

Steadfast Bible Fellowship

Missions Policy

Updated: June 2015

1. Definition

Missions, as it relates to this policy, is any sustained effort to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whether at home or overseas, with the aim of leading them to Christ, and discipling and establishing them in local churches.

2. Purpose and Policy

- a. Scriptural Policy Purpose - To clarify the position of Steadfast Bible Fellowship (SBF) with regard to missionary outreach.
 - i. To provide a standard for making decisions.
 - ii. To insure that SBF practices wise stewardship in the use of its financial resources
- b. Exceptions - This policy is intended to serve as a guideline. Exceptions may be made by the Elders and those exceptions shall be specifically recorded in the Elders' minutes.
- c. Revisions - The SBF Elders shall evaluate the Missions Policy at least every two years for the purpose of revisions and timely updates.

3. Commissioning

- a. The Elders at Steadfast Omaha commission an individual, couple or family within the body at Steadfast:
 - i. Who are engaged in the Pathways of Spiritual Growth
 - ii. Who are following God's leading on their lives to local or foreign missions
 - iii. Who's role is seen as a part of accomplishing our vision as a church
- b. As we commission an individual or family we are committing to:
 - i. Faithfully pray for them and their ministry
 - ii. To support financially and/or with encouragement in their service to Christ.
- c. A review is conducted on a yearly basis of all who are commissioned by Steadfast Omaha and is subject to the standards and procedures set forth by the current Constitution of Steadfast Omaha.

4. Missions Budget

- a. Financial support for Missions must align with the SBF mission and vision.
- b. SBF missions support focuses on the following:
 - i. Church planting.
 - ii. Short-term mission trips by people from SBF.
 - iii. Organizations/Partnerships led by nationals in the countries where SBF sponsors or is planning to sponsor short-term mission trips.
 - iv. Local College/Youth Ministries in the Metro Omaha area.
- c. Annual Budget - The annual SBF missions budget is constructed by the Stewardship Team, which submits it to the Elders for approval, no later than December 20 of each year.
 - i. The budget is based on the previous year's budget and takes into account increasing needs and/or new opportunities approved by the Elders.
 - ii. SBF is committed to allocate 10% of its total annual giving to the Missions budget.
- d. SBF pledges monthly financial support to approved ministries by individuals or organizations for one year; additional funding must be approved by the Elders.

5. Financial Support

- a. SBF Elders approve all financial support for both individuals and ministries
- b. Accepted Categories the Elders consider for Financial Support:
 - i. A regular attender of SBF who is called to missions - Typical designated amount:
 - 1) An individual: \$100/month
 - 2) A family: \$150/month
 - ii. Ministries or Organizations affiliated with SBF, i.e., organizations with which SBF has an ongoing relationship - Typical designated amount: \$20 - \$1,500 / month or a one-time gift
 - iii. Regular attenders of SBF who qualify for short-term missions support - Typical designated amount: up to \$500 to anyone from SBF going on an SBF sponsored short-term mission trip (e.g., Possibilities Africa, India) or up to \$250 to anyone from SBF going on non-Steadfast sponsored short-term mission trips.
- c. Termination of support
 - i. Conditions for termination of support:
 - 1) Irresponsible neglect of ministry.
 - 2) Unresolved moral problems.
 - 3) Failure to continue in agreement with SBF's doctrinal statement.
 - 4) The ministry goals, objectives or direction of an individual, family or organization supported by SBF no longer conform with the SBF missions policy or with the SBF mission/vision
 - ii. On an annual basis, the Elders evaluate and review all those receiving financial support from SBF.

6. Responsibilities of those individuals or ministries receiving financial support from SBF

- a. Correspondence
 - i. Elder expectations for full-time missionaries or affiliated ministries:
 - 1) At least quarterly correspondence with the Elders
 - 2) Quarterly correspondence should include: personal spiritual growth and needs (this includes the total financial support they are raising); ministry goals and an account of progress toward reaching these goals; physical and spiritual needs of the people to whom they minister, etc.
 - ii. Expectations for short-term mission trip participants:
 - 1) Individuals whom SBF supports should write a letter prior to going which outlines the following:
 - a) The objective of the short-term mission trip, including where they are going and what they will be doing
 - b) The amount they must raise for their short-term mission trip, including an accounting of how much has already been raised
 - c) A list of specific prayer needs for which the SBF family can be praying
- b. SBF Elders expect that changes in the financial support structure of those receiving SBF financial support should be communicated to the Elders in a timely manner (e.g., an increase in financial support from other sources).