

Beginning Steps to Becoming a Sending Church

Global Missions guide to
Send one. Take one. Be one.

Prayer

Begin with prayer, seeking God's guidance and wisdom in establishing a missions ministry.

- Prayer points:
 - Where does God seem to be calling you to go?
 - What does God want to do in the life of our church through a missions ministry?
 - What is His desire in using our church in the Great Commission?

Cast Vision

Vision is one of the most important parts of having a successful missions ministry. Vision allows you to know where you are going, what God is calling you to do, and keeps you from mission drift. Without a clear vision we will not fully reach our potential in the role God wants us to play in reaching the world.

- Role of a missions leader/team: (Staff or non-staff)
 - Set vision.
 - Cast vision.
 - Communicate vision.
 - Refine the vision.
- Vision needs to have a:
 - Mission Statement.
 - Mission Values.
 - Mission non-negotiable.
- Make sure your lead pastor understands the vision so he can:
 - Be a cheerleader.
 - Celebrate Missions.
 - Incorporate Missiology in sermons as much as possible.
 - Support the mission's effort.
 - Participate on mission.

A missions ministry will only be successful when the lead pastor buys into his role and the vision.

- Communicate the vision to Staff.
 - Help staff understand how missions benefits their ministries.
 - Make them apart of the process.
 - Listen and learn from staff. What ideas do they have?
 - Generate buy-in.
 - Missions is the one ministry that touches every ministry in the church. Help staff understand that you're not there to compete but to compliment what they are already doing.
 - Serve your staff.
- Communicate the vision to lay church leaders.
 - Share stories that help communicate your vision.
 - Keep sharing the vision even though you're tired of sharing it. Most likely they have not heard the vision yet.
 - Keep the vision in front of them as much as possible.
 - Every church and ministry has influencers. Identify the influencers and communicate well what you're doing and how it benefits them.
- Communicate the vision to the Church.
 - Missions is for every member.
 - Every member can do at minimum one of the following for each trip: Go, give, pray, encourage.
 - Before sending out your short-term teams or long-term workers, pray over them in front of your church.

Leadership Team

What are roles and responsibilities for missions leadership team?

- Oversee the overall vision, strategy, implementation, and evaluation of the missions ministry.
- Coordinate mission projects and initiatives, including planning, organizing, and evaluating your missions ministry.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for missions partners and ministries.
- Prayer Team
 - Lead efforts to mobilize prayer support for mission projects and missionaries.
 - Organize prayer meetings, prayer chains, and prayer walks focused on mission-related needs.
 - Maintain communication with missionaries and provide prayer updates to the congregation.
- Communication
 - Create an effective plan to communicate the needs, strategies, and ministries of the missions department between the mission's team, church leadership, and congregation.
- Financial Team
 - Develop and oversee the budget for the missions ministry.
 - Track expenses, donations, and financial commitments related to mission projects.
 - Provide financial reporting and accountability to the church leadership and congregation.
- Partnerships: Good partnerships can make or break your missions ministry. Therefore, the missions team should spend time focusing on:
 - Cultivating and maintaining relationships with mission partners, agencies, and organizations.
 - Set goals and expectations between your church and ministry partner.
 - Facilitate mission trips and partnerships with churches and organizations.
- Project Leaders
 - Lead specific mission projects or initiatives, overseeing planning, implementation, and evaluation.
 - Recruit and mobilize volunteers for mission projects, providing leadership and support throughout the process.
 - Serve as a liaison between the missions team, project participants, and mission partners.
- Logistics
 - Coordinate logistical aspects of mission trips and outreach events, including travel arrangements, accommodations, and transportation.
 - Ensure that necessary supplies, equipment, and resources are available for mission projects.
 - Address logistical challenges and provide support to mission team members during trips and events.
- Advocacy and Awareness
 - Advocate for mission-related issues and causes within the church and community.
 - Raise awareness about global and local mission needs, sharing stories and testimonies of impact.
 - Mobilize support for advocacy campaigns, fundraising drives, & awareness-raising events.
- Evaluation and Reporting Coordinator
 - Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of mission projects and initiatives, gathering feedback from participants and those whom you serve.
 - Prepare reports and presentations summarizing the outcomes and achievements of mission efforts.
 - Evaluations should affect and help future planning and decisions within the missions ministry.
- Characteristics of a missions leadership team:
 - Passion for Missions
 - Spiritual Maturity
 - Teamwork and Collaboration
 - Leadership Skills
 - Cross-Cultural Sensitivity
 - Strategic Thinking
 - Communication Skills
 - Flexibility and Adaptability
 - Commitment to Accountability
 - Commitment to Equipping and Empowering Others

Be Intentional

Becoming a sending church doesn't happen naturally. We must constantly fight against the desire to make what happens at church only about us. Taking intentional steps to push people out of the pew and put them on mission is the role of the missions leader. Let's ask God to give us 20/20 vision for the world and lead our members on mission at home and abroad.

