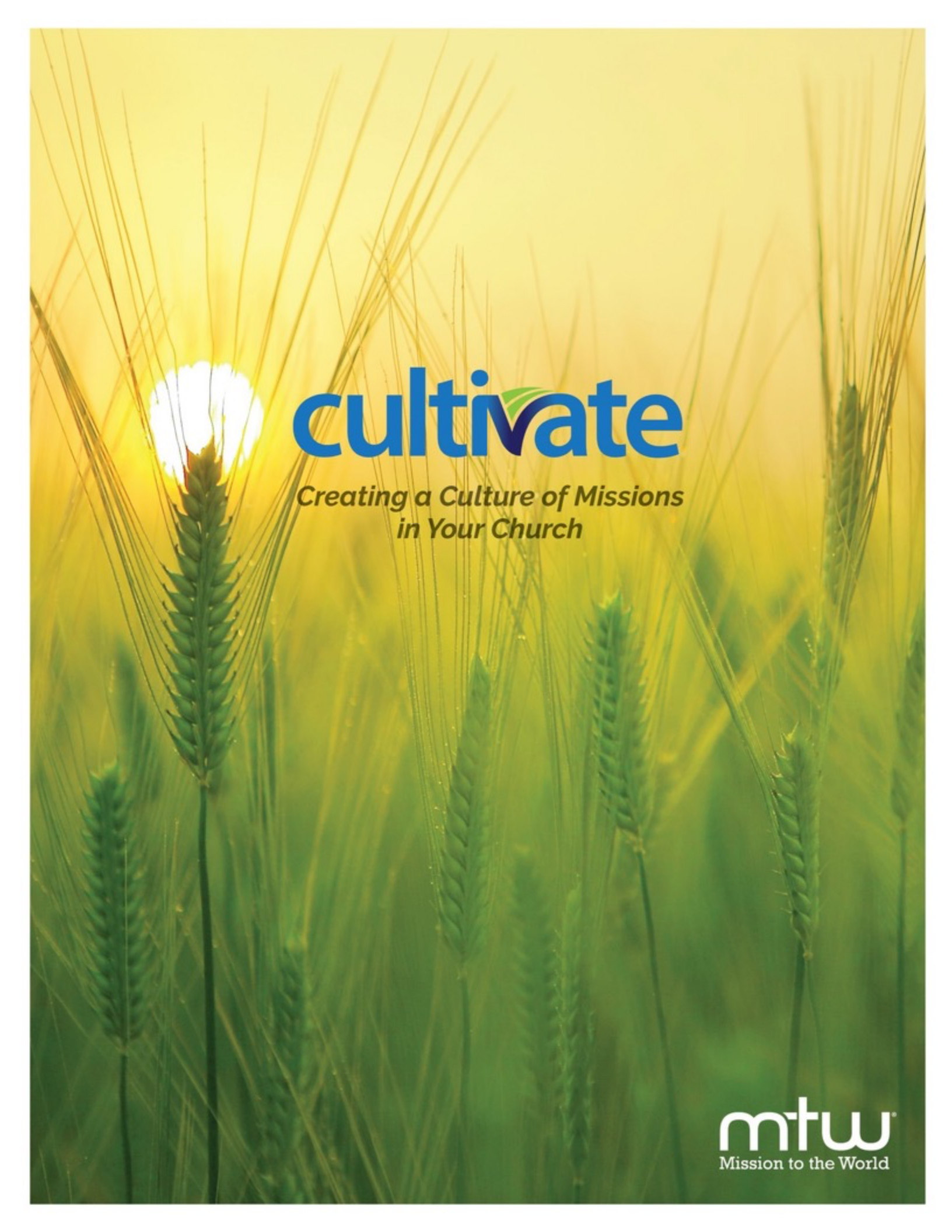




cultivate

*Creating a Culture of Missions
in Your Church*

mtw[®]
Mission to the World

Course Outline

I. Lay of the Land – God's Heart for the Nations

- a) Who is God?
- b) What is the Global Context?
- c) Where Are You?

