

## *Cornerstone Bible Church*

# ***Missions Policy-Revision 2.0***

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1.0 Purpose of our Missions Policy**

This document as approved by the Board of Elders is intended to detail the general policies that will be used by Cornerstone Bible Church in the administration of our Missions Program. It has been developed carefully through the study of God's Word and prayer to ensure that it is both honoring to the Lord Jesus Christ and Biblically accurate. The model for missions as described in the bible is our foundation for the development of our missions program at Cornerstone Bible Church. Specific goals of this missions policy include:

- Providing guidance for the administration of our Missions Program.
- Providing a clear sense of direction and focus for our missions activity
- Establishing a criteria for the thoughtful evaluation of missions related issues and new opportunities
- Assisting in our church-wide promotion of missions.
- Provide a clear set of mutual expectations for both current missionaries and prospective missionaries regarding involvement with our Cornerstone Bible Church missions program.
- Ensuring the timely availability of information about our missionaries to our Missions Committee members and all attendees of Cornerstone Bible Church.

Through the implementation of our Missions Program, our goal is that the Lord's people and resources will be used effectively to fulfill God's Great commission, locally as well as throughout the world. Further it is our desire that the members of Cornerstone Bible Church will willingly and continually increase their missions commitment out of a deepening love for the Lord Jesus, and a desire to see all peoples come to worship Him as Savior and Lord.

At all times this document is in subjection to God's Word, the Elders of Cornerstone Bible Church and the Constitution - Bylaws of Cornerstone Bible Church.

#### **1.2.0 Biblical Mandate for Missions**

All of redemptive history is replete with God's outreach to the fallen world. Throughout human history God has chosen to use men to delivery His message. Whether it was Moses or another prophet in the Old Testament or Paul in the New Testament, God has used men to communicate His message. With the launch of the Christian Church all Christians received the mandate to evangelize the world. We are not only responsible for evangelizing those directly around us but also in supporting God's command to take the Gospel to all the nations (Matt 28:19-20). For those who have not been called to the mission field by God, our Missions program is a method for us to be obedient to God's command and to participate in His great plan.

God has included within the Bible many passage dealing with the key aspects of Outreach to the lost as well as Missions including:

- Jesus Commanded it:

**Matt 28:19-20**

**19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**

**2 Cor 5:17-21**

**18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**

**20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

- Jesus Empowered it:

**Acts 1:8**

**8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.**

- God has Provided the Opportunity:

**John 4:35-38**

**35 "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 "Already he who reaps is receiving wages, and is gathering fruit for life eternal; that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 "For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows, and another reaps.' 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."**

- Send/Going of Missionaries:

**Rom 10:14-15**

**14 How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!"**

**Acts 13:1-3**

**2 And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.**

- Accountability:  
**Acts 14:27-28**  
**27 And when they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they spent a long time with the disciples.**

## **2.0 CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH - PHILOSOPHY AND FOCUS OF MISSIONS**

### **2.1.0 General Philosophy:**

Our Goal at Cornerstone Bible Church is to full fill God's mandate as expressed in the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20) by following God's instructions included within His word. While understanding that there are many Missionary opportunities available, we have chosen to focus our missions involvement to a set of ministry opportunities that are effective and that we feel will maximize the impact of our work on the world.

Over time our intent is that we will support fewer missionaries but with more significant support. We truly want our members and missionaries to feel that we are working together side by side in this effort. We want our missions activity to be a virtual extension of Cornerstone Bible Church. We do this believing that it allows us to truly partner with the missionaries that we support rather spreading our resources thinly across a large number of ministries.

Our Philosophy is not intended to devalue or exclude other ministries at Cornerstone Bible Church, but to allow us to better serve those ministries that God has laid on our hearts. Other ministries can with approval of the elders provide materials and overviews of their ministry to the congregation. Members of Cornerstone Bible Church will always be encouraged to pray for all Biblical ministries and support those that God places on their hearts.

