BEBC Congregational Missions Forum Series
Session Two

This survey of the development of missions is undertaken at 36,000 feet, and so it is by necessity painted in very broad brush strokes.

Edict of Milan (313 AD)

- Christianity declared to be the official state religion of the Roman Empire
    - significant program of Roman Catholic Church (RCC) missions by 1500 AD
        - religious orders
        - RCC ecclesiology
        - papal authority
    - "in the RCC" = "in Christ”

The Reformation

- Reformation, not repudiation
    - prioritized soteriology
    - retained infant baptism
    - did not emphasize missions in their systematic theologies

The Anabaptists

- Anabaptists repudiation of infant baptism
    - persecution and dispersion
    - evangelism and missions

Protestant Missions

- William Carey
    - village ministry
        - lacked financial capital
        - lacked economic mobility
        - lacked political and ecclesiastical clout
    - missionary society
    - colonial trade companies
- Hudson Taylor
    - China *Inland* Mission
    - African *Inland* Mission
    - Soudan *Interior* Mission

WWII

- Surge of missionary activity
    - specialized training
        - radio
        - aviation
        - linguistics
    - Specialized logistical requirements
    - mission agencies
        - deputation and furlough
            - support model
            - coordination by agency

Short Term Missions (STM)

- great interest and passion
- model
    - biblical mandate
    - philosophy
    - policy
    - ministry plan
    - oversight
    - accountability
    - evaluation
- colleges and parachurch organizations
- tangential local churches involvement

