

Morningview Baptist Church Missions Action Plan

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Proposed to the Pastors by the Missions Ministry Team

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1.0 The Mission of the Church

1.1 Morningview Missions Statement

The following is our church's mission statement: *Morningview Baptist Church exists to pursue intimacy with God above all else and to join Him in declaring His glory and advancing His kingdom among all peoples.*

1.2 The Bible as One Story

Morningview Baptist Church's mission statement correctly reflects God's redemptive plan for mankind from the beginning of the Old Testament and throughout the entire Bible. God's desire to disciple *all nations* is well known from the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, but the original Great Commission is actually found in Genesis. God's calling and blessing of Abraham in Genesis 12 is for *all nations* to be blessed.

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you ***all the families of the earth*** (emphasis added) shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:1-3, ESV)

In Genesis 12, God chooses and blesses Abraham in order for him to be a blessing to all of the families of the earth. This theme is continued in Genesis 18:18 which says, "Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him."

God's redemptive design for all nations can be seen also from the servant songs of Isaiah. For example, in the servant song of Isaiah 49:1-7, sometimes called the Great Commission of the Old Testament, God says that the Lord is to be a light to *all nations*.

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)

This is a common theme throughout the Old Testament. This theme of the redemption of mankind is even more evident in the New Testament. The five Great Commission texts (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-18, Luke 24:44-49, John 20:21-23, and Acts 1:8), which make God's redemptive plan clear, are only the starting point of this theme in the New

Testament. It is clear from these texts that God intends Christians to take the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to ***every nation, tribe, people, and tongue, and to disciple them to become responsible and spiritually reproducing members of a local church.*** It is clear from the command to make disciples that our missions work should be intentionally focused on the end goal of making disciples and planting churches.

The Bible also reveals to us how the story will end. It tells us that the redeemed of Christ will gather around His throne in worship, and it tells us who will be counted as part of the redeemed. Scripture tells us this in Revelation 5:9 and 7:9.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:9-10)

The great multitude gathered around the throne and before the lamb will include people from “every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.” In other words, there will be people from every nation or ethnic group numbered among the redeemed. Praise be to God that he will sovereignly call people from every nation to himself and that he uses sinners such as us to accomplish that purpose!

Understanding the Bible as one story helps us to understand that missions and the church are two things that cannot be separated. Missions is not just another ministry of the church but should permeate every ministry of the church. Churches are not to be only supporting missionaries and agencies but should be working alongside with and sending missionaries.

1.3 The Glory of God and the Worship of His Name

To quote the first answer of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy him forever.” This idea was probably best articulated by the great preacher theologian Jonathan Edwards in *The End For Which God Created the World* (1765). Missions at Morningview Baptist Church (MBC) is driven by the chief end for which God created us—that is, to glorify God. God is glorified through the praises of his people.

As the bride of Christ, the church must share in God’s passion for himself. If we do not share this passion for his glory, our zeal for missions will be weaker than what it should be. We must have a passion for God’s glory. The result of this passion will be a zeal for missions. At the center of the missionary enterprise must be the supremacy of God. God desires to have his name made great among the nations. Our passion for the supremacy of God should drive us to take the gospel to the nations.

The goal of missions is worship. As John Piper said, “Missions exists because worship does not.” We want to see God praised among all the nations. Based on Malachi 1:11, we believe that God’s name will be made great among the nations.

For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 1:11)

God’s name “**will** be great among the nations.” Our God is sovereign and will accomplish his purposes. Our passion for God’s glory should drive us to be involved in God glorifying himself among the nations and being worshipped by all nations.

Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Praise the LORD! (Psalm 117: 1-2)

God’s desire is to be worshipped by all ethno-linguistic groups—all nations! Love for our fellow man should be an outpouring of our desire to see God glorified and worshiped among the nations. The reasons for this are two-fold: our affections should be in line with God’s affections as well as His commands to us to take the gospel to all nations. We should not do this out of duty but out of our love for our Lord and Savior.

