­Text

Description automatically generated­

**Cultivating a Mission-Hearted Church**

**Aim**

Raise the congregation’s awareness and concern for engaging unreached people, supporting field and national personnel in mission endeavors, and equipping and sending our members to engage in international gospel work.

**Process**

1. Pastoral prayer every week includes mission emphasis.
   1. Pray for Unreached People Groups (see the Joshua Project or other UPG sites that detail unreached peoples with information about them to inform our praying).
   2. Pray for field workers or national workers by name (with sensitivity to last names and specific places when security issues are involved).
   3. Pray for mission organizations or teams heading out to do mission work.
   4. Pray regularly for the Lord to raise up pastors, missionaries, and Christian workers from out of our congregation.
2. Know and communicate with missionaries and national Christians in global settings.
   1. Give updates on them.
   2. Discreetly share information with the congregation that will lead to informed praying and participation.
   3. Use conversations in sermon illustrations and applications.
3. Use mission stories in sermons and Bible studies.
   1. Consult missionary biographies or biographical articles.
   2. Relate personal pastoral conversations with missionaries or national workers.
   3. Relate mission-calling in applications.
4. Develop yearly mission trips.
   1. Build on relationships with field personnel or international churches/partners.
   2. Develop focus on one or more UPGs in one or more regions. Or develop focus on a couple countries where faithful work is taking place.
   3. Participate in international church planting—money, prayer, visits, and partnership (e.g., helping with the church plant in Exeter, UK led by Jonathan Worsley in 2024).
   4. Begin mission trips in places that won’t scare members off (so, don’t go to Afghanistan on the first trip).
   5. Start with works that expose the eyes and senses to mission opportunities (what members see and experience first-hand will be replicated in others when they tell their stories upon returning).
   6. Recruit those in whom you see missionary gifts (e.g., cross-cultural skills, language skills, mercy ministries, simple living, gospel boldness).
   7. Pastors and elders need to be personally engaged (set the example by leading on the trips rather than relegating to others, especially at the beginning).
   8. Participate in international mission meetings by providing support for childcare, VBS, counseling, medical support, business training, etc. (This might be available through IMB Affinity Group Meetings [AGM] or Affinity Group Leadership Team [AGLT] meetings or Cluster meetings [e.g., Persian Cluster, MIRStan Cluster].
   9. Relationship building is the key. Build relationships with missionaries, nationals, mission setting churches that in turn, open doors for our congregation to be engaged in doing mission support. Mission trips don’t replace missionaries or nationals but come alongside to help.
   10. Use the training for mission trips to equip our church to think missiologically, be prepared for spiritual challenges, and be engaged in mission at home as well as when traveling abroad.
5. Develop strong financial participation in missions.
   1. Increase percentage of mission giving through budgeted gifts on a regular basis. Aim to designate at least to 10% of the budget going to mission support. Even better, seek to continue to increase this amount.
   2. Communicate about who the church is involved with in missions. Know missionaries and their work by name. Be familiar with particular regions or UPGs or mission organizations that you can discuss when encouraging financial support.
   3. Create special mission giving opportunities, e.g., planting a church in Exeter, UK; supporting Reid Karr’s work in Rome; underwriting Shyam Pasula’s work with the Telugu people in UAE. You might do something monthly or quarterly that is above your budgeted mission expense.
   4. Highlight mission giving regularly from the pulpit and through church communications. Mention it as part of budget giving too.
   5. Be communicative on mission needs. Do intentional offerings for specific needs that arise and call for the congregation’s support.
6. Invite mission speakers to the church once or twice (or more) each year.
   1. It’s best to invite those you’re supporting so that the church gets a face with the prayers and requests for financial support.
   2. Check out missionaries on stateside assignment who may be staying in nearby missionary homes at churches or Baptist universities or at the IMB.
   3. Check out schedules for missionaries or national Christians on their US visits.
   4. Interview missionaries and tailor the content to our church toward informing, encouraging, inspiring, and engaging the congregation.