

Is Our Church Ready to Consider a FOCUS?

Evaluate these questions about yourselves as a FOCUSing group. Note areas where the congregation may not be as far along and may need more assistance in being ready for change.

✓ True now	✓ Making progress	✓ Not True	#	Characteristic (see fuller explanations below)
			1.	We have a passion to accomplish far more for the expansion of the Kingdom and feel a “holy dissatisfaction” with our current missions impact.
			2.	We are prepared to make hard choices, saying “no” to some other good projects in order to concentrate our efforts.
			3.	We are ready to have our thinking stretched about what missions involves. We will let go of missions traditions if there are more effective ways to mobilize our congregation.
			4.	We are ready to engage in a missions effort that will probably be messy and to make a commitment with no guarantee of success.
			5.	We are willing to invest the time and energy to develop in-depth relationships across cultural boundaries.
			6.	We are willing to entrust FOCUS leadership responsibilities to others in our church, even if they may do things quite differently than we would do them.

1. **We have a passion to accomplish far more for the expansion of the Kingdom and feel a “holy dissatisfaction” with our current missions impact.** We love our missionaries and are loyal to them, but we believe our congregation could be involved far more extensively in fulfilling the Acts 1:8 mandate.

2. **We are prepared to make hard choices, saying “no” to some other good projects in order to concentrate our efforts.** Developing a FOCUS does *not* mean we will drop our current missionaries or stop supporting all other projects or our denomination’s missions fund. It does mean we will make our FOCUS a priority.

We are ready to have our thinking stretched about what missions involves. We will let go of missions traditions if there are more effective ways to mobilize our congregation. A FOCUS requires new ways of thinking about and doing missions that are not measured by the budget, the number of missionaries, church missions events, or even the frequency of short-term missions trips.

4. **We are ready to engage in a missions effort that will probably be messy and to make a commitment with no guarantee of success.** FOCUS initiatives set goals without a simple formula for achievement. Relationships are dynamic and crossing cultures is complex. Partners must be flexible and adaptable.

5. **We are willing to invest the time and energy to develop in-depth relationships across cultural boundaries.** Majority World people are far more relationship oriented than Westerners. Spending extended time getting acquainted communicates respect that is essential. While generosity is important, giving and receiving must be reciprocal.

6. **We are willing to entrust FOCUS leadership responsibilities to others in our church, even if they may do things quite differently than we would do them.** We are ready to relinquish some responsibility and appropriate authority to newer, usually younger, leaders who will try creative new approaches.