



EVANGELISM STRATEGY THROUGH MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK IN SPREADING THE GOSPEL BASED ON LUKE 10:9

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Artikel info	ABSTRAK
<p>Corresponding Author:</p> <p>Serilius Ariyanto Kota Landu Seriliuskotalandu@gmail.com Universitas Advent Indonesia</p>	<p>Evangelism through medical missionary work has become an integral strategy in spreading the teachings of the Gospel, in line with the great mandate given by Jesus to His disciples. This paper aims to explore in depth the relationship between health and the Gospel, by critically reviewing the history, goals and methods of medical missionary work, as well as analyzing evangelism strategies that can be applied in this context. By using a qualitative approach to various relevant literary sources, this research provides a comprehensive picture of Peter Parker's contribution as one of the pioneer medical missionaries and his impact on the development of evangelism in various regions. In addition, this research also highlights the importance of thorough preparation and appropriate qualifications for medical missionary workers, including a deep understanding of the culture and social context in which they serve.</p>
	<p>Keywords: <i>Evangelism, medical missionary, holistic ministry.</i></p>
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INTRODUCTION

The great commission given by Jesus, which is the vision and mission of every global church, has been passed down through generation after generation. When Jesus gave commands to His disciples before ascending to heaven, this task was passed on to His followers. The disciples, as direct witnesses of Jesus, realized their great responsibility: to spread the teachings of the Gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the world. The main priority in Christian history has been to obey them. Various strategies have been developed to fulfill the commandment, with evangelism—the effort to save, give hope of eternal life, and invite people to follow Jesus Christ—being central to these efforts. Followers of Christ,

aware of their obligations, passionately engaged in evangelism, which contributed significantly to the growth and spread of the church (Saptono, 2019).

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus establishes a universal command for the Gospel to be spread to all nations, languages, and ethnicities throughout the world (Matthew 24:14). This verse is a testimony to all nations before the end of time. This message highlights that repentance is not just an individual's change in facing the end times, but also has an impact on spreading the Gospel to all mankind. Salvation is presented as a gift from God to those who will accept and have faith in Jesus, and it is the responsibility of those who have received this gift to spread this joyful message to the world, giving everyone the opportunity to receive salvation through Jesus Christ (Setiawan, 2019).

His kingdom will not come until the Gospel or the good news of His grace has been delivered throughout the world. Jesus has shown method after method to reach unreached people and many people have even been willing to sacrifice their lives for the testimony of the Gospel itself. Apart from preaching, Jesus also healed people who experienced various physical illnesses, and because of this, they flocked to follow Jesus wherever He went (Matthew 4:23-25). The Savior's work is so broad that it cannot even be limited by time and place. Rescue work is always carried out in very large numbers, namely by carrying out healing (et al., 2022).

Their God-empowered mission is to spread the Gospel throughout the world, to be partners with Christ in bringing merciful love to those in need. God calls many people to voice compassion for those who know the truth. With a sincere determination to save lives, being medical missionaries who embrace people's hearts, they can help relieve physical suffering and meet their spiritual needs (Burge et al., 2014).

The Scriptures provide an illustration that Jesus not only commissioned His followers to make all nations His disciples but also cared for sick individuals. Medical missionaries apply the Gospel in caring for the sick as a teaching of Christ's compassion. This work is important and opens up new opportunities, especially for those in the healthcare field who focus on caring, helping, and spreading the Gospel. That is the essence of "Medical Missionary Work."

There is a need of much education in the duty, the necessity, and the efficacy of medical missions. For our own and the following generation this duty is most important (Shankar, 2017) .

The relationship between health and the Gospel raises important questions regarding the strategy of evangelism through health, known as "Medical Missionary Work," and how this influences society's perception of the Gospel. In the context of evangelism, strategy has a significant role because it has a big impact on the evangelism process. The success of evangelism really depends on thorough preparation, one of which is the existence of a good and clear strategy.

