

I. MISSIONS STRATEGIC VISION FOR YEAR 2003

Jesus is our first great Apostle (Hebrews 3:1), sent by His Father into the world; and likewise he now sends us into the world as an extension of His own apostolic ministry (John 20:21) - called by God (Romans 1:1), moving in divine revelation (Ephesians 3:1-7), and laying the foundation of Jesus Himself in every place (I Corinthians 3:10,11). The Lord from Heaven has promised to accompany our true apostolic ministry with confirming signs and wonders and miracles (II Corinthians 12:12).

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ has called us to be an apostolic church. We believe He has called us to be founded and built on apostolic revelation and authority and power; and we believe he has called us to send forth men and women - called, trained, equipped and supported - into apostolic ministry, beginning with our Jerusalem (Baltimore/DC), and our Judea (Maryland), and our Samaria (the USA), and also to the remotest parts of the earth (Acts 1:8). Especially do we believe we are called to focus on the 10/40 window, the last great un-evangelized frontier of world missions. We have been called into being "for Christ and His Kingdom!" And we give ourselves to this calling!

II. FOREIGN MISSIONS GENERAL STRATEGY

Recognizing God's apostolic calling upon us as a church, we adopt the following guidelines for our foreign missions labor and support:

- (1) We will give ourselves to those unreached people groups around the world (especially in the 10/40 window), believing the promise of Jesus: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). In view of this pointed word, we will focus our people resources and financial resources and prayer resources on unreached people groups in the earth, believing that as every tongue, tribe, and nation is reached, the end will come!
- (2) We will give ourselves to raising up, training, and supporting those in our own midst whom God has called to the foreign mission field, especially within the 10/40 window.
- (3) We give ourselves to those apostolic missionaries who are called and equipped to plant churches.
- (4) We will also give ourselves to those missions committed to seeing the manifest presence and power of the Holy Spirit expressly operative in the earth - drawing hearts to Jesus, regenerating them, and building them up in the Body of Christ. Without the supernatural miracle-working power of God, we believe little will be accomplished in opening blind eyes to the light of the Gospel.
- (5) We will give ourselves to the raising up of indigenous workers and local church leaders in every foreign mission field. We do not believe that it furthers the purposes of Christ in His Body to mistrust the grace of God in indigenous workers and local church leaders by Americans seeking to permanently govern and lead foreign churches and works. The apostolic pattern is plain (Acts 14:21-23) - to work ourselves out of a job and then to press on into new un-evangelized areas. Missionaries and missions who carry this vision will increasingly receive our people support, financial support, and prayer support.
- (6) We will give ourselves to a comprehensive support plan for all our foreign missionaries. We will seek to involve as many of our precious saints as we can in implementing this plan by supporting and maintaining the Barnabas Project. Comprehensive support will include correspondence and phone contact, distribution of tapes and literature, short-term teams of IC saints, and provision of refreshing and renewal during their furloughs.
- (7) In the midst of these important end-time strategies, we will also give ourselves to missionaries and missions who minister to "the lost, the downtrodden and the poor" as our original founding documents state, for inasmuch as we have done it to the least of these, we have done it to Him! We will indeed seek to serve Jesus in each homeless person, in each preborn child, in each broken, deprived, hungry and naked person that he brings our way.

III. MISSIONS TASK FORCE STRUCTURE

The Foreign Mission General Strategy shall be carried out by the Missions Task Force. The Task Force is made up of four committees (Church Communications, New and Long-Term Missions, Short-Term Missions, and Intercessory) working under the direction of the Missions Pastor and the Missions Administrator. The Missions Pastor and Missions Administrator and the heads of the four Committees shall make up the Missions Steering Committee, providing the leadership core of the ministry.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Missions Pastor: establishes and leads the Missions Steering Committee.

Missions Administrator: assists the Missions Pastor in overseeing the proper and productive operation of the various committees.

Church Communications Committee: further propagates the vision of apostolic missions within the congregation of Immanuel's Church.

New and Long-Term Missions Committee: 1) maintains the status of our current missionaries in accord with the Strategic Plan; and 2) qualifies and recommends support for new apostolic missionaries.

Short-Term Missions Committee: qualifies, recommends, motivates and equips short-term missionaries from our own congregation to be sent out as an encouragement to our existing missionaries.

Intercessory Committee: 1) interface with the various bands of interceding saints and with the praying church as a whole for prayer support for our apostolic missions; 2) creates and maintains special missions prayer support in Immanuel's Church; and 3) assists Pastor Charles with the monthly Pageant of Praise and Prayer.

Missions Steering Committee: 1) expands and ensures the health of the individual committees; 2) perfects and maintains the Immanuel's Strategic Plan for Apostolic Missions and ensures its inclusion in the wider Immanuel's Strategic Plan for the current year; 3) tracks and approves distribution of financial resources for missions; 4) interfaces with key apostolic missions groups and leaders in order to enhance the growth and development of Immanuel's vision for apostolic missions.

IV. PLANNED COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR 2003

Communications

- ❖ Maintain in the Rotunda a lighted display case containing missionary artifacts
- ❖ Maintain various mission trip reports using computer-generated PowerPoint presentations
- ❖ Maintain a pictorial “Missions” map in the Rotunda for all the fields we labor
- ❖ Interface with pastoral and Sunday school leadership to coordinate “mission emphasis” Sundays
- ❖ Work with church staff in providing missionary prayer requests for the weekly ABC's prayer guide.
- ❖ Provide regular updates to the missionary database for church staff
- ❖ Work with church staff to provide mission's educational opportunities, such as the annual mission's conference, communication and support of outside conferences, and active promotion of the on-line Perspectives class, <http://www.perspectives.org>.
- ❖ Work to develop and implement a plan to equip every home group to:
 - 1) Adopt a currently supported missionary and his/her family
 - 2) Adopt an unreached people group.
 - 3) Work to provide needed research on mission agency policies in an effort to provide effective information for strategic decision making and mentoring.

