

Introduction

The vision of The Anchor is “Together transforming people into devoted passionate ambassadors for Christ”. This statement does not limit our vision but implies we want to be involved in reaching people both in our own community and the wider world including supporting missionary activity in other countries. This reinforces the Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:19 to make disciples of all nations. We desire to be a missions minded church passionately involved in winning others for Christ.

The Missions Policy Statement is an attempt to outline how we might do this. The statement is dynamic and is likely to change as we attempt to be effective agents of God in an increasingly diverse and changing global environment.

We are keen to see vibrant groups of God’s people established in local communities and we see no difference between missions in our own community/country and overseas. We want to be involved in effective missions activity both in our own community and through supporting missionaries and missions activity overseas.

We know that indigenous people are most effective when working in their own culture. We want to become involved in partnership with indigenous missionaries to assist and support them to become effective in their own communities. This is an area for prayer and action.

We see that involvement in short term missions is an essential part of getting people to understand and involved in missions. It also benefits our church as those same people are changed by their exposure to cross-cultural missions activity. We want missions involvement to be seen by people as a variable career option, particularly by our young people as they grow up.

The challenge for each individual who is part of The Anchor family is; to become passionate ambassadors for Christ, wherever He leads, knowing that nothing is impossible with God Luke 1 v 37.

Identifying and Selecting Missionaries

The Anchor elders in association with the Missions Group are responsible for identifying and selecting missionaries / missions organisations we support.

The profile of a missionary supported by The Anchor includes some or all of the following:

Personal qualities:

- Proven in fulfilling Biblical family roles and in personal character
- Committed to personal growth
- Able to form and maintain stable relationships
- A responsible steward of resources
- A level of physical and mental health suit to the ministry
- Able to relate to indigenous people as a servant, partner, friend
- Willing to adopt a standard of living appropriate to the people they are working with

Ministry qualities:

- Growing in teaching / preaching skills
- Able to train and instruct others
- Gift matching intended ministry
- Able to operate effectively in the culture of the people they are working with

The missionaries currently supported have been selected because they have these qualities and have been recommended to the elders for support by Global Connections in Mission (GCIM), by members of The Anchor family, or have visited The Anchor regularly while on furlough from the country they are working in.

Mission Organisations supported by The Anchor have the following characteristics:

- They give high priority to the local church and to church planting
- Have similar statement of faith as The Anchor
- Are actively involved in printing and distribution of the scriptures or in radio and TV ministry or in support for missionaries eg transport, communication or relief work or children's schooling
- Have experience as a responsible sending body

Within the availability of finance the elders of The Anchor in association with the Missions Group are always willing to consider applications for regular support by Church members of individuals/ organisation. The Anchor considers its nearest neighbours, Pacific Rim countries, are its first and priority responsibility.

Financing of Missionary Personnel and Projects

Currently The Anchor commits 25% (\$15,000) of its income to missions' activity. The Missions Group prepares an annual budget for The Anchor elders to consider. After funding is set aside for the support of local and overseas missionaries, missions organisations, and short term missions there is a small amount available each month to meet requests from individuals who are part of the Missions Group or The Anchor church members for one-off support of individuals / organisations involved in missions activity.

The level of support of individual missionaries varies according to their particular needs. Current funding is:

- Regular needs: \$1,100 - 1,200
- Higher needs: \$2,400 (We have been asked for example by GCIM to provide additional support to some missionaries)
- For organisations: \$300 - 400

Currently we provide regular support 7 missionaries and 2 missions organisations. See Appendix A for a list of the names of individuals and organisations we support.

The Anchor also encourages church members to provide pledged support for missionaries.

If in the future an individual / family who were members of The Anchor were to go overseas as missionaries we would need to provide a much higher level of support possible in association with other churches. Deputation work would be involved. The Anchor elders and the Missions Group pray that in the future there will be members of The Anchor who become involved full-time in missions activity.

Partnership in Missions

The Anchor is interested in establishing a partnership, or partnerships with churches and indigenous workers in other countries. Prayer needs to take place asking God to show us where we should establish partnership/s. We will work with Global Connections in Mission (GCIM) in the identification of a suitable partnership opportunity.

Partnership is a mutual process, each partly becomes interdependent, offering what the other needs, each receiving what the other gives. Compatibility is required in Church doctrine and values, in personnel characteristics of people involved from both parties, and agreed goals for the missionary activity / project.

