

Highly visible

Who We Are

Our Values



Introduction from Guy Miller



"In 1994 whilst visiting Guinea Bissau, as a young pastor, a bible college professor prophesied over me saying in a dream she had seen me in front of a world map moving flags of the nations across the globe. She prophesied "this man is called to release an army of people across the world on mission and kingdom transformation".

This short paper talks of the DNA of this family of churches we call Commission. My prayer is that as it is read it many would be thrilled and strengthened in our togetherness and vision. I also am asking the Father that others will decide to come and join us from many nations so that together we might see something amazing in our time as we seek to be obedient to the Great Commission of Christ."

Overview

Commission is an international apostolic movement of churches led by Guy Miller and teams of Ephesians 4 leaders and is enthusiastically part of the wider Newfrontiers family of churches. Commission churches are united by a shared passion for Jesus and his mission and a clear vision to see “thousands of lives transformed through hundreds of churches in tens of nations”.

To achieve this we seek to build and plant local churches that are subject to God’s word and responsive to His Spirit. Churches where grace is not only preached but is experienced and demonstrated. Churches where the gifts of Spirit are fully expressed and where relationships are genuine and deep. Churches that serve their local communities but are also engaged in God’s global mission.

Commission churches are convinced that for a local church to reach maturity and fulfil their God-given potential they need leadership from godly and gifted elders and input from the full range of Ephesians 4 ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastor-teachers. We are deeply aware that we can do more together than we can apart.

The purpose of this brief paper is to outline what it means to be a Commission church in more detail. There are three equally important aspects to our unity: core doctrines, relational connection and missional commitment.

Core doctrines

The Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith summarises the biblical truths we share with other Bible-believing Christians. We are distinctive but not unique in our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit, our emphasis on grace, our complementarian stance on the role of men and women and our view of church government.

Word-based

Our fundamental conviction is that the Bible is God’s Word and should shape all that we believe and do. We believe in the absolute truthfulness, sufficiency and final authority of Scripture. This value is expressed through the Bible having the central place in governing doctrine, practice, ethos and patterns of church life.

*1 Corinthians 4: 17, Colossians 1: 25, 1 Thessalonians 2: 13,
2 Timothy 3: 16-17, 2 Timothy 4: 1-5*

Holy Spirit

We rejoice that all the Spirit's gifts are given today and seek to express and develop those in our church life, both in worship and mission. We believe every believer should be filled with the Spirit as part of God's desire to empower us for Christian life and witness.

In addition to effecting regeneration and sanctification, the Holy Spirit also empowers believers for Christian witness and service. While all genuine believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, the New Testament indicates the importance of an ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit subsequent to conversion as well. We believe that the baptism in the Spirit is the first occasion of being filled with the Spirit and it is a distinct but not necessarily subsequent experience to conversion.

*Ephesians 5: 18, Acts 1: 7-8, Galatians 3: 1-5
1 Corinthians 12: 1,4-7*

Grace-filled

Grace is the undeserved kindness of God. It is seen most clearly in the Father sending his Son to die for us and in giving his Spirit to enable us to live for him. We want to start, restart and multiply churches where this attitude of grace is reflected in every aspect of church life, including how the lost are reached, the poor are served and how we treat each other. We guard against the evil influence of legalism and a dead religious spirit. We want to be a humble servant-hearted people who honour both those within and outside the church.

Ephesians 2: 8-10, Acts 11: 23, Colossians 1: 6b



Core leadership values

Complementarian

The gift of leadership is highly valued in our churches and we celebrate the fact that both men and women receive this gift. We therefore seek to release all those so gifted into serving. We also acknowledge the biblical pattern that in the home the husband has the God-given responsibility to be head of the family and in the church suitably qualified and gifted men are to act as elders.

Elders in each local church

The Holy Spirit appoints elders confirmed by the church and apostolic ministry. Elders' main functions involve leading, feeding, guarding and guiding the church. It has been our normal practice to see one of the elders provide leadership to the eldership team.

*Acts 20: 28, Ephesians 4: 11-12,
1 Thessalonians 5: 12-13b, James 5: 14*

Ephesians 4 ministries

All Ephesians 4: 11 gifts are valid today and help bring churches to maturity and to equip men and women to fulfil their God-given ministry. Eldership teams regularly invite Ephesians 4 ministries to help and encourage their local church to maturity. Local elders are the final human governing authority in a local church. However, the local elders are encouraged to invite and then to receive clear apostolic input and authority.

*Acts 14: 21-23, 20:28, Titus 1: 5,
Ephesians 4: 7-16, Romans 16: 1-16*

Servant-hearted

Christian leadership, in its essence, is a call to be an example not an exception. Following the example of Jesus, Christian leaders are to serve others, not be served. Christian leadership should be godly, transparent and accessible. Christian leadership exists to multiply ministry, not monopolise it. Christian leadership is to have a bias towards partnership and collaboration with other Christian leaders, rather than to demonstrate isolation and individualism.

*Mark 10: 42-45, 1 Corinthians 4: 1-2, 1 Timothy 3: 1-7
1 Peter 5: 1-4, Titus 1: 5-9*

Core mission values

Mission is what Commission exists for. The building of relationships, the planting of churches, and all we do is with a view to reaching a lost world for Christ and seeing his kingdom advance. According to Luke, the church exists to continue all Jesus began to do and teach (Acts 1: 1). This means continuing to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed. At the heart of this is the reconciling of lost people to God through faith in Christ. This begins on our doorsteps, our immediate communities, but for every church it involves a reach to the ends of the earth. So, evangelism - both local and global - is at the centre of our mission. Our mission, as well as our prayer, is to see God's Kingdom come, his will be done on earth as it is in heaven - as a result we seek to bring justice, healing and compassion in every sphere of life. We particularly embrace the apostolic injunction to remember the poor.

Galatians 2: 10

Local church-focused

We regard the local church as central to the mission and purposes of God. We see the local church as the place of primary focus for Ephesians 4 ministries. Ephesians 4 ministries exist to serve the local church, not the other way round.

Ephesians 1: 22, Ephesians 3: 10-11, Matthew 16: 18

Mission expressed both locally and globally

We desire to see local churches effectively and fruitfully engaged in local mission. We desire to see local churches caught up on a global apostolic mission.

Matt 28: 18-20, Acts 1: 8

Committed Relationships

Open, genuine relationships are key to all we do. We are, first of all, sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father before anything else. So we aim to build churches that are loving communities. Each church is led by a team who work at demonstrating healthy, supportive and honouring friendships. Each church relates to apostolic leadership primarily through regional teams, and to other Commission churches in sharing resources and involvement in events including training and the annual Westpoint festival. We believe the role of apostolic teams are critical to restoring the whole church to the best of New Testament experience and practice.

In order to be genuine, relationships require time and commitment. For elders in Commission churches this means giving high priority to those opportunities provided to give and receive encouragement and input. These opportunities include Commission Prayer times and Regional meetings. For the whole church, regional events (celebrations), and particularly Westpoint, are key times to gather.





Commission is part of the Newfrontiers global network of churches

For more information:

Visit commission-together.org or contact office@commission-together.org

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