In this context, it is important to analyze in depth the strategy of evangelism especially through health services or "Medical Missionary Work". Therefore, the author is interested in making a research on "Evangelization Strategy Through Medical Missionary Work for the Spread of the Gospel Based on Luke 10:9".

METHOD

This research uses a library qualitative research method, a descriptive study strategy designed to collect, examine, and assess important data and information related to the subject matter discussed. By using various textual sources, including books, scientific journals, documents, archives, literature, articles, papers, historical narratives, and other reliable sources, information was collected systematically as part of this research methodology. With the help of a literature study approach, researchers can examine and evaluate various current theories, viewpoints and perspectives to support or strengthen research conclusions or arguments (Cahoy, 2021).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Understanding Medical Missionaries

Medical Missionary Work, a missionary initiative focused on the spiritual and health dimensions, which operates in the form of empathy and sympathy for individuals who face suffering, both in physical and spiritual contexts. Engaging specifically with marginalized groups, sick individuals, and those experiencing suffering, the movement holds out the promise of healing and restoration that includes both spiritual and physical aspects. As such, Medical Missionary Work reflects a commitment to addressing the multiple dimensions of human suffering with a holistic and compassionate approach (Iorio et al., 2023).

History of Medical Missionaries

Medical Missionary (*Medical Missionary Work*) is a movement that emerged in 1838, precisely in February, which was started by the Reverend Peter Parker, MD (1804-1888) during his ministry in China as the first Medical Missionary.(Young, 1973) In the first three months of its presence in China, it has succeeded in achieving a number of achievements which have had a major impact in breaking down the walls of prejudice, and the resulting influence has even had a greater effect than that which has been attempted by conventional missionaries with whom they have struggled so far in conveying the gospel. Such success reflects the extraordinary power of change in building bridges to understanding and acceptance among communities that may previously have been riddled with prejudice and uncertainty.(Fu, 2015) William Lookhart in his book entitled " *The Medical Missionary in China: a Narrative of Twenty Years' Experience* " stated that the medical mission experience that took place in China over a period of 20 years, had experienced extraordinary achievements. This is proven by the large number of people who joined themselves in this missionary work, which in the end got good results, even though it was not as big or as broad as what happened in China, it is certain that this medical work experienced rapid growth at the beginning of its arrival in both countries (Roy, 2021).

Medical Missionary Aims

Thomas Gillison stated that the main aim of the Medical Missionaries is to heal the sick and preach the gospel of truth.(Curtis, 2006) Medical missionary work is pioneering work of the Gospel that will bring truth into many homes. Because they must learn to minister to the needs of their bodies and souls, God's people must become true medical

missionaries. Since our workers work to provide care to the sick, they must demonstrate the purest selflessness. They will enter many hearts during their journey from house to house. There are many people who have never heard the message of the Gospel.

By demonstrating the principles of health reform, prejudice will be eliminated from our evangelistic work. The Great Physician, who began medical missionary work, will bless all those who now seek to spread the truth.

As the Gateway to the Gospel

Medical missions are an important gateway that provides opportunities for individuals experiencing spiritual suffering to provide service to their physical health. By committing to this task, there is an opportunity to understand more deeply the individual's conscience by alleviating physical suffering as a basis for meeting greater spiritual needs. A medical missionary is required to contact the patient's heart so that the Gospel message can be easily received by those being treated. This emphasizes that in the role as a medical missionary, it is not only important to pay attention to the medical aspects, but also the social and spiritual aspects of the patient. By building good relationships with patients, medical missionaries can gain their trust, so that the gospel message can be conveyed more effectively (Evangelical Quarterly: An Internati, 2022).

“And heal the sick that are there, etc.] Of all their bodily diseases, which would not only show their power and warrant, theft mission and commission, but also their goodness and benefit to men; and would be a sufficient return for what they ate and drank: and say unto them; not only to the sick who are healed, and those in the house where they were, but to all the inhabitants of the city; the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you: the Gospel dispensation, the kingdom of the Messiah, and even the Messiah himself, as might be concluded from the miracles they wrought; and thus by their ministry and works, were they to go before Christ, and prepare his way .”
(Oliver et al., 2021)

The conclusion from the paragraph above is that the healing actions carried out by missionaries had the aim of showing their power and goodness to humans. Through their actions, the missionaries wanted to convey that the Kingdom of God was near to the residents of the city. This indicates that their healing actions were not only proof of the power and legitimacy of their mission, but also a form of kindness and love towards humanity. Thus, their deeds were the first step to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah.

