

SSBC MISSIONS STRATEGY 2017

SSBC Missions Strategy is based on Jesus' Great commission to the Church "Go therefore and make Disciples of All Nations"(Matthew 28:19). Our work is to actively support those who go and encourage and prepare people in our own local body who feel God's call to missions.

Missions Principles

- Mission is sending people to share the Gospel and to plant churches outside of the area our local church touches through its ministries and daily outreach.
- Church planting is the key element of a biblical missions strategy. This is based on God's design in the book of Acts—The Gospel was preached, people responded to the Gospel, and churches were planted to disciple the believers, to share the Gospel in a relevant way in the local area, and to sustain God's work in the area.
- The New Testament mission of the church is discipling the nations. Our missions program is an essential part of fulfilling the mandate of Scripture to disciple the nations by sharing the Gospel in a relevant and meaningful way and by planting churches.
- In pursuing change, a balance will be sought between loyalty and meeting strategic priorities.
- Missionaries or missions programs must be aligned with SSBC theologically if they are to be supported by SSBC.
- The Missions Committee leads the missions ministry at SSBC in service to Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Church, and the Elders. Key decisions (adding or dropping missionaries, changes in strategy) will ultimately be made by the Elders with recommendations from the Missions committee. Budgets will be voted on by the congregation and with approval from the Elders.
- SSBC needs to have a close relationship with our missionaries to provide appropriate care and support to them and encourage personal involvement by our church. To facilitate this, the number of missionaries will be managed to a reasonable number. Each missionary we support will have regular communication with SSBC and be strongly supported through prayer, finances, and personal care.

SSBC Missions Focus:

1. Focus on Church Planting
 - a. Missionaries directly linked to church planting will be given priority.
 - b. Those not engaged directly in church planting must be supporting church planting (Translation, Training and local support, etc.)
2. Global Outreach
 - a. Our major global focus is on unreached people groups with at least 50% of global outreach funds allocated to reaching unreached people groups.
 - b. Our efforts are clustered to a few geographical areas to provide focus and encourage the church to be actively engaged in these regions:
 - i) Northeast Africa
 - ii) Middle East

3. American Outreach
 - a. Our American outreach efforts are focused on the South Shore and the greater Boston area.
 - b. We will give special emphasis to the South Shore and the Boston area on people unreached by the gospel.
4. Sending Our Own
 - a. We will pray for, encourage, and actively support people in our congregation that feel God's call to missions. SSBC Members will receive priority for support according to the following criteria:
 - i) Member called to strategic missions work
 - ii) Following SSBC vision and advice
 - iii) Fit with Missions Strategy
 - iv) Part of the International Mission Board
5. Increase our partnership with the International Mission Board
 - a. Encourage our own to consider IMB
 - b. Leverage IMB in our focus areas
6. Develop and maintain a close relationship with our individual missionaries to better support them and encourage personal engagement by the congregation in worldwide missions.
 - a. Manageable number
 - b. Missionary Care Partners

The Work of the Missions Committee:

1. Financial Support and Stewardship
 - a. Encourage congregation to invest in missions
 - b. Budget development and management
 - c. Ensure funds are invested wisely and according to our strategy and principles
 - d. Decisions and recommendations on missionaries and ministries
2. Support our missionaries
 - a. Financial
 - b. Prayer, personal engagement, and regular communication
 - c. Appropriate accountability and follow-up
3. Engage the congregation to understand why we are a missions-oriented church and be personally involved in missions
4. Regularly evaluate missions ministry and missionaries to ensure we are following God's call for our church