



ACTS 13 - Until All People are Reached

WHAT IS ACTS 13?

ACTS 13 is a mediating structure inside New Life to help engage in cross-cultural efforts. ACTS 13 will partner with the Northwest Ministry Network to approve and send missionaries. ACTS 13 is the arm of New Life that focuses on efforts that lie beyond our own normal ministry cultural sphere here in South King County. If it has to do with crossing a cultural boundary, whether geographically near or far, we are going to use ACTS 13 as the mechanism and symbol for that work.

WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR ACTS 13?

Art Glasser, in his book "Announcing the Kingdom", has suggested that the reason the leadership of the Antioch church in Acts 13 was fasting and worshipping was that they felt there was more to do in terms of their new understanding of scripture and the mandate that Jesus gave them than what they could do as a local church. It was then that the Spirit set apart Barnabas and Paul into the mobile apostolic band to cross-cultural boundaries and to take the gospel into new places. This is why we are calling this new structure ACTS 13. New Life is doing a great job at reaching "people like us" in our location, but we know the world is much bigger than that and we want to take our place in participating in God's Mission.

WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF ACTS 13?

The main priority of ACTS 13 is Unreached People Groups. The "10/40 Window" idea popularized in the 90's by Luis Bush and the "AD 2000 and Beyond" movement caught on and became a great picture to help the church focus on that part of the world that has the least Christians, churches and church movements. As defined by the Joshua Project Database, the "10/40 Window" is the rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia where over 2.7 billion people live in almost 6,000 unreached people groups. This region includes the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. Although the focus of ACTS 13 will be primarily Unreached People Groups, it will also strive to accomplish three things: 1) Resource Missionaries, 2) Build churches & schools, and 3) Meet basic human needs. The focus of ACTS 13 will reach locally and globally.

WHAT ARE "10/40 MISSIONARIES"?

One of the first steps in launching ACTS 13 was choosing a set of missionaries that New Life supported that were living and working in broadly what is known as the 10/40 Window or using the color coding scheme of the Joshua Project Database, the "Red Zone" of the unreached. This core group of New Life's missions support focus will be called "10/40 Missionaries". New Life will mobilize the church to pray, give and encourage our 10/40 Missionaries. Several filters were created to define the 10/40 Missionaries. These include: 1) Approved Northwest Ministry Network Missionary, 2) Active "On the Field", 3) Ministry to Unreached People Groups (regardless of geography), and 4) Serving in a country in the "10/40 Window" or "Red Zone" (as defined by www.joshuaproject.net).

WHY DOES ACTS 13 ONLY FOCUS ON A FEW MISSIONARIES?

ACTS 13 will continue to resource many missionaries but only a few will be considered 10/40 Missionaries. Our rubric for "level of connection" with cross-cultural workers comes from Jesus' relationship with His disciples....where He has different levels of closeness with the 70, having the 12, then 3 and 1.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM OUR 10/40 MISSIONARIES?

The unreached remain unreached because they are the last and toughest people groups in the world. We know that among the Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist worlds that there remains hard back-breaking missionary labor that needs to be done to win and disciple the first generation of converts. So in our view "effectiveness" is not a numerical measure alone, but missionaries setting themselves up right and doing the right things in order to prepare for the breakthrough the Spirit will bring. We will want to hear from our 10/40 Missionaries regarding what they are doing and we will not be worried simply about "bottom line" stats. It is God that brings the increase. We also realize that some of our 10/40 Missionaries may be working primarily among the existing church in their country. We recognize this as critically important, but also want to encourage them to lobby, persuade, pray that God will raise up laborers from those Christians to engage the unreached near to them and that they will be able to create space in their ministry or to add that focus if it is not already there.

HOW DOES ACTS 13 IMPACT OUR OTHER MISSIONARIES?

New Life & ACTS 13 is committed to continuing our financial support of the vast majority of Northwest Ministry Network Missionaries. When the Northwest Ministry Network approves a new missionary, ACTS 13 will strongly consider adding them to our list of supported missionaries. Our level of support is influenced by several filters: 1) Approved Northwest Ministry Network Missionary, 2) Active "On the Field", 3) Significant relationship with New Life, 4) Ministry to Unreached People Groups, and 5) Available resources. With ACTS 13 New Life will not forget the missionaries we have supported for years.

WHO IS ON THE DIRECTIONAL TEAM OF ACTS 13?

The Directional Team of ACTS 13 will consist of Pastor Troy Jones, Lead Pastor of New Life Church, Dr. Alan Johnson, Missionary to Thailand, and Bert Fields, Director of M.A.P.S. trips for New Life Church. This team will work in cooperation with the Elder Council of New Life Church. The purpose of this team is to protect the values and strategy of ACTS 13 and to direct the ACTS 13 funds judiciously.

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL MODEL FOR ACTS 13?

ACTS 13 is funded by donations received by New Life. Core donors give to ACTS 13 monthly, quarterly or annually beyond their tithes. On an annual basis the Directional Team will define the spending plan of ACTS 13 funds and it will be approved by the Elders of New Life Church. The chart below defines the current ACTS 13 spending plan. Additionally, specific needs (i.e. disaster relief) will be met as designated funds are received.

ACTS 13 SPENDING PLAN

