

Of course, the church gladly ministers to those who have no "church home," but the non-member misses much when he neglects to unite with fellow believers. Unfortunately, it often takes a family crisis to show him what he is missing.

5. *The church provides a way to sustain a missions program in unevangelized lands* (Acts 13:1-3; Philippians 4:16-18).

The New Testament example and our own experiences teach us that world evangelization can be accomplished only when believers unite.

Scattered prayer bands can send up needed prayer and do much good. However, collecting and disbursing funds in the tremendous proportions needed for recruiting and sending out workers, and building and supporting the work of God in the nations of the earth requires uniting our hearts, energies, and resources in the pattern established by the New Testament church.

As a result of total team involvement, the Assemblies of God has one of the largest foreign missions programs in Protestant Christianity. The program provides a means whereby men, women, youth, and children can participate in fulfilling "the Great Commission."

6. *The New Testament church pattern*

*provides for other benefits, including the following.*

a. Systematic care for the material needs of the destitute when no other means is available (Acts 2:45; 4:34, 35; 6:1-3; James 1:27).

b. True worship in the Spirit as "the whole church . . . comes together into one place" (1 Corinthians 14:23).

c. Creating and maintaining proper attitudes and relationships among believers (Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians 6:1-3; Galatians 6:1).

d. A means of properly receiving and disbursing funds for God's work (1 Corinthians 16:1-4). This is especially important in light of laws that govern the collection and use of public funds.

e. Determining who is to receive fellowship in the company of believers which is the church (1 Corinthians 5:4, 13; 1 Timothy 1:20); and providing for the selection of scripturally qualified leaders over the church (Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:1-10). Both are important safeguards in the preservation and continued ministry of the church.

f. The local church is God's means through which the ordinances of water baptism and communion are ministered (Acts 8:12; 1 Corinthians 11:33).

As a believer whose desire is to become spiritually strong and mature, you need the church and its various ministries. Like-