The contribution of each party to the project's goals needs to be agreed upon, recognising that no party should dominate the other, each sharing in decision making and in drawing up policies and in the use of resources. Review measures need to be established and clearly defined criteria for when the project is completed. A process for an appropriate de-partnering process needs to be established for when goals have been reached.

The partnership process and work needs to recognise that the ultimate source of all supply is God. As partners receive funds from God for provision of needs both partners need to be good stewards and to be accountable.

Pastoral Support

The Anchor will endeavour to provide a personal visit to each missionary we support every five years. Where this cannot be done we will endeavour to provide visitation support through a person from another church that also supports the missionary.

The Anchor will provide prayer support and create an awareness of urgent prayer requests and will initiate prayer - email prayer hotlines will be established for each missionary.

The Anchor will provide active listening and feedback on all communications and be available to assist with emergencies associated with health, material goods, bereavement, family concerns, educational needs, advice.

Systems will be developed to ensure that the missionary receives:

- Chapel newsletters and publications
- Regular letters or emails
- DVD / VCRs of special church events
- Up to date information about chapel activities and programmes
- Relevant newspaper cuttings in areas of interest
- At least one annual phone call
- Appropriate visits from church family and friends who may be visiting the area.

The Anchor Missions Group

The purpose of the Missions Group is to encourage members of The Anchor to be missions minded to the end that The Anchor is an evangelistic missions orientated church.

The group meets on the second Monday each month at an agreed venue.

Membership of the Missions Group is open to all members of The Anchor church.

The Role of the Missions Group is to:

- Pray and organise prayer for the missionaries we support
- Ensure regular contact with the missionaries we support
- Provide material / prayer points from missionaries The Anchor supports for inclusion in the weekly Anchor newsletter.
- Handle missions correspondence
- Alert elders to issues, challenges, problems
- Identify for possible support individuals / organisations involved in missions activity
- Develop relationships with selected missions agencies
- Provide a budget each year to The Anchor elders for missions activity
- Keep the Missions notice board up to date
- Prepare a missions presentation for a monthly 10 minute communication slot as part of the Sunday Morning Service (Third Sunday of each month)

- Involve the KingdomKidz and Anchor Teen in praying for and supporting young people in developing countries who do not have support / resources eg paying school fees
- Organise short term missions trips, at least once every two years
- Identify potential team members
- In association with The Anchor elders appoint a small team to organise / lead each mission trip and prepare a report following the trip
- Carry out other missions projects at the request of The Anchor elders from time to time.

Short Term Missions

The intention of the Missions Group is to organise at least one cross cultural mission trip each two years. The primary purpose of these trips is to give exposure to The Anchor members to the needs of the world. It will also provide opportunity for The Anchor Missions Group to identify opportunities for limited and ongoing support / partnerships.

The following are some principles that would be applied in the planning and organisation of short term missions trips:

- The Anchor would attempt to subsidise each participant by approx 33.3% of the trips costs
- If a person goes a second time within a four year period the subsidy would be halved
- If a person were to go a third time or more there would be no subsidy
- Children 12 or younger would not qualify for a subsidy
- Children would not be able to go on a trip where their presence could diminish the effectiveness of the team.
- A team member must pay all personal preparation costs
- A person will be selected on the basis of their expression of interest, completion of an application form, in some cases an interview, and an assessment of their suitability to be on the team
- Priority will be given to Church members who have not been before
- The candidate must participate in an adequate number of preparations meetings to qualify.
- The Anchor elders in conjunction with the Missions Group have discretion to remove people from the team if circumstances warrant the removal - any expenses incurred because of the removal will be bore by the team member.

Go and make disciples of all nationsteaching them to obey everything

I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always,

to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28 v 19 - 20

Appendix A - Current list of missionaries and organisations The Anchor Church supports

Ruth and Murray Salsbury

Working with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Translating the bible, training translators and checking translations.

Nancy and Richard Yarrall

Church planting evangelism, radio programmes, bible teaching among the Latino people in Los Angeles and bible teaching with the indigenous people in Columbia.

Rosie and Leath Powell

Translating the bible in New Caledonia

Catherine and Christian Moreau

Bible teaching in France.

Ray and Glenys Cooper

Bible in schools, children's programmes at Forest Lakes Camp and in various churches in the Wellington region.

Scripture Union

Making scripture available, Scripture Union programmes in schools, organising and running camps for young people.

Radio Rhema

Christian broadcasting.