
Missionary Support

Broadstone Baptist Church

3 June 2015

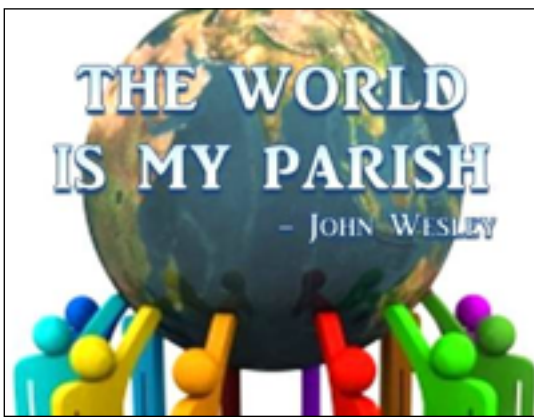


Introduction

God's goal is that His glory be known globally and for all peoples to see his glory and delight in it. We see that in scripture in places like Psalm 67:

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! (Psalm 67:1–3, ESV)

That means that as a church we are to be committed to seeing the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread throughout the world. We aren't to be just concerned about what happens here in Broadstone but what happens globally.



That may mean becoming a sending church and we ought to be praying for and encouraging and looking and equipping people to go to the mission field.

It will certainly mean supporting global mission prayerfully and financially.

This document sets out what that support should look like.

Who we will support

We recognise that missionary work will take different forms depending on the countries and people groups being reached.

Some places are open to the Gospel and that means that missionaries are able to openly and publicly preach the Gospel. Other places are closed to the Gospel and missionaries need to be much more subtle in the way they reach people for Christ.

Having said that, we will support those whose heart is to see people transformed by the power of the Gospel. We will support those whose desire is to let people know the good news about Jesus, whether that is able to be done through open evangelism and Gospel preaching or more subtly through works of mercy, which open the door to speaking about Jesus.



We will also support those who agree with our statement of faith and our church ethos and who we would be willing to take into church membership.

How we will support

Missionary support is much more than giving some money every few months. Missionary support involves building a relationship with those we support. A relationship of trust. A relationship built in Christ and the Gospel. A relationship built through communication and prayer. Missionary support is about Gospel partnerships.

We therefore, will commit to building Gospel partnerships with missionaries.



We will commit to seeking the welfare of those we support by keeping in contact with them to know what their needs are, keeping them and their needs before the church on a regular basis and regularly praying for them. For this to happen we need our missionaries to give us regular updates, at least every other month and more often as needs arise.

We will commit to seeking the welfare of our missionaries by setting aside 20% of the churches income and distributing it among those we support according to their needs.

We recognise that all of this will take resources. We don't want to support more missionaries than we can faithfully build relationships with. That means we will have to limit the number of missionaries we support. As a general guide we can only sensibly support one missionary/missionary family for every ten church members.

How long we will support

We recognise that within church life and missions things change over time and therefore it may become necessary to withdraw support.

We will, therefore, make this commitment for an initial period of five years subject to the reasons for not supporting as listed below. After this five year we will review our support. If we feel we are unable to continue to support that missionary then we will give them notice of one

year, except in the case of un-repentant moral failure or theological shift that directly affects the Gospel.

Reason's for not supporting would be:

- They are no longer involved in missions or have changed the work they we were doing
- A shift in theology of the missionary or the society that the missionary works with, which directly affects the Gospel or is in contradiction to the church's statement of faith and ethos.
- There has been a moral failure on the part of the missionary.
- The church is no longer financially able to support to the level it has been.

We recognise the seriousness of withdrawing support and this will only take place after seeking the Lord in prayer and consultation with the missionary and the Society they work with.

For an on behalf of Broadstone Baptist ChurchPastor Tim Gamston.....



Church Statement of Faith

The Church is a member of the FIEC and holds to the following:

1. God

There is one God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is unchangeable in his holiness, justice, wisdom and love. He is the almighty Creator; Saviour and Judge who sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will for his own glory.

2. The Bible



God has revealed himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

3. The Human Race

All men and women, being created in the image of God, have inherent and equal dignity and worth. Their greatest purpose is to obey, worship and love God. As a result of the fall of our first parents, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted and all men and women are without spiritual life, guilty sinners and hostile to God. Every person is therefore under the just condemnation of God and needs to be born again, forgiven and reconciled to God in order to know and please him.

4. The Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. He taught with authority and all his words are true. On the cross he died in the place of sinners, bearing God's punishment for their sin, redeeming them by his blood. He rose from the dead and in his resurrection body ascended into heaven where he is exalted as Lord of all. He intercedes for his people in the presence of the Father.

5. Salvation

Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. It has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ and is offered to all in the gospel. God in his love forgives sinners whom he calls, granting them repentance and faith. All who believe in Christ are justified by faith alone, adopted into the family of God and receive eternal life.

6. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply his work of salvation. He convicts sinners, imparts spiritual life and gives a true understanding of the Scriptures. He indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ. He builds up the Church and empowers its members for worship, service and mission.

7. The Church

The universal Church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong. It is made visible in local churches, which are congregations of believers who are committed to each other for the worship of God, the preaching of the Word, the administering of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; for pastoral care and discipline, and for evangelism. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within and between churches by mutual love, care and encouragement. True fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel.

8. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Baptism and the Lord's Supper have been given to the churches by Christ as visible signs of the gospel. Baptism is a symbol of union with Christ and entry into his Church but does not impart spiritual life. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice offered once for all and involves no change in the bread and wine. All its blessings are received by faith.

9. The Future

The Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory. He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new and will be glorified forever.