### **2.2.0 Focus Priorities:**

While historically there have been various methods used in the missions field, the Elders at Cornerstone Bible Church have identified a few key methods that they feel are both Biblical and effective methods for reaching the lost of the world. These have been summarized into three specific areas;

- The Training of Local Pastors throughout the World:  
**2 Tim 2:2**  
**2 And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.**
- Church Planting/Support  
**1 Cor 16:1-4**  
**Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. 2 On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come. 3 And when I arrive, whomever you may approve, I shall send them with letters to**

***carry your gift to Jerusalem; 4 and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.***

**2 Cor 8:3-6**

***For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord, 4 begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, 5 and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. 6 Consequently we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.***

- Increase the awareness of Missions by our own congregation;

***Acts 14:26-28***

***and from there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished. 27 And when they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they spent a long time with the disciples.***

**2.3.0 Other Missionaries:**

In addition to the focus areas mentioned above, at the decision of the Elders or Missions Committee other missionaries maybe considered, including:

- Members of Cornerstone Bible Church that are approved by a recognized Missions boards
- Short Term mission projects by members or attenders of Cornerstone Bible church or High School age or older.
- Missionaries supporting an indigenous church in an emerging or persecuted area

**3.0 QUALIFICATIONS OF MISSIONARIES**

The missionaries that we support are primarily engaged in the preaching of the Gospel to people who have not heard it before. They are in a very real sense an extension of our Church. As such we expect the same qualifications of them that we would expect of ant Pastor/Teacher. These skills should be evident to our mission committee members as well as our elders.

The exception for this would be for person directly supporting the same activities. In all cases such persons should be under the direct leadership of a fully qualified Elder/Pastor-Teacher

Additionally our missionaries must have a clear calling to the mission field. This should be evident in a number of ways

- By an extended prayerful consideration for their calling
- By their current outreach efforts either locally or within a foreign mission field.
- Recognized by other elders/pastors that know them
- Being recognized as being men above reproach by those they worship with

Specific requirements for missionaries for Cornerstone Bible Church include:



- Must fulfill Biblical requirements for an Elder  
**1 Tim 3:2-7**  
***An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.***
- Must be accepted by a recognized Missions Board
- Must be able to fully endorse the Cornerstone Bible Church Statement of Faith
- Demonstration of giftedness either at home church or in Mission field

It will be the responsibility of the Cornerstone Bible Church Elders to assess the qualification of prospective missionaries as well as monitor the on-going qualifications of current missionaries.

#### **4.0 MISSIONARY SELECTION PROCESS**

Missionary candidates wishing to be considered for addition to the Cornerstone Bible Church Missions program must complete the following activities:

- Submit written overview of proposed ministry
- Submit to the board of Elders an overview of qualification and experience
- Participate in a formal interview by board of elders and missions committee
- Provide for review current ministry references
- Provide Letter of recommendation or statement from their current Pastor or Mission Board
- Visit to Cornerstone Bible Church either preaching or making a ministry presentation to the congregation

Interviews by the Elders and Missions Committee will include the following topics:

- Background and salvation experience
- Discussion & Review of key theological doctrines within our Statement of faith
- Reasons for choosing missions
- Educational background
- Choice of mission board or agency
- Immediate plans prior to assignment
- Financial support requirements and status
- Abilities, spiritual gifts, and interests as related to the chosen type of ministry
- Ministry experience
- Evangelism skills and ability to share one's faith
- Knowledge of the Bible and theology
- Practice of worship, prayer and Bible reading

When considering adding missionaries to the Mission's budget of Cornerstone Bible Church preference will be given to those qualified candidates from within the church.

### **5.0 MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS OF CORNERSTONE BIBLE AND OUR MISSIONARIES**

When we formally accept a missionary to become part of our missions program, we view them as an extension of our church ministry. This implies and requires accountability between Cornerstone Bible Church and our missionary. Both parties have expectations and requirements. This section is intended to detail these.

#### Commitment from missionary to Cornerstone Bible Church

- Faithful service to our Lord in the Mission field to which they have been called. Doing all things to bring glory to our great God
- Faithful preaching and teaching of God's word
- Regular communication from missionary, at least quarterly, in the form of substantial correspondence such as personal letters, emails and newsletters. (Especially including items such as special needs, important decisions, personal situations, etc.)
- Periodic visits to Cornerstone Bible Church, frequency jointly agreed to by Cornerstone Bible Church Missions committee and missionary.
- Annual report from missionary to congregation including ministry progress and special needs

#### Commitment from Cornerstone Bible Church to missionary

- Faithful financial support.
- Faithful prayer support.
- Special support when missionaries are in town (possibly including temporary living accommodations)
- Regular promotion of supported missionaries to the congregation through the use of the bulletin board, special announcements, etc.
- Regular correspondence from missions' committee members.

