

Policy for Missions

Faith Bible Church

I. Statement of Purpose

To develop a missions passion and equip the Faith Bible Church family to join God's global cause as senders, welcomers, mobilizers and goers in partnership with God's mission to "reconcile the world to himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19) and in obedience to the Great Commission "to go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

II. Focus of Missions Ministry:

- a. Grow a missions heart in the church family.
- b. Create missions awareness through information, education and experiences.
- c. Support and nurture our missionaries.
- d. Provide short-term cross-cultural trips and projects.
- e. Target an unreached people group.
- f. Raise up new missionaries (challenge, select, prepare and send).
- g. Befriend internationals (students, businessmen, refugees).

III. Strategy for membership Involvement

We will encourage individuals to be involved in God's global cause by choosing to participate in at least one of the following:

- a. *WELCOME the people of the world who come here:*
 1. Befriend international students attending community colleges and universities.
 2. Reach out to refugees through ESL classes and resettlement ministry.
 3. Host students in a foreign exchange program.
- b. *SEND and support those on the front lines:*
 1. Actively support a missionary through LIFE group participation.
 2. Link your gifts, abilities and talents with the needs of a missionary.
 3. Give financially through general fund and designated giving.
- c. *GO locally and to the uttermost parts of the world:*
 1. Join one of our short term teams to Africa, India and Mexico.
 2. Consider being a tent maker in which you use your career cross-culturally.

3. Consider vocational global outreach with an established mission agency.
4. Volunteer with our local mission agencies.
5. Explore a career in missions through Finishers.org.
6. Participate in Faith's local urban ministry.

d. MOBILIZE others in the church to think globally, and act locally:

1. Identify and support Mission Team, liaison and project leaders.
2. Take a global missions class (Pathways/Perspectives).
3. Use the book *Operation World* to learn and pray about God's global enterprise.
4. Read mission books, magazine articles, etc.
5. Pray for the persecuted church. (FBC Missions website)

IV. Strategy to accomplish goals

a. Mission awareness and education

1. Encourage people to use Faith Bible Church's mission's website to read newsletters and pray for the world.
2. Plan major missions' emphasis four times each year as part of worship.
3. Highlight missionaries' needs in the bulletin.
4. Coordinate with youth and children's pastors to ensure that youth and children are included.
5. Utilize media to highlight missionary activity.

b. Support and nurture missionaries

1. Each missionary adopted by a LIFE group
2. Field visits by pastors or short term teams
3. Monetary support/special project support

c. Short term cross cultural projects/trips

1. Local – Sherman Park
2. Regional – Mexico partnership
3. Africa – New Hope Christian Center ; Community Health Evangelism
4. India – Peter Kashung; Unreached People Group
5. Youth training – Dowdy in El Paso, TX
6. Youth summer missions experience

d. Targeting Unreached People Group

1. Support members of unreached people group teams.

2. Send short term teams at least every other year.
3. Send individual/couple to join one of the long term teams.
4. Provide supportive ministries to teams.

e. *Sending new missionaries*

1. Identify individual church members who have a personal interest in missionary service. The Missions Team will encourage such individuals through counseling and prayer, giving guidance and assistance wherever possible.
2. Potential missionary candidates will be encouraged to participate in Short Term missionary experiences.
3. Only persons who have been accepted as missionary candidates by an approved mission board will be considered for support
4. Priority for financial support will be given to Church members who have been grounded in the Word of God and have received a vision of the mission field through the ministry of Faith Bible Church.

f. *Befriending internationals*

1. Provide friendship opportunities in cooperation with local colleges.
2. Sponsor a refugee family.
3. Encourage foreign exchange student program.

V. Team Membership & Responsibilities

a. *Membership*

1. Members of the Missions Team must be members of Faith Bible Church. New members are recommended by the existing members of the Missions Team based on their passion and interest in mission, experience and knowledge in the area of missions, and the vitality of their spiritual life. Members are admitted on the Missions Team by unanimous vote. One pastor shall be a member of the Missions Team.
2. The Mission Team may vary in size, but must be comprised of at least 5 members. Terms of service are indefinite, with periodic reviews of continued interest.
3. The officers of the team are chairperson, vice-chair and secretary and are elected annually. The chairperson is responsible for leading the monthly meetings and providing an agenda to the members prior to each meeting. The secretary is responsible for taking and distributing the minutes of the meetings.
4. The Missions Pastor will be responsible for regular meetings with the Staff to ensure adequate communication between the Missions Team and the rest of the church.

