

**“The past is not dead. It’s not even past.” William Faulkner**

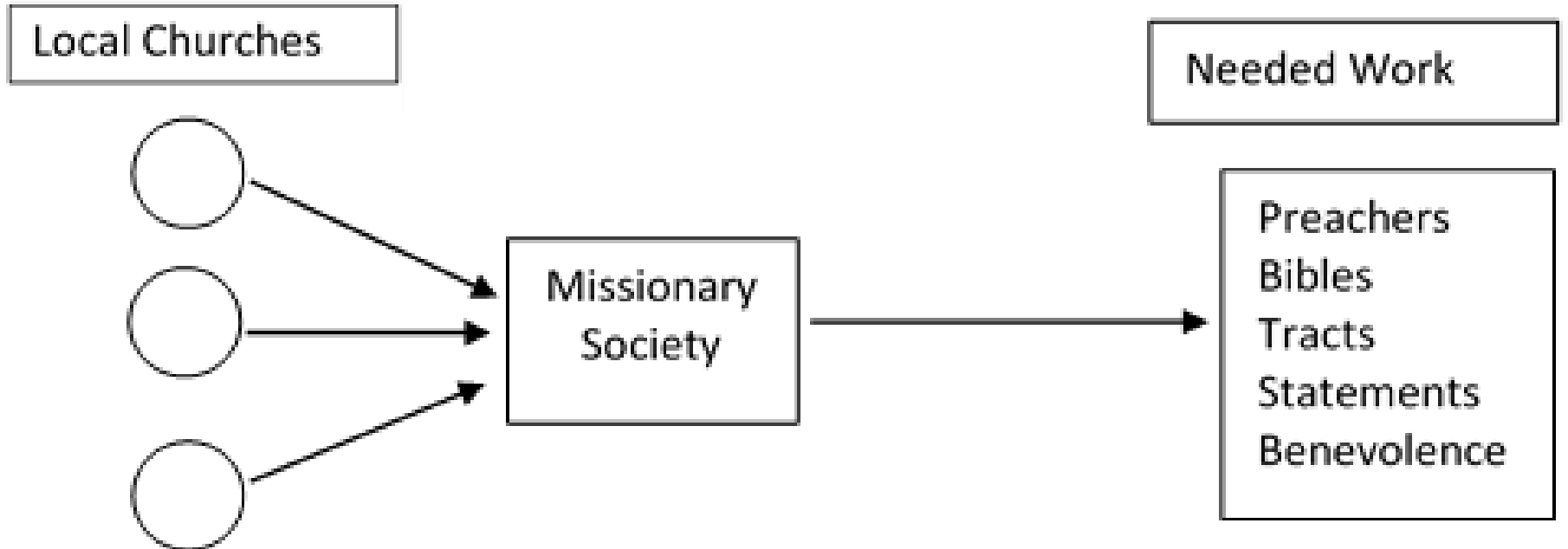
# Departures: Organizational Changes...Again

20<sup>th</sup> Century Issues

# Early Departures

- NT pattern: Local churches with local oversight.
  - Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1-3; Acts 20:28; 11:27-30
- Changes:
  - Elevation of one man to bishop.
  - Eventually one man was given oversight of all the churches.
  - Protestants typically had some type of linkage and external organizations.

# Brethren in the 1800s

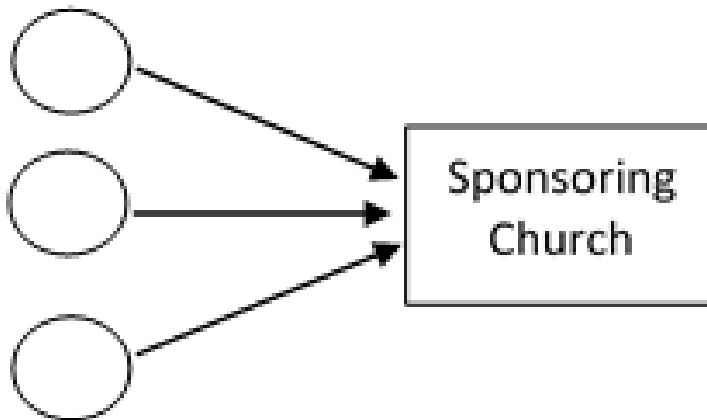


# Institutionalism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

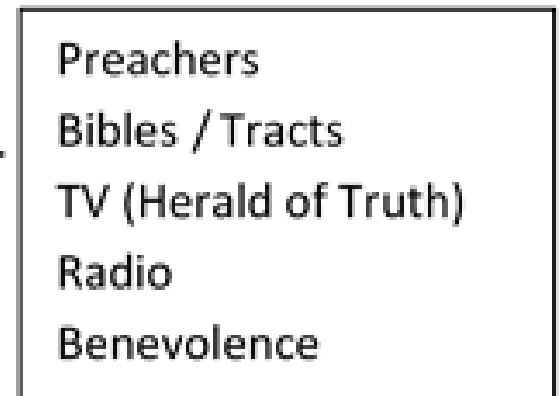
- See Bill Hall's series in April, 2011.
  - Website: Sermons, Gospel Meetings.
- *Centuries of Change v. the Unchanging Word*
  - Website: Articles.

# Sponsoring Churches

Local Churches

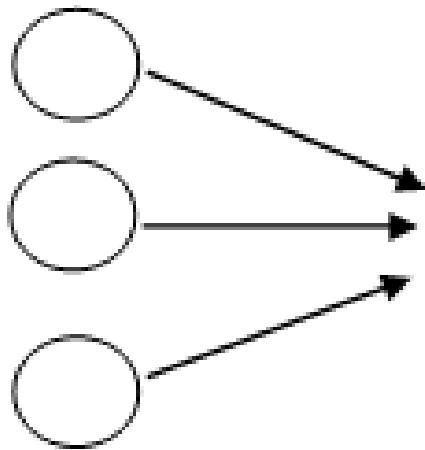


Needed Work



# Other Institutions

Local Churches



Institutional  
Board

Needed Work

Housing  
Food  
Supervision  
Education  
Recreation



# Conclusion

- History is not our authority, but seeing links to the past can be helpful.
- The pattern of Scripture is clear and we need to follow it.
- Have you followed the pattern for salvation?