

HEALTHCARE MISSIONS AND CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Healthcare missions can contribute to the fulfillment of our vision: *through God's grace, to see an indigenous, biblical church movement in each people group of East Asia, evangelizing their own people and reaching out in mission to other peoples.* The DISPEL outline (Alex T, OMF) below of the stages of work towards OMF's vision of IBCMs adds some helpful detail.



- **Discern:** *Identifying a community's physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs*
What is **God's purpose** for these individuals and this community?
How does this intersect with the real and felt needs of the community?
- **Inroads:** *Joining God in reaching these individuals by entering the community*
Sometimes **we are uniquely positioned** as healthcare professionals to enter where others cannot. Our occupations place us in a position of trust and provides instant connection with others.
- **Sow:** *Sharing the good news of Christ in all its fullness*
Seeing God's image in those around us. Modeling the compassion of Christ in our words and actions. Seeking **restoration of the whole person**.
- **Plant:** *Make disciples*
Often people enter a **faith community** before they receive Christ – building community is essential. Discipleship starts before someone becomes a Christian.
- **Enable:** *Provide resources, minimize dependency, ensure reproducibility*
Intentionally **empower nationals** through teaching and mentorship. Work towards putting yourself out of a job.
- **Launch:** *Extending the work into new communities and contexts*
Create opportunities for nationals to **develop confidence** so that they can step out when able.



These are not steps but facets – they happen in different orders and usually overlap.



Maybe we are not the one to fill the need or see it from beginning to end. Some plant, some water; different gifts and different roles in the kingdom.

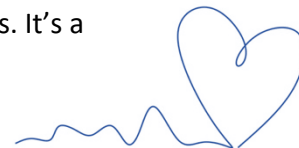
As we continue to come back to God in prayer, holding our ideas loosely before Him, He is faithful to guide and direct.



Don't be afraid to involve locals - including non-believers - early on. They will have insights into culture and context that you may not know.



Healthcare missions doesn't need to be done exclusively by healthcare professionals. It's a form of integrated mission.



We need to see ministry as more than praying the sinner's prayer with others. God leads people to Himself in many ways; often meeting a physical or psychosocial need opens their hearts to Him

