeting place with flags, verses, photographs of ethnic groups, and maps.

V. Conclusion

We have reached the end of this book, but it is only the beginning of your ministry in missions mobilization. Do you remember the vision of **COMIMEX** that we cited in the “Introduction” chapter? “**Every local church in Mexico doing its part to reach the unreached ethnic groups of Mexico and the world.**” How can we attain such a grandiose goal? With an army of mobilizers taking a simple message to local churches, denominations, Bible institutes and alliances: “**Your Church Can Change The World!**” You are now part of this great army; do not turn back. The only justifiable way out of this is if you go to the mission field yourself! Together we can do it!