New and Old Long-Term Missions

- ❖ Provide our missionaries (1) moral support (Matthew 12:20); (2) logistics support (2 Timothy 4:13); (3) financial support (Phil 4:10-12 and Acts 11:29); (4) prayer support (Col 1:9-12); (5) communication support (Philippians 2:19); and, (6) re-entry support (Acts 14:26-28).
- ❖ Continue evaluation of currently supported missionaries in consideration of support raises for those targeting unreached people groups. Each missionary will be evaluated annually through the use of a mandatory annual report.
- ❖ Continue funding mission awareness events, such as Barnabas short term trips, in-house convocations, conferences, and all types of mission education.
- ❖ As a long term goal, it is also recommended that a program be established that will give guidance to Immanuel's members who are considering long term missionary work and support, i.e., the online Perspectives course, <http://www.perspectives.org>.
- ❖ Maintain the Barnabas Project in which a team or home group will be recruited for each individual missionary. This team will send birthday greetings, letters, and even visit the missionary. The Sunday Barnabas program will be maintained until home group adoption becomes the norm.
- ❖ Provide a tracking / reporting mechanism for all mission spending in order to facilitate strategic direction and better decision making.

Short-Term Missions

- ❖ Recommend candidates for short-term missions from Immanuel's Church
- ❖ Identify resources by which short-term missions may learn of the cultures, traditions, dress standards, etc., of nations they are planning to visit
- ❖ Coordinate at least two IC-sponsored mission trips to IC-sponsored missionaries and actively look for indigenous medical and business opportunities to minister among currently supported missionaries.
- ❖ Teach a short term missions track in the Spring and Winter session of IBS
- ❖ Promote the Barnabas Project by encouraging member care through Barnabas short term trips to IC currently supported missionaries.

Intercessory Missions

- ❖ Pray for our currently supported missionaries
- ❖ Request each established praying group to include missions ministries for regular prayer support
- ❖ Establish international prayer groups to pray for specific nations and the work of the missionaries in

those nations

- ❖ Request home groups to regularly pray for missions
- ❖ Seek every opportunity to raise up missionary prayer support

V. ORGANIZATION OF MISSIONS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Missions Task Force Fiscal Priorities

Our first priority is to meaningfully support our long term missionaries in a relational way by providing moral, logistic, financial, prayer, communication, and re-entry sustenance.

A second priority, but no less important, will be to inspire every IC member, every home group, and the Sunday School classes to become meaningfully connected to a currently supported missionary and adopt an unreached people group for investigation, intercession, and eventually, intervention.

A third fiscal priority will be to "jump start" the congregation into catching God's mission burden in determining his/her role as a sender or goer. This includes investing in areas that allow people to catch and nurture the vision, such as short-term trips to currently supported missionaries in support of the Barnabas Project, in-house convocations, outside conferences, education and other activities. The stated goal is to equip senders to send, givers to give, and those called, to go.

A fourth priority will be the active recruitment of new workgroup leaders who have a passion for mission ministry, and who can commit to heading up specific workgroups to tackle specific short term and long term projects that support the overall direction and strategic goals of the task force. The structure of the task force will not change, but the workgroups will help us focus on specific functions and projects. As an outcome, we believe that this will draw more of our congregation into active mission ministry.

Restated, our overall priorities are:

1. To undergird our missionaries with:
 - ❖ Moral support (Matthew 12:20)
 - ❖ Logistics support (2 Timothy 4:13)
 - ❖ Financial support (Phil 4:10-12 and Acts 11:29)
 - ❖ Prayer support (Col 1:9-12)
 - ❖ Communication support (Philippians 2:19)
 - ❖ Re-entry support (Acts 14:26-28)
2. To inspire every IC member and every home group to become meaningfully connected to a currently supported missionary and adopt an unreached people group for investigation, intercession, and eventually, intervention.
3. To mobilize every IC member through IC sponsored short term mission trips to currently supported missionaries (Barnabas Project trips), support of in-house convocations, outside conferences, and mission's education, including the on-line Perspectives class, <http://www.perspectives.org>.
4. To actively recruit new workgroup leaders who have a passion for mission ministry, and who can commit to heading up specific workgroups to tackle specific short term and long term projects that support the overall direction and strategic goals of the task force.

Each Missions Committee should know its budget and base decisions about requests for funding on available funds. Additionally, individual committees will decide on specifics for financial breakdown, selection criteria, requirements.

Long Term Missions Funding Priorities

Long Term Committee will give preference to requests in the following order:

1. Immanuel's Church adult (to assist in the outworking of a member's calling)
2. Unreached people groups within 10/40 window countries
3. Unreached people groups outside of the 10/40 window
4. Reached 10/40 window people groups
5. Reached non-10/40 people groups—poor and needy around the globe (orphanages and schools)

This does not include one-time gifts, which are made at the discretion of the pastoral staff and steering committee. One-time gifts are used to bless mission speakers and fund specific projects of our currently supported missionaries.

Short Term Missions Funding Priorities¹

Short term committee will give preference to requests in the following order:

1. Sponsoring of two IC mission short term trips to IC-sponsored missionaries
2. Donated supplies, support materials, and gifts to mission visited
3. Helping those who come up short in funds for 10-40 Window Outreach
4. Contingency-Emergency Fund for unexpected urgent needs
5. Helping those who come up short in funds for non 10-40 Window Outreach including Samaria outreaches in the USA or just across the border

¹ These are only proposed allocations; we are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in a different direction.