

Section 2: Our Vision, Mission & Process

Our Vision

The people of Immanuel: World Christians *making disciples* among the peoples of the world.

Making Disciples Within the Context of Our Ministries Means:

1. Make multiple contacts with international people.
2. Make friends of those contacts.
3. Explain the gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. Invite our international friends to personally receive Jesus Christ.
5. Provide basic biblical follow up, fellowship and teaching for new believers.
6. Provide new believers with the opportunity to be baptized, to participate in public worship and become members of Immanuel Bible Church.
7. Teach them to *make disciples*.

Application of Strategic Plan to International Ministries

1. Teach members of each of the four international outreach ministries how to *make disciples* of Jesus Christ.
2. Develop the strategy of *making disciples* a priority in the goals, plans and events of each ministry.
3. Train those who receive Christ to *make disciples*.

Our Mission

The mission of the Immanuel Bible Church World Missions program is to make disciples and establish disciple-making churches among the peoples of the world. In this endeavor we will primarily focus our efforts and resources on a single people and area of the world. Specifically, we will work to help plant a self-sustaining and growing indigenous evangelical church among the Dagomba people of Ghana West Africa.

Our Strategic Process

Casting our Vision

1. Motivating the congregation – Missions Sundays
2. Informing the congregation of missionary activities
3. Interceding – Weekly prayer, prayer fellowships, Prayer Digest
4. Educating – World missionary reports, ETS, Missionary Preparation Program, US Center for World Mission's courses (Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Perspectives on the world of Islam).

Sending Servants

1. Identifying, training, commissioning, supporting and evaluating servants
2. Strategically designating unreached people groups
3. Managing missionaries through recognized mission agencies
4. Designating budgeted funds for specific ministries, for specific time periods
5. Providing Immanuel elder encouragement, evaluation, cross-cultural partnership building among missionaries & national church leadership for ministry projects, short-term and career service.

Building the Church

1. By evaluating and adjusting all our missionary endeavors according to their disciple-making effectiveness
2. By giving priority to mission agencies and ministries that emphasize cross-cultural evangelism, church planting and indigenous leadership development, with particular attention given to the Dagomba people of Ghana West Africa
3. By emphasizing and promoting national church partnership

Definition Of Terms

Evangelism

Sharing the good news of the gospel and inviting people to accept Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross as full payment for their sins, enabling them to enter into a personal relationship with God. Evangelism is only the first part of the process of making disciples commanded by the Lord in Matthew 28.19–20. It is completed as the new believers are integrated into the local church and brought to maturity in Christ.

- E-0 Evangelism – bringing church members to renewal or repentance.
- E-1 Evangelism – sharing the gospel with members of one's own culture.
- E-2 Evangelism – sharing the gospel with members of a somewhat different culture from that of the evangelist. This may involve learning a new language or culture.
- E-3 Evangelism – sharing the gospel with members of a very different culture from that of the evangelist. This will involve learning one or more new languages and cultures.

Worlds A, B & C

A grouping of nations and people groups according to the levels that they have been evangelized and have come to profess Christianity.

- World A – Nations and peoples in the least evangelized world, defined as those nations and peoples that are less than 50% evangelized.
- World B – Nations and peoples in the evangelized non-Christian world, defined as those nations and peoples that are more than 50% evangelized and less than 60% Christian (including all major Christian groups).
- World C – Nations and peoples in the Christian world, defined as those nations and peoples that are more than 60% professing Christians (including all nominal and affiliated Christians of all ecclesiological traditions and not only Protestants).

World Christians

Believers in Jesus Christ who are committed to fulfilling the Great Commission with their time, talents, and resources. They will be significantly involved in learning, praying, and systematic financial support. World Christians multiply their impact by recruiting others to adopt a like perspective in obedience to Christ's Commission of world outreach.

Missionary

A Christian who senses God's leading for cross-cultural service. He is qualified and equipped, and recognized as a candidate for missionary service. He is sent by his church into a cross-cultural designated area outside the reach of the local church, to further the proclamation of the gospel and the establishment of the church of Jesus Christ.

Missionary Service

The fulfillment of Christ's Commission to win and disciple reproducing Christians in

geographic locations beyond the reach of the local church, in cross-cultural settings.

