

## Core Missionary Task

We get the CMT from Acts 13-21 when we look for the pattern of the Apostle Paul and his team and what they did every place they established new work.

- **Abiding** – The work was done in total dependence on the Lord.
- **Entry** - He had a strategy to enter a new place.
- **Evangelism** -The gospel was preached when he entered a new place.
- **Discipleship** - New believers grew in their faith and knowledge of the Word.
- **Church Planting** – Churches were established.
- **Leadership Development** – Leaders were raised up.
- **Exit**- He moved on to enter the next place even if there was no persecution.

When you read Acts 14:20-23 can you see his pattern described at the end of his first journey?

### Acts 14:20-23

*<sup>20</sup> But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe. <sup>21</sup> They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said. <sup>23</sup> Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.*

### What part of Paul's pattern do you find in verse 20?

*But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe*

- **Entry** - He had a strategy to enter a new place.
- **Exit**- He moved on to enter the next place even if there was no persecution.

Entry and Exit are two sides of the same coin. Paul made an exit from Lystra and entered Derbe. He would soon make a more complete exit when he completes his first journey and returns to Antioch, but the first thing he would do on his second journey is visit Lystra and Derbe and strengthen the work.

**What part of Paul's pattern do you find in verse 21?**

*They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,*

**Evangelism** -The gospel was preached when he entered a new place.

It is very clear that Paul was intentional about gospel proclamation. His pattern was to enter a new place and proclaim the gospel. When Paul entered Pisidian Antioch he went right into gospel proclamation to the point that almost the whole city heard him proclaim the gospel. (Acts 13:44)

**What part of Paul's pattern do you find in verse 22?**

*strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.*

**Discipleship** - New believers grew in their faith and knowledge of the Word.

Paul gave attention to strengthening new believers. When Barnabas brought Paul to Antioch it was to strengthen the believers there. It was the pattern of Paul to disciple new believers who heard the gospel and believed.

**What part of Paul's pattern do you find in verse 23?**

*Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.*

- **Church Planting** – Churches were established.
- **Leadership Development** – Leaders were raised up.

There is not specific mention in Acts chapters 13-14 about church planting. But at the end of his first journey there were churches all over the area where Paul entered, evangelized and disciplined believers. We see that out specifically when we find out that Paul and Barnabas appointed leaders in all the churches they had planted.

There was also a deliberate strategy seen to raise up leaders from the believers disciplined. This verse tells us that the church leaders were raised up from the local disciples who had come to faith in Christ.

### **Our conclusion**

We find Paul's pattern in these four verses. Now look at the nine chapters of Acts 13-21 and identify the pattern of his core missionary task. For Paul and Barnabas the missionary task was done through abiding in Christ. The work was carried out with prayer and fasting (Acts 14:23). We can go through the entire portion of Acts to confirm that entry, evangelism, discipleship, church planting and leadership development was the consistent pattern through all the missionary work of Paul found in Acts 13-21.