



Global mission report summary

TN42a Training Notes series: Planning

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These notes give a brief summary of the recommendations given in the global mission report described in **TN42. Those training notes deliberately focus on the review process rather than on the content of the report itself.**

It is important to note that the recommendations were made for one church at one stage of its life. They are not to be seen as universal, although the principles undergirding them may well have wider application. This summary should not be seen as a quick cut for any other church and, partly for this reason, the full report is not provided.

In the report itself (5,000 words), most numbered paragraphs consist of between one and four sentences. A few include a bulleted list of some kind.

1 **Terms of reference and structure of report**

- 1.1 Overview of task.
- 1.2 The brief in full (six sections).
- 1.3 Group members, and their discussions with other stakeholders.
- 1.4 Outline structure of the report and its biblical foundation.

2 **Background and present position**

- 2.1 The church's past interest in global mission.
- 2.2 A previous missionary project that was enthusiastically supported.
- 2.3 Recent support for the church's gap year mission workers.
- 2.4 But the current position seen as inward-looking in spite of the work of missionary reps.

- 2.5 Present links and work of the missionary committee.
- 2.6 Global mission not high on the church's present agenda.
- 2.7 Financial giving channelled through the church accounts shown to be falling.
- 2.8 Yet local mission has a high profile – and the church's vision is to be a mission-centred church – so a fresh approach required.

3 Recommended principles for global mission

- R3.1 To adopt five principles relating to central enthusiasm, God's call on people's lives, meaningful and personal links, much improved support and giving, and a rich variety of engagement with a flexible approach.
- R3.2 To use the following terminology (each term is defined): mission, global mission, partners, projects.
- R3.3 To take the church's vision statement seriously so that global mission takes a high place on the church's agenda for all ages (worked out in part 4).
- R3.4 To encourage everyone to engage in witness and ministry throughout the world and to challenge everyone to be open to service elsewhere.
- R3.5 To seek meaningful relationships with a smaller number of partners worldwide (worked out in part 5).
- R3.6 To be generous in financial giving for mission, both corporately and individually (worked out in part 6).
- R3.7 To seek diversity: short-term and long-term service, UK and abroad, direct evangelism and compassionate ministries, people and projects.

4 Practical recommendations for providing necessary challenge

- R4.1 To include this topic in the church's sermon programme.
- R4.2 To encourage innovation in visits, internet link-ups, etc.
- R4.3 To encourage monthly news from each partner for church, small groups and clusters.
- R4.4 To encourage travel to partners as well as their coming to the church.
- R4.5 To appoint a 'champion' to head this area of church life.
- R4.6 To see this champion develop and operate a global mission strategy.
- R4.7 To give the champion an accountability 'support group'.
- R4.8 To arrange occasional events to promote a wider range of mission links.

5 Practical recommendations for creating meaningful links

- R5.1 To aim for links with, perhaps, four specific partners rather than a traditional list of sending agencies.
- R5.2 To reduce the present list to those with whom the church has personal links (specified names).
- R5.3 To drop current support, with sadness, to the following (listed).
- R5.4 To introduce the additional concept of a 'Project for the Year'.

- R5.5 To continue to support members on short-term placements: gap year, retireds, etc.
- R5.6 To include one such link in each Sunday's intercessions and monthly prayer diary.
- R5.7 To link to each partner through the support group (rather than individual reps as now).
- R5.8 To include children and teens in every aspect of this.

6 **Practical recommendations for offering realistic finance**

- R6.1 To continue the giving of 10% of church's income to external mission.
- R6.2 But to fund local Christian work from general funds, so allowing more to be given to external mission through this proportion and also removing a current confusion.
- R6.3 To encourage the congregation to give individually to the selected partners and the annual project, whether directly or through the church accounts.
- R6.4 To aim for the equivalent of a further 20% of the church's turnover to be given in this way (an appendix shows how the figures would work out for each partner and project).
- R6.5 To treat emergencies (eg. world disasters) as one-off appeals in addition to the above.

7 **Conclusion** (Recommendations for the Church Council)

- R7.1 To accept the need for a change of heart towards global mission.
- R7.2 To discuss and wholeheartedly agree all the above recommendations.
- R7.3 To appoint a Global Mission Champion and support group with appropriate job description and person profile.
- R7.4 To agree to be role models for the church in the support of global mission.
- R7.5 To put in place an implementation process and then disband the review group.

Appendices on the church vision statement (highlighting relevant sections), lists of former church members now ordained or working in Christian mission in some way, and one on finance showing, in some detail, the current mission budget and how the proposed changes would impact on this for the current and next years.

These notes are available at <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Training-Notes-index> then TN42a. For a more thorough review of all church life, see HC4 & 5, *The Church Health Review* in the Health-checks pages of the Resources section and Article A35, *Mapping your church*. Training Notes TN103, *How to encourage creative thinking*, and TN116, *Global mission giving*, are also relevant.

John's resources are marked for filing categories of Leadership, Management, Structures, Planning, Communication and Administration. File TN42a under Planning.

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