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# CHILDREN MINISTRY AND MISSION



# INTRODUCING MISSIONS TO CHILDREN

Children can, and should be encouraged to get involved in Missions. We need to educate them about missions; the seed sown in their hearts today will germinate tomorrow. In this study, we shall examine the following:

1. What is Missions?
2. How we can motivate children for missions
3. How children can be involved in Missions

## What is Missions?

The word Missions is from the Greek word **APOSTELO** and the Latin word **MITTO**, which means 'send'. Missions therefore means to be sent with a definite message to a particular group of people.

## Sender: Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18

The Lord Jesus Christ, who was a missionary sent into the world by God is the sender. **"As the Father has sent me, so send I you"** John 20:21.

The above passages are popularly referred to as the Great Commission. The goal of the Great Commission is disciple making. The Greek word translated nations is **ethnos**, which means ethnic

groups or people groups. God has called us to go into the world and disciple people in different ethnic groups. Baptizing, teaching are the process of disciple making.

God wants people everywhere to know Him. There are lots of people on earth that do not know who God is. How can these people put their trust in Him whom they have never heard anything about? And how can they hear about God if no one tells them? Who will go and tell them about the story of God's love? (Rom 10:13-16).

There are 16,800 nations / ethnic people groups in the world; 9,500 have been evangelized with viable churches among them. We refer to these category as evangelized or reached nations. We have about 7,300 unreached / least reached nations. Some of the ethnic groups in this category have no viable church and no enough Christians to evangelize the remaining members of the group.

Some of the unreached people groups live in



very remote places and difficult terrains. To get to them, you have to cross barriers such as cultural, language, political, geographical and religious barriers. Not that these people are unreachable it's just that the gospel has not reached them. 'About 6,000 out of 7,300 unreached people groups live in restricted access countries. 86% of the world's Hindu, Muslims, and Buddhists have never met a Christ follower' (Joshua Project). Not many people want to pay the price of evangelizing them. Majority of the unreached nations of the world live in the 10/40 Window.

### **The 10/40 Window**

This is a rectangular block on the world map. It's an area between latitude 10 and 40 degree north of the Equator. The following are peculiar to this window block:

- \* Half of the world's least evangelized cities of the world are in this window.
- \* 85% of the people of those living in the 10/40 window are the poorest of the world poor.
- \* This area has high population concentration - Two third of the world population live within the window.
- \* High concentration of major world religions such as Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Unreligion and Tribal.
- \* 95% of the people living in the 10/40 window are unevangelized.

### **The 4/14 Window: Ages of Opportunity and Challenge**

Whereas the 10/40 Window is a geographical block, the 4/14 is a demographic window. These are young people of the world between the ages of 4 - 14 years. This age bracket is believed to be "more open, receptive, and moldable to every form of spiritual and developmental input.". About 85% of believers in the world are believed to have made commitment to Christ within the age bracket. And that if we hope to complete the task of global evangelization, we need to go back to discipling children within this age bracket without neglecting those in other age brackets.

"The most compelling fact regarding the relationship between the 10/40 Window and the 4/14 Window is that our efforts should be refocused on the 4/14 within the 10/40 in order to reach the most receptive persons in the area of the greatest need and opportunity. In so doing we are also recognizing the importance of children and youth in God's work of transforming the world." *Transform world New Generation*

### **The Messenger: Luke 10:2-3**

God's purpose is to MAKE HIMSELF KNOWN, and to achieve this purpose, God sends certain people on a MISSION.

Those whom God sends are often called missionaries. This word means "SENT ONES." Missionaries are people sent by God to be God's MESSENGERS and God's WITNESSES and God's SPOKESMEN. A missionary is one who has obeyed the Lord and is taking the gospel to places where it has not been preached. As a disciple, he goes with a simple goal of making disciples. Missionaries are motivated by the love of God, burden for the lost and commitment to the course of the gospel.

