

APPENDIX 2

Missions Goals and Guidelines

In order to firmly uphold our commitment of training up, sending, and supporting missionaries, the [INSERT CHURCH NAME] missions committee offers the following guidelines toward that end. These guidelines will delineate [INSERT CHURCH NAME]'s primary missions goal to seek out like-minded ministry and missionary partnerships for our missionary candidates.

The following guidelines will frame the candidate selection and assist in the decision-making processes. Support to be offered will include: committed prayer, personal help, counsel, technical resources, and financial support. It is our intended goal that one hundred percent of our missionaries labor toward reaching unreached language groups. We realize that some exceptions may arise, and candidate ministry goals that do not strictly align with every point of [INSERT CHURCH NAME]'s missions goals may occasionally be approved for support. Financial provisions for ministries like these will be at a reduced level.

The missions committee will require all candidates to participate in a candidacy process. In turn, the committee will work with each candidate in identifying training and sending agencies which are closely aligned with [INSERT CHURCH NAME]'s missions guidelines and are best suited to candidates' needs, gifts, and abilities. Our missions guidelines are intentionally specific in order to put suitable candidates onto the field to the end of planting healthy, self-sustaining, Christ-centered churches worldwide.

Characteristics we seek in prospective missionary candidates and sending agencies with whom we will labor include the following:

1. **Historically orthodox and evangelical in doctrinal positions.** While we realize the need for contextualization within a given culture, the gospel should not be taken out of its historical context, so as to lapse into a syncretism that will dull the uniqueness of the gospel message. We expect our missionaries to proclaim Christ as the unique hope for all mankind (John 14:6; Galatians 1:6–8; 2 Timothy 3:1).



2. **Emphasis on Church planting.** Missions should concern itself foremost with church planting for the following reasons: 1) The church is the “bride of Christ” and the ordained instrument created to achieve His purposes until His return; 2) Paul set the example of “planting” groups of believers who remained behind to maintain and spread the gospel; 3) Long term presence of Christian witness in a community shows greater permanence if a church is in place.

While we appreciate the humanitarian aspects of Christian ministry, we feel such efforts are best administered within the church planting and development process, not apart from it. Christian ministries which primarily “plant” schools, hospitals, or work primarily to improve agricultural, political, or social conditions may not meet [INSERT CHURCH NAME]’s guidelines in this area.

The primary objective in our missions effort is in encouraging and supporting ministries and candidates who also have their focus in church planting. We would like to extend our financial assistance to individuals and ministries which establish indigenous, self-supporting, self-propagating, self-governing churches. Our assistance may extend to support ministries clearly linked with a church planting effort such as pilots, teachers, and language consultants (Matthew 16:18; Acts 14:23; 20:17; Ephesians 3:10; 5:24–27; Colossians 1:24–26; 1 Timothy 3:15; Titus 1:5).

3. **Unreached language groups as a focus.** We prioritize missions to unreached language groups because: 1) God’s heart is for all people (Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18); 2) Our Lord’s mandate to His followers was to take His message to all people (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8); 3) Men “from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9) are to be reached; 4) Paul’s method was to establish a gospel presence and then move on to other unreached groups (Romans 15:17–23); 5) the majority of missions efforts target language groups that already have the gospel message, whereas thousands of other language groups remain unreached for Christ.
4. Understanding the need for evangelism in the context of cultural and language fluency and establishing genuine relationships, **a focus will be on ministries that are long term rather than itinerant.** We require that our missionaries have a permanence in ministry locations to enhance their ability to understand the local culture and sufficiently contextualize the gospel to that culture over time. Ministries and individuals seeking to utilize ongoing relocation strategies will not be accepted.



On behalf of [INSERT CHURCH NAME], the missions committee will work to partner with like-minded sending agencies and missionary candidates to reach the unreached for Christ. We aspire to be godly stewards of [INSERT CHURCH NAME]'s missions resources towards extending the kingdom of God to people who have not yet had access to the gospel of Christ.

This statement of Goals and Guidelines is faithfully offered by the missions committee and was approved by the [INSERT CHURCH NAME] elders on [INSERT DATE].

