

# Blackhawk Ministries

# Missions

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## Purpose and Policies

**Global Ministries Team**

3/1/2013

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# Missions Purpose

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## ***The Biblical responsibility for Missions***

- A. It is the responsibility of every Christian to be involved in the process of missions. (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)
- B. It is the responsibility of the local church to:
  - i. Pray for Christian workers to be raised up. (Matthew 9:36-38)
  - ii. Train Christians to do the work of the ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
  - iii. Recognize the leading of the Holy Spirit in the directing of people into the ministry. (Acts 13:1-4)
  - iv. Encourage, financially support, pray for missionaries and their work. (III John 5-8)
  - v. Encourage a missional life style among all believers. (Mt.28:19-20)

## ***The Essential Elements of Missions***

- A. A primary element of the work of missions is world evangelism. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8). It is the biblical pattern in the book of Acts that world evangelism be done primarily through the establishing of local churches and the equipping and training of local leaders.
- B. Also a part of missions is the work of benevolent outreach. (Matthew 25:34-36; IICorinthians 8:1-6). This would include, for example:
  - i. Prison ministries
  - ii. Relief projects
  - iii. Rescue missions
  - iv. Christian hospitals
  - v. Children's homes
  - vi. Handicapped ministries
- C. Equally a part of missions is training, equipping and/or sending out Christian workers to do the ministry of world evangelism and benevolent outreach. This training is typically accomplished by:
  - i. Educational institutions that train Christian workers.
  - ii. Mission boards that administrate, coordinate and direct mission works.
  - iii. Short term mission exposure trips that provide experience and training.
- D. Additionally all believers should be encouraged to be a faithful witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. This should be evidenced by a personal lifestyle of involvement in the local church, community outreach, and financial support for those in need.

## ***The Field of Missions***

*"...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8).*

- A. *Jerusalem Missions* begins with responsibility in the local community for evangelism and benevolent outreach.
- B. *Samaria Missions* includes evangelism and benevolent outreach to those who are socially, racially and ethnically diverse both in and adjacent to, our local community.
- C. *World Missions* knows no limitations by exception and knows no end until the Lord returns.

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# Missions Policies

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## ***Long-Term Missionaries (more than 1 year)***

- A. Support Qualifications.** All career missionaries to be supported must:
- i. Be an active member of a church which is like Blackhawk Ministries in its doctrine and practice.
  - ii. Be approved and supported by their own church for the ministry which they pursue.
  - iii. Possess the gifts, education and skills necessary to be effective in their intended work.
  - iv. Be in essential agreement with the Articles of Faith of Blackhawk Ministries.
  - v. Be associated with work that is harmonious with the mission purpose of Blackhawk Ministries.
  - vi. If united with an organization, it must be an organization whose doctrine and mission purpose is consistent with those of Blackhawk Ministries.
  - vii. Have satisfactorily completed the *Application for Missionary Support* form.
- B. Support Priorities**
- i. Priority will be given to maintaining presently supported missionaries with increased support and special assistance when needed.
  - ii. Preference will be given to individuals who have been active members of Blackhawk Ministries with the goal of at least 10% support.
  - iii. As the church is able, additional missionaries will be considered.
- C. Support Procedures**
- i. The *Application for Missionary Support* form should be submitted to the Global Ministries Team (GMT).
  - ii. All support must be approved by the GMT based on:
    1. compliance with the qualifications for support.
    2. compliance with support priorities.
    3. specific leadership requests, if any.
    4. current funds available.
    5. assessment of needs.
  - iii. The GMT may decline or table support pending further input(s).
- D. Support Duration**
- i. Initial support will be determined by the GMT based on the needs presented and the funds available with the Support Priorities as a guide.
  - ii. Missionaries will periodically be asked to sign the *Missionary Agreement* form affirming that their doctrinal position has not changed.
  - iii. Support may be terminated for reasons such as:
    1. A change in doctrine or mission which is inconsistent with that of Blackhawk Ministries.
    2. Conduct which is inappropriate for a Christian.
    3. Change in ministry status.
    4. Being evaluated as ineffective in meeting the goals and purposes under which he or she went out.
    5. Failure to maintain regular contact with the GMT concerning their ministry.
  - iv. Should support be dropped, the GMT will determine the termination date and notify the missionary and appropriate mission agency.

