

Missions Policy of St Louis Chinese Baptist Church

I - Policy Overview

A. The Purpose of this Policy

The purpose of having this missions policy is to set clear and helpful guidelines that will aid St. Louis Chinese Baptist Church (STLCBC) in better administering the important work of missions. It is not meant to restrict but to empower; and is a firm affirmation of STLCBC's commitment to our Lord's Great Commission.

B. Our Vision

God's plan is to save sinners from every tribe and language and people and nation (Rev 5:9). He does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked, but would rather they turn from their ways and live (Eze 18:23), in order that they may serve the living and true God (1 Th 1:9).

To accomplish His plan, God has chosen the Church in these last days to go into the world to preach the Gospel and make disciples near and far (Mk 16:15; Mt 28:1; Acts 1:8). It is our great privilege that we have been commissioned, though undeserving, to act as ambassadors, both as a church and as individual Christians, imploring men to be reconciled to God (2 Cor 5:20).

It is for the above reasons that we, STLCBC, with much joy and fervor, devote ourselves to missions, knowing fully that our labor in the Lord will not be in vain (1 Cor 15:58).

C. Exceptions to this Policy

An exception to the guidelines in this policy can be made only with the approval of the Pastor and the Outreach Department.

D. Revisions

At the end of each year, the Outreach Department will review this policy and revise it based on newly acquired wisdom and experience. Changes need not be made, but changes that are made require the Pastor and deacon board's approval.

II - Strategy

A. Acts 1:8

In accordance with an Acts 1:8 missions strategy, STLCBC is committed to witnessing for our Lord Jesus Christ in the areas we identify to be our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the Ends of the Earth (see III-B).

B. Prayer

We dedicate ourselves to prayer, because our relationship with God is the basis for all our missions work. In our prayers, we thank God for his overflowing grace, intercede on behalf our missionaries and ask God to renew our own hearts and grant us wisdom daily, that we may be useful instruments for the Gospel.

C. Long-Term Missions

If God leads us to support a long-term missionary, we shall joyfully do so through prayer, encouragement, money and, whenever suitable, supportive short-term missions. We desire meaningful relationships with all our long-term missionaries, wherever in the world they may be.

D. Short-Term Missions

If God leads us to embark on short-term missions, we shall joyfully do so. We believe that wherever we go, we should work with our brothers and sisters in the local areas, if there are any. We also believe that short-term missions should always be followed up by long-term support of some kind.

E. Targeting

We will focus on making disciples of Chinese-speaking people, because our ability to reach out to them is one of the core strengths that God has graciously given us. This focus is neither exclusive nor permanent. Whenever led by God in other directions, we shall not restrict God's work, but faithfully obey Him.

III - Missions Governance

A. Role of the Outreach Department

The Outreach Department of STLCBC shall act as the Missions Committee. With the help of the Pastor and the deacon board and in dialogue with the members of STLCBC, it will be responsible for making all strategic and administrative decisions regarding missions.

B. Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the Ends of the Earth

- i. We identify as Jerusalem the Greater St. Louis area, where our church is based.
- ii. We identify as Judea/Samaria the whole of North America (USA, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean).
- iii. We identify as Ends of the Earth the rest of the world, but with a special focus on Chinese-speaking regions (Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia)
- iv. We shall form a Global Focus Team corresponding to each of the three regions.
 - a. Each Global Focus Team is entrusted with the responsibility of leading the whole church in ministering to its region.
 - b. Each team shall also make annual reports to the Outreach Department regarding the long-term and short-term mission work in its region.

C. Faith Commitment

The annual missions budget will be depend on the faith commitment offering held in the church at the end of each year. The Outreach Department is responsible for the collection and administration of the faith commitment offerings.

IV - Long-Term Missions

A. Selection of Missionaries

- i. Before supporting a long-term missionary, it shall be ensured that a he or she:
 - a. Is a Christian and has a clear testimony of conversion.
 - b. Agrees with STLCBC's statement of faith.
 - c. Exhibits Christ-like character and leads a holy life.
 - d. Has a clear testimony of having been called to missions.
 - e. Demonstrates a teachable spirit, and is willing to be under the authority of spiritual leaders.
 - f. Has the gifts necessary to be effective in his ministry.
 - g. Fits with all STLCBC's strategies outlined in Section II.
 - h. Is willing to develop a meaningful relationship with STLCBC.
- ii. Members of STLCBC who are called to long-term missions shall be given strong consideration, if they apply for support.

