

Harvest Bible Chapel of Rockford Philosophy of Missions

Purpose

To spread a passion for the supremacy of God and to liberate a generation through the life and love of Jesus Christ among all peoples by training up and sending out qualified workers to plant and equip churches.

Priorities

All Peoples (Ps 67; Matt 28:18)

- God's heart is that all peoples of the world would be His worshippers, so we seek to reach across cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic lines.

Training Up and Sending Out (Eph 4:11-12; Acts 13)

- Missions starts within the local church, praying for, identifying, investing in, and sending out the next generation of missionaries.

Qualified Workers (2 Tim 2:2; Acts 13)

- The missions enterprise is to be carried out by those whom the Holy Spirit has marked by their proven character and giftedness.

Plant and Equip Churches (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 13-14)

- The priority of missions is to make and strengthen disciples in the context establishing of local churches.

Practical Implications

All Peoples

- Target unreached people groups (e.g., 10/40 window).
- Give special consideration to the poor, orphans, widows, and the oppressed.

Training Up and Sending Out

- Cultivate missions-minded Christians.
- Pray regularly for global missions.
- Give financially toward funding the entire missions process.
- Provide short-, mid-, and long-term missions opportunities.
- Devote manpower to train and send missionaries from our midst.

Qualified Workers

- Send those servants who have proven their character, giftedness, and fruitfulness in the context of local church ministry.
- Consider current pastors and elders as candidates for missions.

Plant and Equip Churches

- Evangelize unbelievers.
- Disciple new believers.
- Train up pastoral leadership.
- Provide money and manpower for church building.

Criteria for Missions Involvement

- Does this opportunity seek to reach the people of priority?
- Does this potential missionary come from our church and/or do they seek to place themselves under the authority of the local church?
- Does this potential missionary demonstrate proven character, giftedness, and fruitfulness?
- Does this opportunity engage directly with planting new churches or equipping existing church plants?

Goals

Financial

- Make our regular commitments (i.e., monthly, quarterly, annually) at least 10% of church income, which includes Harvest Bible Fellowship church planting (5%).
- Grow our regular commitment at the rate of ____% per year.
- Special offerings/projects:
 - Special one-time gifts can be given to any missionary as God leads.
 - Special projects and offerings can be taken on during the year (maximum one per quarter, but it would be wise to limit them to 2-3 per year, especially in the next few years).

Church Body Involvement

- Send out ____ missionaries in the next ____ years.
- Weave a missions focus into every ministry of our church.
 - Missions Moment once per month on Sunday morning
 - Adopt-a-missionary in Life Groups and Sunday School
 - Equipping class on missions and evangelism
- Pray regularly for missions at all levels (e.g., corporate, Sunday school, Life Groups).
- Participate in short-term missions opportunities throughout the year, sending ____ participants per year or ____ teams per year.

Implementation

- Form Missions Leadership Team (MLT) of 2-3 people to:
 - Evaluate mission opportunities.
 - Recommend support levels.
 - Plan and implement short-term missions.
 - Communicate missions news and opportunities to congregation.
- Communicate missions philosophy to congregation and publish on the website.
- Determine geographical regions and people groups to pursue.
- Establish a mix of short-term missions from “entry-level” to “hard-core”.
 - “Entry-level” would be easier-to-reach areas that are not as rustic, and can introduce people to mission work.
 - “Hard-core” would be to hard-to-reach areas focusing on unreached people, more rustic, and/or more risky environments.
- Determine Missions budget.
- Extra giving component (not decided whether it is wise to determine a figure up front or better to sort opportunities out as God leads and provides).

Short-Term Teams

Criteria: see above “Criteria for Missions Involvement”

Timeline

- Research opportunities and determine needed teams by ____.
- Communicate opportunities to congregation by ____.
- Communicate participant qualifications:
 - Consistent walk with Christ
 - Member at Harvest.
 - Actively involved in Life Group.
 - Actively serving in ministry.
- Complete the application and interview process by ____.
- Notify participants by ____.

Application Process

- Post criteria on website for “self-filtering”.
- Submit all applications online or by e-mail.
- “No” answers will be handled by a phone call or face-to-face conversation if a member of HBCR, and via e-mail if not a member or attending HBCR.
- Applications making it through the initial filter will require an interview by a Mission Leadership Team Member, and if approved by the MLT, then by an Elder.