Consider John 17:18

**The Message:** Acts 4:12, Romans 10:9-10; Isaiah 28:16

What has He sent us with? What kind of message has God given us? See 1 Thessalonians 2:4

The message centres around the Sender. God wants this message to go to every where See Mark 16:15.

### **Why Should Children be Involved?**

- \* It is a command of the Lord given to His



Church. And children, being an integral part of the Church, are expected to be involved.

- \* The end of the age is tied to the preaching of the gospel in all nations - Matt 24:14
- \* Children constitute a significant percentage of the Church population. We need to enlist them into the harvest workforce if we hope to get enough hands to complete the task.
- \* God used children who knew Him in scripture to spread the goodnews and impact nations. Children are often the most effective agents for mission. Jesus knew their worth (Matt 11:25-26).

### **Motivating Children for Missions**

The following can help children to cultivate the heart for missions:

1. Tell them missionary stories in Bible Club and Sunday schools. Encourage them to read Biographies of missionaries.
2. Expose the children to things from other cultures / nations such as crafts, games, music, food, videos of other countries, and greetings. You can start collection of stamps from other nations
3. Get children to dramatize stories about missions/missionaries
4. Your Children's Church can adopt a missionary or mission field.
5. Get the children to write letters to missionaries on the field and read the missionaries letters to them
6. Play games that teach about missions, e.g.

matching games (matching missionaries to the countries where they work).

7. Teach missions in Holiday camps, Children's Church, Bible club
8. Encourage outreach in your community and teach them how to witness.
9. Plan visits to nearby mission fields especially during holidays.
10. You can invite missionaries to visit your home or Church and give children opportunity to interact with them.

### **How Children Can be Involved**

1. Praying for missions: using Globe, Map of countries, Flags, Alphabets of First names, etc.
2. Giving: They can give their widow's mite to support missions and missionaries on the field.
3. Write letters to encourage missionaries on the field
4. Mission Trips: They can spend part of their holidays on a mission field to have a feel of the missionary life. Church and Christian organizations can arrange for regular vacation mission trips that would include children.
5. They can become missionaries someday. The seed of mission sown today can encourage them to go into missionary service.





# SHARING THE VISION



We shall be considering the following under this topic:

1. What is a vision?
2. What is the vision to share?
3. Why do we need to share the vision?
4. How soon should the vision be shared?
5. Consequences of not sharing the vision.
6. Methods of sharing the vision.
7. Practical demonstration.

## 1) WHAT IS A VISION?

A vision is said to be the ability or power to see and imagine. It is the ability to see or the power of imagination. It is a thing one believed to be seen and made real to him and his conviction of it coming to pass.

## 2) WHAT IS THE VISION TO SHARE?

According to Mark 10:14, Jesus Christ our Lord had a vision and this was so real to him that he was ready to rebuke anyone against that vision. This is the same vision we are to share, that the children should be brought to Christ and must not be hindered; this is the vision. It is what you see that is your vision Habakkuk 2:1. What do you see about children? Do you see it the way the Master sees it? If yes, that is your vision.

## 3) WHY DO WE NEED TO SHARE THE VISION?

- a. For increase and establishment of God's Kingdom. Acts 20:35; Matt.24:14.
- b. God commanded it. Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19-20.
- c. Lack of vision makes the people perish. Prov.29:18.
- d. It is meant for an appointed time. Habakkuk 2:3. Any delay may be costly. Time is involved. Eccl.3:1-2.

## 4) HOW SOON SHOULD THE VISION BE SHARED?

- a. Immediately it is received - John 4:29 (Rapid response).
- b. Run with it. Habakkuk 2:2.

## 5) CONSEQUENCES OF NOT SHARING THE VISION

- a. We shall have a backsliding church, full of evil. Lam.2:7-9; Judges 2:10-11; John 21:3.
- b. The children will perish. Prov.29:18.
- c. The coming Kingdom of God will be delayed - Matt.24:14.
- d. The Devil's Kingdom will be promoted.

