

## FBC Missions - Policy 2012

### Biblical Basis:

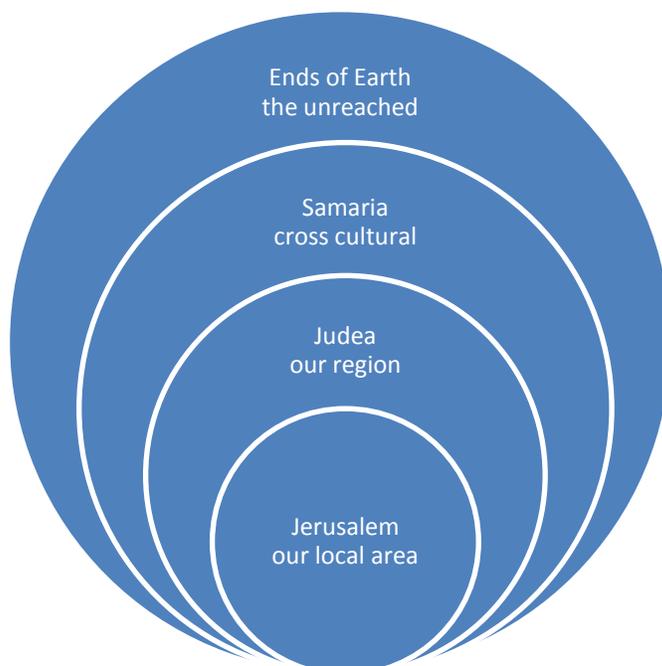
At FBC, we take our mandate for missions from the great commission of Jesus. In Matthew 28:19 He tells us to make disciples of all nations. We seek to be involved in the four aspects of world missions as outlined in Acts 1:8 in reaching out evangelistically to our Jerusalem (local communities) and Judea (region), and sending servants to Samaria (cross-cultural) and the ends of the earth (the unreached).

In Acts 13:1-2, the church at Antioch, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, sent Barnabas and Paul away to accomplish a special work. It is both the “sending” aspect as well as the nature of the “work” that has defined the modern missions movement as well as the early church. They went where the gospel was not being preached (crossing new barriers). They did the work that the sending church could not do (proclaiming beyond its reach).

The term “nations” refers to distinct people groups, underscoring their unique linguistic, cultural and historical identities. These are the primary barriers irrespective of geographical location. Our missions strategy reflects the sending aspect of missions, but with a recognition that the criteria to determine what constitutes “missions” are primarily cultural rather than just geographical.

Mark Naylor is involved in coordinating and coaching FEBCC and its mission agencies and has developed the following key principles and transitions that help align our mission activities to God’s overall mission.

- *Missions has a clear connection to the establishment of the kingdom of God, with a “sending” that crosses cultural boundaries. Our Missions Team will focus on cross cultural gospel activities.*
- *Move from a missionary focus to a local mission focus, by our church taking some ownership of strategic tasks of specific mission activities that will get us emotionally involved in its success.*
- *Move from a geographical focus to a concern for people groups of varying kinds of cultures, whether other languages, socio-economic groups or any significant cultural barriers.*



*“Evangelism is the church growing where it is. Missions is the church going where it isn’t.” (David Mays)*

In the Acts 1:8 model, our Jerusalem is West Colchester County – our responsibility here is evangelism and discipleship, and includes the bulk of what we do to worship and serve the Lord. Our Judea is our region, and we fund regional ministries such as FEB Atlantic and Mt. Traber Bible Camp. Our Samaria involves the cross-cultural ministries of the Ringettes’ church planting in Acadian New Brunswick, the Somers’ church planting with PAX North in Halifax, and Mark Fogarty with Muddy River Media. Our Ends of the Earth includes the international scope of missions, such as the Stewards in Chile, Martin Lamb and Gospel for Asia, and Samaritans Purse.

### **Our Church and Missional Values :**

The priority is reaching the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Missions is an extension of who we are as members of Christ’s church every day of the week. It is not as much what we do as it is at the heart of all we do.

