

HARVEST PHILOSOPHY OF MISSIONS MINISTRY

Ministry Overview

Missions Ministry is a response to the call Jesus Christ has given us, to be His witnesses in all the earth. The primary focus and priorities that guide the missions leadership team are centered around efforts that establish, reproduce, and strengthen the local, indigenous church.

Our Purpose

To enable our local church body to participate in and be obedient to the command of Jesus to *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...”*
(Matthew 28:19-20a).

Vision Statement

Lifting high the name of Jesus beyond these walls.

Mission Statement

To glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment, by equipping and launching people to disciple the nations of the world.

Our Values

Prayer

Prayer will be the foundation for all our Missions effort.
(Matthew 9:37, 38; Acts 13:2)

Church Planting

Our focus will be on ministries that plant and assist in strengthening and multiplying churches. (Matthew 16:18)

National Workers

Partnering with key national pastors/evangelists/ministry leaders to assist in church planting. (3 John 5-8)

Discipleship

Developing quality disciples. (2 Timothy 2:2, Matthew 28:19-20)

People Focus

Seeking God to raise-up and/or equip laborers.
(Acts 9:15, Romans 10:14-15)

Holistic Ministry

Meeting people’s physical needs as we address their spiritual needs. (Matthew 25:34-46)

PLANTING CHURCHES THAT PLANT CHURCHES

Harvest Bible Chapel believes that Missions should be birthed, owned, and executed through the local church as an integrated part of our vision, being devoted to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4).

Acts 2-13 describes the evangelistic possibilities for “near neighbor outreach” within the local congregation; the movement expanded from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria, and from there to the edges of Jewish Palestine. Since 2000, the Lord has blessed HBC in establishing many local, near neighbor, church plants. It has been through this blessing that much fruit has been born, and our knowledge and experience in church planting has grown. Our desire is to take this, for God’s glory, to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8).

After extensive prayer and analysis of our missions strategy, we’ve concluded that the need exists for a structured method of extending the knowledge of Christ—one that would surmount all barriers, whether geographic, linguistic, cultural, ethnic, sociological, or economic. We believe the pillars on which HBC has been established can be planted in the church across some, but not all, barriers in various geographies.

The Lord has led us to take a decisive step in reorganizing and initiating a missions strategy.

Harvest Bible Chapel is determined to see the church grow, to preach the gospel to all mankind, and to incorporate all those who believe into her communal life. As Barnabas, who was sent from Jerusalem to supervise and aid in the ministry of the church at Antioch, became convinced that a man called by God was needed to prepare the new converts for incorporation into the life of the church; so Harvest is seeking the Lord to show us a highly effective overseas church planting strategy.

Our History

The first ten years of Missions Ministry at Harvest Bible Chapel have been a display of God’s amazing work and desire to use those who have been sent and supported by our local church. During this time we have seen how the face of Missions has changed, with a clear demarcation of two past stages of progression. Now we look expectantly forward to what the Lord is doing, as He moves us into a new stage of missions at Harvest.

In our initial missions strategy our resources focused on sending and being a church that mobilized missionaries. After several years of sending people out, a need and awareness arose which focused on caring for our ministry partnerships. And in 2004, we entered a state of maintaining our current missions force; not being a center for mobilization.

During that phase of ministry, we sought after knowledge regarding philosophies of missions, various definitions of church planting, needs of missionaries, and our own DNA—how the Lord has wired Harvest as a church.

Our conclusion is that our primary missions focus going forward is to be on direct church-planting ministry within the context of Harvest Bible Chapel Pillars and Values.

This is not to say we believe all other approaches or methodologies are necessarily wrong, but rather that God has given us a passion for a certain model of church planting.

We are aware of the fact that this may initially preclude us from certain areas of the world in which a different approach or model must exist. This is very much on our radar and we are examining and prayerfully considering how to synthesize or translate our ministry convictions to the fulfill the need for the Gospel in these places.

Harvest Missions

Harvest Bible Chapel, in strategic partnership with Harvest Bible Fellowship (HBF) and like-minded individuals, is committed to the establishment and support of biblically-based, reproducing churches worldwide.

Our Priorities

International Church Planting (ICP) An effort through Harvest Bible Fellowship to expand the church into foreign soils.

Focused Strategic Involvement A geographic region or people group—depth not breadth.

Mobilize Membership Mobilize time, talents, treasures through personal engagement.

Our Partnerships

Church Planting Pastors Identify and recruit national or nationally-trained pastors and leaders.

National Ministry Partners Funding and supporting like-minded indigenous ministries.

Harvest Members Qualified and proven HBC membership.

Our Commitments

Commitment to local church-based Missions primarily through partnerships.

From Scripture and in church history we find that God's primary instrument for His mission has been the local church. We believe it is God's desire for the local church to realize its potential to evangelize and build disciples from their own community and around the world. We believe this happens most effectively when local churches partner, using their resources to fulfill a vision for a nation or people group.

Commitment to the priority of developing indigenous church planting movements.

We believe that church planting is the most effective means of evangelism and discipleship. The main objective of our mission is to develop and support church plants that are committed to building upon and sharing the core HBC values and pillars, thereby allowing local believers to be led by the Holy Spirit in discovering how these core values and pillars should be expressed within their culture. (Contextualization: the gospel's greatest impact and long-term effects result when it is presented and modeled through the language, customs, and culture of those who are its recipients)

Commitment to the release of national leadership.

We are committed to discover and to develop the national church leaders God is drawing to us. Our goal is to turn ministry over to national leadership as quickly as possible. We desire to see them increase in leadership as our role decreases.

Commitment to engaging our local church body in missions.

Our desire is to see missions grow within the hearts of our local congregation, primarily through stewarding resources and applying one's spiritual gifts in short-term missions. We believe that short-term missions endeavors produce benefits to overall missions, senders, and the host ministry, and aid in cementing spiritual growth in the participant.

Today, we cannot yet see all that the Lord would have us embrace in missions, but we will be faithful in what He has called us to in this stage of our ministry. We are prayerfully considering and pursuing the means by which we may propose these additional commitments:

Commitment in missions to unreached people groups.

"And thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, 'Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand' " (Romans 15:20-21). We aim to experience and invest in alternative models of church planting and evangelism within the 10/40 window.

Commitment to support those from our local church body who have been called and affirmed by leadership to other apostolic or support ministries.

We believe the Lord will call members from within our own church body to ministry opportunities outside of our vision. We desire to support and encourage these persons in the future through the means of prayer, financial support, and/or through an exchange of ministry.

What is the Church Member's Role in Missions?

Prayer Support and Encouragement Providing both spiritual and physical care.

Short-term Missionaries

Education

Strong biblical teaching and theological training in missions.

Equipping

Develop HBC members, including young children, to be informed and equipped for world missions.

Financial Resources

Funding initiatives.