



Kew Baptist  
CHURCH

# Beyond Kew

Global Mission Policy

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Prepared by the Global Mission Team, June 2012

## **A. Purpose**

This policy sets a course for Kew Baptist Church in its ministry beyond the local area, with a focus on cross-cultural ministry.

The policy ensures activities are strategic, coordinated and effective. It creates transparency in decision-making, focused communication and clear understanding of roles and responsibilities.

While initiatives within Kew are very much part of God's mission, the scope of this policy is limited to cross-cultural initiatives.

The policy will be administered on behalf of the church by the Global Mission Team. It will be reviewed annually each February. Exceptions to this policy will be made where the Global Mission Team believes it is in line with the intention of the policy and is minor in nature.

## **B. Vision**

As a church community, we aim to:

1. Play a part in introducing those in least-reached people groups to Jesus
2. Identify potential cross-cultural workers and encourage all church participants to participate in cross-cultural mission
3. Financially, prayerfully and practically support identified cross-cultural workers and organisations

## **C. Foundations**

### **Biblical basis**

The Bible, from beginning to end, is the story of the mission of God. From Genesis to Revelation, God makes himself known, reveals his heart for the nations, and draws people to himself. The Old Testament tells of creation, and people's failure to meet God's standards (Genesis 3), and the story goes on to speak of God choosing Abraham and his descendants, the Israelites. God said to Abraham, Genesis 12:1-3, "I will bless you...and all the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you" and this theme that Israel was chosen to draw other people to God is reiterated regularly (e.g. Deuteronomy 28:9-10, Joshua 4:23-24, Isaiah 49:6, Jeremiah 33:9).

While Israel often failed to fulfill this purpose, the Old Testament refers to the coming of Jesus, for example Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7, 52:13-53:12. God makes himself fully known in Jesus (e.g. Colossians 1:15). God's purposes for drawing people to himself become clear in Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection (e.g. John 10:16, Luke 4:18-19, John 3:16-17, 6:38-40). Jesus then calls us to follow him, offering the invitation to enter God's Kingdom. We receive the Spirit's equipping for each of us to participate in his purpose of reconciling people of all nations to himself.

## **Our part**

Involvement in mission is integral to being a disciple of Jesus. As the people of God, we are invited to participate in God's work in the world. God calls each of us to serve him in different ways according to our gifts. Jesus calls his followers to join him in his global mission, offering the invitation to all people to enter God's Kingdom (e.g. Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 13:10, Acts 1:8). He sent us into the world (John 17:16-18) and we receive the Spirit's equipping for each of us to participate in his purpose of reconciling people of all nations to himself (2 Corinthians 5:19-20, Romans 10:14-15). The story of the early church emphasises the fact that the people of Israel needed to take the message of Jesus to non-Jews (e.g. Samaritans Acts 8:13-15, other Gentiles Acts 9:15 – Paul, Acts 10:1-11:18 – Peter). Through God's work and our participation, people from all groups will join in celebration, as depicted in Revelation 7:8-9.

## **Mission definition**

For the context of this policy, mission is defined as the intentional involvement of God's people in bringing wholeness to the lives of others through the reconciling power of God.

## **D. Our Priorities**

Given the vast array of possibilities in mission, we will focus our efforts in order to be strategic and effective.

### **1. Least-reached people groups**

Least-reached people groups make up 27% of the world's population living in 7000 distinct people groups. Less than 1% of the population of these groups is Christian, and there is no viable faith community sharing among them. Our focus on these groups will address the injustice of the disproportionate distribution of Christian resources and workers. We value the need to engage in contextual mission to most effectively work among these people groups.

### **2. Integral mission**

We recognise the need to minister with integrity to the whole person, incorporating their spiritual, physical and relational wellbeing. Just as Jesus' ministry was to bring spiritual, physical and relational wellbeing, so we are called to bring his Good News into every aspect of people's lives (Luke 4:18-19, 7:22-23).

## **E. Roles**

### **All individuals**

As a church community, we all have a responsibility to be:

- open to God's call on our lives in regards to mission
- engaged in praying for, giving to and supporting our church's cross-cultural workers
- learning and growing in our understanding of mission
- identifying and encouraging potential cross-cultural workers

### **Global Mission Team**

This group exists to represent the whole church by facilitating the implementation and review of this policy. This will include, but is not limited to:

- stimulating prayer
- keeping the church informed about our cross-cultural workers
- mobilising and supporting our cross-cultural workers
- encouraging education, inspiration and awareness about mission
- growing partnerships with key organisations
- developing the cross-cultural mission budget

The Global Mission Team will consist of:

- a pastor
- a deacon
- an advocate for each cross-cultural worker
- an advocate for the two primary organisations
- other interested people

### **Global Mission Team representative on the diaconate**

One church deacon will represent the Global Mission Team to be a conduit of information and advocate for mission related issues.