The Right Hand of Evangelism

Medical missionary work, often identified as "a major partner in the mission of the Gospel", has a central role in the advancement of God's work of ministry. In this context, medical practice becomes an important tool in spreading the Gospel message and bringing truth to society. Through the efforts of medical missionaries, both men and women receive learning about the importance of a healthy, balanced lifestyle and the opportunity to experience the power of spiritual healing. In this plan, medical personnel specially trained for missionary missions will be sent to every city throughout the world. They serve as an extension of the role mentioned in the Bible, conveying messages of both physical and

spiritual healing to local communities. This medical approach became a real testament to the Church.

Everywhere, sick people can be found; those who serve Christ must become true healers. They provide simple care, relieve suffering, and pray together, opening the way for God's truth and love. This became the focus of churches in various regions, north, south, east, and west, who responded in earnest (Nel, 2023).

Medical Missionary Worker Qualifications Application in the Evangelical Context in Luke 10

The author summarizes several things that must be paid attention to when joining as a medical missionary worker, in this case the qualifications that are the main concern of a medical missionary are as follows:

Workers must be cleansed, purified, sanctified, and exalted.

Playing an intermediary role in spreading Bible teachings is an important aspect for preaching workers. The process of preparing to fulfill this task involves purification, self-purification, and personal growth as an integral part. These stages emphasize the significant role of spiritual intervention. Preparation also includes achieving the necessary competency, morality, and ethical standards.

As a basic teaching in the Bible, 2 Timothy 2:21 emphasizes the importance of self-purification. This means that those who will work as evangelizers must actively avoid things that are not beneficial or sins that could prevent them from doing their work well. Described as a process of sanctification, this action will produce equipment suitable for God to use in His work (Hauer & Farmer, 2000).

In Philippians 3:14, Paul expresses his determination to continue to approach the highest goal in the ministry of preaching the gospel, indicating the spirit of improvement that is essential in the development of the ministry. 1 Peter 1:15-16 highlights the importance of holiness for believers in Christ, emphasizing the need to reflect God's holiness in their behavior and assistance to others. In the context of preaching the gospel, these verses show the importance of moral integrity and sincerity.

In conclusion, the preparation of evangelical workers in spreading the teachings of the Christian religion involves stages of purification, sanctification, and personal improvement. This process includes spiritual intervention, moral and ethical understanding, and commitment to achieving high standards in the performance of their ministry. All of these components are an integral part of their preparation and consecration as preachers of the gospel.

All gospel workers must know how to provide simple care.

In Dr. Tiroy Sari Bumi Simanjuntak, Sp.PD., a missionary worker and "simple doctor" plays a dual role. They not only become missionaries, but also have the role of "doctors" with basic knowledge about the medical field, the use of medical equipment, and knowledge about drug prescriptions, without neglecting their main task as servants who base their actions on love, as explained by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:4-5. Dr. Tiroy also suggested using the "Zending" method in an effort to improve the welfare and health of people in the service area, by providing facilities such as Healthy Clubs or mini clinics

during certain periods (Oberholster et al., 2013).

Medical missionaries are expected to have a variety of basic skills that are essential to carrying out the task of healing. This includes the ability to set measurable goals in the context of health care, a strong understanding of health principles, nutritional sciences, as well as basic knowledge of medication. In addition, it is expected that they will be able to plan and manage larger initiatives, such as establishing care facilities, such as hospitals, to provide needed health care in various service areas. These comprehensive skills are the key to the success of Medical Missionaries in carrying out healing tasks and achieving a positive impact in the future (Dailor, 2021).

Increased knowledge, better skills, and deeper discernment.

