

**WORLD BAPTIST  
FELLOWSHIP**

**MISSION AGENCY**

- **Practices & Principles**
- **By-Laws**
- **Statement of Faith**

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**Administration  
Practices and Principles**

of the

**WORLD BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP  
MISSION AGENCY**

**World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency**

3001 W. Division St., Suite 100

P.O. Box 13459

Arlington, Texas 76094-0459

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

**Joey Bacon**

Mission Director

**Pastor Jimmy McNeil**

Chairman of the Mission Committee

# ORIGIN

The World Baptist Fellowship Mission program owes its origin to great men who saw the urgent need of a world-wide Fundamental Baptist testimony in this age of apostasy. Dr. J. Frank Norris and Dr. C.P. Stealey (both deceased) led in the formation of the foreign mission agency known as the World Fundamental Baptist Missionary Fellowship, now the World Baptist Fellowship. A Theological School, the Fundamental Baptist Bible Institute, was founded by Dr. J. Frank Norris and Dr. Louis Entzminger to teach and train missionaries, Christian workers, and ministers. Both of these organizations were founded to give a testimony which is true to the Bible, sound in doctrine, and Biblical in method.

The purpose of the Mission Fellowship, as seen by its name, is to help fulfill our Lord's great commission by evangelizing the world in the preparation of a trained ministry and the establishing of indigenous Baptist Churches.

The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency is unique in its organization and operation. It is an Independent Baptist Mission agency operated at the home base by the Mission Committee which is composed of consecrated Baptist pastors who serve without remuneration.

It is the purpose of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency to serve as a channel through which independent Baptist churches may cooperate in sound Baptist missionary activities. It believes in conformity with the Scriptural example of Acts, chapter 13; i.e., that it is the function of the local church to authorize and send forth its own missionaries. The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency has encouraged and promoted this principle.

Therefore, to become eligible for appointment under the World Baptist Fellowship, every missionary candidate must be a member of and be authorized by a World Baptist Fellowship church or an approved Baptist church.

Thus, a vital relationship is established and maintained between the missionary on the field and the authorizing church at home. If and when problems arise which concern one of the missionaries, the pastor of the authorizing church is always contacted before any action is taken. Because of this policy, every authorizing and supporting church, as well as every authorized missionary, becomes an integral part of the World Baptist Fellowship mission family. In this we see the modern operation of the Scriptural method of missionary enterprise.

The Mission Committee meets four times each year. Meetings are held in the spring and fall. The Committee also convenes in February and meets in the summer following the conclusion of the annual missionary training days.

## **CHARACTER**

The World Baptist Fellowship is a legal body, incorporated in 1938 under the laws of the State of Michigan, and later registered as a corporation under the laws of the State of Texas - September 14, 1952. The charter was reinstated in 1968.

The Mission Agency is a non-profit corporation, registered in the State of Texas and governed by its corporate by-laws. The Mission Director is elected by the Mission Committee.

The Mission Committee, in cooperation with the missionary's sending church, is specifically charged with the responsibility of supervision of all missionary personnel, as well as the financial administration of the various fields, together with the Mission Office. From a practical standpoint, the Mission Director carries on the actual correspondence with the missionaries as a representative of the Committee, and when they are not in session he acts in their behalf and with their authority.

The Mission Committee consists of not less than eleven (11), nor more than twenty-one (21) members.

Constituent churches of the World Baptist Fellowship are independent, sovereign bodies and as such have the right to send their money wherever they please. However, missionaries abide by the decisions of

the Mission Committee as representatives of the churches of the World Baptist Fellowship and/or approved Baptist churches, with the approval of the authorizing church.

## **CONDENSED DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

1. THE ONE TRUE GOD - Because of the widespread teaching of universalism today, we affirm our belief in the one and only TRUE GOD.

