



Strategy Exercises from ITSM Modules 1-9

Module 1 Strategy Exercise: The Master Plan

It's time for you to start developing your Acts 1:8 Missions Strategy.

1. Identify the people in **your** Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and Ends of the Earth. Here are some questions to ask yourself:
 - Who are you already praying for?
 - Who do you have the ability to reach?
 - Who do you find yourself gravitating towards?

2. **It's time to brainstorm.** Fill in the chart.
 - Who are they?
 - Where are they located?
 - Do you have access to them?
 - If so, how can you make contact with them? (i.e. "They are my neighbor." or "I know a missionary who works among them.")

	Who are they?	Where are they located?	Do you have access to them?	What can you do to reach them?
Jerusalem				
Judea				
Samaria				
Ends of the Earth				



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Module 2 Strategy Exercise: The Mission

1. How can you steward God's mission personally and within your church?
2. Imagine that you are actively engaging with people in each of your four areas of Acts 1:8.
 - What are you doing with them?
 - Are you inviting your neighbors over for dinner to share with them what Jesus has done in your life?
 - Have you planned an outreach for kids?
 - Are you reaching out to foreigners in your city?
 - Maybe you've hung a map and are actively praying for the country where your Ends of the Earth target lives.
3. **It's time to brainstorm.** List some ideas of ways you could share the gospel with these people. Don't force it. If you don't have direct access to someone in the Ends of the Earth, AIMS can connect you.

	Are you actively praying for them?	What are you doing with them?	Are you planning to reach them?	Who could you partner with to reach them?
Jerusalem				
Judea				
Samaria				
Ends of the Earth				



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Module 3 Strategy Exercise: State of the World

Barrier

Supernatural →
 Sociopolitical →
 Logistical →
 Cultural →

Solution

Mobilization of Prayer
 Mobilization of Good Works
 Mobilization of Local Church
 Mobilization/Training of Missionaries

1. **Why are people still unreached?**

2. **It's time to brainstorm.** Is there a barrier making it difficult for you to see the Gospel spread to your Acts 1:8 targets? List some of the **barriers** you face in each of your areas on the chart.

BARRIERS →	Spiritual	Logistical	Socio-Political	Cultural
Jerusalem				
Judea				
Samaria				
Ends of the Earth				

a) **Spiritual Barriers** – 2 Corinthians 4:4 says **“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”**



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- b) **Logistical Barriers** – Geographical barriers, inhospitable places, places with poor infrastructure, etc.
- c) **Socio-political Barriers** – Legal or social restrictions prohibit the proclamation of the gospel. These can be cultural customs or governmental laws hostile to the gospel.
- d) **Cultural Barriers** – They misunderstand our message and we misunderstand them.

3. What are some methods you could use to overcome these barriers? List some **solutions** in the chart.

Solution to →	Spiritual Barriers	Logistical Barriers	Socio-Political Barriers	Cultural Barriers
Jerusalem				
Judea				
Samaria				
Ends of the Earth				

How would you approach these barriers?

1. Important Definitions:
 - a. **Missions** – the cross-cultural application of the mission of God.
 - b. **Missionary** – one who enters a **different culture** to do missions.
2. Please write in your own words why these four examples of barriers and solutions are important.



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Module 4 Strategy Exercise:

Personalizing the Great Commission

Are you beginning to realize that YOU were created by God to play a significant role in reaching the nations? Can you picture Jesus looking directly in your eyes and saying, “You have a part to play in your Jerusalem, even in your Judea, yes in Samaria too, AND even to the Ends of the Earth!”

1. **It’s time to discover your role in missions.** You took the assessment to understand how you can get involved NOW. (Appendix 4-1, page 16)
 - Are you gifted to Pray, to Go, or to Send towards your Acts 1:8 target?
 - How can you employ your gifting for the four People Groups you identified in the Module 1-3 exercises?

2. **It’s time to assess your church.** Is there a strong missions emphasis in your church? You took the assessment: Attributes of a Missions Mobilized Church. (Appendix 4-2, page 20)
 - How can you assist your church to capitalize on its strengths as identified in the Attributes of Mobilized Church exercise?
 - How can you assist your church to build up its weaknesses as identified in the Attributes of Mobilized Church exercise?