- Include your Staff Members and/or volunteers to:
 - Make a way for staff to go on trips overseas.
 - Help staff understand how missions benefits their ministries.
 - Make them apart of the missions process.
 - Listen and learn from staff. What ideas do they have?
 - Generate buy-in.
- Church Leaders
 - Share wins.
 - Ask them to pray.
 - Ask them to go. Challenge every leader to go on a mission trip.
 - Ask them to give.
 - Make sure they know what is happening overseas.
- All Age-Level Ministries
 - Missions is for every member.
 - Have special events in S.S, Wednesday night, youth nights, children's events.
 - Have someone ready to fill in for Sunday School teacher to teach on missions
- Worship Services
 - Face Time/Zoom back into the service from time to time both short term and longterm workers.
 - Make praying for long term workers a rhythm of your services.
 - Pray for unreached people groups.
 - Send out and pray for mission teams and long-term workers in front of the church.
 - Ask long term workers to make videos from their countries welcoming guests, praying for the service, or taking offerings.
 - If you have an active WMU utilize this ministry. They already know what is happening around the world.
- Social Media
 - Look out for and share any Oklahoma Baptist Global Missions videos and/or IMB videos.
 - Show pictures before the service of the last mission trip.
 - Utilize Facebook, Instagram, and other social media platforms. Strive to give God the glory and not ourselves.

Provide Missional Experiences

One of the best ways to help people understand God's mission to reach the world is by providing missional experiences at home and abroad. Most members want to serve others and are willing to do so however most of the time they lack the ideas or ways in which they can serve.

- Missional Experiences start at home.
 - Neighborhood:
 - Look for ways to serve your neighbors. Make cookies, mow their lawn when they are out of town. Have them into your home. Pay attention to any needs that may arise.
 - Local:
 - Serve in your church.
 - Invite international students into your home for Thanksgiving or Christmas.
 - Watch for internationals at grocery stores, ask them their name and where they are from and welcome them to our great state.
 - Get involved with the refugee ministries either through your church, Oklahoma Baptists, Send Relief, Oklahoma Baptist Go Students I Network, BCM, Disaster Relief, Hope Pregnancy Centers, Oklahoma Baptists Homes for Children, and more!
 - International:
 - Oklahoma Baptists Global Missions (for example: Entry Level Trips)
 - IMB

A critical piece of missions ministry is identifying what mission projects and ministries to support. Steps in identifying those projects or ministries would be:

- What are the needs and opportunities within your local community?
- What areas of the world is God calling you to?
- What people groups live near your church?
- What gifts, talents, and abilities do the members of your church have? (Teachers, medical, construction etc)
- Are there current missionaries from your church serving overseas? If so, they make great partners.
- Do certain people groups or parts of the world continue to come up in conversation or other obvious ways in which God may seem to be at work?
- What are realistic expectations your church could commit to in a calendar year?

Missions Education

What are key elements to educate your church on missions?

- Preaching and Teaching Series
 - Dedicate sermon series or teaching sessions to topics related to missions, such as the Great Commission, the biblical basis for missions, stories of missionaries in the Bible, and the role of the church in global outreach.
- Missionary Guest Speakers
 - Invite missionaries or representatives from mission organizations to share their experiences, stories, and vision for mission work during church services, small group meetings, or special events. Personal testimonies can be powerful in inspiring and motivating church members to get involved in missions.
- Missionary Spotlight
 - Regularly feature missionary updates and testimonies during church services, newsletters, or bulletins. Highlight the work of missionaries supported by the church and provide opportunities for church members to connect with them through prayer, correspondence, or financial support.
- Missionary Partnership Trip
 - Organize short-term mission trips or partnership exchanges with missionary partners or mission organizations. These trips provide hands-on opportunities for church members to engage in cross-cultural ministry, serve others, and gain a deeper understanding of mission work.
- Cross-Cultural Training Workshops
 - Offer workshops or seminars on cross-cultural communication, cultural sensitivity, and effective ministry in diverse contexts. Equip church members with the knowledge and skills needed to engage respectfully and effectively in cross-cultural mission settings.
- Mission Education Classes
 - Provide classes or small group studies focused on topics related to missions, such as missiology, world religions, global issues, and practical aspects of mission service. These classes can deepen participants' understanding of mission concepts and help them discern their own roles in mission.
- Missionary Prayer Groups
 - Establish prayer groups or prayer chains dedicated to praying for missionaries, mission projects, and global mission needs. Encourage regular prayer gatherings focused on specific countries, regions, or unreached people groups.

