

World Mission Strategy

A Biblical basis

The requirement for the Church to be involved in World Mission is directed by the Bible, for example, in Jesus' Great Commission to his disciples: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19); "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8);

Again, by the Apostle Paul: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?" (Rom 10:14-15a).

What does World Mission mean for CBC?

World Mission has been described as "the *whole Church* taking the *whole gospel* to the *whole world*."¹

Whole Church: a concern for and participation in World Mission is for all Christians, not restricted to some individuals or certain parts of the Church.

Whole gospel: proclamation, Church support, and social action are important and integral parts of the whole gospel.

Whole world: the gospel is to be taken to "all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). *Note: given the context of World Mission, this strategy shall exclude evangelism in and around Christchurch, vital though that is, and shall focus on the wider world.*

The Biblical imperative for CBC today implies that:

- World Mission should be an inclusive concern of the whole Church family
- World Mission should be an integral part of the life of our Church
- World Mission should be an active part of that life
- We should aim to be involved in a cross-section of activities: the "whole gospel" to the "whole world".

Turning words into actions

World Mission should permeate our Church family's life, facilitated by the three elements of Education, Support and Participation.

a) Education

World Mission education should focus on the communication of information and of passion; it is a foundation for the other elements of support and participation. A programme of

¹ The Lausanne Covenant, John Stott (1975 and 2009)

regular World Mission education for the whole CBC family will use a variety of methods and media including:

- Inclusion within the regular preaching programme
- Visiting speakers
- World Mission focus events
- Website
- Display boards
- Literature

b) Support

We will identify and focus upon a number of individuals and mission organisations, which represent aspects of the “whole gospel” and the “whole world”, and which we will then commit to supporting. Ideally these will be ones with which CBC as a whole, or individuals within the Church, have links. Preference will be given to organisations within our wider denominational family, including the Baptist Union and BMS World Mission. Support will take the form of frequent information distribution, regular corporate prayer, opportunities to share at CBC services, and financial giving. Mission giving should be a sizeable part of the overall church budget as determined annually by Church Members.

c) Participation

To be a Church that mirrors the one of the New Testament, we will aim to identify, encourage and support individuals, families and teams who have the calling, gifts and skills to participate in World Mission, either by going, short term or long term, to different parts of the world, or in a UK-based supporting role. Every 2 or 3 years, we will aim to organise and send a short-term CBC team to one of our support areas.

Taking the strategy forward

CBC leadership and the ministry team are accountable for the outworking of the World Mission strategy, but CBC has established a World Mission Team (WMT) that brings together, from within the church family, a small number of individuals with a passion for World Mission in order to take forward elements of the strategy into the life of the church, and to periodically report back progress to leadership and church members.