1.4 What about Acts 1:8?

Another place in the New Testament where this common theme of discipling all nations is explicitly stated is Acts 1:8. Acts 1:8 is unique in that it explicitly mentions geographic areas to which the disciples were to take the gospel.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

The geographic areas mentioned in Acts 1:8 are Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the end of the earth. This is how many have broken the down the geographic areas in Acts 1:8 and have used it as a strategy for their local church’s missions policy.

| Acts 1:8 Strategy | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Jerusalem | Local Missions |
| Judea | State Missions |
| Samaria | National Missions |
| End of the Earth | International Missions |

This strategy for the local church is not without merit, and it includes areas which the church should target as it seeks to be intentionally involved in the Great Commission. However, although there is nothing inherently wrong with the strategy itself, it is not based on a correct interpretation of Acts 1:8. The “Jerusalem = your church’s home town = local missions” interpretation and application of this text is an exegetical fallacy. We know from Acts 2:6-7 that Jerusalem was not the disciples’ hometown for they were Galileans. How then are we to interpret the geographical references in Acts 1:8 if the traditionally accepted interpretation is not correct? Why did Jesus tell them to start in Jerusalem? The preceding verse in Acts 2 is key to understanding this.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? (Acts 2:5-7)

The disciples were out of their hometowns and were in Jerusalem. In Jerusalem there were “devout [Jews] from every nation under heaven.” (Acts 2:5) Therefore, it is likely that the reason Jesus had his disciples start in Jerusalem was that there were God-fearing Jews from every nation on the earth in Jerusalem, and they would be the ones that God would use to take the gospel to all nations starting in Judea, and then to Samaria, and lastly to the end of the earth. God did not plant the disciples in their hometown but in the most strategic place for Him to carry out his plan to bless the nations.

So what are we to make of the geographical references in Acts 1:8? Based on our interpretation of this text, how are we to geographically order our missions strategy? It is clear that we are to make disciples of all nations but the geographical boundaries are not clear. It appears as though the target locations are to be strategic rather than geographic. A truth that we can apply from the verse is that we should make disciples of all nations as we go wherever we go. We should make disciples of all nations wherever we go whether we are in our home town or out of state or out of the country. If we are called to be professionals overseas we should reach the nations. If we are planted in Montgomery, Alabama, we should be reaching the nations, or the internationals, that God has placed at our doorstep.

1.5 Unreached People Group Focus

What does this mean for Morningview and our Great Commission strategy? Wherever we go, we should make disciples of all nations no matter where we are. How then shall we focus our efforts on the Great Commission? God’s desire from Genesis 12 through Revelation is to be worshipped by people of all nations. As we seek to be more intentionally missional, we should focus our efforts on those of other ethno-linguistic groups. That is not to say that we do not practice mercy ministries or local evangelistic efforts but it is to say that missions should have a major component that focuses on the nations.

Even within this category of all nations there are many subgroups. (1) There are people groups that have a significant gospel presence which many would call evangelized because greater than 2% of the population are considered evangelical believers (Evangelized People Group). (2) There are some people groups that are not evangelized because less than 2% of the population profess faith in Christ, but there is a gospel presence (Unevangelized People Group). (3) There are also some people groups that are unreached and have no opportunity to hear the gospel because there is no Christian work being done among them (Unengaged/Unreached People Group). Since God's desire is to be worshipped by all nations, any nation that does not have a gospel presence should be a priority. We should also be intentional about reaching those peoples where, although there is a gospel presence, the number of believers is small. Lastly, reached peoples also have large numbers of unsaved and are in need of workers to co-labor with indigenous people who can provide theological training for church leaders. The focus can be broken down in the following order of priority. They are broken down by priority and not importance.

| Acts 1:8 Strategy | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Unengaged/Unreached Peoples | No gospel presence/No opportunity to hear the gospel |
| Unevangelized Peoples | Less than 2% Christian but has gospel presence |
| Evangelized Peoples | Over 2% Christian |
| Internationals | Local residents of other people groups |

Notice that all of the categories are of other nations. God's heart is for the nations and we must be focused on the task. We must also remember that God has sent internationals to our local communities from other nations. Local internationals should be a priority for us to reach and disciple. They are the nations at our doorstep. In a sense, by God sending the nations to our hometowns, He has made all of our towns another Jerusalem.

There are still other ways in which to break down the strategy. Another way to break down the nations of the world could be by access by missionaries. Some countries are open to missionaries and some are not. We would say that those that are open to missionaries are open access and those that are closed to missionaries are restricted access. By categorizing the nations in this way, our church could ensure that we do not overlook peoples who are under restrictive governments or closed to the gospel. The main point is that the church have a people group strategy that is intentional.

