

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

PHILOSOPHY OF MISSIONS

GBC Philosophy of Missions

Grace Bible Church (GBC) is committed to upholding and proclaiming the glory of God among the nations through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the power of God to save and transform lives. (Rom. 1:16-17, 1 Cor. 6:9-11) To this end, GBC must be active in and supportive of making disciples of all the nations, both locally and globally. (Ps. 67, 96, Mt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8)

The Biblical Basis for a Theology of Missions

In the Great Commission, the Lord commanded His disciples to take the gospel to every nation. (Mt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8) We recognize that God saves sinners through His gospel, and His gospel establishes a universal church gathered from *every tribe, tongue, people and nation*. (Acts 2, Col. 3:9-11, Eph. 2:11, Rev. 5:9-10, 7:9) At Grace Bible Church, we cherish and regard this opportunity as one of the greatest privileges of our lives. (Rom. 10:11-15, 2 Cor. 5:14-21, Eph. 3:8-13)

The Primacy of the Local Church in Conducting Missionary Endeavors

A primary responsibility and privilege of local churches is to raise up, send, and support missionaries, for the furtherance of the gospel. (Phil. 1:3-5, Rom. 10:14-17) At GBC, we are committed to conducting missionary endeavors primarily through the local church. We believe that the local church is where God's glory is put on display in the present age. (Eph. 3:21) Over the last 150 years, much missions work has been delegated to missions agencies or other para-church institutions. While we believe that many of these organizations are good, helpful, and well-intentioned, we strongly affirm that missions is most effective when it is initiated and conducted through the local church. (Acts 13:1-4)

The following sections will articulate how GBC intends to faithfully function as a missions-minded church both locally and globally.

Local Missions Philosophy of Grace Bible Church

Local Missions Philosophy: Theological Convictions

We believe that GBC must:

1. Actively preach the gospel to our local community, regardless of cultural differences or potential difficulties. (Mt. 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, 4:19-20)
2. Make disciples of those around us, baptizing them, and training them to observe all that God has commanded. (Mt. 28:19-20, Col. 1:28-29)
3. Follow the example of our Lord, by preaching the good news and showing Gospel kindness and compassion to image-bearers from all ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. (Mk. 5:1-20, Lk. 18:18-27, Jn. 4:1-42)
4. Resolve that sinful partiality and segregation shall not be present in any form in our body. (Gal. 2:11-14, Eph. 2:11-12, Jms. 2:1-13)

Local Missions Plan: Practical Implementation

To help GBC carry out our theological convictions, the shepherds of GBC plan to:

1. Communicate, call, equip, and model this local missions vision.
2. Pray together regularly for our city and for opportunities for gospel outreach.
3. Actively assist the planting of local churches in strategic regional locations.
4. Strategically evangelize, corporately and individually, all areas of our community, but especially those that currently have little or no gospel influence. (Tit. 3:8, Rom. 15:19-21)

Local Missionary Support Priority – How Will GBC Determine Whom to Support?

GBC will strategically partner with the following categories of missionaries:

1. **Family** – Members of GBC who are sent out under the care and guidance of the GBC shepherds as a new GBC missionary, or in partnership with an existing GBC missionary.
2. **Friends** – Those with whom GBC has a significant relationship, and are pursuing local missions under the leadership of an approved missionary or missions agency.

Global Missions Philosophy of Grace Bible Church

Global Missions Philosophy: Theological Convictions

We believe that GBC must:

1. Resolutely commit to co-labor in global missions endeavors. (Mt. 28:19-20, Acts 1:8)

2. Partner relationally, spiritually, and financially with those who share our doctrinal and missional convictions, as defined in this document and our doctrinal statement. (Acts 13:1-4, 14:24-28)

Global Missions Plan: Practical Implementation

To help GBC carry out our theological convictions, the shepherds of GBC plan to:

1. Commit to relationally, spiritually and financially supporting like-minded global missionaries. (Acts 13:1-4, 14:24-28)
2. Support fewer missionaries with more support per missionary, as opposed to an abundance of missionaries with less support per missionary.
3. Support fewer missionaries with the purpose of maintaining deeper connection with the missionaries, providing familial care on furlough, and shepherding and encouraging its missionaries while they are on the field.

Global Missionary Support Priority – How Will GBC Determine Whom to Support?

GBC will strategically partner with the following categories of missionaries:

1. **Family** – Members of GBC who are sent out under the care and guidance of the GBC shepherds as a new GBC missionary, or in partnership with an existing GBC missionary.
2. **Friends** – Those with whom GBC has a significant relationship, and are pursuing global missions under the leadership of an approved missionary or missions agency.

Kingdom Resource Priorities

Missionary Support Priority – What types of Missions Endeavors Receive Priority Focus?

GBC will specifically focus on the following types of missionary activity giving priority in the following order:

1. Church Planting – An active ministry of church planting, with a priority to unreached peoples. (Mk. 1:35-39; Rom. 15:18-22)
2. Pastoral Training – Those who are working to train the next generation of pastors. (2 Tim. 2:1-4)
3. Mercy Ministry – A gospel and local church based involvement in mercy ministry. (Mt. 4:23)
4. Short-term Missions – Grace Bible Church involvement with short-term missions.

Missionary Participation Priority – What will GBC Require of its Missionaries?

GBC will require its missions family to conform to the following requirements:

1. **Actively Working** - All missionaries must be faithful to the Great Commission. This means that they must actively be involved in evangelism and discipleship. Faithfulness will be assessed on the basis of proclamation, not number of conversions. (Mt. 28:19-20, Acts 1:8)
2. **Spiritual Accountability** - All missionaries must have qualifications that would be acceptable of a deacon/deaconess, failure to maintain these qualifications may lead to disqualification/discontinuation of support. (Acts 6:3, 1 Tim. 3:8-13)
3. **Encouragement of the Saints** - All missionaries will be required to send regular support updates. (videos preferred) This will allow the church to be familiar and reminded of their missionaries, as well as encouraging the church to support the work of its missionaries. (Acts 20:2, Rom. 1:11-12)