

Missions at the Shelbourne Street Church

At the Shelbourne Street Church (SSCOC), our mission is to connect people to Jesus and to one another. One way we do this is by reaching out to people outside our church community. This outreach includes helping the poor, sick and disadvantaged, assisting with relief efforts when tragedies occur, telling people the good news that God is making all things right through His Son, and so on.

Our church is involved in doing these things both in the local community and across the globe. We use the word 'missions' to refer to *our church's outreach beyond the greater Victoria area*. Missions, therefore, are central to our overall mission as a church. It is one of the key ways we live out God's call on our lives.

Responsibility for most aspects of our church's outreach beyond the Victoria area belongs to the Missions Committee.¹ Through their service and leadership, we hope that every member of SSCOC will come to play a part in missions – whether through prayer, participation in short term mission trips, collection of goods for relief efforts, financial support, encouragement of full-time missionaries, support for schools or orphans, or some other way.

Although we wish to remain open to new opportunities and God's leading, we want in particular to maintain our focus on supporting outreach in Zambia, Africa through our long association with Zambia Mission Fund Canada (<http://www.zambiamissionfundcanada.org/>), an organization that serves the needs of orphans and disadvantaged children in southern Zambia.

In addition, we wish to begin a new emphasis on outreach within British Columbia itself, recognizing that many opportunities to serve God exist right here in our own province. We look to the Missions Committee to help define some focal points for this effort over the course of the next year.

Our support for outreach in Zambia and British Columbia includes not only financial support through the church's annual budget, but also providing other opportunities for our members to become personally involved in these ministries.

Beyond these two ongoing commitments, we also rely on the Missions Committee to assess and coordinate all ad hoc requests for SSCOC's support for other mission projects, using its discretion regarding which requests to forward to the elders for formal consideration and adoption. Where such requests involve designated donations, such donations will be accepted only the basis of the conditions outlined in the SSCOC Fundraising and Designated Donations Policy or, where they involve short term mission trips, the SSCOC Short Term Missions Policy. Both documents are available at www.shelbournestreetchurch.com.

¹ There are some exceptions, such as responsibility for Spruston Road Bible Camp, out of town youth events, etc.