1.6 Key Principles for Morningview Missions

1. Worship is the primary motivation for missions
2. Our God works for people who wait on him. He does not need us but works for us for his glory. (Isa. 30:18, Isa. 64:4, Acts 17:25, Mark 10:45, Matt 11:28-30)

3. Missions is not a recruitment project but a liberation project from the yokes of other gods. Our goal is to send truth, not missionaries. There is no God like ours. (Isa. 46:1-4, Jer 10:5)
4. We are to rejoice and be glad in God. (Ps. 97:1; 67:3-4; 69:32; 70:4)
5. God glorifies himself (Ps 37:4).
6. We should, as Christians, rejoice when God is glorified and his name is exalted in other nations. (Mark 8:34-35; 2 Cor 4:17, Rom 8:18)
7. God will make his name great with or without us. (Mal 1:11)
8. The church was founded for this purpose. (Acts 13:2)
9. We exist and bear fruit only because of his grace (John 15:16)
10. God is not served by human hands (Acts 17:25)
11. The senior pastor must be the key influencer for the cause of global missions.
12. The church must intentionally develop a purpose and strategy to be effective in participating in God's global cause.
13. Missions mobilization is a process in which MBC will continually work to be more effective.
14. Every church member must respond to God's call to be involved in carrying out the great commission. Not everyone is called to go as a career missionary but everyone is called to be involved. (3 John 8)
15. MBC must be focused on making reproducing disciples in all nations. (Matt 28:18-20)
16. Spirit of cooperation with other Great Commission Christians is an essential element in missions strategy.
17. Missions is a natural result of us desiring what God desires; that is, for God to be worshiped among all nations.
18. Compassion for the lost is a result of our primary motivation for missions (Rom 10:13-15)

2.0 Why a MAP is Necessary

Tom Julien, in his book Antioch Revisited: Reuniting the Church with Her Mission, sets forth the idea of a MAP, or Mission Action Plan. What does a map show us? It shows us three things: where we are, where we want to go, and how to get there. We must first identify where we are. Where we are with respect to missions is what our church is doing now to participate in world missions. After determining where we are currently, we can determine where we want to go—that is, where we want to see our church's missions involvement *in the future*. After determining the starting point and the goal, we can establish a plan for getting to that goal. We know that God is sovereign and is in complete control of accomplishing his purposes regardless of what we plan.

The heart of man plans his way,
but the LORD establishes his steps. (Proverbs 16:9)

Although God will establish our steps, it is our responsibility to make a plan so that we have a clearly laid out process for reaching our goal of complete missions involvement.

Without a map we will be endlessly wandering, and without a goal we will never reach it. The remainder of this document will lay out these three components of a MAP.

3.0 The Current Situation

3.1 Missions Ministry Team

The Missions Ministry Team (MMT) helps steer the church's missions focus in being obedient to all components of the Great Commission. The MMT is accountable for the administration of MBC's Missions Ministry, under the authority and approval of the Pastors. The MMT members are appointed by and operated under the direction of the Lay Pastor for Missions and approved by the Senior Pastor. Currently there are 5 MMT members and the team meets approximately every other month.

3.2 Prayer

The following prayer resources are made available to members of MBC: Prayer Points, Operation World, Wednesday Window on the World, and Prayer Guides for our short term mission teams. We are providing these resources to make our church aware of the missions prayer needs and various unreached people groups that need work begun among them.

In 2009 our church began praying together through Operation World for the many ethnic groups of the world and the countries where they live. A prayer guide with specific international missions requests is available each week at Wednesday prayer meeting and the IMB publication *Prayer Points* is made available each month through the Sunday School. Presently we have no regular congregational seasons of prayer and fasting specifically for unreached people groups or restricted access countries.

3.3 Going

For the past three years an encouraging number of people have gone on the short-term mission trips organized by MBC. At the same time there is potential and opportunity for more of our members to go on short-term missions. It is imperative that we cultivate a "going" mentality, whether that means short or long-term service. We must remain open to the Lord's ever present call "whom shall I send, and who will go for us." We must be willing to go ourselves and to let go of those who need to be going. At present we have no full-time missionaries from our church serving on the field. But long-term service can and should start where we are presently serving (Acts 13:2).

