

The Howell Family

Your Missionaries to **New Zealand** —

TO USE A MISSION BOARD...OR NOT...

“Organization was precipitated by the conversion of Adoniram Judson to Baptist principles while he was en route to Burma. His co-worker, Luther Rice, had also converted and agreed to return to the United States to organize support for Judson. Rice envisioned a missionary organization that would be accountable to churches.”

Much can be said on using a mission board or not, and much prayer, homework and discernment is needed. This was an important matter of prayer before we started out on deputation. My conclusion was that both can be equally biblical and unbiblical. To be biblical our sending church would have to have 100% authority and control of every aspect of our ministry with our 100% accountability. World Wide New Testament Baptist Mission was a perfect fit for our ministry and our sending church.

In my research and speaking with pastors, a few concerns came forward: direction, finances and assets. Direction must be led by the Holy Spirit. Many boards have field directors and teams that have taken the place of both the Holy Spirit. Finances must be fully controlled by the missionary and sending church. Many mission boards have elaborate home-office facilities with unneeded paid staff and directors. Most boards completely control the missionary’s budget, which could be good or bad. Assets must be owned by the field church. Some mission boards hold deeds to properties and all assets.

Logically it takes money to operate any ministry. However, it has been said that using a mission board is a waste of God’s money. To a point, I could agree with this, but saying not to use a board simply because they get a portion of the support is as the cliché says, “throwing the baby out with the bath water.” It has been said that going out of the local church will save paying all operating expenses. Even in a perfect world, this is not true because the fact is that operating expenses are not free. By going out of the local church simply shifts the burden of these expenses solely to the sending church or gets itemized into the budget which would still be paid by supporting churches. Operating expenses that must be paid for would include office supplies, postage, travel expenses, possible staff, etc. To pay the right mission board for these expenses is wise stewardship if a missionary gets an office staff that is experienced in finances, taxes, immigration, world governments, etc. With the right mission board, a missionary will not be paying for unneeded director salaries or elaborate mission board facilities.

Concluding thought, using a mission board to handle ministry expenses and financial accountability is no different then a church using a CPA for the exact purpose of helping with expenses and financial accountability. No doubt a CPA would be chosen wisely and preferably a Christian of like faith to the church. The CPA would be an agency with a goal to assist the church in getting their records in order and properly submitted to the IRS. The CPA would not control any aspect of the church finances and would not take away authority any from the local church. A mission board would be similar in concept. The board must line up doctrinally, with no exception. The board must have a goal to assist the local church in getting their missionary to the field. The board must not have any control over the missionary, must not take away authority any from the local church, and must not supersede any aspect of the local church. Too many popular mission boards forcibly do some or all of these, and sadly allowed by the local church.



Matthew 28:19-20

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

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