

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF VOCATIONAL MISSIONS

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF VOCATIONAL MISSIONS (VM):

- 1.** Permits entry into countries that would be closed to persons applying for entry as church supported missionaries.
- 2.** Permits contacts that the "official" missionary would find difficult to make.
- 3.** May give more status, especially in nations where there is a state-church and an anti-clerical bias.
- 4.** One may be seen as a satisfied customer rather than a paid representative.
- 5.** People may be less defensive and more open with a VM than they would with someone considered a professional missionary.
- 6.** Does not pose a financial burden to the church.
- 7.** Can make development of the indigenous principle easier if the VM gives the example by providing his/her own support.
- 8.** Permits women, who sometimes may find it difficult to get church support, the option of getting into the field as a VM.
- 9.** The VM does not have the pressure for immediate success that some missionaries experience which may force them into ethodological errors (like rushing to put nationals on US salaries, or to build buildings, etc.).
- 10.** The VM has great personal satisfaction in earning his/her own way financially as Paul did (1 Cor. 9:16-19, Acts 2:33-35, 1 Thes. 2:9).
- 11.** The worker pool for evangelism is vastly increased.
- 12.** This was the secret of the early growth of the church (Acts 8:1-4).

NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF VOCATIONAL MISSIONS (VM):

- 1.** The VM may be isolated and overcome by loneliness.
- 2.** The VM may suffer from a lack of supervision.
- 3.** The VM may lack adequate training.
- 4.** The VM has less time to devote to missions than does the supported worker.
- 5.** The VM may suffer for lack of necessary working funds.
- 6.** The VM may not have the time to be sufficiently devoted to language study and to identification with the local culture.
- 7.** The VM may be limited by either the employer or the government in the time and effort needed to do effective mission work, and may even be forced to discontinue such efforts if exposed.
- 8.** The VM may be either discontinued or transferred at any time at the will of the employer.

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