3.4 Sending

For the past several years our church has sent a short-term mission team to Ecuador. The main focus there has been children's ministry but an opportunity for pastoral training may be emerging. In 2008 we sent a team to Japan to assist Tak Oue with evangelistic literature distribution and prayer walking. In 2009 another team will go to Ecuador as well as two smaller teams which will go to Indonesia. One group will work in an orphanage and the other will teach ESL.

When sending short term teams, MBC provides prayer support, financial support, and pre-trip training to church members being sent. The team members are formally recognized in a worship service.

3.5 Giving

It is very important for MBC to be involved in missions through financial support as well. This is important particularly for the IMB. 82% of the IMB's income comes from the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Southern Baptist churches can confidently give to the IMB knowing that 68% of its expenditures go to supporting overseas expenses. MBC currently gives 11.5% to the Cooperative Program.

According to Bob Sjogren's book, Run With the Vision, 96 cents out of every dollar goes back into churches in the U.S. while only one cent goes everywhere else. The contemporary church in American needs to hear again the words of Christ that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35), particularly with regard to giving to missions. Currently our church has two main offerings for missions each year (Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong). In 2008 we gave \$21,500 toward our goal of \$28,000 for international missions through Lottie Moon. Our goal for the 2009 Annie Armstrong offering for North American missions is \$12,000. In addition to these offerings the church makes significant contributions to the short-term mission teams each year.

3.6 Persecuted Church

The *International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church* takes place on the second Sunday of November every year. Thousands of churches across the world participate in praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering for His name. A comprehensive missions program must include ministry to the persecuted church as a component.

Great numbers of Christians around the world face persecution and death for their faith on a regular basis. There are an estimated 167,000 Christian martyrs every year which translates into one Christian being killed for their faith approximately every three minutes. The number of martyrs has increased dramatically over the last 100 years, jumping from 34,400 to 167,000 annually. By 2025 an average of 210,000 Christians are expected to be martyred every year.

God tells us to “Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.” (Hebrews 13:3 NASB) Often times in America, Christians feel like they are persecuted for their faith, but they really don’t experience persecution to any serious or even intermediate degree. Approximately 200 million Christians in over 60 countries are persecuted for their faith. The local church must actively pray for them and be obedient to Hebrews 13:3.

MBC is currently focused on the persecuted church through participation in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) in November each year. In the last two years we have had a mission’s speaker in the Sunday Morning service that focuses on the historical and current persecution in the Church universal. We have also organized a 24-hour prayer vigil on that day which focuses on specific areas of persecution around the world. In addition, MBC has had a representative from Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) speak at a Tapestry meeting to educate the ladies in our church about persecution and tangible ways VOM serves persecuted women around the world.

3.7 Missions Education

Before a local church can get its members involved in missions, it must educate the body about missions. Although the pastor may not be intimately involved in the details of the missions education program, he must be its biggest champion for the church to have a passion for missions.

MBC’s missions education program includes an annual missions conference. The first annual conference was held in March 2008 and featured David Sills of Southern Seminary. The 2009 missions conference is scheduled to coincide with the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church in November. In addition to the missions conference, Morningview’s MIT program has offered several missions classes including Missiology and World Religions. Our children also have a missions education program which is called G321 Missions and an annual missions lock-in called Plugged-In. In 2007, the G321 Missions emphasis was on the biblical basis for missions. The 2008 G321 emphasis was on the THUMB peoples of the World (Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious, Muslim, and Buddhist). Another avenue of missions education in our church is reading and praying through Patrick Johnstone’s Operation World, which we are doing in 2009.

Another very important way to open people’s eyes to missions is to invite missionaries to report on their work. Missionaries should be invited to speak whenever possible. Some churches will go an entire year without having a missionary speak. Absence of missionaries speaking in the local church represents a misunderstanding of the importance of the Great Commission and shows that it takes a back seat to other programs or ministries. We have recently had missionaries such as Gerald Burch speak, as well as missionaries in restricted-access countries.

3.8 Reaching Local Internationals

There are numerous avenues in which to engage internationals right in our own city. The immediate challenge for us is to go to those on our doorstep, and as the Lord leads, to those in other countries. MBC is currently intentionally targeting only one distinct group of local internationals: Laotians. We have been involved with encouraging, facilitating, and discipling Laotians for about 20 years through Sunday school and the establishment of the Lao New Life Baptist Church in Chisholm. We currently are discipling the Lao New Life Baptist Church leadership on a weekly basis.

