

Cornerstone Bible Church

Missions Policy



Organization Document

I. Outreach Statement (TBD)

II. Local Outreach (TBD)

III. Global Outreach

We believe that in light of Christ's love for us and our love for Him (II Corinthians 5:11-21) we are called to go to the ends of the earth to make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20). We believe that as a local church we have a responsibility to serve and partner with missions/missionaries that have been set apart to go where we cannot go, with a special emphasis upon those who have never had the opportunity to hear the gospel (Romans 15:17-21). We believe that it is the responsibility of the Global Outreach Team to make sure that the vision of each mission/missionary aligns with the vision we have been given at Cornerstone Bible Church to further the kingdom of God.

A. Definition of Global Outreach

For the purposes of Cornerstone Bible Church, any missions activities outside our local congregation ministries, related to proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, making disciples and establishing churches 'to the ends of the earth'.

B. The Global Outreach Team (GO Team)

1. Purpose of the GO Team

The GO Team exists to oversee the global outreach and promote awareness within our congregation.

2. Members

a. Appointment of members

It is made up of at least five adult members. These potential members will be appointed by the elders from a list of church members compiled by the GO Team.

b. Chairperson

One member will be designated by the group, with the annual approval of the elders, to be the chairperson whose responsibilities are to prepare the agenda and moderate the meetings.

c. Secretary

One member will be designated by the group to be the secretary whose responsibilities are to keep notes and minutes of each meeting.

3. Qualifications

The GO Team Members need to:

- a. Have a deep, personal commitment to missions.
- b. Have a commitment to work independently on delegated specific tasks, under the direction of the GO Team chairperson.
- c. Have a healthy spiritual life (walk).
- d. Be committed to staying informed on current trends in missions and better ways to care for and serve our missionaries.
- e. Be familiar with the missions policy.
- f. Be members of Cornerstone Bible Church, except under certain circumstances.

4. Responsibilities

This team will implement the guidelines for missions. They will also report to the elders progress and changes they wish to implement.

5. Duration of Service

- a. Minimum two year commitment but may be extended for an undesignated amount of time.
- b. Dependent on the leading of God in individual member's lives.
- c. Dependent on maintaining the qualifications to serve.
- d. Dependent on consistent participation in Global Outreach Initiatives.

C. Financial Giving to Missions

1. Missions Budget

- a. The percentage approved by the congregation for missionary support will be allocated to full time missionaries on the field.
- b. Any other anticipated needs such as education, missions conference, etc. will appear as a separate line item in the church budget.
- c. These needs shall be submitted to the financial officer one month prior to the congregational meeting to approve the budget.

2. Policy on Special Giving

We will assist any individuals with special giving, and help facilitate the sending of the money to the desired missionary or mission organization directly. This will be accomplished by providing the donor with the mission organization contact information.

3. Commitment to Missionaries

Missionary support will not be curtailed while the missionary is on the field except for special reasons such as the missionary leaving the Mission they have been associated with or being dismissed from a Mission. Even in these cases, consideration will be given to not leave the missionary in dire circumstances. If it becomes necessary to decrease or cease support of a missionary, we will try to do this when the missionary is home on furlough.

4. Supporting National (Indigenous) Missionaries

In partnering with National Missionaries we will follow the same criteria outlined in the "Implementation Document", section II, items C, D and E. A national missionary is a citizen or native of the country or ethnic group where he or she lives and ministers (other than the United States of America) and is not supported by that ministry (for example as a salaried pastor). He may be ministering to another ethnic, cultural or linguistic group within that country or area.

Implementation Document

I. Purpose of the Guidelines for Global Missions

- A. To establish and maintain the position of CBC regarding the important issues of our missions program.
- B. To avoid making decisions under the emotional pressure of a specific situation and maintain consistency in decision making.
- C. To assure financial responsibility and accountability.
- D. To help new GO Team members understand the vision and general direction of our missions program and permit them to familiarize themselves with the issues to be faced.
- E. The Missions Policy is intended to be specific enough to give the GO Team the guidance necessary for handling global outreach missions related activities in which the church is involved. Exceptions to this policy will be resolved in fellowship with the elders.

II. Guidelines for Global Missions

- A. Maintain a scriptural basis for this area of ministry.