Mission Agency

A para-church organization that facilitates the missions work of a local church by screening, accepting, training, overseeing and coordinating the lives and the labors of its missionary personnel.

Sending Church

A local body of believers that confirms the character, giftedness and commitment of missionary candidates within the context of the home church. The sending church prepares and commissions missionaries for ministry and then assumes a primary role in their lives and ministry.

Missions Education

World Missions education within a local congregation, including the specialized training of children, youth, adults, church staff, missions council, teachers, and potential missionaries with the goal of developing World Christians.

Unreached People Group

A collection of people who share a common language, customs, national identity, and other cultural ties who do not have a near-neighbor evangelizing community of believers.

Section 3: Our Specific Missions Goals

Developing World Christians

Goal

Develop a congregation of World Christians at Immanuel Bible Church who are:

1. Aware of the spiritual and physical needs of the world.
2. Motivated to see the gospel message taken to each of the world's people groups.
3. Fully involved in the worldwide spread of the gospel.
4. Aware of, and praying for, persecuted believers around the world.

Strategies

Awareness

1. Resource Center: Develop a resource center and employ a variety of creative communications methods to acquaint the congregation with clear, accurate, and up-to-date information about the present world situation, including spiritual and physical needs and the progress of Christian missions.
2. Integrated Missions Education: Train and work with the leaders of various Immanuel Bible Church programs to intentionally include missions in every aspect of Christian education:
 - A. Children-Use and/or develop missions curriculum to be used in Sunday School, Prime Time, VBS, etc., that will systematically teach missions. To as great a degree as is possible, utilize hands-on experience and exposure to missionaries.
 - B. Youth-Find or develop and implement a missions curriculum that builds on the children's program. Provide frequent contacts with missionaries and extensive hands-on experience.
 - C. Adults-Involve members in Perspectives or Destination 2000 courses (offered by the US Center for World Mission). Since missions is a theme

running throughout Scripture, integrate biblical teaching on missions consistently in the exegesis of God's Word. Include courses specifically spotlighting missions in ABFs and other adult programs. Offer information updates on specific missionaries through small group ministries.

D. Staff and Elders-Involve in briefing and prayer sessions with visiting missionaries. Provide frequent updates on missionaries and mission topics.

Invite participation in council retreat and other special sessions.

3. Current Information: Disseminate information on the current activities of the present missions family as they minister around the world.
4. Conferences and Other Programs: Include missions presentations as part of the regular church ministry/worship on a continuing basis, and via periodic missions conferences.
5. Exposure /Education: Encourage Immanuel Bible Church members and attenders to attend area missions activities (i.e. seminars, conferences, etc.) and take advantage of opportunities for exposure to other cultures and people groups.

Motivation

1. Introduction to Needs: Periodically challenge the congregation with specific examples of ways that they can help meet spiritual and physical needs of people throughout the world.
2. Personal Interaction: Create opportunities for Immanuel Bible Church individuals and small groups to interact with missionaries to "catch" their vision.

Involvement

1. Public Prayer: Include intercession for world needs and the Immanuel Bible Church missionary family in Sunday worship services.
2. Private and Small Group Prayer: Encourage individuals and small groups to consistently pray for the missions family, unreached people groups and the efforts to reach them.
3. Meeting Practical Needs: Encourage IBC members and attenders to continually look for opportunities to identify and meet the practical needs of the members of our missions family.
4. Meeting Financial Needs: Assist members and attenders in becoming committed to and involved in a program of financial support of world missions.
5. Becoming Go-ers: Mobilize as many IBC members and attenders as possible to participate in missions in the US and around the world.

Mobilization and Deployment

Goal

Mobilize and deploy the resources under our influence (including prayer, people and money) to most effectively reach an ever-changing world for Christ.

Strategies

Mobilization

1. Prayer for Go-ers: In public intercession, frequently include requests that God raise up dedicated, gifted men and women from within the congregation to serve in missions.
2. Short-Term Programs: Develop Immanuel Bible Church short-term teams and send them to minister, whenever possible with our own missionaries. Recruit individuals for other short-term programs. Emphasis will be with our Dagomba missionaries and activities.
3. Identify Go-ers: Work together as World Missions Council, church staff, elders,

and teachers/leaders of youth and adult ministries to identify those people with abilities and spiritual gifts that would be effective in cross-cultural ministry. Challenge such individuals to consider missions. Particular emphasis will be for service in Ghana in support of our work to evangelize and make disciples of the Dagomba people.

