

Maranatha Baptist Church

Missions Program Policy Statement

I. Purpose of the Missions Program

- A. The fulfillment of the Great Commission (*Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 1:8*)
- B. The sending forth of laborers for the harvest (*Matthew 9:37,38; Romans 10:13-15*)
- C. The planting of New Testament Baptist churches in unreached areas, both in our nation and abroad (*Matthew 18:19,20*)
- D. The training of nationals to continue the churches established by the missionary (*Colossians 4:7-9, 12; Philemon 10-23*)

II. Funding of the Missions Program

- A. Designated missions giving by the congregation:
 - 1. General—Given to the missions program for dispersion among all supported missionaries
 - 2. Specific—Given by the congregation for a specific missionary or mission project.
- B. Special offerings taken for a particular need for a missionary or mission project.
- C. Offerings taken for visiting missionaries.
- D. General funding will come from use of the Faith Promise system and 10% given from the general fund offerings.

III. Ministries Qualifying for Mission Support

- A. Individual missionaries and their families going to foreign lands to establish indigenous, independent New Testament churches with the intention of turning those churches over to national pastors when they are available and trained.
- B. Individual missionaries and their families on foreign fields directing or teaching in Bible institutes with the purpose of training national pastors.
- C. Individual missionaries and their families teaching short or long term in mission schools established for basic Christian education for children of missionaries and/or nationals.
- D. Para-church organizations operating in support of local church ministries, church planting, and great commission fulfillment and receiving no fees in exchange for their ministries. These types of ministries would include Bible publishers, Christian education organizations, etc.
- E. Children's homes, homes for unwed mothers, ministries dealing with substance abuse, and other such ministries which:
 - 1. Operate under the umbrella of and with accountability to an independent local Baptist church whose doctrine and practice are consistent with those of Maranatha Baptist Church.
 - 2. Do not charge for their services.
 - 3. Do not solicit nor receive public or governmental funding.
 - 4. Use mission funds received solely for the designated ministry and not for the operational costs of affiliate ministries.
- F. Short term mission trips:
 - 1. For training for those going on such a trip
 - 2. As a help to a particular missionary on his/her field of ministry
- G. Only individual missionaries, para-church organizations, and service organizations that are not affiliated with, in cooperation with, nor in participation with the ecumenical movement and its extensions, the National or World Councils of Churches, the charismatic movement, the restoration movement, new evangelicalism, Roman Catholicism, nor any other movement contrary to the doctrines and positions of Maranatha Baptist Church will be supported or retained. All missionaries, para-church organizations, and service organizations must sign

yearly a written statement of faith consistent with that of Maranatha Baptist Church. In the event of such affiliations or conflict with the yearly statement of faith, a discontinuation of support will result immediately, following the procedures set forth in Section V, Paragraph C of this document.

- H. Mission boards, clearing houses, or other sending/management agencies through which missionaries function must meet the conditions set forth in Paragraph G, including the yearly issuance of a statement of faith consistent with that of Maranatha Baptist Church. A set list of such agencies will be established and maintained with yearly review.

IV. Ministries, though Sound and Good, Not to be Considered for or Continued with Mission Support

- A. The establishment of a new church in our nation that is located within close proximity of another solid, biblically sound church of like faith as Maranatha Baptist Church.
- B. A missionary on a foreign field who is—and intends to continue—pastoring the established church rather than training and installing a national pastor. Certainly, there can be no time frame given for such to be accomplished. However, turning the work over to a national must be a stated goal.
- C. Mission boards, colleges (other than programs within a college that directly benefit needy or foreign students), publications with paid subscriptions and paid advertisers, mission boards' or other organizations' field representatives, fellowship organizations, or any other projects not directly involved in fulfilling the purpose of the mission program of Maranatha Baptist Church.