WE BELIEVE that there is one, and only one, living and true God. An infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection; and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

We DENY that all world religions follow the True God, as most were formed and are taught as a rejection of Him. We also deny that all monotheistic religions worship the same God, as many reject His Triune nature, Omni-benevolence, and/or salvation by Grace through the Cross. Because of these denials, we denounce any teaching of a supreme being that is in contradiction to the Truths above. We believe these Truths to be clearly evident in the Bible, God's Holy Word.

John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; 83:18; Heb. 3:4; Rom. 1:20; Jer. 10:1; Exod. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:6-8 Mark 12:30; Rev. 4:11; Matt. 10:37; Jer. 2:12-13

Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 1 John 5:7 John 10:30; 5:17; 14:23; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-5

2. We believe the whole Bible from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 is the verbally inspired, infallible, and preserved Word of God.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was born of Mary the Virgin and is the Son of God and God the Son.

4. We believe that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.
5. We believe that Christ rose from the dead the third day according to the Scriptures.
6. We believe that Christ, only, is the great High Priest, and no other but Christ ever liveth to make intercession for us.
7. We believe that Christ will come again in person, bodily and visibly, to establish His Kingdom on earth.
8. We believe that in order to be saved, the soul must be born again: "*Ye must be born again*" (John 3:7).
9. We believe that every truly born-again soul declares his faith by the act of baptism (immersion in water), setting forth the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection.
10. We believe that the church is a body of baptized believes whose only mission is not to "reform the world", but to preach and teach the Gospel of salvation to the individual soul. The only ordinances of the church are:
  - a. Baptism
  - b. The Lord's Supper

"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."  
(Matthew 28:19-20)

11. We believe that homosexuality is a sin before God, and that marriage is the union of one man and one woman.
12. We believe that the filling of the Holy Spirit results, not in speaking in some "unknown" tongue, but in boldly proclaiming with our reason and known language the Gospel.

# BIBLE PRINCIPLES FOR MISSIONS

Among sincere Christians one often hears the statement. "The Bible is our infallible and all-sufficient guide for faith and practice." This is patterned in large measure after the statement of II Timothy 3:16-17 which reads: "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*"

Without question, we accept the doctrinal basis of missions. However, it is well to briefly recapitulate what we have heard so often. We are devoted to missions because:

1. *Our Lord commanded it.* Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8.
2. *The people of the world are lost.* John 3:18; Romans 1:18; Romans 3:20.
3. *Christ's atonement is all sufficient.* I Timothy 2:5, 6; 1 John 2:2.
4. *There is only one way of salvation.* Acts 4:12.
5. *The lost must hear the message.* Romans 10:13-15.

The ensuing principles set forth are what we believe to be the Bible principles for Missions:

## **A. The local church is the chosen and appointed instrument of God for the evangelization of the world.**

All other organizations must be subsidiary and subservient to this. Much that is said hereinafter will be seen to be an outgrowth of this basic truth, so some attention will be devoted to establishing the Scriptural idea of the autonomous local New Testament Church. Unless this is clearly seen, all will ultimately be confusion and every man will do that which is right in his own eyes until the sad condition that prevailed in the days of the Judges will be reproduced.

1. It is the local church that is emphasized by the Lord. A simple concordance study of the word "church" will amply demonstrate the truth of this contention. Eliminating the very few instances where interpretation may vary as to the precise application of the word, of the approximately 115 times the word is used in the New Testament, nearly every situation refers to the local church.

2. No other agency is recognized in the New Testament order. While the World Baptist Fellowship thanks the Lord for all the blessings He has wrought through other agencies, including Bible schools, evangelistic boards and committees, and missionary agencies, it must be admitted by all honest students of the Word that these organizations are not to be found in the Scripture. They may not be anti-Biblical, but they certainly are extra-Biblical. It must be admitted in this connection that in many instances, they have been used of God.

3. The propagation of the Gospel in the great history book of the New Testament demonstrates the divine principle that missions must begin and end with the local church. Upon the advent of the Spirit, a pattern was given (Acts 2:41-47). Here the process was preaching, regeneration, baptism, and addition to the church.

