



FAITH BIBLE CHURCH
SOLI DEO GLORIA

Missions Handbook



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Introduction

The Faith Bible Church Missions Handbook answers common questions regarding our church's understanding of biblical world missions ministries, and its practical application within our church family. We trust our FBC missions ministries will bring great glory to God and be used of Him to fulfill His purposes in and through us from Sharpsburg, Georgia, to all nations.

The guidelines and principles set forth in this Missions Handbook are not intended to be inflexible rules. However, this collection of practical understanding does form a framework for decision-making by FBC leadership on behalf of the whole congregation. We trust that these considerations, along with godly counsel and prayer, will be a blessing to our church family, our missionary partners and friends, and to those to whom we minister around the world.



What is Missions?

FBC defines “missions” governed by this document as any cross-cultural ministry beyond the normal outreach of the local church (which has as its purpose the fulfillment of the Great Commission) by making disciples of Jesus Christ through planting churches and/or the training of indigenous leaders to do the same.

In a general way, missions can be regarded as all evangelism and discipleship outside of regularly scheduled church meetings and events. However, what we’re considering in this Handbook is **cross-cultural** evangelism, discipleship, and leadership training aimed at establishing and strengthening local churches, especially where there is little or no access to a biblical understanding of the Gospel.

“Missions” comes from a Latin word “to send off.” “Missionaries” are “sent ones.” In one sense, every believer is charged with responsibility to share the Gospel and disciple others for the glory of Jesus Christ. But here, when we call someone a “missionary” we mean an individual especially selected, trained, and sent by their local church to minister beyond the normal reach of that church, usually across cultural and/or geographic and/or linguistic barriers with the purpose of establishing and strengthening biblical local churches through evangelism, discipleship, and leadership training.





Why do we do missions?

There are many biblical reasons for involvement in missions. Each of them would be sufficient on their own, but together they present an irrefutable case for joyful, priority engagement in God's global purposes.

1. God is a missionary God. From the beginning of time, God has planned for the salvation of individuals from every ethnicity of earth (Gen. 12:1-3; Eph. 1:3-5; Acts 17:26-27; Ps. 67:1-2; Rev. 5 and Rev. 7).
2. God desires that people of all nations worship and glorify Him. We are His primary designated means to spread His glory to all peoples (Ps. 67).
3. God's Word, by example, prophecy, and command, instructs His people to evangelize and disciple people from all nations (Isa. 42:10-12; 66:18-20; Matt. 28:18-20; Ac. 1:8).
4. The love of Christ moves us to tell the Gospel to "all men" (2 Cor. 5:14-21).
5. God's mercy to us as sinners and believing recipients of His grace through the cross of Jesus obligates us to share the Good News with those who haven't heard it (1 Thess. 1:6-8; 1 Cor. 9:16; Col. 1:26-29; Rom. 15:20-21).

What is involved in missions?

Who are the players?

What are their roles?

- **God** - initiates, inspires, empowers, grant's vision for ministry, providentially prepares, equips, and gives spiritual fruit
- **The local church**- receives and communicates corporate vision, selects, guides, equips, trains, enables, supports, facilitates, leads, evaluates, prays, assists, encourages, and counsels
- **The missionary** - led by the Spirit, providentially guided to missions commitment, selected, equipped and prepared under the leadership of their local church, communicates personal vision, develops and maintains a spiritual and financial support partnership, works under designated field authority, reports to sending constituencies, fulfills field ministry objectives, strategies, and goals
- **The mission agency and team** - provides and supervises a context for field ministry, fulfills legal and administrative obligations for nonprofit ministry in both home and foreign countries, provides fellowship and experience for missionaries having like-minded ministry goals, provides a means through which missionaries and their local churches can, by God's grace and enabling, work toward specific results
- **The recipients** (the people who are the target of missionary ministry) - receive the ministry through contact and relationship, become fellow believers, disciples, and some become qualified spiritual leaders, a few may become partners with or in the missionary team, and, ideally, the new believers form churches which are self-governing, self-sustaining, and self-propagating.



How do we do missions at FBC?

Much of the operation and monitoring of our corporate missions interested is done through the FBC Missions Team. This section describes the basis and principles upon which the Missions Team functions.

