

SSBC Missions Philosophy

Of course, as an extension of the call for each and all Christ followers to “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age*” (Matthew 28:19-20) we are committed to supporting and engaging in Missions Works around the world.

We want to look at engaging our congregation in all aspects represented in Romans 10:14-15:

*“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never **heard**? And how are they to hear without someone **preaching**? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are **sent**? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*

Informing

We work hard to make sure our congregation is made aware of opportunities to live on mission. For example, we are intentional about introducing our people to various ministries through ministry emphases on Sundays (at least once a month), Wednesdays, Life Groups and other times in our church events for adults and children.

We encourage and help support families to create their own mission experiences and inviting others in the church to be involved. No one needs church permission to go on mission. The hope is that we would live lives on mission in our homes, neighborhoods, communities, and the world. The church is our hub to unite in purpose, information and resources for the larger scale mission endeavors, but no believe should look at the church as the limiting factor in their missional activity.

Going

*“And how are they to hear without someone **preaching**?”*

Another way we engage in missions is short-term mission trips. We encourage all Christ-followers to take an opportunity at some point in their walk and go to work within The Church in some other culture and in some other location. We want to accomplish at least 6 goals in this endeavor:

1. To have a good chance to obey that Great Commission.
2. To encourage the missionaries on the ground with our friendship and support.
3. To challenge the nominal & congregational Christians into a ministry mindset.
4. To Uplift Christ followers who face burnout.
5. To raise and offer resources for missionaries.
6. To give people new ways to live out their identity as salt and light.
7. To encourage unity among the believers, especially among families, at SSBC.

Moving forward, we are developing a strategy meant to encourage our church member/ministers to do this. Any trip that doesn't accomplish these is not a good fit for our church. Any trips that do a better job than others accomplishing these is to be preferred.

Per these goals, it will be our intention to choose, of all of the excellent options, a suitable number of relationships on the mission fields that allow our people to have overlapping stories, experiences and relationships on the field. This allows us to fulfill as many of these as possible more effectively. Once we are in a place, as measured by interest and engagement in current relationships, to spread out to other locations and with other missionaries, we will start sending vision trips out to evaluate other options.

Part of our goal is to create the most challenge and growth of the members of our church and inspire them to mission-al living every day.

Sending (these ideas are just an attempt to apply our goals)

*“And how are they to preach unless they are **sent**? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*

One of the ways we do that is through giving financial gifts. We support mission endeavors all around the world – and locally - through a minimum of 10% of the church's income going to various ministries. There is a team of church members that evaluates various giving opportunities and designates the usage of the majority of those funds. This allows us to support many long-term missionaries and ministries.

Some of these funds are also allocated for helping to send our church members on mission trips.

1. The “costs” of the trip are the total costs divided by the number of people minus the trip leader(s). The trip leader(s) is required to pay little or nothing. Each person is responsible to pay his or her percentage of the whole. The church will help attendees on their responsibility based on the number of trips they have attended. These are the general goals we would hope to provide. These are guidelines, not hard and fast rules. Some first timers would need no scholarship money to go.

A. The first mission trip with SSBC the church will scholarship up to 75% of the costs.

B. The second trip up to 40%.

C. 3rd trip and beyond not more than 25%.

2. Moving forward, staff members that are not the trip leader could request to attend. 50% of their trip can be covered, and they are working while on the trip... but that \$\$ comes from a separate budget line outside of Missions. Staff members have to be approved by their supervisor and the trip leader.

3. Part of preparing for a trip would be guidelines and ideas for raising support for the trip, which would go to the church and would go toward the total amount. Each person is just responsible to raise his or her percentage of the total costs. This allows it to be a non-profit donation.

4. In the spirit of the “not muzzling the ox” mentality, people who have been on the mission team more than a year will be eligible for additional scholarship money when they attend a trip.

Generally, long-term missionary work falls into this heading of financial sending, but we also want to develop strong ties and relationships with a few missionaries who see SSBC as their home support. Our hope is that our young people are called overseas, that we can focus energy and other resources toward them.

Vision Trips

Vision Trips are early trips taken by a small, specific team or an individual to evaluate the potential for partnership in a larger way.

Vision trips would typically not take more than a trip leader and 1-2 others, and each person carefully chosen and the guidelines (whatever we decided on) would still apply. The cost to those attending would be determined case-by-case.

Debriefing

It will be the habit of those who attend mission trips to gather afterwards and celebrate and debrief the trip. The hope is that in time, this would involve people who have been on mission to that same locations as well, so they can share in the common experiences!