3.9 Orphan Care

MBC is currently focused on developing Orphan Care through educating the congregation on God's heart for the fatherless, widows and orphans. As we reflect on our vertical adoption in and through Christ, we are convinced through scripture that our church must be a living example of God's adoption of His children. Horizontally, our church should be committed to offer ourselves as God's extension of compassion to the fatherless. We are blessed with this wonderful opportunity to glorify God through this scriptural mandate.

In James 1:27, God defines pure religion in the context of orphan care: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Not only has God commanded that His people care for those in need, but He has also ordained and modeled the institution of adoption. Anyone who has placed his or her trust in Christ has been adopted into God's family, through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Ephesians 1:4b -5 tells us: "...In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will...."

Caring for the fatherless does not simply consist of compassionate and kind acts. Rather, caring for the fatherless is at the very heart of God. Caring for the fatherless is about obedience—it is about knowing the character of the great God whom we serve.

Morningview Baptist's Orphan Care Ministry seeks to:

***Educate** families on the plight of the orphan and the Christian's call to care for the orphan as mandated in the Word.*

***Encourage** families as they journey through the adoption process.*

***Equip** families as they consider adoption by providing resources for the adoption process and beyond.*

***Engage** families in becoming involved in orphan care through advocacy and mission opportunities both locally and internationally.*

Joy Portis will attend the Christian Alliance For Orphans conference in Texas on April 30th & May 1st to discover some ways that God is caring for orphans around the world through His people. Through this educational opportunity, Joy will gather information to provide to MBC about adoption ministry opportunities. This conference will provide tangible steps that MBC can take to love the orphan in our homes, our church and through trusted organizations.

David Hardgrave is preparing to teach a discipleship course on adoption/orphan care and the biblical mandate for all believers to be involved. David will use the new Russell Moore book, Adopted for Life, to facilitate this course. In addition to this MIT course, Joy Portis is scheduled to speak at Tapestry on April 18, 2009, on the issue of orphan care.

4.0 The 2010 Goal

4.1 Missions Ministry Team

As previously stated, the MMT steers the church's missions focus in being obedient to all components of the Great Commission. The MMT is accountable for the administration of MBC's Missions Ministry, under the authority and approval of the Pastors. All newly appointed members will be approved by the senior pastor must be an alumni of Perspectives or have equivalent experience. All members are expected to attend all meetings or notify the Lay Missions Pastor prior to the meeting. All MMT members are also expected to participate in all missions events.

4.2 Prayer

Jesus taught and modeled the necessity of prayer for the Father's missionary enterprise. He prayed the entire night before choosing His first apostles (Lk. 6:12). During their training period He commanded them to pray earnestly for the Father to send out others into His harvest (Mt. 9:38). Prayer was instrumental in the early church with regard to missions as well (Acts 13:2-3). Paul entreated the churches to pray for him and his team members as he ministered the gospel (Rom. 15:30-31; Eph. 6:19-20; Col. 4:3; 1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1). Our goal for 2010 is to have established regular seasons of congregational, cottage, and individual prayer and fasting for the nations and to provide additional resources to facilitate missions focused prayer.

4.3 Going

Without setting arbitrary numerical goals, in 2010 we would like to add an additional missions trip. We would like to see MBC send an additional missions team to work cross-culturally among an international focus group (i.e. another people group)

somewhere in the United States. This would potentially increase the number of trips from two to three. The trips would be as follows.

1. Open Access People Group
2. Restricted Access Unreached People Group
3. North American International Focus Group

4.4 Sending

MBC participates in sending through these conduits: finances, prayer, commissioning, organization/administration, training. When short term teams are sent, we would like to see the missions team set aside through a formal commissioning service for the teams (Acts 13:3). The church needs to conduct a screening process that recognizes present character qualities, ministry involvement, and training as prerequisites.

Our goal for 2010 is to adopt at least one unengaged people group and begin efforts to send missionaries to them from our congregation. An initial goal is to send a short-term team. The long-term goal is to send those who will serve long-term on the field.

