

Our Rationale for a Strategic Plan  
What is its purpose?

1. We realize we can't support everyone who asks. So . . . who do we want to support? Why that person, couple or family over those people? What is the basis for supporting one person over another? Where should our support go? By that we mean what type of ministry and/or what country or region or people group.
2. What is our role in recruiting and preparing folks for the field? What do we want to require or what do we need to require of would be missionaries? What are our expectations of our missionary partners? What do we expect of folks on their first term, second term, third term and beyond?
3. How much support do we provide for our outreach partners? Do we give the same amount to someone from outside our fellowship as we do as someone who was disciplined here at Grace, has ministered at Grace and we clearly know is equipped to do the work?
4. The strategic plan is meant to be a short summary in order to assist staff and members of Grace Bible Church in understanding the who, what, and why of selecting outreach partners. It is hoped this will provide them with confidence in our investment of their monies and a guideline for them in evaluating whether or not to forward an application to us or recommending someone contacts us.
5. The plan is also meant to be a target to aim for in regards to support levels. It is not meant to radically shift and cut spending over night. I.e., stop supporting this missionary and arbitrarily pick up this person. Rather, it presents goals to move toward. In addition, knowing where we want to go in the world and the work we want to be involved with helps us recruit, train, shape and send the next generation of outreach partners.
6. The Strategic Plan is a small summary of the "experts" we read and consulted with on whom, what and how much to invest in particular ministries and missionaries. To that end all recommend that a church ministers, send and support individuals based on the DNA / Strengths of said church. Further, in light of knowing what our strengths are, we needed to assess where we were investing our monies. So a breakdown of in country and overseas with four broad categories was presented. The bottom line of this was: we spend more in support and compassion ministries then we do in strengthening and planting churches. The latter two are actually our key strengths with compassion third. In addition, we learned that we spend more on an overseas ministry by almost 2 to 1.
7. An additional contribution to the document had to do with funding partners. What is listed is based off our consulting the structures and policies of numerous churches in funding their outreach partners.