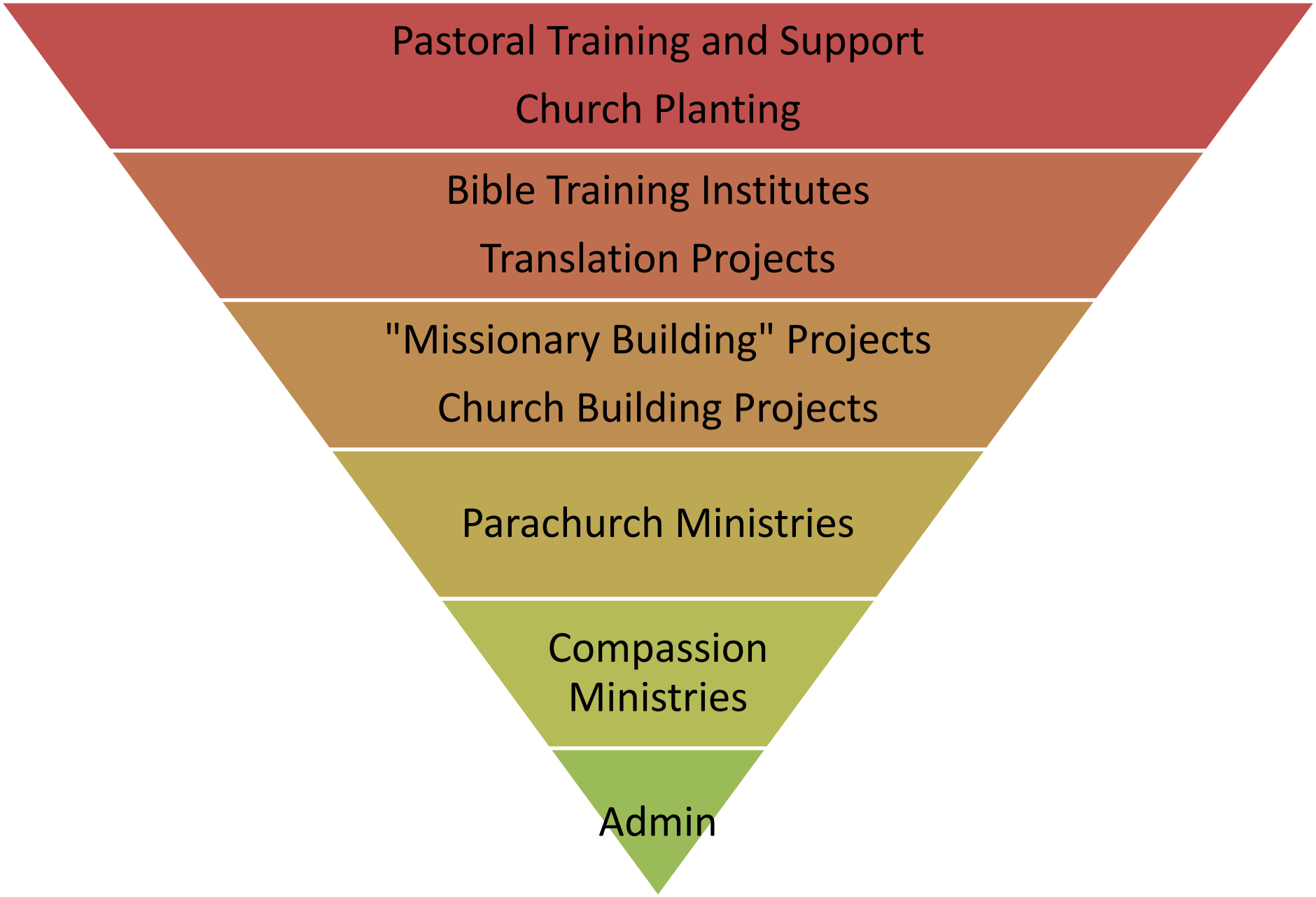
Agency Response

- embracing the role
- addressing the problem
    - strengthening the agency rather than strengthening the churches

Dangers Facing Modern Missions

- Church Growth Movements
- Social Justice
- Bible Translation
- Global Theologizing
- False Gospels and Aberrant Theologies

Faith Promise Budget Distribution



Missionary Team Roles

Cast	Call	Capacity	Commission	Collaboration	Concerns
Sending Church	*Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8* • The recipient of the Great Commission • The "pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15) • The authority (Acts 15-21) • ***How can we best <u>support</u> the missionary and <u>guide</u> the agency?***	*Acts 11:22-26; 13:1-3* • **Challenge** • **Teach** • **Identify** • **Mentor**	*Acts 13:2-3; 15:40; 18:27* • **Observe** • **Confirm** • **Commit** • **Collaborate**	*Acts 13:4-21:26* • Pray for • Finance • Shepherd • Represent • Collaborate with • Anticipate needs • Respond to needs • Visit	• Relinquishing, not Relishing role • Passive, not Proactive • Incidental, not Integral to the calling, sending, and supporting process • Ignorant, not Informed
Missionary	*Acts 13-21; Rom 10:15* • One of the ministers of the Great Commission • An Extension of the church • ***How can I best <u>represent</u> my church and <u>utilize</u> my agency?***	*Acts 11:22-26; 13:1-2a* • **Respond** • **Learn** • **Minister** • **Prepare**	*Acts 13:3; 15:40; 18:27* • **Confirm** • **Commit** • **Observe** • **Collaborate**	*Acts 13:4-21:26* On the field • Live the gospel • Preach the gospel • Make disciples • Train pastors • Plant churches At the sending church • Refresh • Retool • Refocus • Engage • Edify • Enrich	• Complacent, not Challenging • Independent from, not Integrated with the sending church • Pragmatic, not Philosophical

Mission Agency	• One of the aids to the recipient and ministers of the Great Commission
	• A help
	• ***How can we best <u>assist</u> the church and <u>serve</u> the missionary?***
		• **Educate**
		• **Recruit**
			• **Coordinate**
			• **Assign**
			• **Team-build**
				• *In loco ecclesia*
				• Facilitate and Administrate
				  • finances
				  • compliance
				  • training
				  • preparation
				• Assist churches
				  • communication
				  • collaboration
					• Assuming responsibilities, not Assisting in them
					• Pragmatic, not Principled
					• Tight-lipped, not Transparent