### **6.0 CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

Cornerstone Bible Church will establish and maintain a Missions Committee to oversee the administration of our missionaries and missions policy. The committee will consist of a Chairman and at least two other members. The Chairman must be a member of Cornerstone Bible Church and approved by the elders. At least one member must be an Elder or Deacon, and the remaining members maybe members or regular attendees.. At all times the missions committee remains under the oversight of the board of elders. The committee will meet at least once per month to review and handle all missionary related business. General responsibilities of the Missions Committee include:

- Meet monthly to handle all missions program business
- Provide quarterly missions reports to the Elder Board
- Communicate monthly to all of our current missionaries
- Provide feedback and status to all Missionaries applying to Cornerstone Bible Church for possible inclusion within our missions program (See Section 6.0)
- Promote awareness of Cornerstone Bible Church of missionary activities in general and of Cornerstone Bible Church missionaries in particular.

- Administrate the missions policies contained within this document (See Section 6.0)
- Review all current and proposed missionaries preparing a proposed annual mission budgets. Present to board of Elders by December 31 each year
- Provide annual Missions report during annual business meeting of Cornerstone Bible Church

## **7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MISSIONS POLICIES**

It is the responsibility of the Cornerstone Bible Church Missions Committee to oversee the following administrative issues related to our Missions Policy.

### **7.1.0 Notification of Missionary Candidate Applicants**

- General Notification: All missionary candidates shall be notified in writing by the Cornerstone Bible Church Missions committee within 60 of supplying all required documentation
- Notification of acceptance by Cornerstone Bible Church and initiation of new missionaries within Cornerstone Bible Church will include the following information:
  - 1) Notification of Financial Support amount
  - 2) Establish Start date
  - 3) A contact list of all Mission committee members as well as all Elders
- The missions committee will also notify the Cornerstone Bible Church membership of all new missionaries
- Notification of non-acceptance of a missionary candidate may include recommended actions such as more practical local experience, additional Bible schooling or similar activities.

### **7.2.0 Financial Support level:**

- Support for all Cornerstone Bible Church Missionaries is intended to be substantial
- Our targeted support level is 10-25% (or more) of a Missionaries annual ministry needs
- Minimum support maybe set lower by the Mission committee when deemed appropriate.
- The financial support levels for all missionaries will be reviewed for possible adjustment by the missions committee each year. (Normally during December)

### **7.3.0 Payment of Support:**

- Payment of support will normally be made monthly to each Missionaries Missions board
- By special arrangement and approval of elder board payment may be made directly to missionary

### **7.4.0 Special Financial Requests:**

- Special one-time financial requests maybe made at anytime for the following or similar reasons
  - 1) Illness
  - 2) Birth of a child
  - 3) Emergency trip home, due to illness or political pressures
  - 4) Unique ministry opportunity
- All such requests shall be sent to the Chairman of the Cornerstone Bible Church Missions Board for review including
  - 1) Review of need

- 2) Review with entire Missions committee
- 3) Determine availability of funds
- 4) Missions board to make recommendation to board of elders
- 5) Missions board to inform missionary of any action

#### **7.5.0 Retirement and Widows Support:**

- All missionaries that are part of the Cornerstone Bible Church missions program are encouraged to participate in a retirement plan. Either through their board or through private insurance. Cornerstone Bible Church does not have a fixed policy on support of retiring missionaries but will review each incident individually.
- Approximately one year prior to planned retirement all missionaries must communicate their plans and financial needs in writing to our Missions committee.
- The missions committee will review the provided information and make a recommendation to the Board of elders.
- Within 60 days the missions committee will inform the missionary of the decision.
- Cornerstone Bible Church understands that it has the obligation and privilege to support widows including those of our missionaries. When the missions committee has been notified of a specific incident they will contact the widow and determine what action is appropriate. All proposed actions are subject to approval of the board of elders.

#### **7.6.0 Sabbatical Support**

- Cornerstone Bible Church will continue full support for our missionaries during their regular scheduled sabbaticals

#### **7.7.0 Changes in Missionary Status Requiring review:**

The missions committee of Cornerstone Bible Church will perform a missionary review when notified of any significant change to a missionary's mission or focus. Such changes may include

- Notification by the a Missionaries Missions board of any disciplinary issue
- Change in doctrinal position in conflict with Cornerstone Bible Church's Statement of faith
- Change in Mission Boards, all transfers will be reviewed by Mission board
- Any problems with or changes in status with missionary board
- Any significant change in direction of ministry

Upon a review of the specific issues and after communicating directly with the missionary the missions committee will make a report to the Elder board. If the Board of Elders along with the Missions committee feels that a Missionary needs to be dropped, a letter informing the missionary will be sent. Normally if a Missionary is dropped a 3 month grace period will be implemented during which support will continue.

#### **8.0 REVISIONS OF THIS DOCUMENT**

All revisions of this document must be approved by the Missions Committee and the board of Elders. They must also be recorded by the church secretary.