

# Philosophy of Global Missions

Christ Fellowship Bible Church

God certifies that His Name will be great among the nations (Mal 1:11). God is greatly glorified when peoples, and nations, and tribes, and tongues worship Him. God demands worship from the nations (Ps 95) and has ordained that His specially elect people from all tribes and tongues and peoples and nations will worship Him in heaven (Rev 5-6). Therefore, we as His Church should strive with all of our ability and with absolute dependence on the sovereign will of the Holy Spirit to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations so that they may hear of Jesus Christ, repent of their sins, believe in Him, and submit their lives to His Lordship.

The Philosophy of Global Missions involves the following facets.

## **I. Global Missions Must Center on the *Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ*.**

The only way a sinner can rightly worship God is by being regenerated. Otherwise, the nonbeliever cannot worship God. Therefore, the effort for global ministry should always have the gospel of Jesus Christ at its core. The Gospel is the sun from which the rays spread abroad in every direction. The gospel that must be central in global missions is that God is sovereign and holy and requires perfection from His creatures. Man, however, is by nature wicked and rebellious and has fallen short of God's glory. God solved the problem by sending Jesus Christ to live the perfect life and die a wretched death by bearing the full blow of the Father's wrath on the cross *in the place of* His chosen ones. Sinners must repent of sin, believe in Christ, and follow Him as Lord as they grow and walk in holiness in life. This is the gospel and this is the central goal and primary focus of global missions.

## **II. Global Missions Must Be Primarily Incorporated *through a Local Body of Believers*.**

God's plan is for the Church. Jesus said: "I will build my Church." Jesus is the Head of His Body—the Church. Jesus did not promise to build a missions agency or a special organization. Consequently, we believe that global ministry is best implemented when the life of the local church is centrally involved. Therefore, we want to send missionaries abroad who will be committed to *primarily* working with a local Church. They can train pastors, teach and preach God's Word, church plant, or perform other ministries but this must all be a ministry *stemming from* the local Church. Thus, we believe we must partner with other local churches where our missionaries can serve.

## **III. Global Missions Must Be Long-Term Oriented and Strive to Raise & Train Indigenous Peoples to Preach, Teach, and Pass on the Gospel to Others.**

The Apostle Paul had this mindset on his missionary journeys as recorded in the book of Acts. When Paul entered a city, whether it be Corinth or Ephesus, he wanted to plant roots, stay, and train up the people *there* to preach, teach, and pass on the gospel to others. Paul expressed this very thought in Acts 20 when he admonished the Ephesian elders for three years from God's Word—the whole counsel—so that they could do the same (Acts 20:31). The missionary should go to a location and plan to reside there for quite some time and make it his ambition primarily to teach and preach God's Word to the locals and equip them to take the Gospel to others.

**IV. Global Missions Must Comprise a *Core Element in the Body of Christ and Not a Peripheral Ministry where No One in the Church Knows the Missionaries.***

Within the local body of the Church, global missions is not something that is appended to the bottom of the morning bulletin. It must be central. Missions is important because missions is the mission of God. God promises to make His name great and at the same time He is eminently magnified when sinners repent and believe in Jesus Christ. Thus, we commit ourselves to make global missions a central ministry in the church. It is not a peripheral ministry but it is central. We determine to do things in a biblical way following the biblical model and trusting God's sovereign hand to produce the results that He has foreordained. To keep this a central ministry, we will keep the missionaries before the people regularly. They can see and interact with each other. We want to make it our goal that the people in the flock know each of the missionaries by name and pray for them regularly and specifically.

**V. Global Missions Should Have at Its Core the *Training, Equipping, Delegating, and Passing on of the Preaching of the Word of God to Faithful Men Who Can Take the Gospel to Their Village, City, and Culture and Do Ministry There.***

Paul came to Lystra and found a man named Timothy and began to mentor and disciple him so that he could carry on the ministry far and wide. This is the model of 2 Timothy 2:2 to find faithful men and entrust the word of the Gospel to them so they can, in turn, pass that on to others. This is the picture of Christian ministry—life on life discipleship. Training others and passing on the gospel so that they can do the same with others. This is how the gospel multiplies and expands. And it is no different overseas. A central vision in our global missions ministry is to send men overseas who can train, equip, delegate, and pass on the Word of God to faithful men in that particular country so they can then take the gospel to their village, city, and culture and pass on that gospel truth to other faithful men.

**VI. Global Missions Should Excite the Hearts of Church Members Who Have the Privilege to *Serve and Support Financially and Spiritually in the Spread of God's Glory around the Globe.***

That God allows us to pray for and give sacrificially to specially identified men and women to take the gospel message overseas is a humbling and a joyful duty! For people in the local church to see and know the missionaries and to be able to pray fervently, frequently, and faithfully for them and for the gospel-growth to explode through them is quite a remarkable privilege. And that believers can serve, support, and sacrifice financially to allow the missionaries to get overseas, remain there, and come back for periodic visits is important and necessary. May the hearts of our people get excited as we pray for, recognize, raise up, train, send, and support people from our own flock to go overseas to minister the gospel of Jesus Christ in a land in desperate need for the good news of Jesus Christ.

Seeing the book of Acts as a helpful model for how the early Church “did missions” will prove to help us as a local body of believers as we strive to glorify God by taking the gospel of Christ around the world through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit with the intended result that God is glorified in the salvation of sinners.