



BRIDGE MISSIONS



Bridge Christian Church - Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

WELCOME

One of the amazing aspects of being a disciple is that our awesome, all-powerful God has made each of us His Partner in the Great Commission—the best vocation of all time - building His church by winning the world.

God could have chosen any way to bring his glory to the nations; however, His plan includes us as His primary means for the lost to hear His message of love and forgiveness. Christ does not give us an option. The Great Commission is not just a suggestion or a choice: it is the ministry of our lives. (daily; both globally and locally)

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Bridge Christian Church is a church committed to making disciples. God is doing amazing things around the world, and as a church, we are committed to joining Him in redeeming lives and reaching the nations for Him and His glory.

This is a guide for understanding how Bridge would like to partner with our Primary Mission Partners in the global church. We understand it is not the only way to accomplish missions, but it is the way we have chosen to operate as a church and Mission Committee. It is our intention that this guide be helpful and provide information and answers to questions.

In this document, you will find:

1. The purpose/vision/focus of the Mission Committee at Bridge Christian Church
2. Partnership Commitments
 - a. Funding Guidelines
 - b. Bridge Christian Church Commitment
 - c. Mission Partner Commitment
3. The Partnership Agreement between Bridge and you [Our Primary Mission Partners]

Blessings,



Stephanie Ballew
Missions Minister
Bridge Christian Church
540-470-0794
sballew@bridgechristian.church

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mission Committee at Bridge Christian Church is to partner with Missionaries who make disciples globally. This is done through an overtly evangelical focus on church planting and church development. We recognize the importance of meeting basic human needs while carrying out the Great Commission. We are committed to working with the Missionaries, the Mission Organization, and with the help of Christ, to bring people to know and love Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

VISION (PRAY + CARE + SEND)

We seek to establish relationships with our Missionaries, their families, their team/staff, and their churches. Our focus is to partner with the missionaries to help propel their ministry and not hinder it. Our strategy is to pray, care, and send. This includes prayer coverage, financial support, and sending teams. Teams will consist of individuals from our congregation to love and support missionaries on the field at least once a year. Our goal is to not only care ABOUT our missionaries but care FOR our missionaries!

FOCUS

Because we cannot do everything, we have chosen areas of concentration that are a direct reflection of our vision and values as a church. There are many “good” things happening around the world, but these are the areas we feel called to focus on. These areas serve as a guide concerning “where” and “who” will be our Primary Mission Partners.

- Overtly Evangelical
- Church Planting
- Disciple Making
- Prayer Empowered
- Bible Focused
- Gospel-centered

Guidelines for our Primary Mission Partners

1. Being in line doctrinally with our “Family” of Churches.
2. The Ministry has an overtly evangelistic, church-planting, and/or disciple-making emphasis that is prayer-empowered, bible-focused, and gospel-centered
3. The geographic location fits our current need/plan: We desire to have a presence in many different parts of the world. We also have the desire to reach the unreached within these geographic areas.
4. Being a Couple/Family that our Bridge Church family can identify with and personally get to know and love.
5. The Ministry makes for a good International Harvest Campaign (IHC) in a 5–7-year rotation. (See explanation in funding guidelines)
6. The couple is supported by a quality Missions organization providing both ministry supervision and missionary care.
7. The Ministry can receive/support trips from Bridge well, including Youth trips and Interns.

PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS

The Bridge Christian Church Mission Committee's goal is to have a strong partnership with our Primary Mission Partners and Missionaries. To help ensure this, we have developed a partnership agreement. This agreement serves to create a strong partnership for you, as well as the expectations you can expect to receive from us. We also outline the expectations that we have for our Partners. This is to ensure that we are supporting our partners as well as being good stewards of the resources God has entrusted us with.

BRIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AGREEMENT:

In this document, you will find;

1. Bridge Christian Church's financial commitment
 - Funding guidelines
 - The level of financial support that Bridge Christian Church will be committing to you in the upcoming year
2. Bridge Christian Church's commitment
 - What you can expect from Bridge Christian Church as your supporting church.
3. Missionary commitment
 - The expectations Bridge Christian Church has with those whom they support as a Primary Mission Point.

Who we are:

Meet our Committee

- Stephanie Ballew - Mission Minister
- Tim Cole - Mission Committee Chairman
- Tim Campbell - Mission Committee Secretary
- Rick Wheeler
- Christina Swecker
- Michelle Godby

These values guide our Committee and all those who partner with us.

- We look to God for guidance through prayer; as a church, a committee, and individually
- We adhere to Biblical doctrine
- We strive to be people of character, integrity, and transparency
- We believe that everyone should be involved in the Great Commission
- We value teams and work together as a team
- We adopt the posture of servants and learners

Prayer is the fuel of our Mission: We must live gospel-centered lives to make the world saturated with the gospel!

FUNDING GUIDELINES

Good Stewardship

*“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and for the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” **Luke 12:48***

Bridge Mission Committee prayerfully desires to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.

Primary Mission Partners - We enter into a partnership with missionaries whose values align with the guidelines we have created for our Primary Mission Partners. They receive quarterly support in the amount of \$2,500.00 from Bridge, given to their mission organization for a total of 10,000.00 yearly. (Depending upon available funds) Mission Partners are also on a rotation for our annual International Harvest Campaign (IHC).