William Lookhart, in his paper entitled " *The Medical Missionary in China: a Narrative of Twenty Years' Experience* ," argued that the main qualifications of a medical missionary worker involved the attainment of deep knowledge as well as broad expertise. A medical missionary is expected to have abilities that are not only limited to medical aspects, but are also able to carry out teaching duties and provide effective direction to the patients they serve. By applying such knowledge and skills holistically, medical missionaries have the potential to achieve extraordinary results in spreading the values of health and medical care to the communities served (Young, 1973).

It is very important to carry out in-depth and thorough preparation for an evangelist considering the many backgrounds and problems that color people's lives. Control of emotion or burning passion is not the only component of this preparation; it is more basic in mature spiritual and physical preparation. In addition, the component of spiritual readiness includes a deep understanding of moral and spiritual principles and the ability to build relationships with the people targeted for evangelism. Physical readiness includes ensuring that the evangelist has sufficient physical endurance to respond to the various demands of ministry. In addition, to carry out ministry in the right way requires deep wisdom and the skills necessary to design and implement various ministry strategies. Strategic and tactical intelligence is an important component in achieving effectiveness and positive impact in the context of evangelism (Hannas & Rinawaty, 2019).

Strategies for Evangelism through Medical Missionary Work .

Based on what the author has researched from several sources and including the results of interviews conducted by the author, there are several strategies that must be used in carrying out duties as a medical missionary, these are as follows:

Determining the vision and mission in outreach through medical missionary evangelism strategies

In developing evangelization strategies through medical missionary work, looking to the future is a very vital aspect. By crafting a focused and inspiring vision statement, evangelism teams can foster a strong sense of passion, establish clear shared goals, and strengthen the coordination of their actions. A solid vision statement provides a foundation for the team, allowing them to set a long-term direction in delivering the gospel message through healthcare. The alignment of actions of the medical missionary team, driven by a strong vision, allows them to move in one direction, create solid cooperation, and increase

the effectiveness of evangelism in various regions by formulating a measurable common mission. Therefore, a structured and focused vision statement is a crucial foundation to achieve long-term success in the context of evangelism through medical missionary work (Abdul Aziz & Abdul Hamid, 2023).

Approaching the people you want to serve

It is important to take a wise approach to the person you are evangelizing (Prill, 2005) ; this is reflected in efforts to understand the context of their lives and their beliefs. In 1 Peter 3:15, which reads, "But set apart Christ as Lord in your hearts, always be ready to give an account to everyone who asks you to give an account of the hope that is in you, but do it with gentleness and respect." As evangelicals, we are invited to treat everyone with respect and gentleness. By using a loving and understanding approach, we can build solid relationships and facilitate discussions that help them better understand the gospel message. In this way, opportunities for repentance and acceptance of God's grace can be wide open.

Jesus, considered the true Medical Missionary, set a great example by showing that He began by understanding the scientific nature of man. In the practice of his ministry, what stood out most about Jesus was his ability to show empathy and sympathy that was completely in accordance with human needs. His actions demonstrated not only his extensive knowledge of the scientific aspects of the human health condition, but also his deep social and emotional sensitivity to human suffering and needs (Willis & Owoahene-Acheampong, 1999).

Approach through a particular culture

John Piper stated that when the disciples were sent by God to preach the gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19-20), it was not referring to each individual but to each tribe/national group. That is why the main task carried out by every church is to reach ethnic groups representing various groups of people, namely ethnic groups who have never heard the gospel (Elliott, 2011).