4. Counsel/Training: Offer long-term counsel, guidance and training to those who express interest in a missions career. This will include advice on choice of educational institutions and programs, summer and short-term missions involvement, and the selection of a sending agency. Prospective missionaries should be guided through a program where they are involved in progressively more challenging opportunities for service to define and demonstrate their giftedness and spiritual character.

5. Scholarship Aid: Fund scholarships for needy prospective missionaries to make it possible for them to complete their education with little or no educational debt as a barrier to immediate deployment in missions (see guidelines in appendix).

6. Agency Partnerships: Develop in-depth relationships with mission agencies to refer members pursuing overseas service. We will actively look for, encourage and send missionaries through agencies who are willing to acknowledge the sending church's strategic role, to dialogue with the church before making major decisions, and to report regularly regarding the missionary's effectiveness in ministry, family health, personal development, etc.

7. Partner agencies should exhibit:

- Doctrinal agreement with Immanuel Bible Church
- Purpose and strategy compatibility
- Financial accountability
- Adequate provision for missionaries' health insurance and retirement income
- Adequate, well-qualified supervisors and support staff
- In-depth missionary care program
- Membership in the IFMA/EFMA

8. Practical Appointee Aid: Assist missionary appointees in their preparation for the field by identifying areas of need (such as child care, communications, secretarial assistance, transportation, etc.) and seek to mobilize qualified members of the congregation to assist with these needs. The church will share responsibility with the appointee for the support-raising process.

Deployment

1. Primary Priorities: Missionaries who meet the requirements (see POLICIES section below) will be considered for support in the following order of priority:

A. Priority one: Members and non-members considering ministry among the Dagomba people.

B. Priority two: Members of Immanuel going out under an approved agency who will be involved in church planting and discipleship as primary areas of ministry.

C. Priority three: Non-members who are approved candidates from the Northern Virginia Missions Consortium going out under an approved agency

D. Exceptions: Exceptions will be made only if important strategic considerations provide a compelling reason to allocate finances outside of these priorities.

2. Secondary Priorities: Because the location and ministry of the Immanuel Bible Church missionary family will significantly shape the vision and involvement of the entire congregation, we believe that it is important that we strive for breadth of exposure, balance, and strategic emphasis. Therefore, the Missions Council will use the following guidelines, recognizing that at times one target may have to be intentionally sacrificed for another.

A. Career / Short-Term / Nationals: First, we recognize that much of the work of missions can be carried out only by those who have made a long-term commitment. Therefore, we desire dedicate at least two-thirds of our resources to career assignments. Second, in light of the significant contributions of short-termers and the percentage of career, workers recruited from the ranks of short-termers, we will also support those engaging in ministries of six months to two years' duration. Third, we acknowledge that the financial blessings God has bestowed on Immanuel Bible Church should be shared with the national church overseas in its efforts to evangelize its own people and reach out cross-culturally.

B. Intra-Cultural / Cross-Cultural: While recognizing the tremendous spiritual needs of our own Anglo-Saxon North American culture, we believe that the world's unreached billions call for a commitment of, optimally, three-quarters of our resources to cross-cultural evangelism and church planting.

C. Geographical: In order to assist the Immanuel Bible Church congregation to become aware of and involved in the needs of a vast and complex world, we will invest a large percentage of our missions resources in reaching the Dagomba people of Ghana West Africa. In addition, the great spiritual needs of unreached people groups and the challenge of the burgeoning urban areas of the globe will receive special consideration as we allocate our resources.

D. Ministry: Believing that evangelism, discipleship and church planting are the heart of the Great Commission, we want to commit at least 50% of our resources to that end. We also recognize the importance of leadership training and the need for front-line missionaries to be adequately supported by field and home administration support staff, and therefore we will commit significant resources in these directions. We also appreciate the contribution of mass communications, and medical, relief, and development workers and seek to include specialists in these areas as part of our missionary family. Since tentmakers can play a strategic role in the missions enterprise, we eagerly welcome them as part of our missionary family.

