

Facing Common Objections and Obstacles in Missions
by Steve Beirn

1. The world is coming to us in the west. Why not simply concentrate on local outreach efforts? God has a heart for the entire world. The church is to reflect His heart. The Bible also calls us all to go to all the ethnic groups of the world. If we, as a church, are not mobile then we delay the process of all ethnic groups having access to the Gospel. Acts 1:8 is to be interpreted simultaneously not sequentially. It is a both/and arrangement not either/or. Every church can reach their local Jerusalem as well as pray for least reached people groups across the world. Express your love for the world somehow. The “Good News” was never meant to be contained.
2. What difference can my small church ministry make? We must be careful to keep our eyes on the right things. Keep them on a great, loving, all powerful God who can do the impossible. What is your view of God? The early church was a significant minority yet look what they did (Acts 17:6). We are called to a robust faith (Hebrews 11:32-34). Any church can approach other churches to form a ministry alliance or partnership and build influence in this way. Be creative.
3. In our church we don't have the support of our church leaders. Don't expect your leaders to do missions mobilizing for you. Adjust your expectations and ask them to publically endorse your missions efforts in your church. Get your leaders overseas. Pray for your leaders. Enlist your leadership in helping to create faith goals for missions in the church. Provide resources for your leadership that helps articulate the message of missions to others.
4. We live in a dangerous and unpredictable world. When is risk taking inappropriate? The first question we need to ask is whether we are thinking and acting out of fear or conviction? We must examine our own personal motivations to see how these motivations are in line with God's Word. Is the Gospel worth any sacrifice? Mark Morris is the Director of Advancement of Non-Traditional Church Strategies. Mark recently wrote, “As an individual, church leader, member of a congregation or a representative of a mission agency, we should not assume that God gives us permission to prioritize safety and security over and above the advancement of God's mission and the preaching of the Gospel.”
5. What are we to do as a church since we have no money? Start saving money and supporting cross cultural ministry in the way you can. We all can save and plan for various things. We simply need to exercise faith and start small. People will catch a vision for this as church leaders become faithful in this area. We are not the owners of the things we have. We are simply the managers.