

First Baptist Church Windermere

A Place to Believe, Belong & Become

Missions Ministry

Loving God

Loving People

Discipling the Nations

Remembering the Poor

The Vision

To be a body of believers who loves God with our complete being and loves others as Jesus loves us, being actively engaged in the fulfillment of the Great Commission and remembering the poor... resulting in new believers and transformed lives that are changing our community and others throughout the world to come into alignment with God's Holy Word.

The Mission

To be pleasing to God and honor Him in all we do, providing opportunities for involvement in missions through: personal service, giving, prayer, and short term missions trips... all resulting in the transformation of those we serve and those that are serving,

The Focus

Our focus is evangelism and discipleship that results in new churches being planted which are transformational resulting in viable new churches that will become *church planting churches.*

MISSIONS

The emphasis of the Church as taught in the New Testament is evangelism leading to regeneration, and discipleship leading to sanctification. The central focus of missions is transformation and the planting of new churches, which is the fulfillment of the Great Commission. We all recognize that as believers we are to love others and help with humanitarian aid, which is our Christian nature. However, our mission is to be God's ambassadors, sharing the Gospel in order to bring new life through transformation, and discipling believers in order to facilitate sanctification through the worship of Jesus Christ and the teaching of God's Word.

the old way vs. the new way

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| ■ Humanitarian focus | ■ Transformational focus |
| ■ Building structures | ■ Building believers |
| ■ Shotgun approach | ■ Strategic approach |
| ■ Limited involvement | ■ Broad participation |
| ■ Reactive | ■ Intentional |
| ■ "They've been called" | ■ "We've been called" |
| ■ Agency missionaries | ■ We're all missionaries |
| ■ "Vision trip" spectator | ■ "Mission trip" participant |

The "New Way" is not really new at all but it is a return to the Biblical model for living a Christian life. The Bible's instructions for Christians are quite simple and clear. Jesus stated that if we love Him, we will obey His commands, therefore it is clear that we are to be obedient. What are Jesus' commands? They are basically those directives taught to us in the New Testament, and they could be summed up as follows:

- We are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we are to love our neighbor as ourselves---And we are to love others as Jesus loves us. (Mk. 12:29-31, Jn. 13:34)
- We are to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded. (Matt. 28:19,20)
- We are to follow the Golden Rule by doing to others as we would have them do to us. (Lk. 6:31)
- We are to remember the poor. (Gal. 2:10)
- We are to be witnesses of Jesus to those near us, to our communities, and throughout the world. (Acts 1:8)

The “New Way” to be engaged in missions will require following the New Testament commands and examples regarding what believers are expected to do. The church is to be a place to worship God, and to teach and equip believers to draw nearer to God and understand His will. God has chosen Christians to be His ambassadors, who He will work through and empower to accomplish His work. Unfortunately, over the years, tradition and self-serving interests have resulted in the development of poor models that have caused the missions efforts of many churches to be minimally effective. We call this the “Old Way” of doing missions. More focus was given to empire building and self-serving fund raising for church growth and building programs. Missions programs basically followed the denominational model. Only those believers that were being paid by the church, or para-church, were those who were in “full time” Christian service. The rest of the body was considered “laypeople” or Christians who were not in “full time” Christian service. As a result of this mentality, virtually all church missions programs were developed to solicit “laypeople” to provide the support to the hired missionaries and the paid mission staff to do the job of missions. The typical missions trip that included the participation of “laypeople” would normally involve going to some third world country and either be a spectator on “vision trip” while staying in plush hotels, or participate in constructing some structure in a poor community (where there are usually many unemployed laborers that would gladly do the same construction work, with better quality, and at a fraction of the cost paid for the American’s travel and expense costs).

The “New Way” (the Biblical way) says that all believers are missionaries, and also are “full time” Christians. All believers are encouraged to recognize God’s calling, and then to go and be a witness of Jesus Christ. The paid mission staff will help develop strategic partnerships and plans that define how we can join God where He is working or where He is clearly calling. The missions ministry will not be reactive to every appeal and request, but be intentional, based on where God is working and/or calling. The objective is building believers (not structures) through transforming the lost by sharing with them how to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and then connecting them with a Bible teaching small group or Bible teaching church where they can be disciplined and become effective witnesses of Jesus Christ. Our missions program will be a “passion” that is felt and driven by the love of Jesus Christ and the joy we experience in seeing Him glorified.

Our Passion

Passionate About Reaching the Lost

We are primarily concerned with transforming lives and leading the lost to Christ, providing them with discipleship development through local Bible teaching small groups and Bible teaching churches.

Compassion for the Poor

We help the poor and needy through Holistic ministry that provides clear Biblical teaching combined with physical support that will lead them to become both self sufficient and spiritually regenerated.

Motivated to Train and Mobilize

We encourage, train, and mobilize believers to be involved in evangelism, and become responsible stewards utilizing God’s resources effectively to accomplish His will for missions.

Strategic in Our Mission

We develop strategic partnerships to maximize our collective resources to accomplish effective missions outreach.

Supportive of Effective Outreaches

We encourage and support ministries and churches that are effectively transforming the lost, serving Christ, and honoring God.

Objectives

Significantly increase the effectiveness and commitment of the Missions Ministry at FBCW by developing the ministry to be a catalyst for transformation within the membership of FBCW resulting in increased spiritual growth, commitment, and financial involvement in all ministry areas. It is believed that an effective transformational missions ministry will motivate higher participation and generate more financial resources from people wanting to give to a church where they can feel assured that their giving and generosity is making a significant spiritual impact in their community and the world. This is expected to result in excess funds available for the Church's general budget as well as additional funds available for the Missions Ministry budget.

Increase the Missions Budget from the existing less than 10% of FBCW's total budget for the 2004/2005 FY to over 30% of the total budget in the next five years from surpluses generated by the higher spiritual commitment and involvement of the membership as a result of the Missions Ministry. Increased funding for missions will come from surplus funds over and above the general budget funding and from donations that are designated for missions.

Increase missions awareness and involvement through offering a host of opportunities including: "entry level or minimal involvement" local activities; encouraging attendance at selected ministry conferences; providing opportunities for high impact projects; celebrating the results of significant accomplishments; and encouraging new ideas and programs.

Develop local missions programs through partnering with other churches or special ministries that will offer members opportunities in serving on a local basis in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, children's ministry, serving the poor, helping the needy, mentoring, and new church plants.

Provide opportunities to serve in worldwide mercy ministries including effective child sponsorship programs, and selective relief and development missions projects in needy areas and disaster zones.

Develop and provide leadership development to a committed Missions Team who will be actively engaged in the individual leadership of the various divisions and components of our overall collective effort so that we can maximize our strengths to accomplish our goals and pursue the vast number of opportunities that God provides for us.

Goals

Through our missions ministry and activities, collectively lead over 1,000 people to Christ during our 2004-2005 budget year.

Plant, or assist in planting, 40 new churches and/or new home study groups in Africa, Latin America, East Europe, and Asia during our 2004-2005 budget year.

Through our missions ministry and activities, collectively lead over 10,000 people to Christ during the next five years.

Plant, or assist in planting, 400 new churches and/or new home study groups during the next five years in 20 countries.