Mission Agency Relationships

Goal

Develop a close working relationship with each mission agency with whom our missionary family serves that includes:

1. A clarification of responsibility, accountability, and missionary care by the missionary, the agency, and Immanuel Bible Church.
2. A cooperation with like-minded nearby congregations; with national churches, associations, and national sending agencies in missionary-receiving countries; and with missions resource organizations, for the purpose of synergism and efficiency of effort.

Strategies

1. Agency Information: Develop a resource file on each missions agency with that a Immanuel Bible Church missionary serves. Collect all information relevant to purpose, vision, goals, doctrinal position, financial status, policies, qualifications for missionaries, associations, etc.
2. Agency Visits: Have one or more council members make an on-site visit to the agency for the purpose of meeting key staff, identifying vision, etc.
3. Agency Representation: Invite key leaders of each agency to meet with the council and/or speak to the congregation when available.
4. Agency Partnerships: Develop a written agreement with agencies with whom we

are sending missionaries. This agreement should cover issues such as accountability, decision-making, and missionary care.

5. Assistance to Sister Churches and the Northern Virginia Missions Consortium: Identify local churches that may need assistance in missions program development which Immanuel Bible Church could feasibly provide. Assign council members to work with these churches.

6. Utilize Service Agencies: Take advantage of the programs provided by organizations such as ACOM, AIM, and others that can facilitate the extension of our missions programs.

7. National Church Partnerships: Encourage the cooperation of North American agencies with the national church in the receiving country.

Immanuel Bible Church's Responsibility To Missionaries

Goal

Provide support to our missionaries, missionary families and missionary projects as we:

1. Become more aware of and respond to the needs and concerns of the Missionary as a whole person—spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, social, financial—as these needs change due to location, ministry, and life events.
2. Assume responsibility for developing and maintaining regular, in-depth communication in order to define areas where the church's involvement could improve the ministry.
3. Assume a role in caring for missionary children, particularly those who are away from home.
4. Recognize and fulfill our responsibility for missionaries while on home assignment, particularly those sent out by Immanuel Bible Church.

Strategies

1. Missionary Accountability: Define expectations for missionary accountability, communicate them to missionaries, and sustain an ongoing dialog, providing guidance and encouragement.
2. Church-Missionary Communication: Maintain a consistent flow of communication with missionaries through personal letters, phone calls, e-mail, and church publications.
 - A. Assign a Missions Council member to each missionary for personal communication via letters, phone calls, visits, etc.
 - B. Respond individually to the content of each personal letter and semi-annual report. As possible, respond to what is shared in prayer letters. Express appreciation for the effort that goes into such communication.
 - C. Commend those who maintain good communication and work one-on-one with those who exhibit deficiencies.
 - D. Encourage missionaries to communicate via computer, fax, telephone, and email.
2. "Missionary-Church" Communication: Seek creative, effective ways to make the praise items and prayer concerns of missionaries accessible to the congregation. This will include making available copies of prayer letters, publishing information in the church bulletin and newsletters, etc
3. Personal Interaction: Provide opportunities for missionaries to personally meet and share with individuals of the congregation as frequently as possible.
4. Freedom of Expression: Establish a climate of trust where missionaries feel free to share personal and spiritual needs so that the church can address real needs.

5. Financial Responsibility: Provide a dependable and timely supply of financial support at a level consistent with the need and resources available.
6. Home Assignment: Assistance: When missionaries, particularly those sent out by Immanuel Bible Church, are anticipating home assignment, work with them to secure housing, transportation, and other needs. Assist returning missionaries and their families to transition back into North American culture.
7. MK Care: Research needs and concerns for the children of our missionaries, particularly those living away from home and exert specific efforts to minister to these MKs.
8. Retirement Transition: Work with missionaries anticipating retirement (particularly those sent out by Immanuel Bible Church) in order to provide a smooth transition and assure that a practical living situation is established.
9. On-Field Visits: As often as is feasible, send the World Missions Pastor with elders and members of the congregation to minister to missionaries on the field. Encourage others to visit missionaries when on business trips or vacations for the purpose of missionary encouragement.
10. Special Needs: Assist missionaries to meet unusual needs as they arise and as the means to do so are available.