II. Setting the Plow – Establishing Vision and Values

- a) Values
- b) Vision

III. Cultivating the Culture – Connecting and Engaging

- a) Connect
- b) Engage

IV. Workers for the Harvest – Raising up and Launching

- a) Acts 13
- b) Raising Up Workers
- c) Launching Workers

V. Next Steps Along the Path

- a) Next Steps
- b) Resources

4-Week Online Course	One-Day Seminar
Consists of (4) 1.5 hour Zoom Meetings scheduled over the course of a month (For example: Monday nights at 7:30 pm on Feb 3, 10, 17, and 24)	Consists of a single day, 6 hour seminar; typically 9 am- 3 pm with lunch
Led by MTW Trainer	Led by MTW Trainer
Church missions team members attend Zoom meetings together. There will be lots of time to work together on practical steps!	Church missions team members attend the One-Day Seminar together. There will be lots of time to work together on practical steps!
Online homework is given before seminar and in between meetings	Online homework is given before seminar
You will have an opportunity to learn from other churches also going through Cultivate	You will have an opportunity to learn from other churches also going through Cultivate



Setting the Plow

Optional Training Tip: Rate your church on the 5 Marks of a Sending Church

Get a simple assessment of those in the attendance by asking people to hold up fingers (1-5) to rate themselves on the 5 marks of a sending church as you review.

What Is the Goal? The Goal is to be a Sending Church

A sending church is one where missions is integrated into the church's spiritual fabric and one that prayerfully and deliberately identifies, equips, and sends its own members both locally and globally.

Sending Churches:

1. Establish vision and values that guide the focus and direction of missions
2. Challenge members through every avenue of spiritual formation of God's mission to bring the nations to Himself
3. Pray fervently for the Lord to raise up missionaries from the congregation
4. Identify, equip, and launch members who are called to missions
5. Establish a robust plan for ongoing care for missionaries serving on the field and while on home assignment

In order to become a sending church, it is essential to establish your values and vision.

Essential Values – Key Convictions for Missions

Values are the guiding principles that undergird your vision. Well-articulated values are essential in becoming a fully orbbed sending church. The following values use the acronym **G.R.A.S.P.** and encapsulate the convictions we believe are necessary for creating a culture of missions.

1. **Gospel-Centered – Understanding the mission of the church.**
The Great Commission is the specific task of the Church to be established among every people group. Stephen Neill says, "If everything is mission, nothing is mission." While there is a biblical call to evangelize locally and live missionally, the Great Commission is incomplete without intentionally and contextually proclaiming the

good news of Jesus Christ beyond our “Jerusalem” or our “Samaria” in order to establish gospel-centered churches.

Here is a concise statement to help us stay on task. “The mission of the church is to go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit and gathering these disciples into churches, that they might worship the Lord and obey his commands now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father.”

Kevin DeYoung, *What is the Mission of the Church*

2. **Recklessly Dependent – Stepping out in God-honoring faith**

Following Christ will require faith that seems reckless but honors Him. Every missions endeavor includes risk of some kind whether physical, emotional, or spiritual (and in most cases all three). Christ made it clear that doing the work of His kingdom will include suffering.

3. **Altogether Integrated – Including the whole church**

A successful missions movement in the church involves the whole church.

- a. The first key ingredient is an “**activated leadership**” willing to support and champion the vision (Matthew Ellison, *Sixteen:Fifteen*).
- b. A second key ingredient is engaging the whole congregation in missions. We acknowledge the priesthood of all believers with a diversity of spiritual gifts and talents. If time permits, show this video on the impact of pastors taking vision trips: www.vimeo.com/686401482

4. **Strategically Focused – Staying on course in global missions**

The saying is true, “If you aim at nothing, you’ll hit it every time.” Having an overarching strategic plan to follow is essential even as it changes over time. Through a combination of prayer, a biblical assessment of global needs, and your church’s unique calling, your church can take steps toward fulfilling your vision and strategy.

5. **Prayer for Advancing Missions – Relying fully on the Lord**

Corporate and individual prayer is absolutely essential to missions. When we pray for missions we are mysteriously and yet powerfully engaged in advancing God’s global kingdom.

Casting Vision

A common temptation for church leaders wanting to establish and grow a missions ministry is to just jump in and take action (i.e. plan a conference, support missionaries, send members on a summer project). A bias for action can be a good thing, but creating a culture of missions and maximizing your church’s potential depends on one thing: **a carefully developed vision**. Clearly establishing the purpose and direction for your missions ministry will reap a bountiful harvest down the road.

