



MISSIONS PHILOSOPHY

Biblical Definition of Missions

Christ has commanded us to go and make disciples from all nations (Matthew 28.18-19). In Scripture, this idea is modeled by believers in the first local church – first, by their reaching out to areas surrounding their local assembly (Acts 8.1, 4) and second, by setting apart, sending, and supporting those who had been called to distant cities and nations (Acts 13.2-4).

Principle 1 – God’s Glory in Missions

God’s eternal glory is revealed by the salvation of people from every tribe, tongue and nation (Revelation 5.9-10).

Therefore: We will seek to expand the geographical reach of the gospel (Romans 15.20-21) and to strengthen the effectiveness of gospel ministry where it already exists.

Principle 2 – God’s Means in Missions

God’s work of salvation is accomplished primarily through the local church (Ephesians 3.10-11, 21).

Therefore: We will focus our resources on efforts to establish, edify, and equip indigenously-led and self-reproducing local churches (Acts 20.28).

Principle 3 – God’s Commitment in Missions

God has committed Himself and His infinite resources to Christ’s followers to build His church (Ephesians 1.22; Matthew 28.20).

Therefore:

- A) We will follow God’s example of commitment by emphasizing prayerful (Acts 4.31), thoughtful, and personal (2Corinthians 8.5) involvement with our mission partners. We will seek to be involved more thoroughly with fewer missionaries, as opposed to less thoroughly with more missionaries.
- B) We will judiciously steward the resources God has committed to our care (Luke 16.9-10).

Principle 4 – The Power of God’s Word in Missions

God has invested the Word of the gospel with the power to regenerate and sanctify sinners (John 17.17, Romans 1.16).

Therefore: We will focus on efforts to advance the faithful proclamation of God’s Word (2Timothy 2.2).

Principle 5 – God’s Cross-Cultural Reach in Missions

God has modeled communicating across a cultural divide in the incarnation of Christ (John 1.18).

Therefore: We will focus on efforts to communicate the Gospel humbly (Philippians 2.3, 5-7) in ways that are appropriate for the indigenous culture (2Thessalonians 2.6-7).