- Missionary Prayer Cards

- Create prayer cards or prayer guides featuring specific missionaries, mission projects, or unreached people groups. Distribute these cards to church members as a tangible reminder to pray for mission needs regularly.
- Missionary Support Events
 - Organize fundraising events, mission fairs, or cultural nights to raise awareness and support for mission projects and missionaries. Provide opportunities for church members to learn about different cultures, sample international cuisine, and engage in activities related to mission.
- Missionary Resource Library
 - Establish a resource library or digital repository with books, videos, articles, and other resources related to missions. Make these resources readily accessible to church members for personal study, reflection, and inspiration.

Training/Discipleship

What are key elements to train and disciple the ones you will be sending?

- Plan and coordinate training events, workshops, and seminars for church members interested in missions.
- Provide resources and materials for cross-cultural training, evangelism, and ministry skills development.
- Equip and empower mission team members with the knowledge and skills needed for effective service.
 - Biblical Foundation
 - Provide a solid Biblical foundation of Biblical missions.
 - Theology of Missions
 - Teach the theological significance of missions, emphasizing God's heart for the nations, the role of the church in fulfilling the Great Commission, and the missional nature of the Christian life. Explore theological themes such as evangelism, discipleship, justice, and reconciliation.
 - Cross-Cultural Training
 - Offer training in cross-cultural communication, cultural sensitivity, and effective ministry in diverse contexts. Help church members understand cultural differences, develop empathy for people from different backgrounds, and learn practical strategies for engaging respectfully in crosscultural settings.

Training/Discipleship Cont'd

- Evangelism and Discipleship
 - Equip church members with evangelism techniques, discipleship principles, and strategies for sharing their faith effectively. Provide practical tools and resources for initiating spiritual conversations, building relationships, and making disciples in their local communities and beyond.
- Prayer and Spiritual Warfare
 - Emphasize the importance of prayer in mission work, both as a means of seeking God's guidance and empowerment and as a spiritual weapon against opposition and spiritual forces. Teach church members how to pray strategically for mission needs, breakthroughs, and protection.
- Practical Skills Training
 - Provide training in practical skills relevant to mission work, such as leadership development, teamwork, conflict resolution, fundraising, and community development. Equip church members with the skills needed to plan, implement, and evaluate mission projects effectively.
- Missionary Perspectives
 - Invite missionaries or representatives from mission organizations to share their experiences, insights, and lessons learned from the field. Provide opportunities for church members to learn from real-life examples of mission work and engage in dialogue with experienced mission practitioners.

- Local and Global Issues
 - Educate church members about local and global mission needs, including issues such as poverty, injustice, human trafficking, refugee crises, and unreached people groups. Raise awareness about opportunities for mission engagement and advocacy in these areas.
- Member Care
 - Provide ongoing support, mentoring, and accountability for church members engaged in mission work. Offer opportunities for debriefing, reflection, and peer learning, as well as mentorship from experienced mission leaders and practitioners.

Partnerships and Networking

What to look for when partnering with local and international partners.

- Theologically Aligned.
- Aligned vision, goals and values.
- Clear understanding of expectations from both sides.
- Good reputations in the missions community.
- Flexibility.

Missions Budget

When developing a mission's ministry budget these are some key questions to consider:

- How much budget monies will be allocated for each trip or project?
- How long will your church commit to a person, project, or ministry?
- How will funds be raised that will not impact the overall budget and giving from the local church?
- Will any budget money be available to help lower the cost of church members trips?

This resource is the beginning stages of an exciting time in your church. We, at the Oklahoma Baptists Global Missions office, are here to answer any questions or help you in any way. It is exciting to watch how God is pulling us together as Oklahoma Baptists to fulfill His Great Commission to send and hold the rope for those who have been sent.

Please see more at www.oklahomabaptists.org/global-missions/

Connect with us!

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