

CBC MISSIONS CONVICTIONS

Community Bible Church is committed to equipping and sending followers of Christ across the street and across the world to make disciples and grow the church through transformational relationships. As a church, our goal is to intentionally pray, equip, give, send and care for those who are sent. This commitment extends to missionaries sent out from CBC and to our national partners serving on mission in their home country.

The aim of these mission convictions is to give guidance to CBC elders, staff and members as we seek to faithfully respond to God's call on our lives as His sent ones.

We know that God's heart is for redemption and His call on us as followers is both clear and amazingly simple – Love God, love our neighbors, make disciples and teach them to follow Christ. Our convictions for CBC Missions are built around God's call to the universal church through the Bible and by the unique character, calling, and location of Community Bible Church. The mission convictions are an extension of CBC's Doctrinal Statement, Core Values and ministry philosophy to "Gather, Grow and Go".

1. Christians are a commissioned people with an obligation to take the gospel to the world

We are sent! Christ gave His people the Great Commission and He prayed in John 17 for those He was sending and for those who would believe. Jesus' prayer is that we would be sent and united so that the world would know that He was sent from God for them. Paul uses the word "obligation" to describe his call to preach the gospel to all people, and we who are redeemed in Christ have the same obligation. As the people of God we all have a part in sharing the gospel with the world. In global missions, our role may be in going or helping to send, through prayer, equipping, or giving, but the whole church has a role in this commission.

We will work to teach and equip our members to "Go" in all ministry areas of CBC - worship, equipping, groups and outreach.

Romans 1:14-17, Acts 2:44-47, John 20:21, John 17:20-23

2. The church is God's lead agent in global missions and is to be a Sending church

The church is the body given the task of shepherding the people of God and carrying out the Great Commission. We know that God is the one who calls people according to His purpose. His call for the church is to build up the believers for ministry and to affirm their calling within Christian community. Within the context of ministry, other organizations can and should be partners for access and effectiveness in global missions. Partnerships with missions agencies, nonprofits and other local churches are vital to effective ministry. We will strive to lead well in the areas God has given to the church while nurturing fruitful partnerships with agencies and parachurch

partners. As a church, we will work to faithfully carry out our call to be Christ's ambassadors in the world through intentionally preparing and sending members out on mission.

We will seek to make short term missions opportunities accessible to all members. We will commit to equip, assess, affirm, send, support, and care for those who will be sent out from CBC in vocational missions. Our giving priority will be to CBC sent missionaries and nationals that CBC has an ongoing relationship with.

*Matthew 16:18-19; Acts 11:20-26; Acts 9:31, Acts 15:22
Acts 13:1-4; Philippians 1; Philippians 4; 3 John 6*

3. Prayer is essential to, and must be our fuel for, Spirit led missions

Prayer is our fuel for missions and it must lead in all our planning, equipping, affirming, speaking, sending and going. Without prayer it is too easy to rely on our own intellect, strength and talents. In scripture we are called to pray without ceasing and to be praying at all times. We see that as the early church prayed and fasted together, the Spirit moved powerfully and the church responded in obedience and worship to the Spirit's leading.

CBC will commit to faithfully pray for our sent missionaries through regular communication with the staff, elders, and the body - via worship gatherings, equipping classes, student ministry materials, email, social media, and groups. All decisions for missions giving and direction will be made through prayer and biblical discernment.

1st Thessalonians 5:16-21; Luke 10; Ephesians 6:18; Acts 4:31; Acts 12:5; Acts 13:2-4; John 17

4. Missions is to be an extension of our local ministry and elder approved

Local, domestic and international missions are central to our call as a church to be witnesses in our "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth." We have been gifted in unique ways to serve our neighbors, our nation and the world. We have been specifically placed in the City of Savannah and the South Garden neighborhood with the opportunity to shine as a light in a diverse urban context. As our people serve locally, God will use local ministry to prepare and equip those who will be called to go to "the ends of the earth". As a church we are called to fulfill both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. Our missions strategy will be holistic in its geographic scope so as to affirm the calling of all followers of Christ to live on mission at home in Savannah and around the world.

CBC's missions focus, partnerships and investment will be affirmed and approved by the church elders.

Acts 1:8; Matthew 22:37-39; 1 Peter 5:1-3

5. We will follow the Great Commission model of evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and church leadership development

Christ has all authority over his people and his core call to his followers is to "make disciples" through going, baptizing and teaching. The way we see this work go forward in scripture is through evangelism, discipleship, planting churches, and equipping of the church for ministry. For this reason, our primary focus in missions is

to commission and send to the field people working in gospel evangelism, disciple making, church planting, and teaching for church health, growth and multiplication. We believe mercy ministry and community development are valuable ministries. God clearly calls us to love our neighbors, to seek the welfare of the city, and to practice hospitality. The end goal of these is that they might provide a platform for the Gospel. We must not overlook the immediate, tangible needs of those around us as we proclaim the gospel which provides hope for all eternity.

Guidance: The majority of CBC's missions funding will be used to financially support those working in evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and church leadership development.

Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:14-15; Acts 15:41; Acts 16:4-5; Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 22:39; James 2; Matthew 25:31-40; Micah 6:8

6. Proclaiming the Gospel to all, with an urgency to reach the Unreached

Recognizing that there is no other name by which people are saved, we desire that our efforts are particularly focused towards reaching those people and people groups who have not received the Gospel and the truth of Scripture.

Our primary aim is to proclaim the truth that God so loved the world that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to take the penalty of our sins, and that people are made right with Him by grace through faith.

When considering multiple requests for financial support, greater weight will be giving to opportunities to send people to places unreached with the gospel.

John 3:16-17, Romans 1:15-17; Isaiah 52:15, Romans 15:20-21

7. Effective, gospel centered missions is relationship driven

We are created for relationship, and our missions strategy should be based on a desire to build and maintain relationships for long term ministry. Short term and midterm mission opportunities will focus on areas of long-term relationship, financial support will follow relationship. Missions partnerships will not be one-way relationships but instead will be built as mutual relationships of accountability, trust, and equipping one another. Where we serve in a missional context, we will respect relationships by allowing locals to lead based on their experience and knowledge of their home context and culture.

When evaluating missionary candidates or developing short term teams, we will consult local leaders in the host country to ensure our team is meeting the needs of the local community and serving in ways that are beneficial to gospel centered relationships.

1 Corinthians 9:20-23

8. Missions happens in community, and sent ones should operate within teams

The model we see most often in the Bible is missionaries working together in teams, with the support of the sending church and partner churches. We also know from experience that missionaries are more effective and sustainable over the long term as part of a team that provides spiritual, physical and financial support, as well as accountability.

CBC will only commission and send teams or individuals working directly in a team environment in their ministry location.

Acts 15:39

9. Missions comes from worship and missions draws people to worship

An overflow of worship leads us to proclaim Christ and what He has done for us. Our worship as a church should call people out on mission, and our mission work should draw people to the heart of the Savior in worship. Ultimately, all nations and people will worship Christ around His eternal throne and our obedience in global gospel missions will help to bring about that day.

CBC will first be a church that glorifies God and second, a church that sends people equipped with the gospel to the world that others will know and worship Christ.

Revelation 5:9-10; Psalm 22:27-28; Acts 13:2