1. **Purpose of a vision statement** – A good vision statement should do two things: inspire and inform.

- a. Inspire – People want to be part of something compelling, challenging, and significant. God is calling us to something larger than ourselves. What could be more compelling than the Great Commission?
 - b. Inform – A church’s vision statement is a compass pointing the ministry in a certain direction—and away from other directions. A good vision statement will help leaders make decisions and to say no to certain possibilities because they’ve said yes to others.
- 2. Components of a vision statement – A biblical example of a vision statement is found in Nehemiah 2:17: “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” Nehemiah’s statement has four major components that we can learn from in casting vision.
 - a. Clarity – A clear path that enables them to stay on task.
 - b. Motivation – Addressing a need and call for a response.
 - c. Achievable – Within reach over time (in the strength of the Lord).
 - d. Measurable – Has some quantifiable goals.
- 3. Vision statement examples – Take a moment to read the vision statements found in the Powerpoint Slides. What are the strengths and weaknesses of these statements?
- 4. Process of developing a vision statement
 Now that we have covered the characteristics of a good vision statement, here is the process of developing your vision.
 - a. Establish the priorities – Examples: Church Planting, Education, Leadership development etc. (Read Tim Keller Article “Why Plant Churches”)
 - b. Envision the future. What will it look like in 5, 10, 15 years?
 - c. Encapsulate this vision as succinctly as possible – Try to keep the initial statement to 3 or 4 sentences. (Note: A vision statement can also include some strategic goals stating how you will accomplish it.)
 - d. Evaluate its effectiveness – use the statement to make decisions and adjust as needed.
- 5. Example of a Vision Statement (see Participant Guide pg 9)
 A strong missions vision consists of a concise, **high-level statement** supported by **strategic goals** that outline how the vision will be achieved. It is recommended that these goals address both engaging the mission field and engaging the congregation to ensure an effective approach. See more Sample Vision Statements on page 11.

 High level

Fueled by a passion for God’s glory, empowered by the Holy Spirit, FPC commits to sharing the Gospel and making disciples cross-culturally so that Christ-honoring churches grow among the nations. We desire to raise up and send out long-term and short-term missionaries from our own congregation to plant indigenous gospel-centered, self-sustaining churches.

Strategy

After evaluating what our church feels called to do in the world, we want to focus on three things:

- 1) pioneer gospel access to where there is little or no access;
- 2) go deeper where we already have invested;
- 3) focus on places where there are concrete opportunities for our members that will make it possible for everyone to be engaged in global missions.

Moreover, we wanted to concentrate our efforts by giving more support and resources to our strategic partners in three strategic geographical locations (“epicenters”)

Vision Brainstorming

Breakout Groups: Vision Brainstorming

Spend time brainstorming high-level values and priorities for your missions vision. If your church has a vision statement, refer to that for words and phrases you might want to consider using. See pages 9-10 in the Participant Guide.

Discussion After-Breakout Groups:

Report back to the group on the high-level values and priorities that you discussed

What elements of the following should we incorporate into our vision?

- **God’s Heart & Global Needs**
Examples: Unreached, Mis-reached Peoples, 10/40 Window, Bible translation etc.
- **Church DNA**
Examples: Business, College Ministry, Int’l Students, Education, etc
- **Priorities**
Examples: Church Planting, Education, Geographic locations, Leadership Dev, etc.
- **Essential Missions Values**
Gospel-Centered, Recklessly Dependent, Altogether Integrated, Strategically Focused, Prayer for Advancing Missions
- **Key Words/Phrases**
See list of words/phrases below to start the brainstorm

Glory/ify	Send/ing/t	Poor	Love
Worship	Missio Dei	Mercy/Deed	Go/Follow/Obey
Global/World	Passion/ate	Church	Spirit Led/Led
Evangelize/ism	Sacrifice	Church Planting	Grow/Mature/
Mobilize	Serve	Word	Form/ation
Strategy	Servant Leadership	Kingdom	Bless/ing
Local Church	Justice	Empower/ing	Ends of the Earth
Community	Local/Urban/ City	Marginalized	All nations
Disciple/Make Disciples	Least of these	Gospel/Grace	Declare/ Proclaim
Extend/Spread	Educate/ Education	Witness/es	Salvation
Partner/ship/ing	Steward/ship	Equip/ping	Life