

Volunteer Missions

Our desire as volunteer missionaries is to bless the group of people we will be serving and interacting with. We adopt these core values as our own and we want to enable the locals to sustain the projects that we help them with during our time there. Please take to heart this information and remember it as we serve.

Core Values

1. We believe that everything we do should bring honor and glory to our Lord and in every situation lift up the name of Jesus.
2. We believe and we are driven by the conviction that everyone in the city we are going to has the right to hear the Gospel in his or her heart language and in an understandable format.
3. We believe that prayer is our primary strategy for impacting lostness and that all efforts should be bathed in prayer before, during, and after any missions endeavor.
4. We believe that all volunteer missions endeavors should be consistent with sound and effective missiological principles reflecting a clear understanding of reproducibility, indigeneity, and non-dependency issues.
5. We believe that the tasks of Gospel saturation, evangelism, church planting, discipleship, and leadership training are not completed unless they result in multiplying new church starts healthy enough to sustain continued Kingdom growth in quantity, that is, number of new believers and maturing believers.
6. We believe in evaluating all assistance to national partners, both tangible and intangible, in light of its long-term impact on the ability of indigenous churches to continue to impact lostness through evangelism and church planting.
7. We believe that all human needs projects should minister to both the physical and spiritual needs of those receiving assistance.
8. We believe that the church was commanded by our Lord to fulfill the Great Commission by sending —sent out ones, whom God has called.

Volunteers Working With National Churches

Resource Focus:

- To concentrate team energies on the task of addressing the lostness of the national community.
- To create opportunities for accelerating new church starts.
- To recognize the maturity of national Baptists and the overall strengths of the national Christian community.

The following is a checklist of important issues when planning projects with volunteer assistance:

- A. Reproducibility:** The local church should be able to reproduce itself without outside help. Guard against doing anything that will discourage reproducibility.
1. Focus on empowerment for growth.
 - Does the project create an atmosphere supporting reproducibility by national Christians?
 - Is the project doing something that will encourage the church to grow and extend itself?
 2. Devise methods, materials, and actions that will actively lead the local church to reproduce itself.
 - Are projects done in such a way, using materials and procedures that encourage the church on its own to move toward starting new churches?
 3. Formulate activities that the receiving church itself can reproduce by sharing with the next generation of churches.
 - Is the cost or technical ability something that they themselves can do with and for another congregation?
 4. Design the project to motivate the local church to reproduce the ministries that they themselves have received.
 - Is training included in the project which will encourage the reproduction of the ministries that they themselves received?
 5. Actively do what it takes to get the receiving church to send their members to help other new congregations in the same way they received help.
 - Are there plans for the receiving church to help another congregation or congregations in the same way they received help?
- B. Indigeneity:** Doing things in ways that meet local needs using local patterns.
1. Conduct projects in a manner that leads local Christians to feel ownership of the project. This includes the activity itself and the results of the project.
 - Whose idea was this project?
 2. Ensure that the project is based on local vision and locally perceived needs. The local church should define its own vision for reaching the world for Christ.
 - What is the local vision for the lostness of the world?
 3. Seek to provide only the appropriate style and level of help.
 - How would they do this themselves with no outside help?
- C. Non-dependence:** Avoid any sense of paternalism. Avoid creating a welfare mentality.
1. Design and conduct projects that require local Christians to depend on God.
 - Do activities lead to definable outside resources rather than to trusting God?

- Is there anything about this project that causes local Christians to depend on God for its successful completion?

2. Prior to offering help first ask the following questions:

- Is it a there a vision?
- Is it a locally conceived vision?
- Have the local congregations expressed the vision as part of their own plans to extend the Kingdom?
- Did local Christians discover the needs and envision the solutions themselves?
- Have local Christians given sacrificially?
- Have they sacrificed time, energy and money to participate in the project?
- Is the local church committed enough to the project to actively participate?
- Are they willing to work alongside the volunteer team?