This principle was carried out with Paul, as well as with Peter. (Read carefully Acts, chapters 13 and 14.) It will be seen that from the local church at Antioch, two missionaries were sent out (13:1-4). They went through other lands, preaching the Gospel and gathering the converts into groups, which they organized into local churches (14:21-23). They then returned to the home church and submitted a report of their labors (14:26, 27). This method bore divine approval as is evidenced by the fact that in many instances, the very books of the New Testament are themselves letters written by the apostle to the local churches he established in such a way. (See I Corinthians 1:2; 3:10; II Corinthians 1:11; Galatians 1:2; Philipians 1:1; I Thessalonians 1:1; II Thessalonians 1:1.)

The principle was approved by our Lord Himself, for His last words to His own -- the Revelation -- was given to seven local churches which were selected to represent the churches of the entire dispensation. (See Revelation 1:3, 11, 20; 2:1, 7, 11, 12, 18, 29; 3:6, 7, 14, 22.) Surely all of these references are given to instruct the believer in that which pleases the Lord.

**B. From this fundamental principle of the Scriptures and in reference to the authority and position of the autonomous church, there are a number of important practical applications which need to be drawn, and which can be readily supported by further references to the epistles.**

The basic challenge for the World Baptist Fellowship is: ***How shall we properly put this principle to work? What practical considerations will best carry out the Lord's will in these things?***

Several important aspects and resultant methods are enumerated:

1. Missionaries are commissioned by local churches, not by a Mission agency. It may be that local churches will cooperate with recognized agencies and that approval of such a subsidiary agency may be sought. There is, in fact, very good reason why one ought always to work in cooperation with such agencies, but the church is the commissioning agency, the missionary organization is not. In the case of men, this ordinarily involves such public recognition as we commonly call "ordination." (See Acts 13:1-4.)
2. Missionaries should be supported by their own local church. This involves prayer primarily and finances secondarily, but includes both. Paul certainly received help from churches other than the one in Antioch (Philippians 4:15-18). So that we may recognize our primary obligation to our own in every way, the support of non-member missionaries should be engaged in only after we have ascertained that the needs of member missionaries are fully met.

3. Missionaries sent out by a local church are subject to the authority of that church. Paul, though an apostle, was not above giving a report to the home base (Acts 14:26. 27). Missionaries who may not conform to home-church standards are referred to the same home church for discipline (Acts 15:1-27). Missionaries, though greatly used of God over a wide area, are to explain their actions to the people at home. Peter, though an apostle, was not above this (Acts 11:18). Free-lancing was not practiced even by apostles, but they were sent by churches (Acts 8:14; 11:22). Missionaries who are commissioned and supported by a local church are subject to the authority of that church. No other agency may interfere with this order, and should any attempt be made to do so, appeal may be made to the Word of God to settle the matter immediately.

4. As a logical outgrowth of the foregoing, the home church has a right to examine a missionary's work, to counsel with him regarding its pursuit, and to advise him regarding his activities. Of course, this is never to be a substitute for the Spirit's guidance or in conflict to it, but God has established an order, and this must be respected. It will be discovered that a proper recognition of divinely established authority never militates against the true leading of the Holy Spirit. One of the greatest hindrances to this common-sense position is a current and rather idealistic, almost superstitious viewpoint that some take of missionaries. This view illogically and unscripturally tells one that no missionary ought ever to be questioned or examined regarding his work, but that the title "missionary" automatically places him in a category of infallibility and immunity from interrogation by mere mortals. Such people should read Galatians 2:11-14.

5. All missionary activity should conform to the simple plan of our Lord as given in the Commission and demonstrated in early church history. (Note Matthew 28:19. 20.) Here are four distinct steps that are commanded:

a. Go

- b. Teach, or make disciples
- c. Baptize
- d. Instruct in Christ's commands

Some feel that making converts is sufficient, and they stop at this point, but they have failed to fulfill our Lord's whole command. Others go so far as to baptize converts, but likewise, fail when they neglect (or refuse) to gather such into groups that are subsequently organized into local churches according to the plan revealed in Scripture. As one compares Matthew 28:19-20 with Acts and the Epistles, one sees that the divine goal in missions is the planting of indigenous local churches that are self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating. Anything short of this **whole** program is not completely a Biblical mission. The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency insists that missionary activity be geared to this program, and does not have the time to waste upon unscriptural methods.

