

Missions Strategic Initiatives Sample - Church #17

Hillside Church Missions Team Statement of Strategic Initiatives 2009-2014

Approved by Hillside Missions Team May 2009

Purpose of Hillside Church:

Introducing people to Jesus and inspiring everyone to follow Him fully.

The Biblical mandate of Hillside Church:

- Recognizing that the missions mandate permeates all of Scripture, Hillside's basis for missions emanates from:
- *Genesis 12:3* "I (the LORD) will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you."
- *Psalms 47:7-9* "For God is the King of all the earth, sing to Him a song of praise. God reigns over the nations. God is seated on His holy throne. The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted."
- *Romans 10:13* "...for everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."
- *Matthew 25:35* "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."
- *Matthew 28:9-20* "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

Definition of Missions:

Missions is any cross-cultural endeavor outside of our local congregation to obey the Great Commission by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, making disciples and gathering those disciples into local churches.

Purpose of Hillside's Missions Team:

Our vision is to cultivate "missions-mindedness" among our church body, to the end that we obey what Jesus commanded us. With God at our side, may each Hillside member acknowledge his or her responsibility in making disciples of the nations and bringing hope to a lost world.

Major Missions Challenges, Barriers and Opportunities:

The following are issues of importance that are factored into our strategy as we look forward to the next 5-10 years:

- An increasing number of church ministries compete for promotion, funding and personnel. Busy people have less time for church and missions involvement.
- Western missionaries rely increasingly on financial support from individuals leading to less contact with local churches.
- Leadership within missions minded churches is being passed to younger generations of adults who have different interests and priorities.
- There are many nearby poor, marginalized, abused, dysfunctional, addicted people who need our help. The US has a growing population of unchurched (or “never churched”) that have become a focus for missions outreach.
- Local churches are seeking more concentrated involvement in strategic projects, particular fields and with partners. Leaders are seeking to give more funds to fewer Western missionaries and more support to nationals.
- Young people have compassionate hearts and are concerned about poverty, justice and AIDS. Service, compassion, and meeting physical and social needs are becoming an increasing part of missions.
- Short term ministry involvement is preparing quantities of people for longer term assignments.

Strategic Initiatives

Hillside Missions Family

The backbone of Hillside Church Missions has historically involved the support of missionaries in a variety of settings and assignments worldwide. We must carefully develop an updated Missions Philosophy that reflects a new definition of who a missionary is, how we set priorities and guides us in evaluating present and future missionaries and missions opportunities. With this tool, we will assess our existing missionary partners, creating a transition plan for those who do not fit our criteria. Additionally, we will develop an updated investment grid that guides our financial commitments, especially with regard to percentages of total support we will consider, permanent versus short term support, length of commitments, project support, and special needs.

Hillside Congregation

- 1) **Increasing Awareness** – sharing the vision of the Missions team and creating communication vehicles to the congregation.

Missions Website content: Our team will design and build a missions website describing the purpose of our global ministries, why they exist and how they operate.

We will create individual “Meet our Missionaries” pages with ministry details, photos, country flag and map, e-mail contact info, prayer requests, and strategic nature of our involvement in their ministry. We will be careful to create access that does not compromise the privacy, security or effectiveness of their ministries or families (log-on access to identified persons only).

We will create a missions fund financial page with a budget breakdown and a colorful pie chart or graph. We will attempt to link this information with previous years’ fund activities so that the congregation can see the progress being made.

We will create a missions prayer page with updated prayer bullets from our missionaries summarized for easy use by any member interested.

We will create a page dedicated to informing the congregation how they can begin involvement on a short term team, becoming a future member of the Missions team or accessing missions forms.

We will create and update a page for missions calendar events, i.e. scheduled short term trips, deadlines for applications, missions activities and visits from Hillside missionaries.

We will create a “link” page which connects to significant missions agencies or partner organizations.

We will create a gallery of photos and videos from recent short term trips and debrief interviews with both short term and career missionaries.

We will endeavor to install a large screen LCD or plasma TV in the hallway of the church to showcase upcoming events (via PowerPoint) or playing pertinent missions information, promoting the website and its features, or displaying recent video footage of missions events.

Hillside News inserts and bookmarks: We will find permanent space in the Hillside News for missions news, ministry partner updates, or special prayer requests from our missionaries. Monthly, we will showcase various Hillside missionaries by means of distribution of attractive bookmarks utilizing one side for missions or church announcements and the other for photos, ministry summary, children’s names and birthdays, and celebrations in their ministries.

