

LifeChurch Panania Missions Policy



What is mission?

Christian mission is proclaiming the Gospel: Christ is the only way to eternal, abundant life through His death and resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

However, mission, is not limited to overseas ministry. While believers should faithfully support those who go to the unreached in foreign nations, all Christians are tasked with the mission to share Christ locally with family, friends, workmates, and our own community.

The Christian mission of sharing Christ does not end with a sinner's salvation. The Great Commission is to make disciples, not immature believers. Thus, Christian missions involves not only evangelism but also discipleship.

Biblical importance of mission

God has a heart for mission

'The Lord does not want anyone to perish. Instead, He wants everyone to come to repentance.' (2 Peter 3:9)

Therefore, we will engage in mission, individually and together.

Jesus demonstrated mission

'The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.' (Luke 19:10)

Therefore, as followers of Jesus we will engage in the mission of salvation with our emphasis on Jesus.

Scripture commands mission

'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.' (Matthew 28:19-20)

Therefore, as obedient followers we must engage in mission.

Biblical priorities in mission

Spiritual has priority over social

Many fine organisations undertake community development programs. However, the priority of the church is spiritual development through preaching the Gospel.

‘Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.’ (Matthew 28:19-20)

‘The church in Jerusalem... were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria... Those who had been scattered preached the Word wherever they went.’ (Acts 8:1, 4)

Today’s priority continues to be spiritual. ‘Seek first God’s kingdom and His righteousness, and all those things will be given to you as well.’ (Matthew 6:33)

Therefore, our mission priorities are evangelism and church development.

Local has priority over foreign

Jesus highlighted the importance of witness at home. He sent those He healed back to their own homes. (Mark 9:15)

The priority of Jesus was to begin locally and work outward: ‘You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ (Acts 1:8)

We also note that our location is one of the most diverse areas, in the most multicultural nations on earth by the arrival of migrants and refugees.

Therefore, although local and foreign missions are both important, our first priority must be local mission.

Flexibility has priority over fixed

Jesus modelled an itinerant ministry, with an interest in many areas. Scripture allows us to follow Jesus across geographical, political, cultural and ethnic boundaries.

The apostles followed that same model, constantly crossing boundaries and moving mission teams into new locations.

New Testament churches did not focus on a single location, but maintained a broad and ever-changing perspective.

Therefore, our church will engage in mission in diverse locations. These locations will change over time.

Some avenues have priority over others

There were many widows in Israel, yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to the widow of Zarephath in Sidon. (Luke 4:25-26)

Jesus did not heal everyone, as evidenced by the apostles helping those that Jesus walked past. (Acts 3:1-10)

Therefore, even though we cannot help everyone, we can help some. Many legitimate requests for assistance may be rejected before we come to the ones we best serve.

Practical assistance in mission

Families are the primary carers of the needy

If anyone fails to provide for his own, and especially his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)

Therefore, counselling and training will be the first forms of wholistic assistance we give to equip individuals, families and groups to become self-sustaining.

Each church must care for their own needy

Practical assistance must first be offered to those within our own church.

The Jerusalem church offered food to its widows. (Acts 6:1)

The church is the primary recipient of care

As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:10)

Therefore, practical assistance must be offered to those outside the Christian community, but such help must never reduce the assistance given to those within our own church.

Partnership in mission

Cross-cultural mission will be in partnership

Cross-cultural mission must be conducted in partnership with reputable organisations that are in alignment with our church, and are accountable within their own structure.

Accountability

Accountability of LifeChurch Panania

We must hold ourselves accountable for the appropriate and lawful use of the resources that have been entrusted into our care.

‘It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.’ (1 Corinthians 4:2)

Therefore, our persons, processes and programs will be audited.

Accountability of Mission Partners

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (Romans 13:1)

We must conduct due diligence to ensure that prospective and existing Mission Partners' organisation/s and activities are conducted with good governance and according to applicable law.

Mission leadership team

Accountability of leaders

Biblically functional teams within the church support the primary mission of the church and its leaders. (Acts 6:3-4)

Mission leaders are primarily chosen because of their spiritual maturity and their ability to conduct their ministry within the context of the church (Acts 6:1-4).

Ministries function with small, united team of leaders (Acts 6:3)

Therefore, our mission leaders must be committed to practicing mission within the context of our church Strategic Plan, and Policies.

Integrity of leaders

'Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.' (Titus 2:7-8)

Therefore, in addition to submitting to our church leadership, Plan, and Policies, all members of mission teams are required to submit to a Working with Children Check / Police Check.

Terms of Reference

Mission teams are required to develop Terms of Reference that must be submitted to the church leadership Council for endorsement or revision. Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the mission team, for Council approval.

Terms of Reference will include:

- Purpose of the team

- Functions, using Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound goals

- Membership of the team, including its leadership

- Meetings: frequency, location, times

- Decision making

- Accountability and Reporting

- Dispute resolution

- Winding up

Policy adoption

This policy was adopted by the leadership of our church to function 2017-2021.