

COMMISSIONING YOUR TEAM



Training Resource of:



Central Canadian District
Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada
155 Panin Road
Burlington, Ontario
L7P5A6

Unit to be used by:

Leader or Leadership team
Team Members

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Having your church involved in your mission is vital for prayer support. One way to accomplish this is through the Commissioning service (s). People need to be reminded or kept updated on how to pray and the commissioning service is a perfect way to meet this need.

Included in this Module...

Discussion Points

Heading Out

Commissioning A Short-Term Mission (Article)

Discussion Points

1. Read Article as a Team. What does a commissioning service do for your team? Your church?
2. How does your church commission people or teams? Does it practice commissioning?
3. What is the Biblical foundation for commissioning? When was it used?
4. How do the members of your team wish to be commissioned? Do they want a public or private commissioning?

Heading Out

1. Commissioning- What purpose does it serve?

Commissioning serves to place your short-term ministry within the context of the larger and greater battle that the Church is involved in for the Kingdom. Commissioning serves both to bless the participants and to identify them to the church family. It gives a larger number of people insight into how to pray for the team and who to pray for.

Commissioning gives the church ownership of the ministry. No longer is it just a team of 6 to 12 people serving others; it is an entire body of believers that is sending out 6 to 12 of their members to serve on their behalf. It also serves to identify that this trip is also a spiritual endeavor not just a physical act of service.

There is a common and false belief that can sometimes be found in the church that our faith and relationship with God is an individual faith. It is not. We are a part of the body, called to participate in the function we were designed for and called to live together as a body. If a person goes out in the name of the Lord, they go out from the body. They do not go out alone- they need the support and blessing of that body to survive.

Christ says He is the vine and the body of believers- the church- is its branches. A mission team branching out from that branch of the Church needs the support and nourishment of the branch to live and provide fruit. Commissioning helps provide that nourishment and support.

2. Biblical Foundation for Commissioning

The first commissioning of the first church took place in the book of Acts, Specifically Acts 13:1-3 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting The Holy Spirit said, Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. Paul and Barnabas, had been called out by the church, had the support of the church, had the blessing of the church and had the prayers of the church.

Paul and Barnabas were entering into a new battle. They were purposefully going out to reach lost souls. I believe the church was well aware of the of danger involved in the journey that they were sending Paul and Barnabas on. The church was fully engaged in all aspects of the journey. The first commissioning allows your church this opportunity. The commissioning allows the whole congregations to know, who is going on the journey, when the journey will begin, where the team is journeying and especially be given an opportunity to lay hands on and pray for the team.

Commissioning early allows the congregation to begin the journey while it is still in it's incubation period and follow it through right through until the team returns home.

3. First Commissioning Service

The commissioning process does not have to be elaborate or time consuming although it would be inspirational if the pastor could make the commissioning service part of his message. The goal of the first commissioning is that the church family would be given a quick explanation of the mission. The group should be brought to the front of the church and introduced. Finally the elders should lay hands on the team members and pray for them and their training process. This whole process can take less than 10 minutes and not interrupt the flow of the service.

4. Final Commissioning Service

Your first commissioning service earlier in the preparation process was part of the team's training. It helped trainees appreciate that they are part of a larger team, the church, which is sending them off and is standing behind them. It helped them recognize that the ministry they are embarking on is part of a larger task, the Great Commission.

Your final commissioning service will take place close to departure, when anticipation is high. The team will be assured that the congregation shares their mixed joy, excitement and apprehension, and is committed to praying earnestly for them throughout their mission. The congregation has a chance to offer encouragement and blessing as a body. The article on the next page offers some ideas for a commissioning service.

5. Sendoff

Put a notice in the bulletin giving the time of your departure from the church. Nothing is as sweet as seeing a large contingent of the congregation at the church to bid you farewell.

Commissioning a Short-term Mission

Commissioning a Short-term Mission



A short-term mission is a step of faith. Most of us feel apprehensive when we leave our comfortable homes to face a strange, unfamiliar world. It's a healthy response: our lives may never be the same. This life-changing aspect of the short-term mission helps make it a spiritual milestone.

Churches must take their short-termers seriously and empower them through prayers and blessings before they leave, either in a special service or as a part of a regular meeting. It's important to gather the spiritual resources of the whole church to send off short-term missionaries.

Set the date well in advance and inform the short-termers right away so they can pass the word on. The more friends and family who come, the better. Involve as many local Christian leaders as possible. This way the trip takes on a broader sense of God's family and models the type of co-operation short-termers will learn on the field.

Make the program interesting. Include music and laughter; it's a party for a wonderful cause! Use this chance to educate people about the part of the world the short-termers will visit. Slides and video clips can set the atmosphere for learning. Give the short-termers a chance to share personally about the trip ahead. If possible, arrange for a special speaker who can illustrate the spiritual challenges they'll face; a speaker from another country will establish a sense of partnership with the church abroad.

Plan to finish the service with prayer. Have short-termers give specific requests and minister to each individually in prayer. End the meeting with corporate blessing and official commendation to the Lord. Offer the short-termers up to the Lord for His protection and guidance. Finally, adjourn the meeting for refreshments, personal sharings, and last-minute hug.

The Short-Term Mission Handbook