APPENDIX 4-1

Hey World Changer!

You have an important part to play in missions. This inventory is meant to give YOU an idea of how God may deploy you right now in the task of extending His Kingdom. There are three categories into which you might fall: **I PRAY, I GO, or I SEND**

DEFINITIONS:

I PRAY: A person who is gifted to be involved in prayer and spiritual warfare for the cause of missions. This person will look for opportunities to use his/her gift to do the work in the Spirit that is required to precede and accompany the going of missions.

I GO: A person who enters another culture to do missions. This person will look for opportunities to prepare him/herself to take the Gospel into other cultures.

I SEND: A person who supports both those who are taking the Gospel to other cultures, as well as the missions program of the local church. The one who sends looks for ways to help those who go on mission as well as enabling the vision of missions to move forward.

Although you may have gifting in all three areas, your score below may be an indicator of how God desires to use your life right now. In time, your gifting may change, but this assessment can provide current direction in which to focus your effort for His glory.

Until All Hear,

Joshua Bold

AIMS President



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DISCOVER YOUR ROLE IN MISSIONS

DIRECTIONS: Read each statement and circle one appropriate number which best represents your response (5 = Always to 1 = Never). Try to have a range of responses, both low and high. Don't think too hard – go with your first gut reaction.

I have a tendency to ...

5 = ALWAYS 1 = NEVER

1. remember people's likes and dislikes.	5	4	3	2	1
2. say, "I'll be praying for you," and then do it.	5	4	3	2	1
3. be content to work without recognition.	5	4	3	2	1
4. enjoy learning about other languages for fun.	5	4	3	2	1
5. give things, money, and time to the Lord's work	5	4	3	2	1
6. trust God for the impossible.	5	4	3	2	1
7. be flexible in fluctuating circumstances.	5	4	3	2	1
8. enjoy meeting and being with foreign people.	5	4	3	2	1
9. enjoy ministering to the needs of others.	5	4	3	2	1
10. know that God works through my prayers.	5	4	3	2	1
11. enjoy correspondence with far away people.	5	4	3	2	1
12. prefer adventure to "safe and quiet."	5	4	3	2	1
13. share Jesus with people from different backgrounds.	5	4	3	2	1
14. believe wholeheartedly in God's power.	5	4	3	2	1
15. use ALL the resources I have to accomplish goals.	5	4	3	2	1
16. believe people in ministry need more of God's Power.	5	4	3	2	1
17. discern the work of Satan and vanquish it.	5	4	3	2	1
18. imagine living in another country.	5	4	3	2	1
19. freely give of my time.	5	4	3	2	1
20. enjoy work in the church that involves prayer.	5	4	3	2	1
21. believe that all my money belongs to God.	5	4	3	2	1
22. adapt easily to new situations.	5	4	3	2	1
23. envision God supplying for the needs of others.	5	4	3	2	1
24. not fear the risks of sharing the gospel.	5	4	3	2	1



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SCORING KEY:

To score this inventory, look at your numbered questions above and write the circled number you gave yourself next to the corresponding number below. Then total the “I PRAY” column, “I GO” column, and “I SEND” column and write your totals in the blanks below.

<u>I PRAY</u>	<u>I GO</u>	<u>I SEND</u>
2	4	1
6	7	3
10	8	5
14	12	9
16	13	11
17	18	15
20	22	19
23	24	21

TOTALS: I PRAY = _____ I GO = _____ I SEND = _____

SO, I'VE DISCOVER MY ROLE IN MISSIONS — NOW, WHAT?

SCORING KEY TOTAL = _____ **I PRAY -- What In The World Can You Do?**

If you scored highest in “I PRAY,” you may feel the Lord leading you to make some specific commitments in line with your gifting. **TAKE THAT STEP NOW!** Set some goals to use and develop your gift in the next year. Here are some steps you may choose to take alongside your own personal vision and goals.