Faith Bible Church is dedicated to making disciples of Jesus Christ among all the nations in obedience to His command in various Scriptures (which are collectively known as the Great Commission). We, as a church, are committed to:

1. Missions education and training for all ages as an integral part of Faith Bible Church;
2. Consistent and fervent prayer for our missionaries;
3. Intentional identification, training, selection, commissioning, sending, and caring for both short-term and long-term missionaries as individuals, families, and teams from our own church;
4. Honoring and cultivating relationships with our missionaries as significant partners in our church's ministry; and,
5. Zealous evangelistic witness by our members throughout the schools, workplaces, and communities represented by our fellowship.

Purpose of the Missions Team

1. To promote scriptural missions education and commitment;
2. To establish principles from which issues may be thoughtfully evaluated; and,
3. To generally serve our congregation by consistently encouraging, teaching, and facilitating missions awareness, involvement, and commitment on a personal level.



Principles

1. The Missions Team operates under the delegated authority of the Elders on behalf of the interests of the entire body of Christ of FBC.
2. All missions ministries and activities of FBC should be evaluated in light of alignment with the known doctrinal position of FBC and its leadership.
3. FBC gives priority to involving and sending its own members to strategic missions ministry.
4. FBC emphasizes strong, supportive, mutually accountable relationships with its missionaries and their respective agencies.
5. We seek to have larger spiritual, financial, and pastoral roles with fewer missionary relationships rather than smaller roles with many.



The Missions Leadership Team

1. **Composition:** The Missions Team (MT) is composed of not less than three active FBC members.
2. **Term:** Normally, MT members are asked to evaluate their participation and effectiveness annually.
3. **Qualifications:** Each MT member is expected to maintain the following qualifications, besides active membership at FBC:
 - a. A healthy personal spiritual life.
 - b. A teachable spirit, a deep interest in missions, and a desire to make the missions ministries of FBC a priority.
 - c. A personal lifestyle which reflects commitments to give financially to missions and to pray regularly for world missions and missionaries.
 - d. Availability to fulfill commitments with respect to MT responsibilities.
4. **Chairperson/Moderator:** The MT prayerfully elects one of its own members to serve as Chairperson or Moderator, subject to approval by the Elders.
5. **Subcommittees:** MT members are responsible for serving FBC's missions ministries including prayer, education, communications, Missions conferences, finance, short-term ministries, special projects, etc. The MT may recruit other non-M-Team FBC members to assist them in the fulfillment of these responsibilities, as they may require.

6. Training: Besides giving attention to ongoing Missions education for the congregation, the MT should take care to continually upgrade their own missions understanding, awareness, experience, and skills.
7. Responsibilities: The MT has general responsibility for the following areas:
 - a. Encouraging the growth and leadership of FBC's Pastors and Elders in the area of missions;
 - b. MT development, ministries, policies and practices, goals and objectives;
 - c. FBC missions education and training;
 - d. Providing leadership for prayer for missions and missionaries;
 - e. Recruitment and shepherding of missionaries and missions team participants;
 - f. Developing and maintaining a process for recommending to the Elders the screening, acceptance, accountability, communication, care, and (when necessary) termination of missionaries – both career and “short-term”;
 - g. Keeping aware of missions activities within FBC, whether initiated by the Missions Team or not, including encouraging and supporting those involved in short-term missions ministry experiences;
 - h. Missions event and conference planning and implementation;
 - i. Development of a missions budget annually; and,
 - j. The Missions Team normally meets monthly and, as needed, at other times.





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GRACE PROMISE CARD

I/we are trusting God to provide through me/us for the missions efforts of Faith Bible Church. By God's grace, I/we will give:

Weekly \$

Or Monthly \$

And/Or One-time \$

GRACE PROMISE CARD

■ A "Grace Promise" is a simple, prayerful expectation based on God's gracious provision for our needs.

■ It is an amount of money we believe God has led us to set as our personal giving goal for FBC's missions ministries.

■ It should be over and above what we normally give into the General Funds for the operation of the church.

■ It is private and personal. FBC will never contact us to call in the funds.

■ Each person or family is encouraged to participate.

■ The combined amount of all our "Grace Promise" commitments is the basis for funding FBC's missions ministries.

■ God is glorified by the way He provides the means to fulfill our collective Grace Promises.



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How are our missionaries supported?

