

Missions Strategy Sample - Church #9

1. A definition of world outreach: this should be part of the OUR CHURCH mission policy that the Exec/Finance Committee plans will revise this year. Defining world outreach will facilitate consistent responses to requests for world outreach support.

Reflecting the scope of witness in Acts 1:8, OUR CHURCH world outreach will include:

- Jerusalem/Judea: ministries outside our church facilities or programs in our community and region with a unique focus on evangelism or discipleship.
- Samaria: ministries outside our church facilities or programs to other cultures in our community and region which include evangelism or discipleship possibly along with other social services.
- Ends of the earth: evangelism/discipling/planting churches in foreign countries and services to support these ministries.

In light of the fact that 25% of the world's population does not live where the Gospel can be heard, our priorities will generally be in the inverse order of the locations listed above. See "Funding Priorities in World Evangelization" below.

2. Funding Priorities in World Evangelization:

Wise strategy demands that OUR CHURCH funding be prioritized towards the unreached. Wise public relations demands that we have financial flexibility to respond to world needs that become apparent to the congregation through secular media. Thus, we will seek to allocate world outreach funds according to the following proportions:

- 25% International evangelism and church planting (westerners or nationals)
- 20% Training of national Christian leaders
- 15% Pre-evangelism: Bible translation, health care, teaching English, etc.
- 15% Strategic initiatives: timely opportunities for spiritual impact and relief
- 10% Local outreach in Hartford and social needs in our region
- 10% Mobilizing OUR CHURCH for world outreach
- 5% Support ministries: administration, MK schooling, etc.

Explanations: "rationale" document is available for more detailed explanation

a) Evangelism/church planting is the most effective method by which the Gospel is spread. The greatest priority will be ministries among Muslim people. Second priority will be non-Muslim people groups without a church in their culture.

Why focus on Islam?

- Size: 21% of the world is Islamic. It is the world's fastest growing faith
- Responsiveness: more Muslims have come to Jesus in the last decade than in the last 15 centuries combined
- Responsiveness: 6 million Muslims become Christians in Africa every year
- Islamic missionary vision: for every dime the evangelical church spends on missions, Islam spends a dollar
- Islamic missionary vision: in the last decade, Islamic mosques increased in the U.S. by 42% while evangelical churches increased by 12%
- Islamic missionary vision: there are more Muslims in the U.S. than Presbyterians
- Lack of evangelical missionary focus: only 6% of the missionary force works with Muslims, about two missionaries for every million Muslims
- OUR CHURCH missionaries and Islam: four out of thirty work with Muslims

- o Recognition of the Islamic threat: since 9/11 everyone knows that Muslims are a force to be reckoned with

b) Training nationals: most future missionaries will not be born in the U.S. The most important contribution OUR CHURCH can make to these national leaders is training in Biblical theology and effective ministry methods. Nationals can contact unreached groups within their countries. Often Western missionaries cannot gain access to these groups and are far less suited to reach them.

c) Pre-evangelism: many ministries prepare people to understand the Gospel and must be provided first to lay a foundation for accepting God's truth.

d) Strategic initiatives: it's impossible to anticipate all the opportunities for ministry in a budget year. OUR CHURCH will become aware of disasters and fast developing ministry opportunities, sometimes from OUR CHURCH missionaries, to which they will want to respond.

e) Local outreach reaches groups in our region with whom most OUR CHURCHers have limited contact, such as urban residents. Besides funding, OUR CHURCHers have great opportunities to contribute to these ministries by personal involvement.

f) Mobilizing OUR CHURCH will stimulate our congregation's commitment to world outreach. Mobilizing efforts will include education inside the church and outreach beyond our church building. Building friendships with OUR CHURCH missionaries will be a key component in mobilizing.

g) Support ministries are necessary for missionaries doing evangelism and church planting to be effective. Administrative work in supervision, accounting, and new missionary recruiting is needed to sustain strategic missionary work.

Retired missionaries may have support needs after spending their careers in Christ's service. OUR CHURCH should demonstrate that we have not forgotten these faithful servants. Their needs will be considered on a case by case basis, but the total cost is not expected to absorb a significant budget percentage.

3. Strategic priorities:

a) Prayer is our most effective means of support: Prayer is OUR CHURCH's priority in world outreach over finances or any other form of support. Through the starting point of prayer our vision is that every OUR CHURCH attendee has a friend that's a OUR CHURCH missionary.

b) Quality church growth includes increasing the proportion of giving to world outreach: As OUR CHURCH grows numerically it should grow in its world outreach stewardship. A 3% annual increase of the total budget to world outreach giving should occur until 35% is reached.

c) Encourage future OUR CHURCH missionaries to consider our strategy. Do this through general communication efforts but also by early identification and mentoring of potential missionaries, starting as early as high school students.

d) Give more support to fewer missionaries: The impact of our finances and the quality of our care will be enhanced by seeking quality relationships and not elevating the number of missionaries supported. Each OUR CHURCH missionary doing strategic work should receive significant OUR CHURCH support.

e) Give primary consideration to OUR CHURCH member missionaries. Those committed to our own congregation should look to OUR CHURCH first for support. Mentors will encourage OUR CHURCH membership and selection of ministries consistent with OUR CHURCH strategy.

f) Give secondary consideration to Connecticut Consortium missionaries. This supports our Consortium commitment and keeps non-member missionaries in close proximity to OUR CHURCH.

g) Baptist General Conference missionaries from our region doing strategic work will be considered to maintain our ties with the denomination.

h) Advance the Kingdom: We will share OUR CHURCH World Outreach blessings with other churches. This will include consultation, materials, short term missions, and other resources.

4. Operating values:

a) Relationships: maximum ministry occurs best through personal relationships with those we support, serve and pray for.

b) Involvement: global evangelism is not the responsibility of a select few, but of every follower of Christ.

c) Servanthood: the North American church goes as a servant-leader-resourcer.

d) Innovation: creativity is essential to making a difference in our world. This includes the need for non-traditional sending methods.

e) Evaluation: mutual accountability and ongoing evaluation are essential to responsible growth and stewardship.