

Update

From your State Mission Board

Greetings from your Ohio Mission Board!

We the Missions Board have found it necessary to inform the Ohio Free Will Baptists of the working and plans of the Ohio State Free Will Baptists Home Missions Board. The board being made up of ministers, who have been tested and found worthy, and count it a blessing to serve in this capacity for the planting and supporting of missions work.

Board members are made up by the following men: Rev. **Roland Luthy** (Chairman), Rev. **Paul Etterling** (Clerk/Treasurer), Rev. **Bruce Copley**, Rev. **Roger Daniel**, Rev. **Jerry Sargent**, Rev. **Tim Stout** and Rev. **Mike Gladson**. The Missions Board has been working on educating itself so we can do a more efficient job in the future. We have found that even though we have been successful in the past at starting and leading missions to a self-supporting status, we feel we can do a better job with our mission works, by assessment of both missionaries and locations. We have discussed developing our own assessment programs and/or using programs that already exist. We have found several programs that have been doing assessments for years and have cut the cost and time span in launching and leading a mission church to success. We have looked at and recognized the success of the Go Projects Assessment Center.

The Go Projects Assessment Center is a ground set up for the assessment potential church planters. The assessment of the individual's calling, readiness, gifts and talents to be successful in church planting. Their hope is that the assessment process is a powerful, Spirit guided, affirming moment on the journey of prospective church planters. Most Go Projects Assessments processes, helps prospective planters evaluate gifts, talents, temperaments, mental and emotional stability, behavior styles, experiences, backgrounds, dreams, aspirations, and it guides them in their decision making process.

The challenge that we as a mission board have today even after improving our education and securing an assessment program is we have no missionaries. I think that it has come time to ask the same question that the voice of the Lord asked Isaiah in Isaiah 6:8, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" The "whom" are those who are assessed and qualified for missions. The "*who will go for us?*" is the question. Most Bible scholars feel the "us" is the Trinity, as was stated in Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7. The question now falls on the Ohio State Free Will Baptist Churches and their Home Missions Board. We the pastors and the Sunday School teachers have to share the importance of men and women answering the call to work missions. We have to pass on the value of the local church.

It is simply a deduction of thought, we as Christians would not be here unless someone had the vision for a local church. We owe it to the next generation to have church planters, launching, working and training people the operation of the local church and it's value. Throughout the New Testament, the Bible writers addressed and challenged the local

church. Someone started them and people have been starting them ever since. They were started by missionaries who took the challenge, answered the call, stepped out on faith and planted a church. We can ask any pastor who has started a church from scratch and they will tell you of the challenges, the fears, the joys, the success, the closeness they felt to God, the excitement of winning souls and teaching the basics of Christianity. Then, watching people grow into mature Christians and seeing others bringing their families and loved ones to church to hear the music and hearing the preaching from God's Word and feeling the love of God draw them to an altar. Also seeing them delivered from their sin, welcomed into the family of God, baptized by the pastor and taught to serve the Lord. WOW! All because someone wanted to plant a church! Praise the Lord! A person answered, when asked 'who will go for us?'

Sometimes I have people ask me, "Don't you think there are enough churches out there?" My answer is, not until everyone is saved! With all the churches out there, there are still enough lost souls to go around. The sad thing is, when we go to assess an area, we find some of the best locations are in where there are plenty of churches, but very little gospel. It is the gospel that saves and it must be delivered to the next generation. Some of us "old timers" won't be around to do that, that's why we need missionaries.

Missionaries, so many times are under appreciated, under recognized and under acknowledged in the past, so that it has become a ministry that is to be undesired. The old process is that missionaries were underpaid and left by themselves, were not challenged, not coached or directed prayerfully and was just not presented as a positive position for God's work. I even hear the aged pastors complain about their calling being hard, not appreciated and not worth the effort. Let me challenge anyone that is working for God, it is the most worthwhile vocation out there.

We need to look at what we are and who we are working for. First, the Kingdom of God. If we have a future, past this life, the only option is God's Kingdom and too many of us have forgotten that, we need to remember that His Kingdom is forever. What other job promises that or what other vocation is out there that we can offer that to others, whether it is mission work or pastoring, we get to offer forever to people. Second, we need to remember we are ambassadors for **Jesus Christ**. We get the privilege of representing Him in everything we do. Who has a boss with so much grace? Who has a boss with so much love or who has a boss with so many benefits in living? Not only does He give us grace in forgiveness, He gives us grace in our daily activities. He is always there for us. We need to let the world and our churches know this. One of the ways is to preach the calling of God, for ministry. The word ministry throughout the Bible means service. We have a lot of churches that uses the title. They have parking lot ministry, outreach ministry, nursery ministry, music ministry and cleaning ministry and so on. All of these are truly ministries because they are service unto the Lord, but it is through the preaching ministry, that people are saved. The ministry of preaching is the one that challenges through the Word of God, I Corinthians 1:26b, "*it pleased God by the foolishness (absurdity) of preaching to save them that believe.*" We need preachers to preach the value of the call of God for the preaching ministries, pastors, evangelists and missionaries, too.

Mission works, being your board's responsibility, we not only need missionaries, but we need pastors and evangelists, preaching that calling as a very valued vocation for God. Let me give you a direction.

FIRST: TIME!

We all have it. We all deal with it. We all use it. The Bible says we need to redeem it (Eph 5:16).

a. Take time to pray that God will give you messages that draw people to the preaching ministries, (especially Ohio missionaries).

- b. Take time to remind yourself how blessed you are and share it.
- c. Take time for discernment of who in your church would fit the description of a missionary.
- d. Take time to council with those that are interested. Encourage them!
- e. Point them to your Ohio Free Will Baptist Missions Board.

SECOND: TOUCH!

- a. Be in touch with God on this subject (missionaries)
- b. Be in touch with the need out there of people in Ohio, who don't have gospel preaching churches.
- c. Be in touch with the financial needs of our missionaries.
- d. Be in touch with the call for missionaries from your pulpits.

THIRD: TENDER! (Webster's meaning, consideration, regard)

- a. Our next generation. Our children, our children's children.
- b. Our relatives who live in areas where there are no Free Will Baptist Churches.
- c. Our friends that say, "I wish we had a church like this in our neighborhood".

Special Mission Service at Ohio State Meeting

We, the Ohio State Free Will Baptist Home Mission Board, would like to invite everyone to a special service, June 23, 2016. The title of this service is **'MISSIONS IN MOTION'**. It will be held at the Heritage Free Will Baptist Church at 7:00 pm. You must see that the mission board's approach is for the increase and approval of God in our missions planting and of the furthering of God's Kingdom here on earth. There will be special singing and speakers from the *Go Projects Assessment Center*. We will have preaching, teaching and a question and answering session. Come excited about learning more of the future of your Ohio State Free Will Baptist Mission Challenge. Your attendance will prove your interest in the future of the work and workers here in Ohio. Isaiah 6:8b... "*who will go for us?*"

Mission Board Representative

Rev. Roger Daniel