1. Our missionaries are financially enabled to do their ministries through the voluntary donations of churches and individuals who partner with them in ministry. This system of "faith support" is not guaranteed by any pooled funds or endowment.
2. The church is involved with the entire process of Missions: prayer, selecting and training candidates, guiding in selection of ministry, agency, and their field of service, as well as pastoral care, personal development, counseling, and financial support.
3. Individually, FBC members participate in prayer and giving, serving as Missions Advocates, participating in short-term missions ministries, and providing hospitality and care for missionaries. Members can also share in Missions education, resource development, Missions events, and recommending opportunities to the Missions Team.
4. The giving, planning, and decision-making on behalf of the Church family are coordinated by the Missions Team under the authority of the Elders. The Elders are directly involved in all major decisions and personnel issues.
5. Support for missionaries, by means of annual Grace Promise pledges and giving to the Missions fund, is managed on behalf of the church body with an annual missions budget. Specific goals and projects are communicated and promoted to the church as needed. *Missionaries are not normally given permission to solicit support from individuals in the church.*

Who do we support?

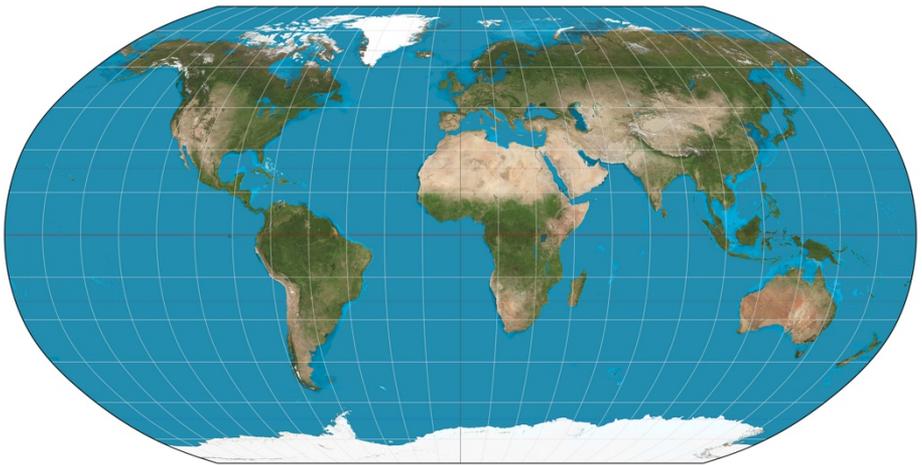
One of the key questions we receive is, “What criteria does the church use to choose a missionary to support?” That’s a reasonable question! Here are the factors we think are essential to take into consideration.

1. Doctrinal alignment. The sent or supported missionary is an extension of our church. They should hold to our statement of faith and theological understanding of the Word, the Gospel, and choose strategies and practices that reflect the same.
2. Goals and priorities that match our own. We most highly value evangelism, discipleship, leadership training towards pioneering church planting where the Gospel has little or no access. Other types of ministry should consciously support and facilitate that end goal.
3. High degree of direct relationship with FBC. We give higher importance and higher support levels to those raised up from our congregation, someone from our own church family. Missionaries not having a significant relationship with FBC get correspondingly lower opportunity.
4. Connection to our strategic focus area: North Africa Project.
5. Willingness of the missionary and their sending body to have FBC engage in significant involvement, counsel, and shepherding with respect to their life, ministry, allocation and responsibilities.
6. Commitment to give time to visiting, reporting, and mutual participation to Faith Bible Church locally. i.e. – There should be a good reason besides receiving of support funds for the missionary to visit Faith Bible Church with some regularity.
7. Availability of funds. We don’t lightly commit to long-term support partnership. If we feel that the Lord has blessed in such a way that we can sustain a support commitment AND the above criteria are met, FBC Missions Team and Elders may consider adding others to our support.



What about Short Term Missions?

“Short Term” missions (STM) is a growing phenomenon. Many people from many churches are getting involved by participation in a Short Term Missions Team or Short Term Missions Trip. Sometimes they are little more than a personal vacation in the location of missions work. On the other hand, some trips are incredibly strenuous and sacrificial.



STM teams organized by FBC:

From time to time, Faith Bible Church, responding to specific ministry needs and goals, will organize opportunities for FBC members to participate on short-term Missions teams. When approved and sponsored by FBC, the short-term Missions team receives guidance through the church in the acceptance process, training, logistics, evaluation, financial support, and communication with the congregation. FBC organized trips will usually be directly intended to support and enhance the ministry of FBC supported missionaries or established ministry partnerships.

Please see the FaithBibleChurch.us website, where you can view and download this and other FBC Documents and Polices under the “About” navigation tab.

This Missions Handbook and

Short Term Missions at Faith Bible Church

will be made available through the website.







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