



Missionary Financial Support Policy

The following policy contains the guidelines which Harvest Bible Chapel of Rockford ("Harvest") uses in its deliberations in deciding whether to support a missionary who has requested financial support from Harvest. This document is intended to be a guide, and not intended to dictate all financial support decisions. For good and sufficient reasons, Harvest may make exceptions in deviating from this policy manual.

1. Harvest Missions Purpose Statement

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.

2. Harvest Missional Priorities [From Harvest's "Philosophy of Missions" Statement]

2.1 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.

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 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.

3. Missionary Requirements. All missionaries supported by Harvest must fulfill the following requirements:

3.1 Doctrinal Requirements. All missionaries must affirm and support Harvest's doctrinal statement, "Harvest Distinctives" as well as Harvest's "Philosophy of Missions" statement.

3.2 Character requirements. Harvest missionaries are an extension of the local church leadership. Accordingly, all Harvest missionaries must exhibit the character qualities required for elders and deacons as set forth in 1 Tim. 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9.

3.3 Involvement with Harvest. All missionaries must be involved in Harvest as follows:

3.3.1 Membership. All Harvest missionaries must be Members of Harvest for a minimum of two (2) years prior to their approval as Harvest missionaries.

3.3.2 Ministry requirement. All Harvest missionaries must be actively involved in a Life Group at Harvest, as well as serving in various church ministries.

3.3.3 Harvest Bible Fellowship Missionary. The above requirements for membership and involvement are waived in the event the missionary has been accepted (and eventually graduates) from the Harvest Bible Fellowship (“HBF”) school of ministry.

3.4 Approved mission’s agency. Missionaries not sent through the HBF must work through an established mission’s agency. It is our policy not to support missionaries who are independent of such sponsorship and direction. An established missions agency shall be a member of the ECFA and has a doctrinal statement that is in agreement with Harvest’s doctrinal statement.

3.5 Elder Approval. All Harvest missionaries receiving financial support from Harvest must obtain formal approval by the Harvest elder board.

4. Criteria for Determining Amount of Financial Support. The amount of financial support that Harvest provides to any given missionary will vary depending upon a variety of factors as indicated below:

4.1 Type of Ministry. Harvest’s purpose in missions is to spread a passion for the supremacy of God among all peoples. To that end, Harvest prioritizes supporting missionaries whose desire is to preach the gospel where Christ has not already been named (Romans 15:20). The Bible teaches that the Great Commission will only be fulfilled when the gospel has been proclaimed to all nations (Matt. 24:14), and therefore a strategic focus on planting biblically fruitful churches amongst unreached people groups is necessary to fulfill our purpose in missions. This is not to downplay the need or importance of missionaries who focus on support ministries, or relief / development work, or who work amongst “reached” peoples. This is simply to say that is not Harvest’s top missional priority.

A non-exhaustive list of Harvest's missional priorities is as follows:

- Planting churches (vs. support ministries, relief work, Bible translation)
- Planting churches through the Harvest Bible Fellowship
- Supporting missions amongst unreached peoples
- Supporting missionaries who are in a lead / senior pastor role

4.2 Length of Service. The length of time the missionary plans to be in active missionary service will affect the amount of support Harvest will provide. Harvest prioritizes long-term mission service over shorter term trips.

4.3 Ministry Location. Harvest will provide greater levels of financial support to missionaries desiring to minister to an unreached people group and/or to missionaries who will be ministering in the 10/40 window.

4.4 Ministry Experience and Training. Harvest will consider the missionary's level of education (biblical and higher education) when considering the level of financial support.

5. Harvest Members Going on Non-Harvest Related Short-Term Trips. Harvest will financially support missionaries going on a non-Harvest related short-term trip, subject to the following:

5.1 Missionary Requirements. The missionary must (i) affirm and support Harvest's doctrinal statement, (ii) be a member of Harvest and (iii) be actively participating in a Life Group.

5.2 Nature of Trip. The short-term trip must be gospel-centered in nature, and preferably is focused on the Harvest missional priorities outlined in Article 2 above. The trip must be approved by the Harvest elders.

6. Raising Support from Harvest Members. Once a missionary (either long-term or short-term) has received approval from Harvest for financial support, the missionary is free to approach individuals within Harvest with whom they already have a personal relationship and invite them to prayerfully consider financially partnering with them in their ministry. The missionary is not permitted to make any mass appeal to the larger church body for funds.

7. Information Access. Harvest missionaries (either long-term or short-term) will not be granted access to the Harvest online membership directory, address list, or other similar information.

8. Harvest Website. For long-term missionaries receiving financial support, Harvest may provide a webpage for the missionary under the Harvest website's "Missions" tab. The webpage can include information such as (i) biographical information, (ii) ministry information, (iii) a link to the sending agency's webpage and (iv) a link allowing an individual to financially support the missionary.

9. Review of Support. All long-term Harvest missionaries will undergo an annual review of the missionary's work and ministry to ensure the missionary is maintaining the character required of a Harvest missionary and that the missionary is remaining fruitful and productive. Harvest reserves the right to modify the missionary's support based on the results of the review.

Adopted by the Elders on February 5, 2013.