



# GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

## Missions Policy

(Adopted December 2007, Finalized April 2008)

*For the Word of the Lord has sounded forth from you  
I Thessalonians 1:8*

### I. General Statements of Policy and Purpose

- A. Grace Bible church shall maintain a mission program to help promote the world-wide proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to glorify God by being and making disciples. The Missions Committee at Grace is committed to glorifying God and obeying His command to make disciples and send out laborers who will do the same.
- B. The vision of Grace Bible Church missions is to be an “outreach” program. It is understood to include those activities related to:
  - 1. a world-wide propagation of the gospel through missions, evangelism, discipleship,
  - 2. encouragement for the training of young and old for missions service,
  - 3. assistance to meet human needs such as help for the poor, the fatherless, the widows, those disenfranchised by war or natural disaster, imprisoned, etc.
- C. Annually, the Mission Committee will prepare a budget to include specific support levels for missionaries, missions, organizations, etc., currently being supported and amounts anticipated continued operation. The annual mission budget shall be approved by the Mission Committee and reviewed and approved by the Church Board. Designated mission gifts will be over and above the mission budget and will not reduce the amount directed to missions. (see sections IV and V – Missions Budget and Allocations)
- D. These mission policies are given as guidelines for matters relating to missions. Any recommended changes in mission policies shall be advanced to the Elder board for approval.
- E. The Missions Committee believes that missionaries are generally more effective in ministry and more adequately cared for when working under an established mission agency.

### II. The Mission Committee

- A. The Mission Committee shall administer and implement the Mission Policy, make recommendations on budget, new missionaries, and policy changes. Administration of the Mission Policy shall include determination of where and how much money will be allocated for various mission needs. The Mission Committee chairman will submit a monthly report to the Church board and will be continually accountable to them.
- B. The Missions Committee shall be composed of: the missions pastor, an elder, a deacon, the church secretary and at least three church members. All of these shall have voting privileges. The church members shall be affirmed by the church membership at the annual congregational meeting to serve two-year overlapping terms.
- C. Mission Committee members should regularly attend Mission Committee meetings, inform themselves about issues to be discussed, participate in activities necessary to

fulfill established objectives, become knowledgeable about the church's missionary family, and pray for the missions program.

- D. The Mission Committee will annually present nominees for subsequent consideration and affirmation by the congregation. Nominations must be submitted to the Mission Committee at least two months prior to the annual congregational meeting. Mission Committee nominees shall be informed of their expected responsibilities and shall be required to read and agree with this Grace Bible Church Mission Policy prior to acceptance of the position. All nominees will be presented to the nominating committee and church board for final approval.
- E. The Chairman shall be elected by the Board of Elders. A Vice-Chairman shall be elected by the Mission Committee and shall preside at the meetings in the absence of the Chairman.
- F. The church secretary shall be responsible for informing members of meetings, taking minutes, keeping records and corresponding on behalf of the Mission Committee.
- G. Teams may be established with a chairman of each appointed by the Mission Committee to further missionary interest in the following areas: Learning, Caring, Going, and Giving. Each team chairman may select at least two others persons from the Grace Bible Church congregation to help fulfill that team's responsibilities.
- H. The Mission Committee shall meet monthly or as required. Teams shall meet when called by their chairman.
- I. The Mission Committee shall encourage and help those missionaries who are on home assignment. See Section H.
- J. The Mission Committee reserves the right to consider each applicant on an individual basis.

### **III. Teams**

#### **A. The Learning Team**

1. The Learning Team shall cooperate with the Missions Pastor as well as the Elder Chairman in securing speakers for the annual Missions Conference and for church services other than the conference and for planning the date of the Missions Conference.

2. They shall attempt to contact all GBC missionaries to ask them to be present at the conference or take part in it by submitting a display of their work. They shall attempt to obtain special files and audio-visual presentations for the conference. After the conference, those participants of the conference will be asked to give an evaluation of that year's conference.

3. They shall be responsible to promote a general awareness of all of the Church's mission programs with the aid of the Mission Pastor through announcements, signs, policies, missionary histories, conferences, speakers, etc. and help the church body gain a deeper understanding of missions.

4. They shall cooperate with the church librarian in providing resources for the church body, short-term missionaries, and our missionaries on home assignment such as: books, CDs, DVDs, etc.

#### **B. The Going Team**

The Going Team shall work with short-term as well as career missionaries from Grace Bible Church by:

- 1. Recruit people for missions.
- 2. Provide necessary training for long and short term missionaries.
- 3. Oversee short-term teams,

4. Coordinate outreach to internationals in the area,
5. Meet and interview candidates and make recommendations to full committee.

