

# The Church as mission agency

- What do you make of the relationship between the church and mission in our context?

1 Peter 2:4-10

- What do you learn about the church?
  - Focus
  - Nature
  - Purpose

Matt. 28:19-20

- where will the teaching and discipleship happen?
- what is the direction / dynamic? (cf. Gen. 1:28; 9:1; 11:4; Acts 1:8; 2:4-12)
- what if mission is not just 'something the church needs to do'; what if the church only exists because of mission and for mission?

CHURCH → mission or MISSION → CHURCH → MISSION

Acts 11:19-30 – what do you notice about the beginnings of things in Antioch?

- God's work
- The preaching of Christ
- Mission → church
- Teaching, discipleship, Matt. 28 in action
- Partnership in the gospel, outward looking from the beginning

Acts 13:1-3 → 14:19-28

- 13:1-3 – What sacrifice was that for Antioch?
- 14:19-28 – What do you notice about mission and relationship between mission and the church?

Acts 15:36-41 → 18:22-23

- What is the picture you get here of the relationship between mission and the church?

Wherever people responded to the gospel churches were planted. Those churches continued the apostolic mission by being missionary churches. From these churches new churches were planted.

A mission society or organisation can help:

- Equipping churches to take their next steps in mission
- Forging the necessary partnerships between churches within and across borders
- Specialist experience of particular regions and cultures and accumulated wisdom on cross-cultural mission practice
- Helping with financial and other organisational facilities
- Logistical support, backup in cultural adjustment, debriefing etc.

Mission organisations who are convinced of the centrality of the local church as the mission agency:

[www.radstock.org](http://www.radstock.org)

[www.crosslinks.org](http://www.crosslinks.org)