### **Global Mission Team advocates**

The primary organisations and each cross-cultural worker supported by the church will be assigned an advocate. Advocates will:

- be a member of the Global Mission Team
- facilitate quarterly communication of prayer needs and other information with the Global Mission Team. This information will be the basis of what is communicated to the church and small groups
- communicate with the cross-cultural worker about relevant church issues
- ensure the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU - see under G) is updated and implemented
- facilitate appropriate communication with the church during Home Assignment

## F. Organisational Partnerships

In terms of promotion within the church, **Primary** organisational partnerships will be nurtured with Global Interaction and Baptist World Aid Australia. This will include:

- Promotion of events and resources
- Encourage participation in education activities
- Financial support through May Mission Month Appeal and Christmas Appeal
- Annual guest speakers during services
- Annual guest at a Global Mission Team meeting

**Secondary** organisational partnerships will be nurtured with agencies that facilitate ministry of KBC-supported cross-cultural workers. The nature of the partnership will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis by the Global Mission Team.

**Thirdly**, other organisations that seek partnership will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Organisations that have connection with participants of KBC will be given priority.

## G. Individual Partnerships

In terms of support of individuals seeking partnership:

Individuals exploring cross-cultural work will begin communication with the Global Mission Team as early as possible. The Global Mission Team will journey with the individual and encourage them during the discernment process. This may include: internship, mission exposure trips, reading, study, mentoring, local mission, prayer groups etc.

All cross-cultural workers sent from KBC must be part of a credible organisation and they will be encouraged to find the 'best fit' for them. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be established between the Global Mission Team and the organisation for each cross-cultural worker sent from KBC, outlining the three-way partnership. The MOU will highlight the importance of regular communication, commitment to financial promises, prayer, pastoral care and accountability. The Global Mission Team will make a recommendation to the diaconate and where necessary be approved at a church gathering.

For individuals who seek partnership but are not KBC participants, the Global Mission Team will explore possibilities, determine the nature of the partnership, where necessary provide a recommendation to the diaconate and be approved at a church gathering.

Levels of financial support will be determined by alignment with the following criteria, in order of priority:

1. Church members (and participants)
2. Working among a least-reached people group
3. Committed to at least five years
4. Engaged (or with a team) in whole-of-life, culturally respectful ministry

For the purposes of financial allocation, the criteria will be weighted 40%, 30%, 15% and 15% respectively.

## H. Education and prayer

Mission education and prayer will be encouraged among the whole church and be driven by pastors, Global Mission Team members and others. There will be a focus on identifying potential cross-cultural workers in our desire to be a 'sending' community.

Mission education and prayer will include, but is not limited to:

### Services

- Monthly mission spots in services, following a yearly plan, highlighting KBC's cross-cultural workers and organisations
- Mission-related speakers/preachers at least twice a year
- Prayer for mission in most services
- Cross-cultural mission focus in May
- Primary organisation publications in bulletin, other organisation materials available in foyer
- Mission segment in bulletin including prayer needs, newsletters, info etc.

### Small Groups

- Annual mission focus studies or series, preferably during May
- Prayer needs and information distributed to small groups monthly, following the yearly plan (e.g. a cross-cultural worker featured per month)

### Other

- Three mission related events per year
- Mission board updated regularly
- Mission focus at Sunday School, youth group and other ministries bi-annually

## I. Finances

Financial giving to mission is a percentage of church giving and distributed among cross-cultural workers as per their MOU agreements. In addition, church participants are encouraged to give to the May (Global Interaction) and Christmas (Baptist World Aid Australia) appeals.

A portion of the budget may also be spent on promotion, communication, education and pastor's mission exposure trips. The Global Mission Team will prepare the budget that is recommended to the diaconate to be approved at a church gathering.

Other 'one-off' opportunities for giving and fundraising will be approved by the Global Mission Team.

People involved in a Global Interaction or other KBC-approved internship may receive half of the costs needed from the Global Mission Team, and be approved to raise the remaining amounts through fundraising efforts with the support of the Global Mission Team.

## J. Mission Exposure

While mission exposure trips are in themselves involvement in mission, it is recognised that lengthier terms of service are needed for more significant impact. The purpose of mission exposure teams will include:

- increase awareness and personal involvement in God's mission
- help people discover their ongoing role in God's mission
- personal development and growth
- fulfill a direct cross-cultural need of long-term teams

It is a preference for KBC to send our own mission exposure teams regularly rather than supporting a large number of individuals doing exposure trips with various agencies and groups. This will encourage whole church interest and involvement and help ensure there is good training and follow up. Preference for organisation and location will be for trips that visit KBC-supported workers and priorities, and organisations which provide good preparation and follow-up. The aims of these teams will be to encourage our workers. By understanding their situation, partnerships should be strengthened.

When individuals explore opportunities for exposure trips, the Global Mission Team will ensure:

- alignment of the organisation and KBC's vision
- the organisation is responsible for quality leadership, training, support, debriefing, duty of care, insurances etc

Those considering an exposure trip and wanting church endorsement will first discuss it with the Global Mission Team. There will be no financial allocations from the Global Mission Team budget made for mission exposure trips that are less than six months. If a mission exposure team wanted to raise funds within the church, this must be planned with consultation from the Global Mission Team. The discussion will include:

- a maximum percentage of trip costs that can be raised within the church, ideally 25%
- method of fundraising that encourages education and partnership

The Global Mission Team will facilitate commissioning and prayer support for individuals involved in Global Mission Team endorsed exposure trips.

Financial allocation may be made for a pastor, deacon, intern or other key leader to be subsidised to participate in a mission exposure trip. This reflects our commitment to supporting our cross-cultural workers and developing and educating our leaders about cross-cultural mission.