

## FBC Missions - Policy 2018

### **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).

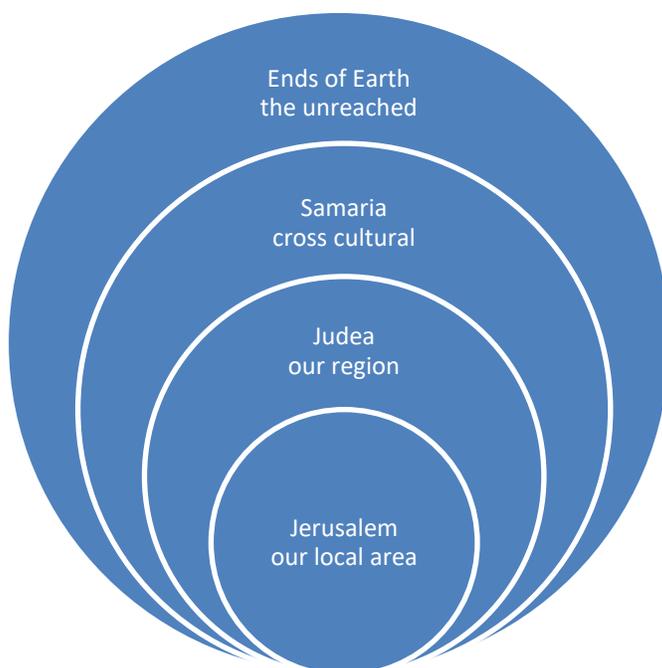
In Acts 13:1-2, the church at Antioch, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, sent Barnabas and Paul away to accomplish a special work. It is both the “sending” aspect as well as the nature of the “work” that has defined the modern missions movement as well as the early church. They went where the gospel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

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.

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

These key principles and transitions help align our missions activities to God’s overall mission. (Mark Naylor)

- *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 traditional missionary focus (where the missionary on the field owns the mission and its vision and reports to the church), to a local mission focus, where our church takes ownership of specific missions goals and tasks in partnership with missionaries, 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.*



### **FBC Missions Budget - 2018** \$41,000. +

#### ***The Unreached***

C & D Steward – Chile	\$2400
Martin Lamb – Ethnos	\$1000
Samaritans Purse - Op Christmas Child	
<u>Honduras Children’s Home</u> - sending	\$2250
-FEB Melodie Francis	\$2250
-Children’s Home 2018 Projects	\$6000

#### ***Cross Cultural***

FEB – Pax North (Chr. offering)	\$1500
FEB –B/L Constant Quebec	\$1200

#### ***Regional - Local***

FEB Atlantic (Frank Kohler)	\$5000
FEB - National Office	\$600
Mt Traber - M & D Taylor	\$1000
Open Arms - Parrsboro	\$15000
Hope FM - Truro	\$1000
Archway Counseling – Truro	\$1000
FBC Community Events	\$500
Truro Homeless Shelter	

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 help fund regional ministries such as Truro-area ministries, the Lakes’ church planting with Open Arms in Parrsboro, FEB Atlantic and Mt. Traber Bible Camp. Our Samaria involves the cross-cultural ministries of the Constants’ church planting in Montreal and the Somers’ church planting with PAX North in Halifax. Our Ends of the Earth includes the international scope of missions: FEB Int’l in Honduras, Stewards in Chile, Martin Lamb - Ethnos 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 between the church, its missionaries and 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 consists of praying, strategizing, organizing, networking, promoting, educating, training, engaging and sending.

#### 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 Missions Strategies / Activities:**

1. We will continue to partner 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 hope to support missionaries until retirement and then divert funds to new or existing endeavors.
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 encourage them to reach and disciple their fellow workers for Jesus Christ.
5. The Missions Team will discern opportunities for future missions 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. FBC web site, monthly Sunday Global Spotlights, missions info brochure, 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 missions 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 missions 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 promote involvement in the “Jesus to the Nations” annual regional missions conference and will particularly seek to involve our church youth.
11. We seek to ensure our missions budget exceeds a tithe (10%) of our church budget.
12. A separate Short-Term Missions (STM) Policy follows, which describes our purpose, tasks, specific partners, STM team engagement and formation, plus requirements for short-term mission trips and projects. We anticipate other future opportunities may arise as the Lord leads us.

## **FBC Short-Term Missions (STM) Policy - Vision and Direction**

### **Our Purpose**

We recognize our calling as a local church to be involved globally in missions. The purpose of our Short-Term Missions (STM) involvement will be to provide direct help to national and international local churches or groups with their gospel mission, and to involve our church with meaningful ministry engagement. We will also engage our people to serve with our local and regional missions but these will not be classified as STM trips, and not necessarily subject to the following policies.