In his article entitled "Do We Need a Postmodern Anthropology for Mission," Michael A. Rynkiewich outlines the three main contributions of Anthropology to mission studies and describes the interrelated relationships between the two research fields. First, Anthropology provides the ability to think about the meaning, values and lessons that can be drawn from different experiences or concepts in observing and assessing the uniqueness of ethnic groups. It is necessary as missionaries to focus not only on the similarities between ethnic groups, but also to recognize and understand the uniqueness of their ethnic character. Second, Anthropology teaches the importance of humility in understanding new ethnic groups without judging their culture from one's own cultural perspective. This is crucial for Missiology to be able to distinguish between cultural elements and expressions of worship. Third, Anthropology provides a global perspective on ethnic groups, allowing mission services to benefit from research that seeks to see the relationship between one ethnicity and another (Neto, 2022). A Medical Missionary Evangelist must understand the benefits and commonalities that may exist across the various layers of culture the ministry focuses on when selecting a method. These similarities can include things such as social

norms, cultural values, and the uniqueness of the individuals being targeted for evangelism. Efforts to understand and appreciate the cultural basis that shapes the identity of local communities is why it is important to emphasize these similarities. By using this approach, Medical Missionary Evangelists can build stronger relationships with the people and communities they serve. They can also build a strong foundation for the dissemination of messages and services that are sensitive to local cultural contexts.

Carrying out medical missionary service

In reaching out to the local community, the author explains several strategies for carrying out medical missionary services

1. Conduct door-to-door visits and offer free health checks

In order to develop evangelization efforts, medical missionaries often carry out door-to-door visits as part of a strategy called *door-to-door*. This method allows them to offer free health screenings to communities not yet reached by the presence of pastors or older congregation members. This activity is known as visitation, where medical missionaries visit homes in a particular community with the primary aim of introducing health services that are available free of charge. The goal of this trip is to provide access to quality health services to families who may not have access to or adequate understanding of the importance of overall health. Thus, this approach not only aims to provide medical services, but also to expand the scope of the evangelization message by paying attention to the physical and spiritual needs of the communities served.

2. Create a service through the Healthy Club

Services through Club Sehat are an initiative founded by the Amazing Fact Indonesia organization with the main aim of increasing the accessibility of health services for people who face economic limitations. The Sehat Club not only functions as lodging, but also as a means to introduce the teachings of the Gospel to individuals, with a focus on the love of Christ promoted by the Adventist Church. Apart from being a place to stay, Club Sehat also provides various services which include counseling processes, health consultations, as well as providing direction regarding a healthy lifestyle to those who need it. Through this approach, Club Sehat not only aims to meet people's physical needs, but also pays attention to spiritual aspects by providing a platform to explore the teachings and values contained in Christian teachings.

3. Free treatment

In the context of medical missionaries, the provision of free medical services in a village has significant relevance. Medical missionaries aim to not only provide physical care to individuals in need, but also to attend to the spiritual and social aspects of human suffering. By providing free medical services, medical missionaries can meet the need for basic medical care for underprivileged individuals and communities, thereby opening the door to physical healing which is also a gateway to spiritual healing. Additionally, through health education programs, medical missionaries can strengthen relationships with local communities, win their hearts,

and build the trust necessary to effectively convey spiritual or gospel messages. Thus, providing free medical services in villages is not only a form of physical health service, but is also an integral part of medical missionary efforts to pay attention to the spiritual and social needs of the communities served.

CONCLUSION

Through this article, the author explains the importance of evangelism strategies through medical missionary work based on the teachings of Luke 10:9. Evangelism is a task mandated by Jesus to His disciples to spread the teachings of the Gospel throughout the world. Medical missionary missions are one effective way to achieve this goal, by providing physical health care and also conveying the Gospel message to individuals in need.

The strategy of evangelism through medical missionary work involves several aspects. First, determine a clear vision and mission in reaching the community through health services. Then, take a wise approach to the individuals you want to serve by understanding the context of their lives and beliefs.

Furthermore, it is important to pay attention to local cultural aspects in developing evangelism strategies, so that the Gospel message can be conveyed effectively and be absorbed by the community. Lastly, carrying out medical missionary services by means of house-to-house visits, establishing Healthy Clubs, and providing free medical treatment.

Overall, the strategy of evangelism through medical missionary work is an effective way to spread the teachings of the Gospel and have a positive impact on communities in need. By paying attention to these aspects, medical missionary evangelists can become powerful instruments in bringing physical and spiritual healing to the individuals and communities they serve.

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