

The missionary endeavor has been part of God's plan for the church from the very beginning. Remember, it was part of Christ's commission to us that we are to "make disciple of all nations" (Matt. 28:19) by going into "all the world" (Mark 16:15) even "to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Today is our opportunity to participate in this great enterprise.

The Apostle Paul set the pattern for much of how we do missions today. The book of Acts, as we shall eventually see, shows how he was commissioned and sent by the church of Antioch, worked with a team, travelled to distant lands witnessing and planting churches, then finally returned back to Antioch to report. Through his letters we learn that he was supported in this work by the financial gifts and, perhaps more importantly, the prayers of other churches.

Since that time, there has been much innovation, too. Nowadays, missionaries utilize modern technologies like radio, TV and the internet to accomplish their task. Also, most missionaries today work through agencies, like the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE) with specialized skills to help them obtain and maintain visas, pay their taxes while abroad, and provide health care and retirement services among many others. These are all good things.

However, even with all of these advances, in the 21st century foreign missions is becoming increasingly difficult. More missionaries retire each year than are commissioned to replace them and it is taking longer and longer for new missionaries to raise the needed funds, particularly in these times when the US dollar is weakening against overseas currencies like the Euro and Yen. This is one of the reasons why we as a church are committed to maintaining such a high level of support for John & Michele – we do not want their important work delayed by the necessity of fundraising.

Today you will learn how John & Michele Morgan are out on the leading edge of innovation in missions today. It's very new and different – it may not even seem like "real missions" to some – but, I believe that what they are doing is critical to the ongoing success and effectiveness of global missions in these difficult times.

How will God ask you to respond today as you hear John & Michele's report? Perhaps to do no more than you are already doing. But maybe He has a special message for you today. It could be as simple as an increased commitment to pray for them more diligently. Or He could be calling you to step up and serve Him as the Morgans have for these many years. This morning I ask you to pray that you would hear God's call, whatever it is, and have the courage to obey.

Pastor Sean



***A new church,
An ancient message,
Contemporary relevance!***

***Missionary Report
John & Michele Morgan
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