However, it should be pointed out in this connection that one should not infer that an individual missionary must himself actually perform the baptizing or organizing of assemblies. He may be working with others who share this task with him, such as was evidently the case with Paul when he worked at Corinth.

(Compare Acts 18:8b, 11 with I Corinthians 1:14:17.) Paul was occupied almost entirely with preaching. Others associated with him did the baptizing, but the end result was the establishment of the Corinthian church.

It is absolutely necessary that, regardless of the individual missionary's particular task, the sum total effort of the associated group be the establishment of local churches or the bringing into such assemblies the baptized believers. If the final result is not this, it is not missions.

6. Mission churches must be self-supporting.

Read Philippians 4:15-18 and compare this with Acts 16:17 to see how quickly the church at Philippi itself was giving to missions. Read II

Corinthians 8:14 to see that poverty cannot be used as an excuse to relieve a church from the responsibility of giving to others -- to say nothing of self-support.

7. Mission churches must be self-governing. Read Paul's missionary journeys in Acts and note after how little time they were on their own, and he exercised no ecclesiastical dictatorship over them. When writing back to the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians, chapter five), he placed the whole responsibility of discipline upon them. It was not in his hands except to advise, and it certainly was not in the hands of a mission agency! The World Baptist Fellowship insists that the churches, which are established by missionaries, become autonomous and be freed from dictatorial over-lordship by extra-Biblical organizations.

8. Mission churches must become self-propagating. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8, which was written shortly after Paul's departure from Thessalonica. Within a year or less, what had been but a mission church itself was beginning to send out the Word through its own missionary program. There are multitudes of mission churches that lean upon larger assemblies, continuing to do so to their own detriment until such time as they are thrust into their own responsibility. The world will never be evangelized by a few large, active mission-minded churches. This work **must** be shared by new, smaller assemblies, which have been brought into being by the activities of missionaries.

9. Churches should cooperate with mission agencies as a matter of efficiency. It must be realized that mission agencies are in a position to render valuable services to churches and to missionaries which the churches and missionaries cannot perform for themselves in the nature of the case. For example, most governments recognize authorized sending agencies whereas, in some areas of the world, it would be almost impossible for an independent missionary to enter.

However, in all instances, the mission agency becomes a channel through which the local church carries out its work. The reversal is unscriptural; i.e., when the mission agency desires to employ the church

as a channel through which to carry on its own work. Should this situation ever occur, cooperation between the church and the agency should be terminated. Mission agencies are valuable -- and indeed necessary -- but their value ceases whenever they assume authority over the local church. Local churches should cooperate only with such mission agencies as conform to this basic policy.

10. Finances should be regulated through the local church as advised by competent mission agencies that know conditions and needs. However, monies should always be under church control. (Read Philippians 4:15.) It was the church which gave, not a mission agency, with individuals within the church making the contributions on a private basis. Giving is a personal matter with regards to our relationship to the Lord, but it is a corporate matter regarding our relationship to the missionary. A competent mission agency is a channel through which we can most effectively execute the giving done as a church.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that a very simple rule to follow, and one which conforms to the teaching of Scripture, is that all missionary activities should center in the local church as far as its practical, organizational function is concerned. It is significant in observing this connection to note that recent publications of missionary authors are emphasizing this truth. Often these works have come from those who, in former years, had not seen this truth and consequently failed to operate upon its basis. World conditions are forcing us to rethink some of these problems, and as once again the careful study of the Word of God is resumed, we discover with delight that there in its pages lay the solution all the while. God has not left His people without direction. His Word has the answer for every problem in every age. ***"This is the way, walk ye in it"*** Isaiah 30:21).

