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Compass Christian Church

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Compass Missions Handbook

Our desire is to wisely participate with God's global mission in a way that involves as many members of Compass as possible. To that end, our focus is to develop

Partnerships with trusted missionaries and mission organizations and provide

Pathways for Compass people to get involved in mission so that they

Engage in missions at the capacity God has given them and

Experience God's presence and power in cross-cultural settings

Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I commanded you.

- Jesus, Matthew 28:19-20



We believe God has called us to specifically focus on **five** areas in the world

1. India
2. Mexico
3. Uganda
4. New England
5. DFW

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!'

- Romans 10:14-15

We also believe there are **five** kinds of work we are called to do

1. At-Risk Children
2. Church Planting
3. Poverty Alleviation
4. Leadership Training
5. Bible Translation

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

- Ephesians 2:10

We have **three** key partner organizations

1. Pioneer Bible Translators
2. Central India Christian Mission
3. The Orchard Group



Our methods of mission vary but there are some fundamental things that Compass does to engage in mission:

Prayer Work: We want our mission partners to know that we will pray for them in a passionate and disciplined way. It is our belief that the Holy Spirit is the one who accomplishes His work and we want to participate with Him in prayer.

Short-Term Trips: We want to get Compass people on-site so that they have both an emotional and physical connection to the ministries where we partner.

Financial Support: “How can they preach unless they are sent?” Direct support mission work is as old as the Apostle Paul (at least). We will wisely invest financial resources to enable missionaries to do the work.

Reciprocity: We want our mission partners to pray about and develop ways that they can serve Compass as well. This might seem selfish at first, but we believe that true partnership only exists where there is both dignity and sacrificial love from both parties. The opportunities for this vary greatly but we are all called to give and love in a sacrificial way.

Local Outreach: the Dallas/Fort Worth Area is home to people from across the globe. We will do all that we can to reach out to the people God has brought to our doorstep. Besides the world coming to us, we have thousands of people in our backyard who need the practical help that missions can bring.

Our other methods may change and each year will look different programmatically, but these five elements are the backbone of our work. All of these methods are to be done in community and partnership, focused on helping people get to know Jesus in a personal way. We want people to be discipled and taught how to obey all the things that Christ commanded us. We then want to see people use their gifts and resources to teach others as well.

*...because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace
- Luke 1:78-79*



How Compass Missions Chooses Partners:

1. Theological Unity - they must share the basics of the statement of faith that Compass has declared. See <https://goo.gl/Vp5H4P> for this.
2. Similar Areas, Methods and Focus - they must share at least one of the main areas of work that Compass has stated (see above).
3. Established Connection to Compass - We want this to be a true partnership so we expect there to be people that are known and trusted members of Compass who can participate in the work.
4. Holy Spirit Involvement - while we do want to be focused, we will not ignore the Holy Spirit's moving. However, we believe this is a gentle and loving process. Guilt, need and passion are not the same as calling.
5. Demonstrated, Effective Work - we want to see best practices and effective work for the context and mission.
6. A Clear Pathway for Reciprocal Partnership – there *must* be a clear way to see how your organization will serve Compass.

The Process for Missionaries and Organizations who want to partner with Compass Missions

1. Pray that God would lead you and Compass to a mutual understanding - we want all that we do to be led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. If you think God is leading you to partner with us, you should then
2. Establish a theological platform - make sure that you know what Compass believes and that you can honestly agree with those things. Be able to demonstrate that your work and your theology match.
3. Demonstrate that your work matches our areas, methods and focus as much as possible - they must share at least one of the main areas of work that Compass has stated (see above).
4. Show your personal connection to Compass - We want this to be a true partnership so we expect there to be people that are known and trusted members of Compass who can participate in the work.
5. Fill out the online application on the Compass Missions webpage – please focus on how your organization will serve the people of Compass.
6. A probationary period of one to three years is the cycle for a mission project or partner. If, during that time, we develop a healthy, reciprocal relationship, we will consider moving that to a longer-term partnership. This is not assumed.

Additional Information on Mission Partnerships

1. We *do not* use the “foundation” model of mission financing. That model is a donor/services model. Our model is that of a reciprocal partnership. This means that unless a mission or missionary can demonstrate a viable, reciprocal relationship to Compass, we will not support or consider the request. There are exceptions to this for one-time gifts or for times of emergencies. But no long-term agreements will come for donation-based models.
2. We will not respond to “cold” appeals. Facebook, information packets and first-time phone calls will not be treated as viable partners. Developing relationships is a singularly key issue. Contact the Missions office or the Missions Pastor to discuss meeting with us for the possibility of partnership.
3. We evaluate *all of our partners* on a regular, ongoing basis to ensure that our key issues are in place (areas, methodology, partnership expectations). Our rubrics revolve around our core areas and methods. We also will pray diligently and seek God’s voice. This is not “Christian-ese.” This is a methodology for us.
4. We will evaluate all requests and give one of three answers: We will not support you right now but we will pray for you; We will give you a one-time gift; We want to explore partnership with you.
5. Early partnerships are usually done at a lower financial rate. With established partnerships we try to increase partnership capacity on all levels.
6. After the original partnership time-line is over, we will evaluate our partnership and set up a new time-line with the missionary or organization.
7. There will be occasions when we decide to stop supporting missionaries or mission organizations. No partnership is loving or wise without a healthy way to choose to seek different paths. If Compass decides to do this, we will give people at least six months of notification before funds are stopped. On occasion we may reduce the amount by a percentage over a multi-year time line. We do reserve the right to stop support if we believe a sinful or unethical issue is happening.