We must be both biblically faithful and culturally relevant in that order. As long as we are being faithful to the abiding principles of Scripture and the intent to which they are given, then we are free and responsible within those perimeters to employ whatever methods work best according to the times and cultural situations we find ourselves in.

It is critical that everything we choose to do represent Jesus Christ in a way that reflects His heart.

Relationships matter more than anything else, first our relationship with God and then with others.

Church life and ministry needs to be primarily a matter of substance rather than form. We value truth over tradition, life over legalism and family over formality.

Our approach needs to be positive combining truth and grace with love as the motivating force.

God expects us as His ‘stewards’ to be very selective and strategic in our global involvement.

All missions workers and agencies which we support and with which we partner must share our commitment to the most effective missional values and practices as well as our commitment to sound doctrine.

All requests or opportunities for involvement are to be evaluated on the basis of our biblical position (i.e. our church constitution/covenant and statement of faith), our philosophy of ministry effectiveness and our particular DNA as a church.

A strong measure of accountability must be maintained between the local church and the personnel and agencies with which we are involved for beliefs, practices and results.

A good flow of communication must be maintained at all times between the church, it’s missionaries and any connected agencies.

### **The FBC Missions Team**

The FBC Board is responsible for setting the oversight and vision of the Missions Team. The work of the FBC Missions Team is to consist of praying, going, strategizing, organizing, networking, promoting, educating, training and involvement facilitation.

#### **The objectives of the FBC Missions Team will be to:**

1. To have all FBC members informed and passionate about reaching and helping lost people wherever they may be found - by passionately communicating biblical truth, encouraging a personal missional lifestyle and keeping people informed of the global scene and opportunities.

2. To facilitate personal involvement in regional, cross cultural and global mission efforts through local involvement in personal outreach lifestyle and church projects and short term projects and trips of a regional or international nature
3. To support missionary personnel and national workers with prayer and finances and motivate our church to take ownership of the projects and care of the people we are involved with.

### **We Adopt The Following Mission Strategies / Activities:**

1. We will continue to partnership with our current missionaries. We will communicate our Missions policy to them and ask for a good flow of communication so we can better understand their situation and prayer needs. We will seek to maximize our current support by being involved in such activities as FEB Atlantic church planting, PAX North, and Mt Traber Camp ministry.
2. The major focus of our Missions Team is to be cross-cultural. While we will seek opportunities to involve our people in short term mission trips, the focus of our activity will be partnering with established mission agencies that have people on the ground with effective training.
3. Regarding international emergency relief, we will partner with the Fellowship Agency for International Relief (F.A.I.R) to direct our giving when the need arises. We expect that the gospel will be at the heart of such ministry, both in word and deed.
4. Regarding our ministry to the migrant workers in our midst, we will seek to welcome our guests into our church family and to reach and disciple them for Jesus Christ.
5. The Missions Team will discern opportunities for future mission support and involvement from the connections our people have. They will compile any new initiatives they wish to suggest for the approval of the FBC Board and the church membership.
6. The Missions Team will use a variety of means to inform and engage our congregation about missions - i.e. monthly Sunday service missions spotlights, a missions station, etc.
7. Rather than marginally support many missionaries, we will seek to provide considerable support to a few, particularly to any of our own people who are called to full time mission work.
8. The specific budget for the Missions Team will provide for some short term visits and training experiences for our people, but people are to be encouraged and expected to provide for such primarily out of their own resources. Fund raising projects for mission trips are subject to the approval of the church board. Special consideration shall be given to students.
9. Considerable consideration should be given to the prospect of potential partnership with an international sister church or local body, to aid them with a clearly articulated task to reach out to others. Our Fellowship International Missions agency would be the means for this.
10. The Missions Team will consider being involved in an annual regional missions conference, (such as "Jesus to the Nations"), and encouraging congregational involvement. Having our own missions conference will also be considered.
11. We will grow to see our missions budget to a tithe (10%) of our church budget by 2015.