Missiologists state that 98% of missionaries who are sent go to countries where the church already exists. Only 2% go to the unreached world. Our goal for 2010 is to adopt an unreached people group and begin efforts to send missionaries to them from our congregation. The first step in the process is to send a team on an investigative trip to gain information and make contact with people of peace. The IMB is able and willing to facilitate this process. Another goal for 2010 is to have financial support for short-term mission teams as a specified part of the annual church budget.

4.5 Giving

There are other ways to give to missions besides the IMB. There are other missions organizations and faith missionaries who need support. MBC also has the opportunity and responsibility to financially support short term missions teams. It is important to keep the financial needs and missions expenditures before the church. The church should do what it can to assist church members who desire to go on mission in coming up with the funds to go.

Giving goals for 2010 include providing opportunities to give individually and congregationally to missions in addition to Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong, and a special ingathering for refurbishing the missions house.

4.6 Persecuted Church

MBC desires to continue its focus upon the persecuted church through its participation in the IDOP in November each year. We also desire to increase our focus by providing informational and prayer opportunities throughout the entire year. Some of these opportunities would include but not be limited to: a video update of persecution on a quarterly basis in a Sunday evening service, encouragement for every Sunday school class to pick a region of the world and update its members monthly on religious persecution, following that update with prayer, and devoting one Wednesday evening service *prayer time* every quarter to praying exclusively for the persecuted church.

4.7 Missions Education

MBC will continue to emphasize the existing methods of missions education. We will continue to have various missionaries speak on a regular basis. We will continue with the annual Global Missions Conference, and we will try to give it greater emphasis. We recommend that MBC host a Digging Deeper conference with Unveiling Glory to educate leaders in the church further on missions. The MMT recommends that a minimum of \$3000 be set aside for the annual missions conference in the budget in order to grow the conference and for it to be a major focus in the life of the church.

There is likely to be an Encountering the World of Islam class in Montgomery in the fall of 2009. Sometimes called Perspectives on Islam, this class is modeled after Perspectives but its focus is to help believers to reach out to Muslims. We recommend that MBC provide a commitment of financial support in the form of rebates for those who may not be able to afford the class. The class will cost about \$250 per student.

Another way of providing ongoing missions education is by providing periodicals and keeping missions before MBC members. This is done visually through a missions bulletin board. We recommend a missions display area be set up where missions periodicals and resources are available and where mementos of past missions trips can be kept before church member's eyes through the use of curios.

4.8 Reaching Local Internationals

MBC first desires to increase its involvement in targeting the Laotian community in Montgomery (estimated 200-300 families) through increased participation in the discipleship of the Lao New Life Baptist Church leadership. Specifically, in the areas of discipling and encouraging Lao men and women, development of church covenant and by-laws, increased prayer focus on the Laotian needs, and under God's leadership helping them find a new pastor. By the end of 2010, MBC desires to see the Lao New Life Baptist Church as a self-sustaining, self-reproducing church.

Secondly, MBC desires to investigate the distribution of internationals living in Montgomery and the surrounding area in support of selecting a specific people group to target for 2010. This investigation should be focused on but not limited to the following

areas: population, percent evangelized, other church and para-church involvement, and religious background. By the end of 2010, MBC desires to have a comprehensive strategy developed for reaching the selected people group's members already residing in our area.

Church members can fill internationals' need for friendship and acceptance by intentionally including them in fellowship and activities. Most internationals not only want to learn English but also want to learn American culture and customs. During major holidays when most college students go home to celebrate with their families, internationals are often alone at school, thousands of miles away from home.

Christians opening their homes to internationals during holidays not only alleviates some of their loneliness, but it also is attractive to them since it provides an opportunity to see American customs, American food, American families interacting, and most importantly to them, an American home! Many internationals travel to America and never get to go into an American home. This is disappointing for them because that is usually one of their "top ten" things they would like to do while they are in the U.S.

These cultural events naturally open the door for sharing the gospel. Christians can invite an international friend over for Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas, Easter, etc. and then share the gospel as they explain why and how Americans celebrate these holidays.

Another opportunity to minister to internationals is through offering English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. This is something that all internationals are interested in. ESL classes are like magnets for internationals, and ESL provides such a great opportunity to reach out to people and show them Christ's love.