International Harvest Campaign (IHC):

The Bridge Mission Committee hosts an annual **BIG GIVE** each November. We call this *The International Harvest Campaign* (IHC). We choose a global mission partner from either our Mission Committee or our Outreach Committee (National Harvest Campaign) to highlight for the fall as a recipient. The mission point will choose a project for us to highlight during the campaign. Over the past decade, we have built an orphanage and a hospital in India, dug wells and planted churches in Ghana, translated the bible into languages that did not have access to the gospel, launched missionaries onto the field in Bosnia and New Zealand, raised pastors overseas, and much more.

Associate Partners - These are our missionaries! Individuals from Bridge who go on the mission field in other areas of focus. These individuals or families receive support as needed, along with other benefits such as care, trips, and prayer.

In the first quarter of each year, our Committee will conduct an annual assessment review based on the partnership agreement and assessments with each mission partner, organization, and missionary we support. We cannot in good faith continue to support a ministry without knowing how the funds are being used.

BRIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH COMMITMENT

In addition to the financial commitment above, Bridge desires to be a care-giving church. We want to display the love of Jesus through personally and proactively engaging with our Mission Partners and Missionaries. Developing a relationship through communication, education, and action is our top priority. We want to care for the individual missionaries and their families' physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Prayer Support:

- We commit to praying for you and your family. Our hope is for each of our missionaries to feel comfortable and loved enough to share how we can be covering them, their families, and their ministries in good times and through hard times in prayer.
- We hold monthly prayer times with our Mission Committee.
- We hold quarterly Global Impact Gathering (GIG) Meetings that also have a prayer focus for each of our Mission Partners and Missionaries. At our GIG Event, we engage our congregation in your ministry through that prayer time.

Care Support:

- We want to be available to you. Please know you can reach out to one of us with your needs (physical, emotional, or spiritual), and we will be here to help, pray, and walk with you to the very best of our ability.
- We want to communicate effectively with you and your team. You may choose your desired way of communication. (email, text, WhatsApp, etc.)
- We will fulfill the financial obligations that we have committed to you for the full year. We will also consider any urgent and/or unexpected financial needs when they arise. We will also consider any ministry needs when/if they arise.
- We want to care for you when you are home on assignment. Please let us know if you are coming to the States, and more importantly, to Virginia (Bridge is in Fishersville, VA), so we can prepare for your visit.
- We have Care Teams in place for our Primary Mission Partners and Missionaries. Care Teams meet regularly to pray for you, your family, and your ministries. Care Teams desire to *KNOW* you on a deeper level. They want to know your favorite foods, your birthday, anniversaries, and more. This gives them a deeper understanding of who you are, so they can better serve and care for you.

Send Support:

- We want to regularly visit you on the field, to understand your work, to know what is taking place in your ministry, and to discern how we can better partner with you. When it suits, we will either send a Leadership/CareTeam or a Work Team to your ministry to encourage, benefit, and help propel your ministry.
 - Care trip - No plans needed. This is a time to reconnect with our missionaries and give them the opportunity to talk through the good and hard parts of ministry, family, and leadership. If ever needed, we can send additional support like training, counseling, debriefing, etc.
 - Work trip - Unless you need new and fresh ideas, please do not just create things for us to do, we want to come help and support what you are already doing to take some of the burden from you.

MISSION PARTNER COMMITMENT

As we work towards a closer relationship with our Primary Mission Partners, we ask that you commit to the following:

- We desire regular communication. Each missionary is expected to correspond with Bridge in some way. This can be through email, newsletters, phone, or in person. The purpose is to keep the church updated on how and what you are doing and how we can pray and encourage you specifically.
- We want to know of any changes relating to you or your ministry: any change in location, address, assignment, family, mission agency, and/or status should be communicated immediately to the Mission Minister at Bridge.
- We want to visit you yearly, to care for you while we work alongside our partners. We want you and your team to choose the dates and purpose of these trips.
- We want to be good stewards of the resources that we have been entrusted with. Therefore, we request that you provide us with the following information during the first quarter of each year.
 - Vision statement and strategy
 - Explain how your mission aligns with Bridge Mission Committee's focus points
 - Overtly Evangelical
 - Church Planting
 - Disciple-making
 - Prayer empowered
 - Bible-focused
 - Gospel-centered
 - Goals
 - Results from the previous year
 - List goals for the coming year
 - Detailed financial reports
 - Income and expenses
 - Annual budget for the coming year
- Primary Partners will be evaluated and reviewed annually. The *exception* to this would be an immediate review when any of the following occurs:
 - There is a significant change in the ministry
 - There is a change in your Sending Agency
 - There is a deviation from Bridge's doctrinal beliefs
 - There is a failure to maintain consistent communication
 - There is a demonstrated inadequate accountability issue with the agreed commitments between Bridge and you
 - There is a legitimate integrity concern raised about your ministry
 - There is the inability to schedule trips or meetings, resulting in us not seeing you in that calendar year

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Mission Partner Printed Name

Date

Mission Partner Signature

Mission Partner Printed Name

Date

Mission Partner Signature

Mission Minister Printed Name

Date

Mission Minister Signature

Mission Chairman Printed Name

Date

Mission Chairman Signature