B. Procedures

- i. Missionaries shall submit an application for support to the Outreach Department containing written summaries of his or her:
 - a. Conversion testimony;
 - b. Testimony of a calling to missions;
 - c. Proposed ministry and field;
 - d. Financial needs; and
 - e. Current sources and levels of financial support.
- ii. The Outreach Department shall respond to all complete applications within 6 weeks.
- iii. Once applications are approved in principle by the Outreach Department, a face-to-face interview will be set up. Deacons might be invited to take part in the interview.
- iv. If face-to-face interviews are not possible, the best alternative form of interview shall be sought.
- v. Once it is decided that STLCBC will support the long-term missionary, the Outreach Department will decide whether to commit to a one-year term or a two-year term.

C. Responsibilities of Missionaries to STLCBC

- i. The missionary shall send a report to STLCBC once every fortnight, in order that we may maintain a meaningful relationship.

- ii. The missionary shall send an annual report to STLCBC. The annual report should contain details such as reflections on the past year's work, plans and anticipated challenges ahead, and sufficiency of current levels of support.
- iii. If there are significant changes in the missionary's ministry, he shall inform STLCBC as early as possible.
- iv. If short-term mission teams are sent to the missionary's field, he shall receive them and assist them wherever possible.
- v. If a missionary is in St. Louis on a furlough, he should be available to speak to the congregation, during a Sunday worship service, about his work and experiences.

D. Responsibilities of STLCBC to Missionaries

- i. The Outreach Department shall maintain regular correspondences with its missionaries, providing encouragement and spiritual support.
- ii. The Outreach Department shall update the congregation with the latest information on the missionaries.
- iii. The congregation shall be committed to praying faithfully for all STLCBC's missionaries, interceding for them with public and private prayers
- iv. The Outreach Department shall be prompt in sending promised financial support to its missionaries.

E. Review and adjustments

- i. At the end of each term, the Outreach Department shall, upon the missionary's request, consider supporting the missionary for another term. The decision may be made based on the fortnightly and annual reports received.
- ii. When significant changes to the missionary's ministry occur, the Outreach Department can review the support and make reasonable adjustments.

V - Short-Term Missions

A. Selection of Missionaries

- i. The Outreach Department shall periodically organize short-term mission trips.
- ii. When plans for a trip are reasonably mature, the Outreach Department shall announce them to the congregation and allow members to apply as participants.
- iii. Applicants should meet the following criteria:
 - a. Is a Christian and has a clear testimony of conversion
 - b. Is a member of STLCB
 - c. Exhibits Christ-like character and leads a holy life
 - d. Shows willingness to attend training and orientation meetings
 - e. Demonstrates a teachable spirit, and is willing to be under the authority of spiritual leaders
- iv. Non-members of STLCBC may be considered for trips only if there are spots left unfilled by members, or if there is a specific need for certain skills and abilities.

B. Before the Mission Trip

- i. Once the dates of the trip are confirmed, participants shall commit to the trip and put down a deposit for it.
- ii. If there are limited places on a particular short-term mission team, openings shall be filled on a first come, first serve basis, unless there is a specific need for certain skills and abilities.
- iii. Participants shall be responsible for the costs of the trip and must submit the full amount a month before departure.
- iv. Participants who have a heart for missions but are unable to raise enough money should apply to the Outreach Department for financial support.

C. During the Mission Trip

- i. Team members shall submit to the team leader's authority.
- ii. As ambassadors for Christ, the team shall serve all with whom it comes into contact with the humility and love of Jesus.

- iii. The team leader may ask any team member to return home if the member's behavior or condition becomes an obstacle to the work. Additional costs may be incurred at the member's expense.
- iv. The team shall, if possible, maintain regular contact with a member of the Outreach Department, or any other person appointed to do this work, so that that person may update the congregation.

D. After the Mission Trip

- i. The team leader shall elect at least one member to share with the congregation the team's experiences and lessons learnt during the trip
- ii. The team leader shall submit a report on the mission, detailing how and whether he thinks STLCBC should extend long-term support to the work in that field.