C. The Caring Team

1. Help missionaries develop support teams and/or prayer teams.
2. Oversee prayer ministry for all our missionaries....monthly bulletin prayer inserts, overhead slides and video clips, Gleaners, International Harvester's, etc.
3. Work with Learning and Going teams to provide training especially concerning missionary care.
4. Possibly develop an Adopt-a-missionary program.

D. The Giving Team

1. Develop annual budget to reflect goals/vision of elders and mission committee.
2. Responsible for annual breakdown of percentages for the different areas (home or foreign and support or church planting) of ministry.
3. Work with elder and deacon boards in developing the annual budget

**IV. The Missions Budget**

A. The Missions budget shall be prepared by the Missions Committee, approved by the Church Board, and then affirmed by the congregation.

B. Designated contributions above the normal giving for missionaries or projects will be honored and will not be included in the Missions budget. Such gifts will be sent to the designees that are on the approved list recommended by the Mission Committee. (The "approved list" refers to that list of missions and missionaries that fulfill the doctrinal position of Grace Bible Church and have been accepted on the basis of Section VI.)

C. In the event a shortage of funds occurs, the need will be made known to the congregation. Should such a shortage occur, the following actions will be recommended:

1. The Missions Committee will seek to unite the congregation in special prayer.
2. The Missions Committee will make recommendations to the deacons on how to reduce all missionary support commitments.
3. If excess funds come in later, shortages will be made up.

**V. Allocations of the Missions Budget**

A. The Missions Budget money will be distributed primarily to those missionary ministries with the emphasis on people from our church serving as missionaries.

B. The Missions Budget money will include funds for the following purposes as determined by the Mission Committee with Church Board approval:

1. General missionary funds
2. Short-term missions
3. Contingency funds
4. Annual Missions Conference
5. Outreach/approved travel

C. The Missions Budget may be used only to support those missionaries and mission agencies investigated and recommended by the Mission Committee to the Elder Board or those missionaries and mission agencies that the Elder Board chooses. Such mission

agencies shall have doctrinal positions compatible with Grace Bible Church, exhibit fiscal responsibility and have objectives in keeping with our missionary purpose and policy. The doctrinal statement of every mission agency and/or individual supported by Grace Bible Church shall be asked for and kept on record for reference in the church office. These doctrinal statements and policies shall be updated if the agency or person makes any changes.

D. Support shall begin as recommended by the Mission Committee and is subject to the following:

1. The missionary receives the affirming vote of the Elder Board.
2. The missionary is in active support development under the appointment of an approved mission agency. (In the event an appointed missionary does not go to the field, his/her funds will be re-designated.)
3. The missionary has completed required pre-field education. (The Mission Committee will not assist financially with pre-field education.)

E. Normally, the missionary agency provides insurance and retirement through Social Security or private plans. Grace Bible Church only assists in these costs at the discretion of the Mission Committee.

F. Missionaries pursuing further training with the approval of their mission agencies shall continue to receive support for a one year period. Extensions beyond one year will be considered and must be approved by the Mission Committee before support will continue.

G. Support will normally continue as long as the missionary continues his work. If a missionary separates himself from a mission agency, changes organizations, or retires, the continuation of support will be critically reviewed.

## **VI. Selection of Career Missionary Candidates for Support**

A. Personal qualifications:

1. The candidate must have:
  - a. A clear profession and evidence of God's saving work,
  - b. A clear calling or leading of God into missions,
  - c. Evidence of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22-23),
  - d. Reflection of the character qualities in I Tim. 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9, 2:1-10)
  - e. If married, a strong marriage and family life.
  - f. If single, an exemplary single life,
  - g. Membership at Grace Bible Church or another accepted evangelical church.
2. The candidate must have supportive personal references from people such as: pastors, teachers, employers, etc.
3. The candidate must be accepted by a mission agency/church/organization recognized by the Grace Bible Church Mission Committee.
4. There must be an agreement in writing to the doctrinal position of Grace Bible Church by the candidate.

5. Education must be adequate for the ministry to be done. This includes Bible training, cross-cultural preparation, and whatever professional training or technical training that may be required. Vocational experience could be considered as education where applicable.

6. As God directs, the Missions Committee would recommend that those going out as career missionaries be at Grace Bible Church for six months to one year before departure to the field; however, they may consider support of missionaries who are currently active members in good standing of another evangelical church and who meet these qualifications and requirements.

#### B. Requirements for Career Missionaries

1. Candidates must fill out the Grace Bible Church preliminary application form and present it to the Mission Committee for consideration preferably one year before leaving for the field.

2. Missionaries will furnish a budget report annually, when requested by the Giving Team.

3. Support for career missionaries:

a. Generally, support will continue as long as the missionary is in full-time service.