PowerPoint slides: We will produce updated PP slides of the Hillside missionaries for inclusion with morning announcements during worship services. These (perhaps two or three) are intended to be shown weekly to remind the congregation to pray for them.

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: We will endeavor to sponsor the PWCM course at Hillside Church to offer all members an opportunity to receive the great blessing of this course. Attendance is often life changing. With the assistance of Hillside instructors, we will present an abbreviated version of the PWCM for our ABF classes.

Festival: We will begin planning for a missions festival/celebration to highlight the ministries of available Hillside missionaries and to challenge the congregation to greater involvement.

- 2) **Increasing Participation** - creating opportunities to get our congregation more involved with missions activities. We have a Biblical responsibility to help our people “put into practice” whatever they have learned or received. (Phil 4:9)

Missionary Advocate Teams: We will strive to have each Hillside missionary linked with several committed families or individuals and with an Adult Bible Fellowship for the purpose of prayer support, encouragement and connectivity.

Community connections: In cooperation with the Director of Outreach, we will assist each Adult Bible Fellowship in connecting with a local outreach ministry where they can serve together, owning a small piece of the ministry. We will work with each ABF to determine skill sets that match the needs of local community ministries.

Strategic Partnership(s): We will endeavor to form one or more strategic partnerships through an established mission agency with an unreached people. Our goal will be to encourage supportive ministry efforts (i.e. short term teams) that will provide assistance that cannot be provided by nationals. We see this venture as long term (5 or more years) and is seen as an investment in the long term success of the chosen ministry.

Short Term Opportunities: We will seek to promote a menu of short term ministry opportunities for our congregation. By investigating opportunities for individuals or families in serving along side Hillside missionaries or with other organizations, we will prepare a colorful brochure annually to expose many of the opportunities that exist and which are recommended by the Team. Special emphasis will be made for needs at our Farm Drive Community Center and with Kid’s Club at Canoas Elementary School.

- 3) **Increasing Support** – emphasizing the need to increase prayer and financial support, and strengthen leadership of the missions efforts through sharing passion for reaching the lost and providing education.

Pastoral involvement: We will send our Senior Pastor to a strategic missions field at least once per year. We will trust God to provide sufficient funding to send many of our other pastoral staff as well. In order for our pastors to share what God is doing in remote places, we must offer opportunities to “see it for themselves.” We will request that our pastor regularly highlight various missions involvements in his sermons and announcements. The importance of pastoral staff buy-in to missions cannot be underestimated.

Prayer emphasis: We will encourage prayer for our missionaries by a pastor or an elder during our worship services. Selected missionaries can be briefly highlighted during the opening, offertory or closing prayer.

Missions Brochure: We will prepare a simplified brochure titled along the lines of “Missions: How can I help?” This information source will contain ways that church members can get involved and will also promote the website. It will include such areas as hosting or praying for

our missionaries, hosting an international student, or supporting needy children in the Third World.

Pulpit supply: We will seek to obtain approval from the elders and from Pastor Joe Brown to fill the pulpit with inspirational missions speakers 4 times per year, approximately once per quarter. These four Missions Emphasis Sundays may be to highlight a specific missionary work or give extraordinary emphasis to a missions-related topic, i.e. Persecuted Christians.

The Next Generation: We will work closely with Children's, Jr/Sr High, and College group leaders, to contextualize missions into their teaching. We will encourage and support all forms of missions education to our next generation. We will request representatives chosen from the High School group and the college group to sit on the Missions Team as voting members for a school term and to assist the Missions Team in missions promotion to their respective groups.

Missions Pastor/Director: In concert with the long term goals of the Leadership Council, we will transition to the leadership of Hillside's Missions ministries by an associate pastor or director. The creation of this position is intended to give greater continuity, visibility and priority to this core ministry.

- 4) **Celebrating Results** – Often the most overlooked component, we will strive to celebrate God's victories of both short term and long term missions ministries.

Debrief videos: We will create concise (5 minutes or less) missions debrief videos of returning short termers. As we effectively share the wonderful things God is doing in and through our people, more people will support what we envision. The Missions team will work diligently to help our returning missionaries to know what to emphasize in their presentations. We will attempt to create a live feed or You-Tube video environment that will allow us to hear and see live from those sent to minister with our strategic partners.

Media: We will develop a comprehensive plan for missions media. This plan will include the use of PowerPoint, video, YouTube links, and large screen TV monitors.

Festival: As mentioned above, we will plan a missions festival to celebrate the things that God is doing in and through our congregation, giving special attention to our Hillside missionary family, their successes and answers to prayer.

To God Be the Glory

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