- Read at least two books on prayer/intercession to develop your gift.
- Read two books about missions or missionaries to develop a prayer focus for missions in your church, or for missionaries you may know.
- “Adopt” an unreached people group (UPG). Learn about them and take time to pray for their salvation. AIMS (www.aims.org) can coach you through this process.
- Go on a short-term mission trip to develop clear vision and focus for prayer.
- Give to missions that are strategically doing work in the areas or among the people you are praying for.
- Partner with people in your church to pray at designated times for missions.



Strategy Exercises from ITSM Modules 1-9

SCORING KEY TOTAL = _____ **I GO -- What In The World Can You Do?**

If you scored highest in “I GO,” you may feel the Lord leading you to make specific commitments in line with your gifting. **TAKE THAT STEP NOW!** Set some goals to use and develop your gift in the next year. Here are some steps you may choose to take alongside your own personal vision and goals.

- Read missionary books such as (Harvest Connection by Howard Foltz) to help inspire and direct you.
- Go on a short-term mission trip to develop a keen sense of what missions truly is.
- Share your desire with your pastor and ask for help in preparation for doing the work of missions.
- Talk to full-time missionaries about what they do and ask questions to help prepare yourself.
- Pray directly for missions and missionaries. Set specific times aside to hear God’s heart.
- Learn about strategic missions from AIMS (www.aims.org).

SCORING KEY TOTAL = _____ **I SEND -- What In The World Can You Do?**

If you scored highest in “I SEND,” you may feel the Lord leading you to make specific commitments in line with your gifting. **TAKE THAT STEP NOW!** Set some goals to use and develop your gift in the next year. Here are some steps you may choose to take alongside your own personal vision and goals.

- Read books about missions to increase your knowledge of missions in general.
- Find a missionary to correspond with and begin encouraging them monthly through email, social media or personal correspondence.
- Go on a strategic short-term mission trip in order to learn about missions and know how you can be the best sender.
- Set aside finances for missions and give to a strategic missions vision through your local church.
- Request the AIMS training, “Goers and Senders” from aims@aims.org.
- Organize people from different segments of society (medicine, education, arts, government, media, and business) to develop expansive strategy for missions sending. Help train groups of people from within the local church to develop strategic ways for sending missionaries to unreached people groups (UPGs).

This inventory is intended as a tool to help propel you into the work of missions. It is not a “final word from God.” Your pastor, missions leaders, and those who know you well can help confirm results. God considers each of His children to be a critical component of His global plan.



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APPENDIX 4-2

Attributes of a Missions-Mobilized Church Check Up

DIRECTIONS:

The attached "ATTRIBUTES OF A MISSIONS-MOBILIZED CHURCH" checklist has been designed based on AIMS' experience of mobilizing local churches for world missions over the past 30 years. By taking this quick "mission check-up" quiz, will help you evaluate the current missions status (activity) of your church.

The following are some guidelines for taking this assessment:

- Read each statement and respond by filling in the most appropriate number for your church. Don't think too long, the first number that comes to your mind is probably the best one.
- Add up your total and put the score in the space at the bottom of the page.
- **There is not a "pass" or "fail" score for this check-up.** The only way that any church can "fail" is to not obey God when He speaks about mobilizing further.
- Later, you can request your elders, deacons or missions committee to do this check-up together. Then, they can compare their scores and use this as a means for discussion.
- The twenty attributes are not arranged in any particular order of priority. In your thoughtful meditation and discussion, prioritize them yourself according to the need of your particular church. What are the most important things for your church to begin improving on first, second, etc.?
- The twenty attributes should funnel into the six "CRITERIA FOR A MISSIONS MOBILIZED CHURCH" . These six criteria are measurable; AIMS encourages every church to move towards fulfilling these criteria.