## 6) METHODS OF SHARING THE VISION

- a. Write it out for people to read. Hab.2:2; Dan.5:24-25. Write books, magazines on children ministry.
- b. Publish it for people to know. Psalm 68:11; Newsletters; Reports.
- c. Speak of it before people. 1 Samuel 3:10; Acts 22:1-21. God shared his vision with Samuel. Paul shared his vision with Timothy. Promotionals are to be done in churches, fellowship, T.V., Radio, Buses etc.
- d. Reproduce yourself by teaching others. Matt.28:20. Introduce them to training such as Basic Course and Intensive training on child evangelism.

## 7) STRATEGIES FOR MOBILISING WORKERS

1. Identify your target audience: Parents (home), teachers (public and private schools), Sunday school teachers (church), nurses (hospitals), students (schools), Pastors/Christian workers (churches/fellowships), etc.
2. Arrange for promotions in Churches, schools, etc. Visit people, invite some to dinner, invite to a meeting.
3. Introduce them to :  
Training such as Basic Course, Intensive training, Short-term training (week-end).
4. To reach every nook and corner of your state:
  - a. Know the number of the Local Governments and their headquarters.
  - b. Know the location and number of churches in your area; pray the Lord to raise workers among them.
  - c. Have an estimate of the number of teachers and Bible Clubs you need in each local government area etc.



# INTRODUCTION TO PROMOTIONAL CHALLENGES

## INTRODUCTION

More often than not, many Christian groups, ministries, and other para church organisations have a common problem: "the devil hinders their rapid growth" they often claim.

While we cannot entirely exonerate the devil as being responsible for slowing down the rate of growth of these organisations, there are also enough proofs to support the claim that most of them suffer from the lack of strategic and co-ordinated promotional challenges.

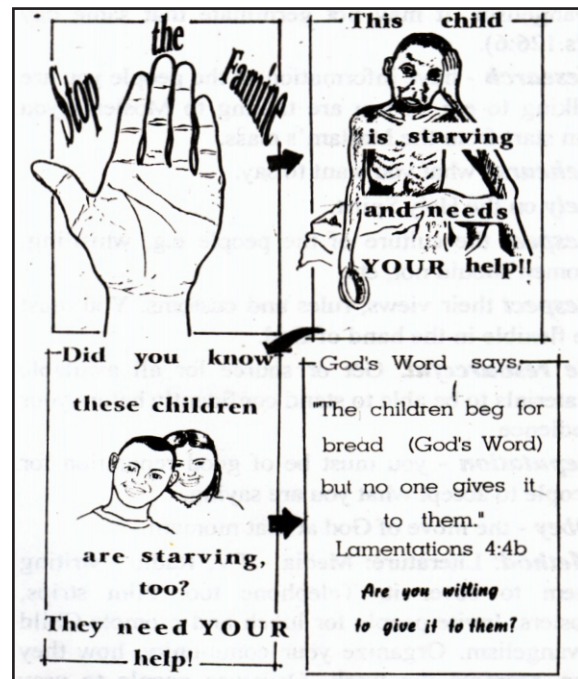
## DEFINITION

Promotions can be said to mean, "make known," "publicise," "attract attention to something," "educate others about something" etc.

What a good advertisement does to a new product, a Spirit-led and good promotional challenge does for any Christian group of God-given vision.

Agreed that God's work is not expected to degenerate to the level of complete dependence on "physical weapons" (2 Cor.10:4), it is also true that God's work can and should in fact, benefit immensely from the current "breakthroughs" in all fields of human endeavours, after all wisdom comes from our God.

Most manufacturing companies find it necessary to employ advertising managers, sales personnel etc, whose primary duties among others is to use the electronic and print media and even individual contacts in selling products, most of which do not have eternal values. The politicians could spend a fortune on propaganda and campaigns even to the



remotest of places, making promises that more often than not do not go beyond their lips. THEN, the Christian has every right to effectively and consistently promote God's word and work, using all scriptural and legitimate approaches.