In order to teach ESL one simply must know English and then attend a certification course. A certification course is set up at the MBC for April 23-25. This is a great way to meet a need and create an open door for the gospel. This class should be promoted heavily by the senior pastor.

4.9 Orphan Care

As our congregation hears about God's heart for orphans and our mandate to care for them, I am excited to think of what the future holds for MBC. We are exploring all aspects of orphan care. We are confident that God will bless MBC's faithfulness.

Some orphan care possibilities include:

- *Foster Care training offered at MBC
- *A support group for foster families in the church/community
- *Prayer partners for local children in foster care
- *Adoption Resource Library
- *Financial support for members of the congregation adopting

- *Adoption support group
- *Develop a permanent relationship with an international orphanage to visit, pray for, minister to and possibly adopt from.
- *Adopt a local group home
- *Volunteer at the Adullam House on a regular basis
- *Host an Orphan Care/Adoption Conference

MBC seeks to minister to orphans through prayer, missions, awareness, education, adoption and advocacy.

The MMT strongly supports orphan care and adoption. We believe that this is an area of ministry that churches have neglected in past years. We believe that MBC should adopt and incorporate the ideas and plans in the MAP with respect to orphan care. However, biblically we believe that this should fall under the care and oversight of deacons who are also caring for the widows. While this does not fall under our biblical definition of missions, we fully embrace orphan care and ask the pastors to incorporate orphan care into the existing ministry performed by the deacon body.

4.10 People Group Adoption

It is important for a church to adopt an unreached or unevangelized people group. The local church will be involved in the evangelization of the selected people group. The level of interest in missions by individuals in the church will increase with personal contact between them and the missionaries working with the selected people group. Education specifically on the adopted people group will also increase people's interest in them and will increase their prayer for that people group. For example, anytime that people group (or a country where the adopted people group resides) is mentioned in the news, church members will be reminded that they have adopted those people and should pray for them. It will also lead to conversations amongst church members regarding the adopted people group.

In addition to adopting an unreached people group, MBC should adopt an ***unengaged people group***. This is an unreached people group which has no Christian presence and no Christian work being done among them. We recommend that MBC adopt one of the following unengaged people groups immediately.

- Southern Zaza also known as Dimli Kurd of Turkey (1,500,000)
- Musi of Sumatra (600,000)
- Qizilbash of Afghanistan (287,000)
- Laurowan of Afghanistan (224,000)

MBC should register their commitment to adopt one of these groups with the IMB and begin researching and intentionally praying for the kingdom of God to spread among the adopted people group.

4.11 Missionary Care

MBC desires to increase mission awareness and care for those God has chosen and set apart for the expansion of His Kingdom around the world. Specifically, we desire to renovate the property in front of the bus barn on Calhoun for the purpose of providing housing for missionary families who are home on stateside assignment. Some of the tangible tasks which are required for the renovation are a new HVAC system, appliances, painting, plumbing, and furnishing. We recommend that planning for this renovation begin immediately (April 2009), along with a specific ingathering set aside to refurbish the house.

5.0 Step by Step for Maturing in Missions

5.1 Vision 2010 Committee Report/Growing in Grace

The MMT feels that this MAP is consistent with what has previously been laid out by the church leadership but this merely gives missions at MBC greater definition. We believe that this plan is theological, practical, and biblical. To understand where we want to get we must understand first where we need to be going. Our goal must be soundly biblical as should our means for getting to where we want to go.

5.2 Annual Plan for Maturing

Section 4.0 of this MAP describes where we would like to be in 2010 as a church. It does not describe our end goal but where we would like to be in 2010 as we work towards the end goal of being a church on mission as God intended. We would like to revise this annually as we plan for the next year as we incrementally try to reach the end goal of the MAP.

5.3 Plea for Pastors to Embrace MAP

As members of the MMT, we graciously and humbly present this to the pastors of MBC. We do this as those who have been approved by the senior pastor to be part of the MMT. We believe that this is the direction in which we need to go as a church that desires to have a missions focus. We do not present this dogmatically but present this knowing that God may lead us to modify this after entering into discussion with the pastor body. We do believe, however, that we should have a MAP that clearly identifies where we stand, where we want to be as a church on mission, and how we intend to get there.

May Psalm 67 be our prayer as we put our hands to the plow and work *together* to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ to the glory of God. ***Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!***

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!

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah*

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!