Changes in support levels may be prompted by circumstances including, but not limited to:

- cost of living levels in the country of service,
- status of dependents in a family unit,
- greater needs of an expanded and successful ministry,
- a ministry that is failing for whatever reason.

b. The missionary is required to notify the Mission Committee of any change noted below. Support can be terminated or reduced when the missionary alters significantly his or her mission work including:

- changing mission agencies,
- leaving the mission agency to work independently,
- changing fields
- accepting a post at home or a change in ministry.

c. Missionaries experiencing significant change in ministry focus (as in 3b above) may be required to reapply to the Grace Bible Church Mission Committee to be considered for continuing support.

d. A change in doctrinal position or failing to live a Christian life may result in termination of financial support by Grace Bible Church.

e. The Grace Bible Church Mission Committee will continue to consider each career missionary, their level of support, and terms of support on an individual basis.

#### VII. Selection of Short-term Candidates for support

A. Definitions: Short-term candidates are people who go into a cross-cultural ministry for 1 week to two years and who consider this a vital step in preparing for career missions or life at home as a World Christian.

B. Goals: Short-term candidates see their service as a means of serving God in the ministry of missions; of learning firsthand what missions is really all about, and of determining if God is calling them into career missions.

C. Candidates are urged to plan ahead. They need to plan at least 6 months to 12 months in advance depending on the length of the term. This will give them time to find support, get immunizations, passports, etc.

D. Personal qualifications:

1. An active and obvious commitment to Jesus Christ,
2. Willingness to consider serving full time in career missions,
3. Approval by parents for candidates under 18 years old,
4. Be working on spiritual disciplines such as: prayer, Bible study, evangelism, fellowship,
5. Acceptance by a mission agency/church/organization approved by Grace Bible Church,
6. Pre-field orientation and preparation from the mission agency/church/organization.
7. Credit card debts all paid up.

E. Requirements for Short-term Candidates:

1. Short-term missionary candidates must fill out the Grace Bible Church application form and present it to the Mission Committee for consideration before departure for the field, preferably three months. They must read and agree with the doctrinal statement and mission policy of Grace Bible Church.
2. They must meet with the Mission Committee prior to their departure or agree to an interview over the phone or with the Missions Pastor.
3. They must agree to give a report to the Mission Committee and/or to the congregation of Grace Bible Church within three or four months of their return.
4. As God directs, the Missions Committee may consider support of people who are not members of Grace Bible Church and who meet these qualifications.
5. Married women or single parents with small children will be considered on an individual basis. Normally, individuals in one of these categories would be discouraged from being gone over two weeks.

## **VIII. Expectations**

A. What should a Missionary expect from Grace Bible Church?

1. Prayer support for them and their families at Gleaners, International Harvesters, and other church meetings. We will include any special requests in the monthly "Call to Prayer" distributed in the church bulletin.
2. Financial assistance.

3. Consistent communication. We will update our missions display when we receive updated newsletters, etc. from them. If requested, we will send any of Pastor Bryan's messages or church bulletins to them. We would also like to meet with them whenever they are in Bozeman as time permits.

4. Practical assistance: if missionaries need housing, transportation, furniture, etc. while on home assignment or other kinds of needs while on the field, we will attempt to meet those needs.

5. Hold an annual missions conference and pick a project to support one or more of our missionaries each year.

**B. What should Grace bible Church expect from a missionary?**

1. Consistent communication. We should hear from them at least quarterly. It is our desire to know how their ministry is progressing as well as how they are doing personally. They also need to correspond to special committee requests within two weeks if possible. This is of vital importance when we are requesting prayer and financial information. We ask that they provide a current family photo for our annual Mission Conference.

2. Inform the Missions Committee of any changes in plans for ministry or location or finances. We request that they keep us abreast of any special needs.

3. Notification as soon as possible when they will be at Grace Bible Church and for how long.

4. Connection. Missionaries are encouraged to meet with the Missions Committee whenever they are on home ministry assignment, or whenever they are in the Bozeman area.

**IX. Suggestions for all missionary candidates**

The Mission Committees desire is to work as team with God and with the candidate in order to be active senders as well as financial providers. Here is a list of suggestions for anyone interested in career or short-term missions.

A. Expose yourself to other cultures by helping with international students on the college campuses.

B. Read! There are many good books on missions. Biographies are a great source of encouragement and help. The library can give a recommended list.

C. Pursue Bible classes at Montana Bible College or another Bible college recommended by our elders.

D. Be financially responsible. Loans or debts need to be paid off before a person will be considered for career missions. Seek financial counseling if necessary.

E. Be active in ministry. The Missions Committee takes seriously involvement at Grace Bible Church or other approved ministry. Do you know your spiritual gifts?

F. Seek opportunities to gain experience in the profession chosen. Learn the value of hard work.