

# Steadfast Bible Fellowship

2440 S. 141st Cir., Omaha, NE 68144

## Missions Policy

Revised 9.17.20

**Mission:** Steadfast Bible Fellowship exists to see Jesus transform lives through His Word, prayer and loving relationships.

**Missions Commitment:** Steadfast Bible Fellowship (SBF) is committed to the worship of God, the equipping of the saints for effective life and service, and evangelizing the lost. God desires the local church to be the primary means for proclaiming the saving message of Jesus Christ. SBF believes that missions is any endeavor that fulfills the Great Commission by demonstrating the power of the Gospel of Christ through acts of love, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, making disciples and gathering these disciples into local congregations, while relating to the needs of the total person (spiritual, physical, emotional, and social). In its desire to obey the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and further the work of the Gospel, SBF sets forth the following Missions Policy.

**Biblical Basis:** The biblical basis for missions integrates making disciples of Jesus Christ and establishing them in local churches as we “go, baptize and teach,” thereby fulfilling His Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47 John 20:21, Acts 1:8, and Gen. 12:1-3). Making disciples involves “teaching them all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20), “equipping the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12), and sending out those called for service to the Lord (Acts 13:2-3).

**Priorities and Strategy:** *The first priority* of SBF is to support missionaries (career and short-term) and Christian outreach organizations, which train and equip Christian leaders to reach their own countries or communities with the Gospel. This strategy applies to International and Domestic Missions, as well as outreach activities to the local community.

The *second priority* is to engage SBF regular attenders in evangelizing the lost, to serve through short-term or trip mission’s opportunities, and to foster involvement with ministries (local, national and international) which help meet spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs of people.

### Definitions and Explanation of Terms Utilized in this Policy

- International Outreach at SBF is the sending out and supporting well- equipped leaders, teachers and disciple-makers who cross barriers of distance, culture and language in order to establish and strengthen the church; the scope of their ministry is worldwide, outside SBF’s geographical sphere of influence.
- Domestic Outreach has a sphere of influence in Metro Omaha or throughout the U.S. Domestic Outreach includes presenting the Gospel and meeting the spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs of people.

- Career missionaries - Individuals and families who have committed to missionary service as their full time vocation.
- Short-term missionaries - Individuals and families who accept terms of missionary service usually lasting 2 to 24 months.
- Trip missionaries - Individuals who are accepted for missionary assignments of less than two months.
- Support - This policy uses the term "support" in the broader sense, including prayer, friendship, education, accountability, shepherding and financial considerations.

### Support Procedures and Policies

- The annual SBF mission's budget is constructed by the Stewardship Team, which submits it to the Elders for approval. SBF commits to allocating 10% of its total annual giving to the Missions budget.
- SBF Elders approve support requests for both individuals and ministries that meet one of the "priority" categories stated above. The Elders establish the amount of financial support and the duration of that support. Typically, financial support will be allocated annually and subject to an annual review by the Elders.
- Standard Procedures:
  - SBF regular attenders involved in "career," "short-term," or "trip" missions qualify for support.
  - Ministries or organizations affiliated with SBF through ministry coordination, SBF leaders or shared leadership responsibilities qualify for support.
  - Termination of support by SBF Elders will occur if one of the following applies: Irresponsible neglect of ministry; unresolved moral/ethical problems; the ministry goals, objectives or direction of an individual, family or organization supported by SBF are no longer in accord with the SBF Missions Policy or the SBF Mission statement.
  - Responsibilities of "career" missionaries and ministries receiving support from SBF:
    1. At a minimum, annual correspondence/updates relayed to the Elders.
    2. At a minimum, these updates should include: personal spiritual growth and financial needs; ministry goals and a summary of progress toward reaching those goals; physical and spiritual needs of the people to whom they minister, etc.