

## Redeemer Church Rockford Philosophy of Missions

### **Purpose:**

The mission of Redeemer Church is to glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Our obedience to this mission is the foundation of every Redeemer ministry.

### **Priorities:**

#### Glory of God

- Isaiah 43:7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”
- Habakkuk 2:14 14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
- God made all people for his glory! John Piper states, “Mission’s exists because worship doesn’t.”

#### Every Nation, Tribe, Peoples, & Tongue

- Revelation 7:9 9After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes...

#### Training Up and Sending Out

- Eph. 4:11-12 11And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...
- Acts 13
- Missions starts within the local church, praying for, identifying, investigating in, and sending out the next generation of missionaries.

#### Qualified Workers

- 2 Tim. 2:2 2and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
- Acts 13
- The missions enterprise is to be carried out by those whom the Holy Spirit has marked by their proven character and giftedness.

#### Plant and Support Churches

- Matt. 28:18-20 18And Jesus came and said to them, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**”
- Acts 13-14
- The priority of missions is to make and strengthen disciples in the context establishing and the building up of local churches.

## Practical Implications

### God's Glory in Every Nation, Tribe, Peoples, & Tongue

- Psalm 2: 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
- Acts 1:8 **8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**
- Target every concentric circle of our Lord's command.
  - Jerusalem = Rockford area
  - Judea = Illinois and surrounding states
  - Samaria = United States
  - End of the earth = The world
- End of the earth continued.
  - Target unreached people groups (e.g. 10/40 window).
  - Develop strategic long-lasting partnerships with missionaries around the world.
  - Give special consideration to the poor, orphans, widows, and the oppressed.

### Training Up and Sending Out

- Cultivate missions-minded Christians
- Pray regularly for global missions
- Give financially toward funding the entire missions process
- Provide short-, mid-, and long-term missions opportunities
- Devote manpower to train and send missionaries from our midst

### Qualified Workers

- Send those servants who have proven their character, giftedness, and fruitfulness in the context of local church ministry.
- Consider current pastors and elders as candidates for missions.

### Plant Equip Churches

- Evangelize unbelievers
- Disciple new believers
- Train up pastoral leadership

## Goals

### Financial

- Make our regular commitments (i.e. monthly, quarterly, annually) at least 10% of church income, which includes the Cooperative Program with the SBC.
- Special offerings/projects:
  - Special one-time gifts can be given to any missionary as God leads.
  - Special projects and offerings can be taken on during the year (maximum one per quarter).

### Church Body Involvement

- Weave a missions focus into every ministry of the church.
  - Missions Moment once per month on Sunday morning
  - Adopt-a-missionary in Life Groups
  - Equipping class on missions and evangelism
- Pray regularly for missions at all levels (e.g. corporately, Redeemer Kids, Redeemer Students, Redeemer 20's, Life Groups, etc.).
- Participate in short-term missions opportunities throughout the year

### Missions Leadership Team (MLT)

- Evaluate missions opportunities
- Recommend support levels
- Plan and implement short-term missions
- Communicate missions philosophy to congregation and publish on the website
- Determine geographical regions and people groups to pursue
- Establish a mix of short-term missions from “entry-level” to “hard-core”
  - Entry level would be easier-to-reach areas that are not as rustic, and can introduce people to mission work
  - Hard core would be to heard-to-reach areas focusing on unreached people, more rustic, and/or more risky environments.
- Submit recommended missions budget