The fact that evangelising children is still a "new product," "a strange concept", even among many Christians, orthodox and evangelicals alike, makes it more imperative for all those involved in evangelism to be vigorously engaged in promoting this all important concept at every opportunity.

## DEVELOPING THE PROMOTIONS

1. Prayer (Matt.9:37) is very important. Prayer makes your work easier. You soak the work in prayer.
2. Prominent. Let your aim be prominent. Your vision should be prominently that of evangelizing children. Your interest should be in children.
3. Ponder - think of how you can link up every



spiritual aspect to children.

interested in what you are doing.

4. Pictures - use pictures of children. Use many teaching aids. Cut and keep them you might find them handy to use in your promotionals.
5. Plant - the vision and burden of CEM/or child evangelism. It may not germinate that same day (Ps.126:6).
6. Research - have information of the people you are talking to e.g. If you are talking to Moslems you can start from the Mallam's class.
7. Rehearse what you want to say.
8. Rely on the Holy Spirit.
9. Respect the culture of the people e.g. whistling: women should not etc.
10. Respect their views, rules and customs. You must be flexible in the hand of God.
11. Be resourceful. Get or source for all available materials to be able to stand confidently before your audience.
12. Reputation - you must be of good reputation for people to accept what you are saying.
13. Obey - the move of God at that moment.
14. Method: Literature: Media - TV, radio - write them to cover it; use telephones too, film strips and posters. Invite people for lunch and promote Child Evangelism. Organize your community, how they can promote the work. Organise people to pray with you. Visit people as often as possible. Trust God to give results to that ministry... God gives the increase.
15. Time - be conscious of the time given to you and stick to it. Stand up, Speak up, Shut up.
16. Inspire yourself by keeping record of people who say they will pray and give to you. Your own prayer alone may not counteract the attack of the enemy. This inspires you when you are feeling low or discouraged.
17. Interest: Show that you are excited and
18. On no occasion should you fail to apologise for failing to keep to appointment, preferably before the appointment time.
19. Never give up; no matter how tough the situation, never give up. God will reward your patience and faithfulness. Never leave the meeting without giving them a handout.
20. Always remember that it is God who gives the increase. It is God who calls people. Even if you like the face of the person, allow God to call that person.
21. Learn from your mistakes, we are still growing. Here we may be matured and know between good and evil; you may make mistakes but learn from them.
22. C.E.M. Is a service organisation. Don't tell the people "you must." We are to give our lives to them.

#### **SOME MORE HINTS IN PROMOTIONALS**

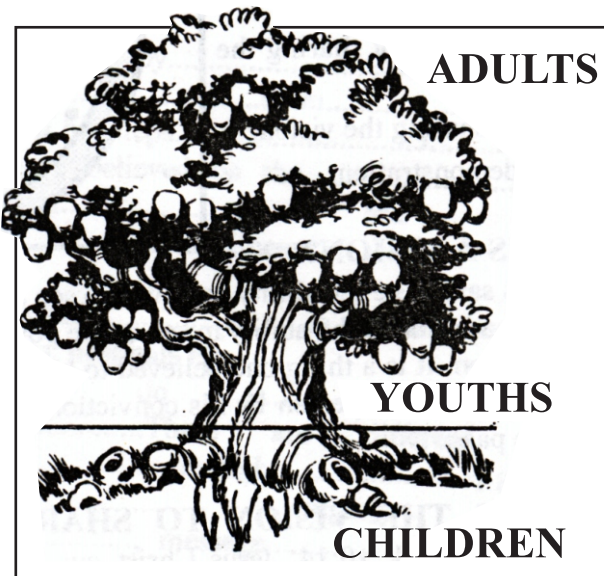
- i. Your appearance tells what you are and the organisation you belong to. We must be properly dressed always.
- ii. If you visit someone in his/her absence, leave a note on a clean sheet of paper to show you were around in his/her absence.
- iii. Don't leave without praying with the individual. When you visit, get to the point.
- iv. Don't discuss the weather - then pack your things and go.
- v. It is not time to look at magazines, books etc on the table.
- vi. Wait until you are told to sit down.





