

# The Thriving Church

In everything we do, CALMS has a singular vision: to grow committed disciples and disciple-makers, help existing churches thrive, and to help Central American communities become healthier in every way. Our focus on “thriving” churches is helping to create new national/ethnic churches that are dependent on God and not on outside resources. Such churches are in the process of becoming fully mature. To help us move toward the ideal of “thriving” churches, CALMS’ coaches our short-term teams to work with sustainability in mind, and to avoid activities and involvement that detracts from the development of healthy, mission-centered churches. As an ideal outcome in our work of assisting Central American churches, we want to see churches that 1) have their own equipped leaders 2) are able to find their own resources 3) make disciples, evangelize and start other churches, and 4) are Biblically sound and able to apply scripture in a relevant way to those of their own culture.

## Leadership and Self-determination

- led by its own leaders, not by missionaries
- makes its own decisions without having to refer them to a foreign board or organization
- sets its own policies, structure, procedures
- acts as a partner with US groups in joint efforts

## Resources and Support

- depends on God and prays continually for His guidance and help
- finds resources for its needs from its own people
- does not *depend* mainly on financial aid from US or foreign organizations
- finds equipment and personnel from its own people
- does not depend on outside aid in the form of equipment donations or manpower
- is not dependent on others but seeks to be interdependent with partners

## Growth and Expansion

- evangelizes non-Christians
- plants new, healthy churches on its own within its own culture
- develops its own cross-cultural mission work

## Faithfulness and Relevancy

- applies the Gospel to its own cultural challenges without needing the guidance of outside missionaries
- makes decisions within its own culture that are based on Scripture
- shares the Gospel with non-Christians of its own culture in ways that are Biblically faithful and make sense, are relevant, in that culture

© Copyright

B. Steve Hughey

January 2000

Revised Jan 2008 and Sep 2016