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# *Missions Policies*

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## **E. Support Responsibilities, Missionary**

- i. Maintain regular correspondence with GMT and with their community group if applicable, as to goals, results, needs and changes in their mission.
- ii. Meet with the GMT as requested.
- iii. Present a verbal report to Blackhawk Ministries as requested.

## **F. Support Responsibilities, GMT**

- i. Update the pastoral staff and elder board.
- ii. Update Community Groups as required.
  1. Each missionary or missionary family may be assigned to at least one of our Adult Community Groups (ABF, small group, etc).
  2. It is the responsibility of each Community Group to:
    - a. Appoint a Missionary Representative to communicate to its members the progress, praises, and needs of its missionaries.
    - b. Pray faithfully for its missionaries.
    - c. Correspond with its missionaries.
    - d. Consider ways they might help provide for the specific needs of its missionaries.
- iii. Update the church's weekly prayer bulletin which includes a summary of our missionaries praises and needs.
- iv. Use other media communications as available such as the Missions Wall, video clips, bulletin spots, etc.

## **G. Missionary Retirement**

- i. Under current Social Security guidelines, full retirement benefits can be obtained at least by age 67. We will use the same retirement-age definition. We understand that an individual may choose to continue their ministry beyond that age, but we will assume that the individual is also beginning to collect Social Security. It is the policy of Blackhawk Ministries to reevaluate support at retirement age.
- ii. Blackhawk Ministries will consider these factors for post-retirement support:
  - 1) Continued involvement in ministry.
  - 2) Pre-retirement support level.
  - 3) Requests from the missionary or their agency.
- iii. Missionaries should expect their support from Blackhawk Ministries to be either discontinued or significantly reduced when they retire or reach age 67.

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# Missions Policies

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## ***Short-term Missionaries (less than 1 year)***

### **A. Support Qualifications**

- i. All short-term missionaries to be supported must have been active at Blackhawk Ministries for at least one year, currently demonstrating faithfulness in attending and supporting the ministries of the church. Exceptions may be made for students living away from home whose home church is Blackhawk.
- ii. Must be recommended by a member of the pastoral staff, Elder board or GMT.
- iii. Must possess the gifts, education and skills necessary to be effective in their intended work.
- iv. Must be in agreement with the Articles of Faith of Blackhawk Ministries.
- v. Must be associated with work that is harmonious with the Missions Purpose as stated in this document.
- vi. If united with a missions organization, the organization must have a doctrine and mission purpose consistent with those of Blackhawk Ministries.

### **B. Support Priorities**

- i. Priority will be given to applicants planning to assist missions and missionaries already supported by Blackhawk Ministries.
- ii. Other requests will be considered based on the ministry, the individual's qualifications and the available funds.
- iii. Our support for short term missionaries is to be paid upon assurance that the balance of required support has been raised.

### **C. Support Procedures**

- i. An *Application for Short Term Missionary Support* form should be submitted to the GMT at least 90 days before support is needed.
- ii. A personal interview may be requested by the GMT.

### **D. Support Responsibilities**

- i. Communicate regularly with the GMT while on assignment.
- ii. Upon completion of their short term project, individuals should:
  1. Submit a written report to the GMT. This report should include a summary of the mission work, goals achieved, failures, lessons learned, disappointments, challenges for the future, etc.
  2. Be prepared to present a verbal report to the GMT if requested.

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# Missions Policies

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## ***Mission Exposure Trips (less than 4 weeks)***

### **A. Purpose**

- i. To encourage a life-long interest in missions by:
  1. Introducing concepts of missional serving.
  2. Experiencing a different culture/geographical setting.
  3. Developing/discovering spiritual gifts.
  4. Increasing mission education.
- ii. To spread the Gospel
  1. In a manner that complements the host's efforts.
  2. As directed by the host (when, where, how).
  3. By assisting national ministry leaders.
- iii. Encourage and equip hosts and/or host organizations
  1. By completing assignments given.
  2. By demonstrating a servant's submissive spirit in all circumstances.

