

SIX

COMPONENTS OF THE MISSIONARY TASK



6 COMPONENTS OF THE MISSIONARY TASK

Entry

Entry is the component of the missionary task that looks at how to access people who need to hear the gospel. This part of the task includes four primary elements: research, presence, identity, and communication ability. Strategies for Entry are often prayerfully crafted with a view toward potential progress in each of the other missionary task components. Entry plans are often evaluated by their potential to impact the other 5 components of the missionary task with a view toward Healthy Church Formation and Exiting to Partnership.

Evangelism

Evangelism is the responsibility of every follower of Jesus. The foundation of disciple-making is evangelism that is clear in its proclamation of the full content of the gospel message. Intentionality, planning, and accountability for evangelism are expected of every IMB missionary team. Even in areas where the focus of the work is on leadership training, and local believers and churches are actively sharing the gospel, IMB missionaries must engage in evangelism as a model of what is expected of every believer.

Discipleship

The central command of the Great Commission is to make disciples. Discipleship involves the intentional transformation of the heart, mind, affections, will, relationships, and purpose, without pitting the importance of one against another. Essential tools for discipling new believers include the word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God.

Healthy Church Formation

A church is a group of baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are committed to each other to be the body of Christ to one another and who meet together regularly to carry out the functions of a biblical church. IMB is committed to planting healthy churches that multiply. Our missionaries' role in church planting is not normally to start a church and then settle in as the long-term pastor of that church. Rather, IMB missionaries work to make disciples and train indigenous pastors/elders/overseers to lead any churches that are formed. IMB plants churches that align with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

Leadership Development

Biblical leadership is essential to the well-being of every local church. One of the measures of completion of the missionary task is the development of those who can train other leaders and even create systems for training those trainers within the churches in each people group or place. This includes everything from basic training for village pastors to educating theologians and biblical scholars. IMB missionaries work to establish self-sustaining systems of theological and pastoral training.

Exit to Partnership

IMB's goal is to complete the missionary task in each people group or place and then to exit to partnership with the new churches taking ownership in the ongoing task of global evangelism. Exit to partnership can occur when the local churches from that people or place are actively participating in all six components of the core missionary task and embracing their own stewardship and responsibility for fulfilling the Great Commission. IMB missionaries make decisions concerning when to exit with deep reliance on the leadership of the Holy Spirit, in much prayer, and in close cooperation with local church leaders. We begin our work with this end in mind, and then regularly evaluate progress toward this end.

ENTRY

Unengaged Peoples

Unengaged peoples are defined by IMB as people groups who, to the best of our knowledge, have no evangelical presence, neither missionaries from outside nor local Christians from within, implementing a church planting strategy among that people group.

Unreached Peoples

Unreached peoples are defined as people groups with less than 2% evangelical Christian populations. People groups come off and on this list as populations change, previous generations of Christians go to be with the Lord, or people come to saving faith. The list is designed to highlight, at any given point in time, possible priority people groups needing missionary effort.

UUPG

When both terms, Unengaged and Unreached, apply to people groups (called UUPGs), they are tracked in a separate list to highlight the overwhelming need to see disciples made and churches started among them. Sometimes lists of UUPGs published by various organizations differ. This is to be expected, as this term is man-defined, and organizations may view different activities within the missionary task as engagement. For example, some organizations view attempted evangelism or human needs ministries as engagement. IMB has chosen not to count a group as engaged until there are missionaries on the ground working to implement a church planting strategy.

Impacted Peoples	Impacted Peoples are defined as individuals and people groups who had any of the six missionary task activities performed among them by IMB field personnel and partners. Impacted does not necessarily mean engaged with a church planting strategy.
Great Commission Christian Partners	A GCC (Great Commission Christian) is a term used to designate partners, both international and domestic, that work for the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20) and share evangelical alignment.
People Group	A people group is the largest group through which the gospel can flow and churches can form without encountering significant barriers of understanding and acceptance. People groups can evolve over time. One or more of the following factors may define or assist in the identification of a particular people group: Ethnicity, Language, Culture, Religion, Citizenship, Geography, Caste, Clan, Tribe, Self-Identity.
Global Status of Evangelical Christianity (GSEC)	Global Status of Evangelical Christianity (GSEC) IMB maintains a scale called the Global Status of Evangelical Christianity (GSEC). This scale from 0 to 6 combines the state of the Church (the presence of Christians and churches within a people group) with that group's current status of engagement (Unengaged or Engaged) and "reached-ness" (Reached or Unreached). This scale helps IMB field leadership identify people groups that currently have the least possibility of having disciples made and churches planted among them.
Explorer	An Explorer is a young man or woman sent out to find, share the gospel with, and bring back actionable data about the remaining 3,072 unengaged unreached people groups, so any truly unengaged unreached people groups may be fully engaged with church planting strategies by 2033.