From Genesis to Revelation the Bible reveals the heart of God toward missions. In the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:1-3) God promised to bless all the nations of the earth through Abram. The Lord Jesus was from Abram's lineage and has provided salvation for all mankind (1 Timothy 2:4-5). It is God's desire that all men be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9) and Christ has commissioned His disciples to reach out to all the world with the gospel (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). We are compelled by the love of Christ within to share the good news of Christ with others (2 Corinthians 5:14-21) knowing that they cannot believe in whom they have not heard, they cannot hear without a proclaimer, and they cannot proclaim unless they are sent (Romans 10:14-15). Jesus reminds us that the "harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Luke 10:2). Therefore we believe, based upon these and many other passages, that Cornerstone Bible Church should be involved in the process of world evangelization and discipleship. We will

continually remind ourselves of this biblical basis for missions and will strive to base our decisions and evaluations upon the scriptures.

B. Inform the congregation of our missionaries' activities, about missions and opportunities to be involved.

1. The GO Team will attempt to get a representative from an approved mission organization to inform the congregation of their work being done, their purpose and opportunities for the congregation to get involved.
2. Keep the congregation informed of what is happening on the field with the missionaries that we are supporting. When possible, we will be in communication with the missionary's accountability leader.

C. Determine support needs for those who desire to go to the field or are in the field.

1. There will be a minimum portion of a missionary's financial support that we will meet to stay more engaged with the missionary. Our goal will be to meet 10% of the missionary's support needs. Typically we will not support someone with less than \$300.00 per month. However, we will evaluate the needs of each potential missionary on an individual basis. In case of a national missionary, special factors will be considered.
2. The GO Team will be tasked with obtaining a missionary's needs directly from the Missions Organization as well as from the Missionary before entering into a partnership with them to ensure an accurate picture of the financial needs the Missionary has at the time of engagement.
3. The GO Team will verify the financial amount retained for administrative costs to ensure that the needs of the Missionary are being met.
4. The GO Team will make every attempt to meet with the individual missionary prior to partnering with them. There are some circumstances where this will not be possible (for instance, if the Missionary is already on the field).
5. The GO Team will review annually (first quarter of the year) the Missionary's financial needs to ensure they are being met and that Cornerstone Bible Church's finances are used in a manner of a good steward.

D. Evaluate mission organizations to maintain an evangelical focus.

1. The GO Team will research how a Mission Organization evaluates the effectiveness of Missionaries on the field.
2. The GO Team will perform an initial evaluation of the doctrinal and positional statements of the Mission Organization.
3. The GO Team will perform an annual evaluation of the doctrinal beliefs of the Missionary.
4. The GO Team will perform an annual evaluation of the doctrinal and positional statements of the Mission Organization.
5. The GO Team will make every effort to meet with a Mission Representative and or the Missionary prior to introducing them to the congregation. If this is not possible the GO Team will thoroughly research the Mission and the Missionary before introducing them to the congregation.

E. Evaluate individual missionaries by how they plan to (or are) spreading the gospel, translation of native languages, church planting, etc.

1. The GO Team will ascertain how the Missionary will work with those from the nation they are serving in church planting to make the most effective use of resources. This evaluation will include how they will disciple and evangelize those in the area where they will be serving as a Missionary.
2. The GO Team will have a long-term goal of sending a representative from the congregation to work with, assist and evaluate the needs of the Missionary.
3. The GO Team will ensure that the Missionary's ministry aligns with the ministry and mission goals of Cornerstone Bible Church.

F. Support, send and pray.

1. "Support" includes the financial aspect and also the missionary's spiritual, emotional and physical needs. Our goal could be stated: Keep in touch with the missionary, the mission field leadership and the other supporting churches to accompany the missionaries' situations and seek to work together with these

other entities to see that these needs are met. We will verify that the missionary is accountable to a sending church and receiving pastoral care.

2. "Sending" includes helping to support missionaries who we are familiar with as well as sending missionaries out from our own congregation.
3. Praying includes our (the GO Team) praying specifically for the missionaries we are involved with and also leading the whole church to pray for them.

G. Our long term goal is to see missionaries sent out from our own congregation.

1. Promote missions awareness in our congregation in all areas.
2. Encourage the congregation to be involved in witnessing and get their children involved as well.
3. Be actively engaged in involving people in Short Term missions where they will be able to learn and participate in missionary outreaches that are in accordance with our church purpose statement.

This is a long term effort that will involve all the ministries of the church. We will seek to encourage the parents to promote missions by being missionaries where they are, helping their children to also be witnesses and by teaching missions in the home. We will encourage them to be ready to see their children go to the field and pray that God will use them where He wants them. We will strive to incorporate some mission minded teens into the GO Team.