### **B. Support**

- i. All participants in mission exposure trips are expected to raise their own financial support
- ii. The GMT will give its endorsement to the trip if:
  1. The participant is in doctrinal agreement with Blackhawk Ministries. They must have been active at Blackhawk Ministries for at least one year, demonstrating faithfulness in attendance and supporting the ministries of the church. Participation in a like-minded church, if temporarily away from Blackhawk for reasons such as college, may be sufficient.
  2. The sponsoring organization (if any) is in doctrinal agreement with Blackhawk Ministries.
  3. The trip is harmonious with the mission purpose (see "A" above).
  4. The participant submits the *Application for Mission Exposure Trip* form, or an equivalent form.
  5. The GMT believes that the applicant possesses the gifts, education and skills necessary to be effective on the trip.
  6. The participant demonstrates a level of maturity necessary for the trip.
  7. The participant's family (if applicable) is supportive of the trip.
- iii. Upon endorsement of the participant's/team's plans;
  1. The GMT will issue a letter confirming the endorsement which the participant should include with their fund-raising requests.
  2. Blackhawk Ministries may receive and disperse *donated funds* for tax purposes. To comply with the current tax code:
    - a. Blackhawk Ministries financial department will administer the *donated funds* upon written authorization from the GMT.
    - b. The participant/team-leader must submit a written log of all trip expenses.
    - c. Reimbursement will be for valid expenses as determined by the GMT and will not exceed the *donated funds*.
    - d. Any *donated funds* received in excess of approved valid expenses will be retained by Blackhawk Ministries.
  3. The GMT may consider some financial support if funds are available.

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# *Missions Policies*

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- iv. Responsibility of participants/team-leader
  1. To share their plans and goals with the GMT prior to support raising.
  2. To communicate with the GMT while on the trip, if possible.
  3. To share a report about the trip, goals reached, challenges, and life-impacting experiences.
- v. Responsibility of the GMT
  1. Pray faithfully for the trip and the participants.
  2. Encourage the participant with verbal and/or written communication.

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# *Missions Policies*

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## ***Organizations***

### **A. Qualification for Support**

- i. Must be a work that is harmonious with the mission purpose of Blackhawk Ministries.
- ii. Must have a doctrinal statement which is consistent with the Articles of Faith of Blackhawk Ministries.
- iii. Must be unique in their areas of service and ministry. For example:
  1. An organization establishing an evangelical work for an unreached people group.
  2. Benevolent ministries providing services for needs not being otherwise met.
  3. Educational institutions which effectively combine academic excellence and sound Bible instruction with opportunities for Christian service.

### **B. Guidelines for Support**

- i. Requests for support should be submitted in writing to the GMT or to a pastor of Blackhawk Ministries.
- ii. All support must be approved by the GMT based on:
  1. compliance with the qualifications for support.
  2. current funds available
  3. assessment of needs
- iii. The GMT may decline or table support pending further input(s).
- iv. The term of support will be determined by the GMT.
- v. The GMT will reevaluate supported organizations at least every 2 years.

### **C. Support Responsibilities, Organizations**

- i. Must maintain regular correspondence with GMT as to goals, results, changes in their mission.
- ii. Must meet with the GMT as requested.
- iii. Must present a verbal report to Blackhawk Ministries as requested.

### **D. Support Responsibilities, GMT**

- i. Will update the pastoral staff and elder board as required.
- ii. Will keep the church aware of the ministry's needs and praises.

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# *Missions Policies*

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## ***Special Projects***

- A. Projects to be supported must be consistent with the mission purpose of Blackhawk . Ministries.
- B. Requests for project support should be submitted to the GMT.
- C. Examples include fund raising programs and one-time missions events.
- D. The amount of support will be determined by the GMT based on the needs presented and the funds available.