



**January 2015**

### **Our Commitment to World Mission**

As a local community of disciples of Jesus Christ, we are part of the world wide church, the family of God in Christ. We affirm:

- That mission begins in the heart of God. Through the incarnation of Jesus Christ and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit, God is actively involved in mission, His purpose being to establish His kingdom to the ends of the earth.
- That the explicit command of Christ to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-47, John 20:21, Acts 1:8) is our mandate for mission. The whole of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, speaks of how this is brought about.
- That mission is a call to reach out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ in words and through actions.
- That the church is to be a missionary community seeking to fulfil the Great Commission.
- That all of us are called to live for God wherever He has placed us in the world. For all of us it will mean having a wider vision and active concern for God's mission throughout the world. . For most of us it will be expressed in an ongoing witness in our local community. For some this will involve living and working in another culture.

### **The World Mission Team**

The World Mission Team task is to keep cross-cultural mission, beyond the geographical catchment area of Godmanchester, as a key component of the life of GBC across all congregations and small groups.

The Team's objectives are mission education, prayer, information, guidance and support, and to inspire sacrifice.

#### **Mission Education**

The team seeks to develop an awareness among the church of the biblical basis for mission, current worldwide mission developments within and outside the church, and the work of our mission partners.

#### **Prayer**

The team seeks to strengthen our commitment to mission by encouraging prayer for world mission and specifically for the individuals and partner agencies we support.

#### **Information, Guidance and Support**

The team encourages individuals to engage in world mission, by meeting and praying with them, by advising the Leadership Team on the need for financial support, by providing practical and pastoral support to those involved in world mission, and by keeping news of our mission partners at the forefront of church life.

#### **Inspiring Sacrifice**

The team encourages the church to sacrifice time and financial resources to world mission.

These objectives may be achieved using Mission Focus occasions at congregations, mission fairs, mission evenings, monthly prayer meetings, by personal engagement in world mission situations, and by one-to-one conversations.

### **Financial Support for World and UK Mission**

GBC is committed to financially supporting mission through the work of our mission partners – people working overseas or in the UK with whom we have a direct relationship.

We allocate 15% of our offerings and associated Gift Aid to this activity. We then commit 60% of the money to world mission and 40% to UK mission.

Our financial priorities are to:

1. BUGB Home Mission, as part of our membership of the Baptist Union.
2. Individuals who are part of GBC and who we have acknowledged as called to world mission.
3. Organisations with a foundational link to GBC.
4. Other organisations agreed by the Church Meeting
5. Church members and young people who are engaged in short-term mission.

The Leadership Team are responsible for the allocation of financial resources to mission partners and based on the above priorities, the funding arrangements of sending organisations and individual need.

Fundraising outside of the 15% General Fund support is organised in line with the GBC Fundraising Guidance Note.