## EXAMPLES OF THROWING CHALLENGES/PROMOTIONALS

1. Uncles, aunties, daddies and mummies how many of you have stubborn, strong-willed children whose behaviour if not checked may bring you reproach? Wait until you attend the forth-coming C.E.M training program.



**2. Present a picture of a tree.** Ask them the part of the tree that if cut off will end the life of the tree (roots). Put adults, Youths and children against the tree as shown

### 3 Mashaki

Mashaki hailed from a village where rain was a challenge. Whenever it rains, all the activities in the village become entirely paralysed. No one could move around or do anything. One day Mashaki decided to go to a nearby city in search of solution to this problem. Hurriedly, Mashaki bought an umbrella and rushed back to his village. He announced to everyone that he has found the solution to the problem. When it started raining, everyone came out to see what Mashaki would do. He came into the rain holding the umbrella in his hands. He was seriously wet and the people mocked him. The next day he was back in the city in annoyance. "Take your umbrella and give me my money. You deceived me". "What did you do?" "I carried the umbrella", he replied. "No, you are supposed to put it on your head". He went back to the village and called the people together again. When it rained,

Mashaki simply put the umbrella on his head and walked in the rain. Of course, he was soaked. He went to the city again the following day to complain. You asked me to put it on my head and that was exactly what I did'. 'Sorry, i should have told you to open it first. Come and let me show you'. The man then showed Mashaki the button to press that will open the umbrella and how he would position it on his head.

In the same way, it is not everybody who loves to teach children knows what to do. If you attend our basic course training, you will be shown/taught how to evangelize and communicate with the child.

### 4.The Diligent Hospital worker

A story was told of a particular hospital, in a particular ward at a particular time. For a period of time the hospital was losing lives each day, Between 4.30am and 5.30am in the intensive care unit babies were dying every day. It became a concern to all the rank and file of the hospital management. Several helps were sought to stop the evil including deliverance prayers by anointed deliverance ministers but this did not help matters. The matter soon became a headline News. A concerned individual decided to keep a vigil to find out the root of the problem, He said, "This is the second week, we have registered the 10<sup>th</sup> death from this same ward". At exactly 4.30am a newly employed, zealous cleaner who loves to clean up her assigned duty post before the day breaks walked into the ward, picked her sweeping machine, walked to the wall, unplug the socket of one of the incubating machines of the children's ward and plug her machine to the socket and start her cleaning. This has been her routine in the past nine days since the zealous and dutiful cleaner was employed. The child in the incubation contrasts and dies within minutes. This happened because this staff was employed and posted without proper





## EXAMPLES OF THROWING CHALLENGES/PROMOTIONALS

orientation.

This and the likes are woes and havoc that could be caused by untrained men/workers.

### 5. Candle Poem

The Story of Four Candles

Just see how short this candle is, the candle I am holding . it represents a man who found the Lord when he was old,. And though his light is shining now and bright beyond a doubt He hasn't much to give because his light will soon be out.

This candle that I have will burn much longer than the other.

I love its glowing light, don't you?

It represent s a mother who found the Lord in middle age: her children were all grown If only she had known the Lord when they were still at home

This candle is a longer one. It represents a youth, who gave his heart to God and walks the path of right and truth.

His light can shine out long and bright with many trophies won, With more to give because he found the Lord when he was young

This candle is the longest one I'm sure you'll like it best. Because you know 'twill shed its light much longer than the rest. It represents a little child who heard the call and receive Jesus. He has many years to serve the Lord and shine in Jesus name. (Author Unknown)