Our STM policy will implement partnerships requested by and established with our Fellowship of Evangelical Baptists (FEBCC). We are partnering through Fellowship International /F.A.I.R. with the 'Vida y Libertad' Children's Home in Honduras, and partnering through Fellowship National with the Saint Leonard church plant in Montreal PQ. These partnerships will be considered as long-term, subject to current needs, the counsel and requests of the Fellowship and the decision of the FBC Board.

### **Our STM policy will consist of these primary tasks:**

- a) communication between our church and our partners plus giving regular prayer and financial support
- b) preparing ministry teams to work alongside and support projects our partner's request of us
- c) sending teams to work with our partners, and/or support a main project, subject to their requests

### **Why Honduras?**

Vida y Libertad means "life and liberty." That is what The Children's Home (Casa Hogar) seeks to provide for the orphaned and neglected children God sends them. They are a home, not an orphanage. We are partnering with them to help give these children a home, an education, knowledge and love of God and hope for the future. <http://www.casahogar.411hn.com/Home.html>

FBC became aware of the Children's Home ministry in 2011 at an FEB conference. Through the Lord's leading we began to support the Children's Home in 2012 along with Melodie Francis who serves there with Fellowship International. We sent teams in 2012 through to 2015, completing projects such as a new roof, interior upgrades, a sustainable greenhouse and garden, a soccer field etc. Currently FEB International has been requested by Vida Libertad to have a more direct leadership role with the Children's Home. Lord willing, we hope to be engaged with Vida y Libertad for years to come.

### **Potential Quebec STM**

The Fellowship French Mission was founded in 1958 during the persecution years in Quebec. In 1971 a visionary decision was taken to organize our 17 struggling francophone churches into their very own region of churches known as AÉBÉQ. Since then we have seen supernatural growth and today AÉBÉQ is a mature region numbering 88 churches, with excellent French Canadian leadership ably supported by our church-based seminary known as SEMBEQ.

Less than 1% of francophones living in Quebec, identify themselves as evangelical Christians. Missiologists tell us that until the number of evangelical Christians within a people group reaches the 2-3% threshold, a church planting movement will struggle to maintain momentum and struggle to accomplish the entire mission on their own. The stark reality is that almost no one from beyond our borders is seeking to reach the francophone population in Quebec and the rest of Canada... so that vital mission continues to rest on our shoulders as Fellowship churches.

The new **FEB Partnership Plan** involves 7 church partners and/or individual partners, with regionally-approved francophone church plants, in place for seven (7) years with the possibility of a three (3) year extension. The objective is 1 Francophone Church Plant – a mature, autonomous, self-governing; self-supporting and self-propagating local church to the glory of God! We have been a supporting a partner with the Constant's church plant in Saint-Leonard, a borough of Montreal with 75,000 residents. We hope to send a team of leaders and youth to serve on a STM to Saint Leonard.

## **STM Team Engagement**

One of our goals for STM team members is to grow a mindset for God's mission in the world and learn from their cross-cultural experience to pursue future engagement. The roles of each team member will need to complement and complete the project and enhance our partner's ministry. It is a great learning experience and one that will certainly stretch and grow the participant.

**WHEN:** trips will be planned for the optimum time for the partners and our people, especially students  
-currently, the ideal time for a team to go to Honduras is April/May, and for Quebec it is likely summer.

**WHAT:** the project we do will be at the request of our partners, as to what they believe they most need  
-roles of team members will need to complement and complete the project and enhance partner's ministry  
-our goal for team members is to grow a mindset for God's mission and pursue future engagement

### **WHO: Team Formation**

- teams will have a broad make-up of experienced leaders, skilled workers and inexperienced helpers
- adults must be faithful members or adherents of our church and students part of our church youth
- we may also involve other members from FEB churches who wish to partner with us
- the team leader will be a church leader, with previous STM trip experience, approved by the Board
- necessary project skills will require some team members to have these skills and be able to improvise

- students will be utilized to work under the direction of team leaders and skilled workers
- students must be reasonably mature, 15 years/grade 10 for Honduras trips and 13/grade 8 for Quebec
- all who want to be part of a STM team must apply and/or be invited by the Missions Team leader
- the STM team reports to the Missions Team and functions under their direction

### **STM Proposals and Requirements:**

- STM trips that support our missions partners qualify for an FBC endorsed STM experience
- STM proposals must be made through the Missions Team and are subject to FBC Board approval
- STM plans must include itinerary, costs, on-site info and contacts, team roster, risk management

- STM team members must fill out the STM application to be part of the team
- STM members must take part in the training and mentoring requirements
- STM teams will debrief and report back to the church about the trip work and personal testimony

### **Finances:** FBC Missions sending fund will help with:

- costs on-site such as on-site meals, lodging and transport will be covered for all
- provide students with travel one-way - adults will provide their own flight costs
- fund-raising to be approved by the Board, such as special STM events and designated offerings
- team members will be encouraged to personally enlist partners for prayer, encouragement and support
- members can raise their own funds outside of the church