- b. *Meetings: Members of the Missions Team are expected to:*
 - 1. Attend the meetings (normally monthly).
 - 2. Be involved with the missionaries supported by the church.
 - 3. Be familiar with the missions' policies as stated in this and other related documents.
 - 4. Attend special events sponsored by the team.
 - 5. Conduct occasional outside business for the Missions Team as needed.

- c. *Responsibilities*
 - 1. Set goals and strategy for global outreach.
 - 2. Mobilize, educate and inform congregation.
 - 3. Implement strategy.
 - 4. Pray for missionaries.
 - 5. Establish Short Term trips and approve applications.
 - 6. Interview, evaluate, and approve applicants for career missions.
 - 7. Establish and monitor budget.
 - 8. Encourage and evaluate LIFE group support.

VI. **Mission Trips**

FBC recognizes the value of Short Term mission trips in the spiritual growth of our members and support of our field missionaries. For this reason, the Missions Team will encourage members of the body to participate in Short Term trips.

The priority will be for trips that directly support our established vision, goals, and plans, including supporting our missionaries on the field at their request. Other trips will be considered as resources allow. Consideration will be given to support members who choose to take trips with other ministries.

a. *Membership on Short Term teams*

Applicants for Short Term missions teams supported directly through the Missions Team must fill out an application form and submit it to the Missions Team for review. Final selection of members on Short Term teams will be made by the team leader and Missions Team members.

b. *Responsibilities of Short Term teams*

- 1. It is recommended that short term trips should consist of at least 7 days in the field (preferably 10 days or more), not including travel time. This is intended to gain more benefit for high travel costs and the time for team members to adjust to a new culture and time zone.
- 2. The team leader will hold team building and orientation/training meetings prior to trip.

3. The Missions Team will appoint a team travel coordinator who will be responsible for checking schedules and costs of travel, purchasing all travel at the “best” fares, and ensuring that team members obtain passports, visas, and immunizations.
4. Upon return, the Short Term team should make a presentation to the whole congregation (Sunday morning, if possible), to inform them of their experiences while on the field. In addition, the team will be debriefed by the Missions Team. A written report will be provided to the Missions Team within 2 weeks of their return.

c. *Financing of short-term trips*

1. The Missions Team goal is to assist with up to one-third of the costs for each individual going on a FBC sponsored trip. The exception to this policy is that a pastor from our church who goes on a short-term trip will be 100% financed. Other trips will receive financing as funds are available.
2. Short Term Team members will be expected to form a support team for prayer, financial support and accountability.
3. It is therefore the responsibility of those who are going on the trip to provide most of their own funds, either out-of-pocket or through support raising. Support raising activities that involve the congregation must be coordinated through the Missions Team. Support raising letters may not be sent to the general membership of the church without prior approval of the Missions Team. An exception will be made to this policy for requests made to members of the congregation with whom the missionary has close personal relationships.

d. *Code of Conduct- Short Term Teams*

1. Team leaders must be aware and communicate to team members the cultural code of conduct, including dress, of the receiving country and ministry.
2. Team members shall conduct themselves above reproach so as to not raise concerns by other team members or other ministry groups involved in the mission. This will include refraining from smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, swearing or sexual innuendo during the entire course of the trip. Team leaders will deal privately with any violations.

e. *Youth Mission trips*

Mission experience youth trips may be planned as part of the youth ministry. The Missions Team will maintain overview responsibility to assist integration into the overall goals of FBC missions.

VII. Long Term Missionaries

a. *Financial support*

Financial support decisions for individual missionaries are made by the team. In general, we will prefer supporting missionaries who are actively working in an area where FBC is currently involved. The level of support will be determined by the team as part of the overall budgeting process.

b. *Support termination*

1. Support will continue for a missionary for as long as deemed reasonable by the team.
2. Missionary's support may be terminated for the following reasons:
 - a. The person changes mission agencies or takes on a new assignment that no longer fits the purpose for making the original investment.
 - b. The person leaves the field of ministry to return to non-missions activity.
 - c. The person refuses to communicate with the church.
 - d. The person violates Christian doctrine in teaching and lifestyle.
3. Support will in most cases not be terminated immediately but over a period of 3-6 months with prior notification to the missionary.

c. *Communication*

1. It is the expectation that missionaries supported by the church will remain in consistent contact through regular newsletters, email and personal visits. Failure to communicate regularly may result in re-evaluating FBC's financial support.
2. Missionaries will be given time in worship services to share their field ministry.
3. The Missions Team and LIFE groups will meet with their missionary to hear more detail, pray and discuss ways to continue their support.

d. *LIFE Group responsibilities*

The Missions Team will assist FBC Life Groups develop a nurturing relationship with our missionary family. This will include introductions, training, program ideas, and other assistance as appropriate.