

The Schlehlein Family

Missionaries to the Tsongas of southern Africa



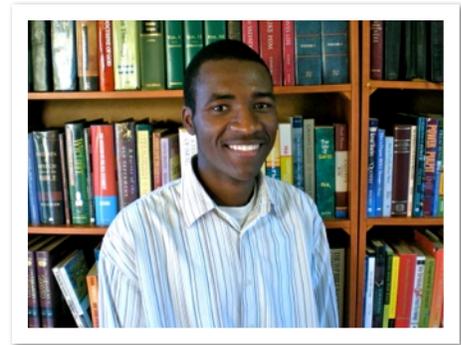
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The Difference Between Pastors and Missionaries

We find the words “pastor” and “evangelist” in Scripture, but not “missionary”. Are these roles the same, and if not, how are they different? What should be the goals of a missionary and what are his duties? Perhaps you’ve had these questions before, so here are some answers from a missionary who has wondered these things himself.

1. Missionaries cross cultures and languages

Contrary to popular opinion, not *everyone* is a missionary. At least, not any more than everyone is a pastor. A missionary is unique in that he endeavors to plant churches among people of a different race, culture, and language. St. James served more as a pastor by running the church in Jerusalem. Paul is a classic example of a missionary because he was always on the move looking for lesser reached places to evangelize (Rom. 15:20).



Denis Chimwee: student/church member

2. Missionaries love “self”

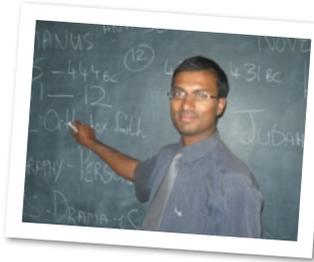
While it may be a virtue for a pastor to remain at the same church his whole life, a missionary is always trying to work himself out of a job. He labors to plant a *self-sustaining* church, one that is capable of surviving and thriving without the influence of the missionary’s money and preaching. Pastors hone their spiritual gifts to the fullest. Missionaries sometimes suppress the very things they are good at.

For example, Melinda and Amy are excellent pianists, but we do not use this instrument at our churches because we do not think it could be reproduced when we are gone. I’ve been to places where the missionary ran huge bus routes to pick up kids from the surrounding villages, but as soon as he left, the busses stopped.

The missionary’s goal is to nurture a flock that is also *self-propagating*, that is, a church that can produce other churches on its own. The moment the church becomes autonomous, the missionary is looking to leave.

3. Missionaries front-load the Gospel

Most American pastors look to plant churches where a certain area lacks their particular denomination or solid, biblical preaching. For a missionary, however, that is not enough. He listens for the echoes of



churchless parishes, not the din of religiosity. His roots are shallow, while the pastor's are deep. He is not afraid to teach in depth, but he strikes the Gospel nail endlessly until it is embedded deeply into the people's hearts and minds.

4. Missionaries are normal

We read the biographies of Hudson Taylor and Jim Elliot and conclude that missionaries must live on a higher spiritual plane. But missionaries struggle with the sins of laziness, lust, and pride just like everyone else. This is why it is imperative that churches keep their missionaries accountable in the realms of character, finances, language, family, and ministry. They shouldn't be afraid to ask questions like: "Why is your budget at this level?" or "What are you doing to improve in the language?" or "What are your short-term and long-term plans?"



How to Pray for our Ministries

- We need more women at our church. Our assembly is 90% men.
- LBI is probably relocating. We need wisdom and open doors.
- Our church is looking for a place to build.
- For the salvation of Vongi, Kelly, Mahlori, and Yvonne

For the sake of the elect,
Paul, Melinda & the kids