EVANGELISM

Heard Gospel	The number of people who heard a partial or full gospel presentation.
Opportunity to Respond	The number of people who heard a full gospel presentation and had an opportunity to respond.
New Believers	The number of people who decided to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
Baptisms	The number of people who have come to saving faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized by immersion as an act of obedience and testimony to the Lord before others.

DISCIPLESHIP

Individuals Discipled	The number of individuals who received some relational or instructional discipleship throughout the reporting year.
Given Basic Discipleship	The number of new or existing believers given foundational or elementary discipleship in the faith.

Trained in Evangelism	The number of believers given training or discipleship about how to share the gospel with others.
Trained to Make Disciples	The number of believers given discipleship specifically geared toward teaching or equipping them how to disciple others.
Trained in Church Planting	The number of individuals who were disciplined or trained in how to plant churches.
Trained in Bible Storying	The number of individuals who were trained to tell Bible Stories and/or train others to tell Bible Stories.
Discipled in Theology or Doctrine	The number of individuals who were given theological or doctrinal discipleship or instruction.
Trained in Church Health	The number of individuals who were disciplined or trained in the twelve characteristics of healthy churches.

HEALTHY CHURCH FORMATION

New Groups	A group is a gathering of people that intends to become a church according to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 definition of church. These groups represent a group of believers and non-believers meeting together in the early formation stage of church. This statistic refers only to groups started within the reporting year.
New Churches	A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. (For further definition, please see the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 or IMB's Foundations document). This statistic refers only to groups that became churches during the reporting year.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Individuals Trained	The number of leaders or potential leaders who received some relational or instructional training or discipleship throughout the reporting year.
Trained in Preaching or Teaching	The number of leaders or potential leaders who were trained in how to preach and teach.
Trained as a Pastor or Elder	The number of local church or group leaders or potential leaders disciplined to carry out the functions of church in a local setting.
Trained in Church Planting	The number of leaders or potential leaders disciplined in the necessary character and skills to facilitate church formation. Such training can take various forms depending on the local situation.
Trained in Evangelism	Evangelism training refers to discipleship given to leaders or potential leaders about how to share the gospel with others.

Trained in Church Health

The number of leaders or potential leaders who were disciplined or trained in the twelve characteristics of healthy churches.

Trained in Biblical Counseling

The number of leaders or potential leaders who were trained in Biblical Counseling and Church member care.

Trained in Theology or Doctrine

The number of leaders or potential leaders who were given theological or doctrinal discipleship or instruction.

EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP

Globalization

Globalization is the intentional work with national partners to help them embrace their role in the Great Commission, seeking to encourage and expand their capacity to send and receive national partner missionaries. All over the world, national Baptists and other followers of Jesus are recognizing that they are no longer a mission field, but a potential mission force to take the gospel where it has not been received from Western missionaries. Many who have been nurtured and disciplined by IMB missionaries are now asking IMB for training help to send their own missionaries to the nations.

Trained in Cross-Cultural Sending

The number of leaders or believers who were trained and disciplined in missions sending.

Global Missionary Partner

A global missionary partner (GMP) is a national partner follower of Jesus, who is called by God to be a cross-cultural missionary, assessed and sent by their local church and sending entity, affirmed by IMB field personnel, working in cooperation with an IMB field team.

GMPs Sent

The number of Global Missionary Partners sent to a particular affinity.

GMPs Received

The number of Global Missionary Partners received by a particular affinity.

Self-sustaining ownership

Self-sustaining ownership is a term used when a people group has baptized believers and churches sufficiently disciplined to take indigenous responsibility for their role in the fulfillment of the Great Commission through the making of disciples of all nations and the planting of healthy multiplying churches. It is a key indicator in the move toward Exit to Partnership.

A NOTE ABOUT STATISTICAL REPORTING

IMB reporting statistics are based upon ministry faithfulness and the resulting impact from the Lord in the six core components of the missionary task. Any statistical numbers reported represent work done by IMB personnel and their baptistic partners, as reported by IMB field leaders. Care in reporting has been taken to provide accurate numbers that represent IMB's commitment, like the Apostle Paul, to not report upon work done outside of the sphere apportioned to us by the Lord (2 Cor. 10:12-18). This means that statistics may change from year to year due to changes in reporting relationships with partners. Changes in statistical reporting may or may not reflect actual progress or regress in the missionary task.