

KOINONIA'S
LOCAL & GLOBAL
OUTREACH
NEWSLETTER
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Feed



The Impact of Missions

At Koinonia, we believe that foreign missions matter and that our strategic ministry partnerships bring about significant change in the lives of people.

Sociologist Robert Woodberry, a PhD from the University of North Carolina, has extensively researched the impact of Christian missions.

He says, "Areas where missionaries had a significant presence in the past are on average, more economically developed today, with comparatively better health, lower infant mortality, lower corruption, greater literacy, higher educational attainment and higher social status for women."

Essentially, Woodberry is saying that Christian missions have been one of the most profound (if not *the* most profound) movements to

bring about positive change in the world.

In his research, Woodberry makes one important distinction. The missionaries that had this positive impact were not primarily concerned with doing good, seeking justice or addressing poverty. Rather, their primary concern was seeing people come to faith in Jesus Christ. What naturally flowed out once people converted to a Jesus follower was goodness, justice and equality.

Jesus teaches us why this is the case. People's lives change as a result of faith in Him. Jesus says "Make the tree good and its fruit will thus be good" (Matthew 12:33). The tree must experience health and wholeness first, and then it will bear good fruit.

Woodberry found that missionaries who made a lasting

impact did not focus on changing the world, but focused on seeing people come to belief and acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior. This new faith in Christ brought about change in the personal lives of those who followed Jesus, and subsequently, the world around them. Eternal salvation found in Jesus Christ brought about temporal transformation in this life.

Our desire as a church is to see people come to life changing faith in Jesus Christ that has eternal impact. In turn, this eternal salvation will lead believers to make a lasting impact on life on earth. Our investment in missions is making a difference, both in this life, and the life to come.

Monthly Missions Support	Care India Southern India	Crossroads Pregnancy Hanford, California	Episcopal Soup Kitchen Hanford, California	Helping Hands Baja, Mexico
	Kings Pantry Hanford, California	Phnom Koul Orphan Home Cambodia	Samuels House Hanford, California	Tamayo Family Asia
	Victory Bible College Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Youth for Christ Kings County		