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Attributes of a Mobilized Church

QUICK MISSIONS CHECK-UP: Mark a number (0-5) for each attribute below: Then total the score

0 – no activity 5 – full involvement

- _____ 1. Teaching on missions in sermons, missions newsletter, small groups, etc.
- _____ 2. Regular intercessory prayer for the lost world, focusing on the unreached
- _____ 3. Missions advocacy team or fellowship group which meets at least monthly
- _____ 4. Annual missions conference
- _____ 5. Systematic financial involvement of congregation for missions (preferably Faith Promise)
- _____ 6. A focus on praise and worship that expresses the missionary heart of God and inspire the congregation to missions involvement
- _____ 7. Pastoral care for missionaries, including letters, phone calls, gifts, visits, email.
- _____ 8. Has a missions secretary or pastor/director
- _____ 9. Goals, objectives, and policies for the mission program are defined
- _____ 10. Local cross-cultural outreach
- _____ 11. Missions projects, such as church building or equipment purchasing
- _____ 12. Missions-minded pastor who travels to a mission field at least biannually, missions trips available to the congregation.
- _____ 13. Short-term outreaches for congregation's members and staff
- _____ 14. Identification and training of missionary candidates within congregation
- _____ 15. Career or "tentmaker" missionaries sent out and supported by church
- _____ 16. Program to reproduce/share your missions vision with other churches
- _____ 17. "Adoption" of (or preparing to adopt) an Unreached People Group
- _____ 18. Regular missionary guests
- _____ 19. The entire church "knows" the missionaries, not just pastors and church staff
- _____ 20. Vision of local church as a "missions base"
- _____ **Total**

These 20 attributes help a church reach the six goals of:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Praying | 2. Giving | 3. Ministering |
| 4. Sending | 5. Assisting | 6. Cooperating |



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Module 5 Strategy Exercise: **Church Planting Movements**

Based on results from Module 4: *Discover Your Role in Missions* and *Attributes of a Mobilized Church*, do you think you have a role to play in planting churches among an unreached people group?

AIMS would be honored to help you develop a strategy and partnerships that result in a church planting movement. We offer coaching services to help you know what steps to take.

To connect to an AIMS coach – www.AIMS.org.



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Module 6 Strategy Exercise:

Networking Through Partnerships

1. Identify people in your church or community who show an interest in missions and could contribute to the effort of reaching all four areas of ACTS 1:8

2. Based on your solutions to ***Overcoming Obstacles*** (Module 3), what types of organizations or humanitarian efforts would aid you in accessing these people with the gospel?
 - Develop a list of people, organizations, and other resources in your community who could potentially assist with overcoming the barriers to reaching the People Groups you identified in previous exercises (Module 3).

 - What type of people and/or organizations do you believe you (or your church) could/should seek to establish partnerships with to expand your engagement with UPGs in the future



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Module 7 Strategy Exercise:

Goers and Senders

1. Who are you (or your church) currently working with and how well do they apply the principles of strategic missions?
2. How could you influence your network and partnerships to Go and Send more effectively?
3. Who can you (or your church) raise up and disciple as an effective Goer?
4. In Module 4, you took the ***Discover Your Role in Missions*** Assessment. Are you currently gifted to pray, go, or send?
5. ***It's time to brainstorm.*** Make a list of 3 ways you can use your gifts to expand your involvement in the Ends of the Earth? Write a start date to begin implementing these ideas.
 1. Start Date:
 2. Start Date:
 3. Start Date:



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Module 8 Strategy Exercise: **Faith Promise Giving**

1. Do you feel compelled to apply greater faith in the area of finances to be used towards the work of missions?

2. Complete your personal Faith Promise Form (Appendix 8-2, page 38).
Get started on a personal level.
 - o Identify and activate two or more people (spouse, family member, pastor, friends, etc.) to hold you accountable to fulfill this commitment – you might even get them involved through your testimony and connect them to AIMS

 FAITH PROMISE GIVING CARD	
<p>By faith, I commit to give \$_____ this year. My Faith Promise commitment is my offering given by faith, above my tithe, to support worldwide missions.</p> <p>I understand that this Faith Promise is a covenant between God and me. I will give this amount through the ministry to which I am accountable. I understand that no one will contact me to request my Faith Promise commitment.</p> <p>Name _____ Date _____</p>	<p> PLEDGE AMOUNT _____</p> <p>WITH THE LORD'S HELP, I WILL FULFILL THIS MONTHLY COMMITMENT:</p> <p>_____ monthly _____ yearly</p>



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Module 9 Strategy Exercise:

Adopting an Unreached People Group

1. Are you ready to take the step toward adopting an unreached people group?
2. Fill out the UPG Adoption Card.
 - Complete Appendices 9-2 to 9-4
 - UPG Research Form
 - Questions and Answers about your UPG
3. Contact an AIMS Coach for further steps in this process (www.AIMS.org).

		UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP ADOPTION CARD	
Name of Unreached People Group _____			
Country of Unreached People Group _____			
Lead Contact Name _____		E-Mail _____	
Phone (_____) _____		WhatsApp _____	
Country of Residence _____		Organization or Church Name _____	
Secondary Contact Name _____		E-Mail _____	
Phone (_____) _____		WhatsApp _____	
Country of Residence _____		Organization or Church Name _____	



Strategy Exercises from ITSM Modules 1-9

APPENDIX 9-1

Questions to Answer for Your People Group

Go to joshuaproject.net and answer the following questions in a group after identifying a UPG of interest.

What are the people's lives like? _____

What are their beliefs? _____

What are their needs? _____

How could our church make an impact on this people group? _____

What resources do we have? _____

Can we partner with any other churches and organizations? How? _____

What resources do these potential partners have? _____

What steps should we take to begin to reach this group?

First Year _____

Second Year _____

Third Year _____



YOUR PARTNER IN STRATEGIC MISSIONS

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APPENDIX 9-2

Guidelines for Networking Sessions First Meeting

Contact Information:

Partnership Team Leader Name:

Address:

Phone Numbers: Home: _____ Mobile (Cell): _____

Email: _____

State: _____ District: _____ Block: _____

Names of People Groups Where Churches Are to Be Planted:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Date for your next meeting: _____ Place of the meeting: _____

Names of those in this partnership:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. _____ | Phone _____ |
| 2. _____ | Phone _____ |
| 3. _____ | Phone _____ |
| 4. _____ | Phone _____ |
| 5. _____ | Phone _____ |
| 6. _____ | Phone _____ |
| 7. _____ | Phone _____ |
| 8. _____ | Phone _____ |
| 9. _____ | Phone _____ |
| 10. _____ | Phone _____ |
| 11. _____ | Phone _____ |



Strategy Exercises from ITSM Modules 1-9

Sample — Group Networking Session

Second Meeting

Use the information from these assignments for your second meeting to help plan your strategy.

Assignments: **Name of Team Member(s) Assigned**

1. How many villages have no churches? _____

2. Locate them or draw a map on the reverse side and show where they are located. _____

3. What people groups are there? _____

4. How many churches have already been planted among these peoples or geographical region? _____

5. What organizations are already working in the area that you can partner with? _____

Assignments 6, 7, 8 to be done together as the Partnership:

1. List three specific objectives to be accomplished in the next 12 months
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

2. Develop an action plan for each objective

3. Develop a timetable for each action plan

This report needs to be prepared and sent by the Partnership Team Leader:

- Report your work and plan to the Coordinator and/or AIMS office in writing/email



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APPENDIX 9-3

AIMS/Joshua Project: Finishing the Task Research Form

AIMS is working in partnership with the Joshua Project and Finishing the Task programs¹. AIMS and these two programs would like documentation of what unreached people groups are adopted and the pertinent information regarding that adoption. The following form is what we would like each partnership to complete. This will help all three entities in UPG tracking and future strategic planning.

As the Conference Coordinator, you should give this form to the Conference Convener before the training session begins. Be sure to teach the meaning of Gateway peoples and Gateway Cities. Then, the convener can work with you in gathering the research information from the partnerships. Note: Gateway peoples/cities refer to access points allowing the Gospel to flow freely to other people groups or cities.

SAMPLE: Unreached People Research Form

Name of Country or Region:			
Population:			
Percentage of Evangelicals:		Number of Evangelicals:	
Points of Interest:			
Gateway Peoples (in order of priority)			
1.		2.	
3.		4.	
Gateway Cities (location in the country—and for example: NW, E, South Central)			
1.		2.	
3.		4.	
Churches and Mission Agencies Active in Region			
Agency/ Church:		Agency/ Church:	
Address:		Address:	
Contact:		Contact:	
Ph.	Email:	Ph.	Email

¹ Please visit their websites at www.joshuaproject.net and www.finishingthetask.org for more information.