V. Procedure of Adding or Removing Missionaries

- A. Expectations for all missionaries to be supported by Maranatha Baptist Church:
 - 1. A strong and clear testimony of salvation
 - 2. A strong and clear testimony of their call to missions
 - 3. A testimony of believer's baptism
 - 4. Membership in and accountability to a local church with like doctrine and practice as Maranatha Baptist Church
 - 5. A strong recommendation from their Pastor
 - 6. A strong testimony of serving and evangelism in local church ministries
- B. New missionaries will be added through the following procedure:
 - 1. Contact with Pastor by the missionary, including written information concerning the prospective field of ministry, the sending church, the mission board involved, family information, testimony of salvation and call to missions, educational background, practical service background, and reference.
 - 2. The scheduling of a meeting with the church by the Pastor. Such meeting will be during one of the regularly scheduled services of the church, or during special services such as a missions conference. At this time, the prospective missionary will present his field, planned ministry, and, in the case of those planting a church either in the U.S. or on a foreign field, preach.
 - 3. Upon recommendation by the Pastor and approval by the Missions Committee, the level of financial support will be determined.
 - 4. The approval and support recommendations of the Pastor and Missions Committee will be presented to the congregation for approval at any monthly, annual, or specially called and announced business meeting.
 - 5. Written notification, including support level, limits, and beginning dates will be sent to the missionary and the mission board by the Pastor.
- C. Missionaries may be removed from support upon the recommendation of the Pastor, approval by the Missions Committee, and approval of the congregation at any monthly, annual, or

specially called and announced business meeting. Prompt written notification will be sent to the missionary and the mission board by the Pastor, including specific details of the reason for the removal and the date of final support. Except for cases of doctrinal variance or gross misconduct, at least one month's support will be given following notification of removal.

VI. Levels of Support

- A. An effective missionary support mechanism is not to be measured by the number of missionaries supported. The supply of consistent, genuine, and generous support to those missionaries who are part of the Maranatha Baptist Church missionary family is our goal.
- B. Missionaries sent forth from the church body of Maranatha Baptist Church will be supported at a level of at least 50% above the average of other supported missionaries.
- C. In order to maintain acceptable, respectable, and reasonable levels of support, letters will be sent to each missionary annually in June. The letter will request information as to support needs, inflation rates on the field, family or health changes, etc. In October, the Pastor and Missions Committee will recommend consistent incremental increases for inclusion in the next year's proposed annual budget.
- D. Any support given by a church family that is designated for a specific missionary or mission project will be given in addition to any regular monthly support tendered by the church.
- E. New missionaries will be supported at a level that is equivalent to the lowest individual level of support at the time of their being added. Any missionary must receive support for a minimum of 3 months before being considered for a support increase. For example, a missionary added in August would not be part of the October review for that year. A missionary added in April would be part of the October review for that year.

VII. Changes in Field, Board, Scope, or Direction on the Part of a Missionary.

- A. In the event of such change, the missionary must report in person to the church, by teleconference, or by other mutually agreed upon means, and state the reasons for the changes in a reasonably timely manner.

VIII. Policy Regarding Missionaries and their Retirement

- A. Any missionaries added following the approval date of this amendment shall have a documented plan in effect concerning their provision when they retire from the field or are forced to leave the field for medical or family reasons. If the documented plan is terminated, a replacement plan must be put in its place. Though we will be gracious, missionaries must realize that upon retirement, MBC will not guarantee continued financial support.
- B. Currently supported missionaries who retire with no documented plan for their provision when they retire from the field or are forced to leave the field for medical or family reasons shall be encouraged to establish such a plan immediately. Those retiring or leaving the field for medical or family reasons who do not have any means of support through prior planning will be handled graciously, but will not be guaranteed continued support from Maranatha Baptist Church. In the event of a missionary having no plan in effect at the time of retirement or leaving the field due to medical or family reasons, the mission committee will consider all such cases individually with a recommendation made to the congregation.
- C. In the event of a missionary couple in which the husband passes away while still on the field, gracious consideration will be made as to continued support of the widow, though such support will not be guaranteed and, if given, will not exceed two years. A widowed lady missionary who would desire to continue on the field in a missionary capacity would be encouraged to submit application for support as a missionary candidate as per this policy statement.