

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Missionary Giving Expansion



On April 6, 2005, the Missions Committee met with Dr. Clayton Shumpert, veteran pastor and missions leader. While Dr. Shumpert pastored the Grace Baptist Church of West Columbia, S.C., he led the church to a dramatic increase in the support of world-wide missions. As a result, God honored and blessed this ministry so that it grew to be the largest Independent Baptist Church in the Columbia area. In that meeting, with the advice of Dr. Shumpert, the Missions Committee established the following objectives:

1. To obey the great commission by going into “all nations” with the gospel of Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. [19] Go ye therefore, and teach **all** nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, **even unto the end of the world**. Amen.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and **unto the uttermost part of the earth**.

2. To establish a missions fund separate from the general fund.
3. To establish a fixed amount of support for each missionary.
4. To be fair to our current missionaries as we incorporate them into the new missions program.
5. To establish a “ceiling” or “cap” for the missions fund.
6. To implement a “Grace Giving” system of missionary support.
7. To write and approve a church-wide missionary policy.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH MISSIONS POLICY:

Article I: The Doctrine of Missions

We believe and hold that the evangelization of the lost is the responsibility of the church. We believe that, since missions was our Lord’s final command to the church, that missions should be given a high priority in church operation (Mt. 28:18-20). We believe that biblical missions is to all nations (Acts 1:8). We believe that, since the number of people is far greater in the “uttermost part of the earth” than in our “Jerusalem, Judea or Samaria,” we must send far more missionaries to the foreign field than to the home field (Rom. 15:20-21; 2 Cor. 10:14-16). We believe that a missionary is an ordained minister of the gospel (Acts 13:1-3). We believe that, in addition to missionaries, there are missionary support ministries and missions workers that are worthy of our church’s support (Acts 13:5). We believe that missions giving and sending is done directly through the local church (Acts 13:1-3; Phil. 4:16). We believe that missions work may include global ministries such as the distribution of Bibles, tracts and training literature (Mt. 28:18-20; Is. 55:11). We believe that, while the church must do its part to help those in need through works of charity, missions work consists primarily of the preaching and teaching of the gospel and the baptizing and discipling of believers (Mt. 28:18-20; James 1:27). We believe that missionaries are accountable to the local church and should report their activities and progress regularly to their supporting churches (Acts 15:12). We believe that, since missionaries are an extension of the supporting church, only those missionaries that are of like precious faith should be supported (2 Peter 1:1; Amos 3:3; Rom. 16:17). We believe that grace giving (faith promise), given after the tithe, is the most effective and biblical means for supporting missions (2 Cor. 8-9). We believe that God will abundantly bless our local church and supply its every need when we obey the Lord in giving sacrificially to missions (2 Cor. 8:1-5; Philip. 4:14-19).

Article II: The Approval of Missionaries

1. Missionaries are added upon the recommendation of the pastor and the approval of the deacons and the congregation.
2. A simple majority vote shall be sufficient for the adding of missionaries.
3. To facilitate the furlough process for missionaries, Calvary Baptist Church will give first priority to missionaries whose home church is located within a 200 mile radius of our Church. This shall not, however, exclude the addition of other missionaries should the Lord so lead us to support them.
4. Calvary Baptist Church shall take on missionaries for support based on the burden presented to our people. Any change in missions boards or field of service shall end that missionary's support. The missionary may, at the discretion of the pastor, revisit our church to present his new work. Continued support would require the process as described in numbers one to three, above.
5. Missionaries must complete a questionnaire prior to their consideration by the deacons and as often as the pastor shall deem necessary.
6. Missionaries must report their work and progress to our church at least quarterly.
7. Missionary candidates must be members of an Independent Baptist Church.
8. Missionary candidates must belong to a recognized missions board which is in agreement with the Articles of Faith of Calvary Baptist Church.
9. Missionary candidates sent out by local churches, which are known by the pastor, may also be considered for support.
10. In an effort to make our missions giving conform to the biblical pattern of world-wide missions, the pastor shall set up a system that distributes our funds among the various fields of the world, global missions, home missions and charitable works.

Article III: The Support of Missions

1. The church shall hold an annual missions conference.
2. The church shall be encouraged to support missions through grace giving (faith promise).
3. Non-designated missionary giving shall be placed in the general missions fund.
4. Funds collected for the support of missions must be used for missionary or evangelistic purposes. They shall in no way be used for the general operation of the church.
5. New missionaries shall be supported at a rate of \$100 per month. This amount may be increased for missionaries who are members of Calvary Baptist Church, or for other missionaries as the Lord leads. Missionary support levels should be evaluated annually and adjusted for inflation as needed.
6. According to the policies already in place at Calvary Baptist Church, the church will only forward missions donations to missionaries and ministries already approved according to the policies above. Designated giving to missionaries will be used as part of the church's regular monthly support.
7. The missions fund may not accumulate a balance larger than \$10,000.00. Should the fund reach the ceiling limit, new missionaries should be added and the fund reevaluated in six months. In lieu of this, the excess funds may be given to a special missions project as needed by our current missionaries.
8. When the pastor discovers that a missionary is no longer conforming to the missions policies of Calvary Baptist Church, that missionary's support may be dropped upon the recommendation of the pastor and a simple majority vote of the congregation.
9. Foreign missionaries that are to be dropped according to the previous policy, may, upon the recommendation of the pastor, receive continued support for up to one year or until their furlough, whichever comes first.
10. Missionaries found to be in error as to their morals, family, practice or doctrine, those changing mission boards or mission fields, and those who have moved their letter to a church other than an Independent Baptist Church will be dropped automatically. Those changing missions boards or missions fields may, at the discretion of the pastor, reapply for support.