

The Missions Process

First Baptist Church of Springdale and The Church at Pinnacle Hills in Rogers

I am often asked, "Brother Doug, what is the process for getting a mission trip through the church?" This is a great question so I thought I would try to educate the church on this process.

First, our desire as a church is to partner with the International Mission Board (I.M.B.) of the Southern Baptist Convention for all mission trips. Does this mean we don't love or appreciate other para-church ministries and organizations? Absolutely not. Without other Great Commission Organizations the spreading of the gospel would be slowed drastically. But I must ask, "If we as Southern Baptist have 5510 missionaries serving in the field, and we as a church support them in finance and prayer, why would we NOT want to partner with them in work, and why do we need to partner with other outside Christian Mission sending agencies?" We simply want to support our own and those of like mind and ministry. Together we achieve more!

Next, all mission trips are strategically chosen based on the strategy of the Missions Ministry and our church. We have chosen NOT to just throw a dart at a map and say "let's go". Nor do we allow "need" to determine a ministry opportunity. There are many fine opportunities but as a church it is our duty to identify where the Lord is leading us to work. We are presently partnered with Haiti, Africa and East Asia. Also we will be taking trips to Argentina, Brazil and Ukraine in 2004. These locations were chosen through prayer and contacts we have with Missionaries that are with the I.M.B. Also included in the selection process is I Corinthians 3:6 "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth." Sowing, watering, reaping are included in what I call Balanced Evangelism. We have partnerships in all 3 areas of the world to accomplish balanced evangelism. This strategy gives a latitude for involvement for the lay person and a balance to the ministry. All of our ministries will involve 2 major aspects of ministry, evangelism and indigenous church planting. We choose missionaries that embrace these as core beliefs and are identified with IMB work.

Before any mission trip is approved and promoted it must be submitted to the Missions Ministry through a staff member. Yes, a lay person may suggest a location of ministry, but the ministry and missionary must fit through the grid described above, this keeps consistency to the ministry prohibiting "mission schizophrenia." This approval process also assists us in regulating the amount of fund raising done through the church. Presently I have just completed training 16 lay persons to Lead Short Term Mission trips. This will allow us to entertain more options as they come our way.

I hope this has helped you to become aware and informed of the process; however my deepest desire is for you to engage in an International Mission trip opportunity in the upcoming future. We have just completed an information sheet on all the upcoming 2004 mission trips which is available in all displays throughout FBC and CPH. Please read these and consider how you can be a part of this exciting and impacting ministry.