

Gateway Bible Church Missions Policy

I. Our Missions Vision

We, the members of GBC, are committed to building a community of fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who love God, love each other, and impact a needy world. We believe that this defines worship and that “worship is both the goal and the fuel of missions.” We are called by Christ in Acts 1:8 to take His gospel (good news) to our local community, our region, and the world. We believe each Christian is personally accountable for reminding ourselves of the truth of the Gospel and sharing it with others, thereby glorifying God and advancing His Kingdom. We consider missions to specifically include helping to fulfill the Great Commission beyond our community. Missions support is not a special interest for a select group in our church; it is an essential aspect of what keeps our church body from becoming stagnant. Therefore, we desire that every member of GBC be committed to missions through prayer, commitment to Biblical truth, loving relationships, financial giving, and missions opportunities as they are able.

II. Missions Team

Membership: The Missions Team shall be composed of minimum of one elder and a minimum of three members from the church body. The elder shall be appointed by the Elder Board and will serve for two years, rotating off the Missions Team on alternate years. The members of the Missions Team shall be men and women of proven character, spiritually healthy and grounded in Biblical truth. They must be active members of GBC for at least one year and have a proven heart for missions and the vision of GBC. These members will be approved by the Elder Board and be willing and able to commit to serve for at least 2 years. The chairperson of the Missions Team will be chosen by the missions committee and approved by the Elder Board. The chairperson will be appointed to serve on a yearly basis.

III. Team Responsibilities

1. Prayer: To intercede individually, as a Missions Team, and corporately as a body for our missionaries and the people to whom they are ministering. This is a top priority for the body and the Missions Team.
2. Communication:
 - To develop a deep and meaningful relationship with each missionary family and maintain ongoing two-way communication.
 - To maintain regular contact with our career missionaries and their missions board. Each member of the Missions Team will be assigned one or more missionaries.
 - To make a missions presentation to the body of GBC regarding one of our missionaries on a regular basis.
 - To communicate needs, praises, and prayer requests with the church body and encourage individual members to communicate with our missionary families.
 - To arrange periodic visits from the missionaries and hosting them while they are with us.
 - To periodically review the missions policy and make recommended changes to the elders.
3. Finances: To review each missionary's annual budget and to determine the need for support from GBC. All recommendations will be presented to the Elder Board.
4. Recommendations: To review each potential missionary's application and present those that align with GBC's mission vision and criteria to the Elder Board. (application attached)
5. Meeting: To meet together as a Missions Team at least quarterly.

IV. Criteria For Support

Career Missionaries:

- We at GBC have a vision for supporting a few missionaries in a meaningful manner rather than numerous missionaries a little. (We want to avoid the “mile wide, inch deep” mentality and rather be an “inch wide and a mile deep.”)
- We will purpose to encourage and support those within our body who feel a call to missions, and to provide Godly counsel in helping them discern their calling. These missionaries must work towards an indigenous ministry of evangelism, discipleship, training, church planting, sending, and/or orphan care, unless otherwise approved by the Elder Board.
- Missionaries must serve with a missions agency accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability and approved by our Elder Board.
- Missionaries must have proven themselves in and have the unqualified support of their home church.
- Missionaries must present a written summary of their call to missionary service, along with their anticipated or current ministry goals.
- Before recommending a missionary to be supported monthly by the church, the Missions Team shall seek to have full information on the missionary’s support schedule. There shall be a regular review of the support needs of missionaries supported by our church.
- Missionaries will provide an annual support schedule for review by the Missions Team.
- Missionaries will inform the Mission Team of any significant changes in ministry as soon as it is known.
- Missionaries must develop a meaningful relationship with our church and provide meaningful ongoing communication.

Short Term Missions:

We are committed to the raising up and sending of members of GBC on short term missions trips.

- They must have been active members of GBC for at least one year, participating in the ministry of the church (unless away at college or in the ministry).
- They must have proven character. (*Are they faithful in the little things? Is their relationship with Christ vibrant and growing?*)
- Our desire is to send short-term missionaries to work with missionaries or mission sites with which we have a close personal connection.
- Potential short-term missions candidates will present to the Missions Team their desire, plans and needs. The Missions Team will examine the candidate and prayerfully consider their request and make a recommendation of support to the Elder Board.
- They will appear before the church body prior to and after their short-term experience.

V. Finances

Career Missions:

- All missionary applicants must be under an ECFA approved missions sending board approved by GBC
- Each missionary's financial needs will be reviewed by the Missions Team on an annual basis. The team will make recommendations to the Elder Board regarding each missionary's financial needs at least two months prior to the upcoming year's new budget proposal.
- GBC will support each of its career missionaries at a meaningful level as determined by the Elder Board.

Short-Term Missions:

- All short-term missionaries will be under an ECFA accredited ministry approved by the elders of GBC.
- Support for short-term missions will be considered and determined by the Elder Board on an annual basis.

VI. Termination

Missionaries may be removed from support from GBC for the following reasons:

- A change in their theology that departs from the GBC doctrinal statement.
- Grave moral failure.
- A change in the missionary's ministry focus away from the missions vision statement of GBC (see section 1)
- A termination from their missions board.