



**MISSIONS
AND MONEY**

Your church has allocated \$2,000 per month to missions.

Furthermore, a member gave a lump sum of \$15,000 to the church to spend on missions. At your next missions committee meeting, you must respond to these six requests:

1. A nephew of one of the deacons just graduated from college and is making plans to be a missionary in Santiago, Chile. He asks the church to sponsor his work and provide all of his support--\$3,000 per month, plus estimated moving expenses of \$25,000.

2. A veteran missionary in Africa recently lost half of his support when his sponsoring church split. He asks the church to give \$1,000 per month, but only until he can find a new sponsoring church.

3. A preacher in Oklahoma City who has just returned from his fifth evangelistic campaign to Russia wants to attend the meeting to ask the church to pay the salaries of four Russian preachers.

The young churches, he says, desperately need trained leaders who speak the language and understand the culture. And, at \$250 per month, this is a bargain.

4. The chairman has received a written request from a missionary in Papua New Guinea who is unknown to everyone on the committee. He is asking for \$100 (but would appreciate more) toward the purchase of a new four-wheel drive vehicle (total cost = \$21,000) without which he cannot reach the remote villages where the gospel has not been heard.

5. One of your members is a pre-med student home from college who is asking the committee for \$2,600 to go to Guatemala for three weeks this summer to serve as a medical assistant in the brotherhood clinic there. The student explains that this experience will help him decide about making a long-term commitment to missions when he finishes his education.

6. The Bangalore Bible School trains twenty national preachers each year. According to their fundraising letter, they could accommodate twice as many students if they could build a larger dormitory. Since labor is cheap in this part of the world, they say, the total cost of this building project is \$50,000. Will you contribute?

A. THE PROBLEM OF DEPENDENCY

- 1. The local agenda is set by outsiders.**
- 2. Progress locally is dependent upon outside funds.**

- 3. Foreign-salaried preachers are not free to innovate.**
- 4. Self-image and community image is diminished.**
- 5. What may have been intended as short-term assistance becomes long-term addiction.**

B. HELPING WITHOUT HURTING

- 1. Funds should only be given for projects that can be maintained locally.**
- 2. Aid given by foreign partners should be tied to what locals have already given.**

3. Financial partners should be open about the nature of the local accountability structure, trust that structure, and give funds to specific projects without excessive earmarking.

4. The financial partnership is best served if the missionary is not the middleman receiving and disbursing funds.

C. LESSONS FROM THE PAST

1. Henry Venn and Rufus Anderson (Anglican and Congregationalists Mission Boards, 1850s)

a. Self-support of nationals

b. Self-propagating churches

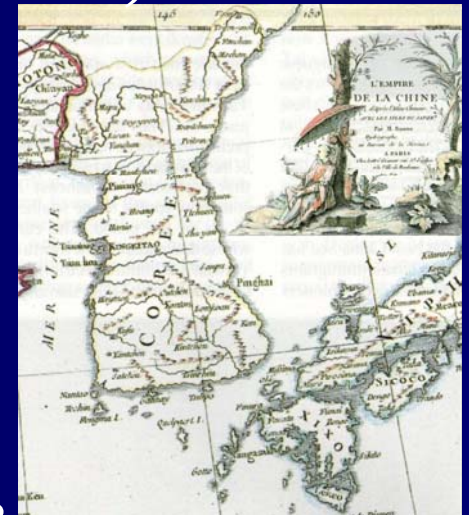
c. Self-governing churches

2. John Nevius (Presbyterian, China/Korea, 1885)

a. Three selves

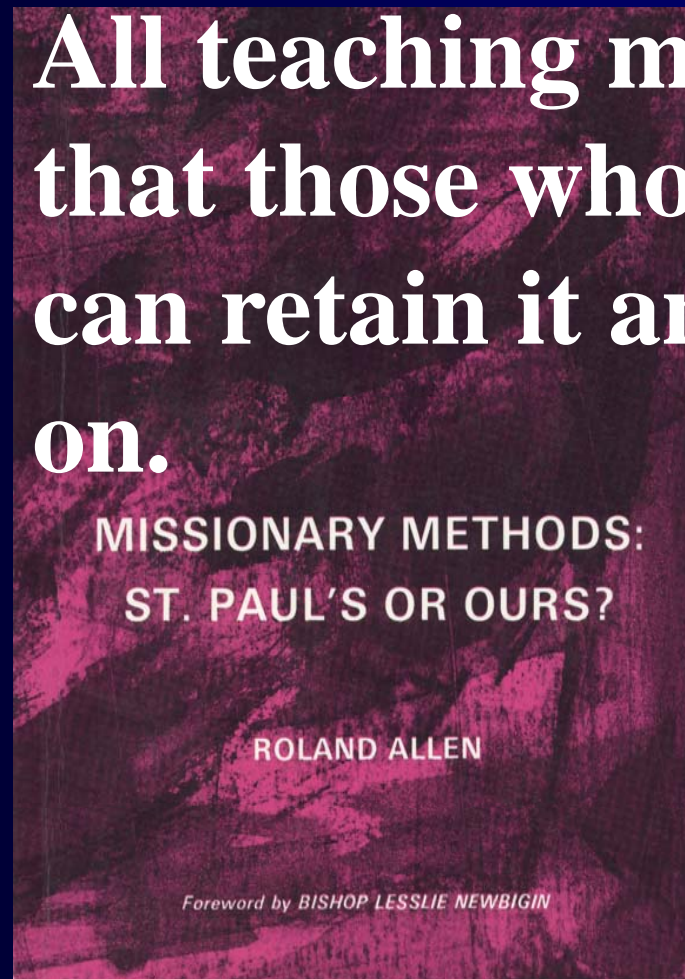
b. Strict church discipline

c. Benevolence *by* native
Christians



3. Roland Allen (Anglican, China 1895)

- a. All teaching must be such that those who receive it can retain it and pass it on.



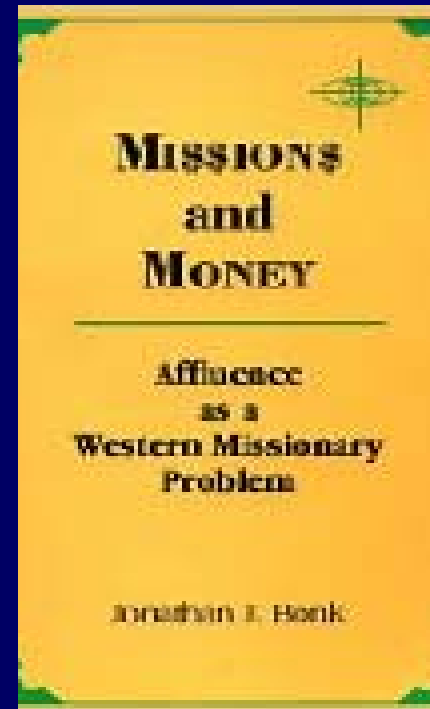
- b. All organization must be able to perpetuate itself.**

- c. Churches must operate independent of foreign funds.**

- d. A sense of mutual responsibility must be at work in the church through a mobilized membership.**
- e. The church must be given authority to conduct its own affairs immediately after its inception.**

4. Jonathan Bonk, *Mi\$\$ion\$ and Money: Affluence as a Western Missionary Problem* (1991)

“affluence-dependent strategies”



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