# CANDIDATES FOR MISSIONARY SERVICE

## A. Spiritual Condition

The work of missions requires Spirit-filled workers with spiritual weapons. These requirements are paramount and can be briefly stated as follows:

1. A born-again child of God (John 3:5). A genuinely converted person of clean wholesome spiritual life, witnessing to the lost at every opportunity and having a sincere love for souls.
2. A Baptist by conviction, holding membership in an approved Independent Baptist church (in both name and practice) and being familiar with both Baptist polity and policies and Baptist history and distinctives.

Note: It is understood and expected that the local churches reproduced under the leadership of WBF missionaries will be identified as Baptist in both name and practice.

3. In the English-speaking countries of the world, our missionaries will teach and preach exclusively from the King James Version of the Bible. When distributing Bibles in the English language, every effort should be made to exclusively distribute the King James Version of the Bible. This is not only by reason of conviction, but for the sake of consistency in teaching and in encouraging Bible memorization.

## B. Physical Condition

1. The candidate must meet missionary health requirements and give satisfactory evidence of mental aptitude and social compatibility. The candidate must have a complete physical examination before approval.
2. No specific age requirements are set forth. Each individual case is considered in the light of circumstances, education, previous

experience, and technical skills. Therefore, each candidate will be considered on his or her own merits.

### **C. Education**

1. A qualified candidate must have a high school diploma or its equivalent. He must have a diploma or certificate from some acceptable Bible institute, college, or seminary. Five years of full time Christian service may be accepted in lieu of educational requirements.

*Note:* After examination of a missionary candidate by the Mission Committee – should they feel it necessary – it shall remain the prerogative of the Mission Committee to require additional education related to doctrine and/or missionary training.

2. The wife of a qualified candidate must have completed a course of study from an acceptable Bible institute, college, or seminary. A missionary's wife is expected to learn the language and have an active part in the ministry of her husband, remembering, however, that her first responsibility is to her home and family. This does not mean that the Mission looks down on the importance of women in the work, but rather requires that the missionary wife be capable of working with women, young people, and children. Special abilities and experience in ministry may be acceptable in lieu of educational requirements.

### **D. Call**

A male candidate must have a clear conviction about the call of God to the mission field to preach the Gospel; however, realizing that there are other areas of service supportive of missionary work, other such supportive services will be considered.

### **E. Marriage**

1. Both single and married applicants will be given consideration. In the case of married couples, each must complete the application process, and both will be considered as candidates upon acceptance.

2. Unmarried candidates who are engaged must clearly declare this fact and will be accepted only after both parties have been considered and approved. Unmarried candidates who are not engaged should give prayerful consideration to any contemplated move toward engagement and shall do so only after consultation with the Mission Director.

Applications of engaged couples will be handled together as in the case of married couples.

3. All marriages proposed to be contracted by missionaries on the field are subject to the approval of the sending church and the Mission Committee.

## **F. Adoption**

Due to the many legal and financial challenges involved, adoption of national children is to be considered with caution. Each case will be reviewed by the sending church and Mission Committee on an individual basis before adoption procedures begin.

## **G. Divorce**

Because of possible complications and the testimony on the field, no missionary or missionary couple shall be approved for missionary service if either husband or wife has been divorced.

Should serious marital difficulties arise between husband and wife, the Mission will make every possible effort to assist them in restoring proper relationships. However, if reconciliation is not reached, the couple will be asked to resign as WBF missionaries.

## **H. Single Female Applicants**

The WBF Mission Agency encourages single female applicants and they, upon approval, will be sent as a missionary or missionary assistant to work with another missionary or national pastor. Single female applicants will be made aware of the unique challenges involved and will be recognized as missionaries assisting church planters on the field.

## **I. Citizenship**

Non-United States citizens will be considered on a case-by-case basis on the following conditions:

- a. Must be married to a citizen of the United States of America and be able to speak English.
- b. Must meet the following requirements:
  - i. The education and internship requirements of the WBF.
  - ii. Sent from an Independent Baptist Church in the USA which supports other WBF missionaries and the WBF Mission Office.
  - iii. The non-citizen must maintain legal immigrant status and provide annual verification of their status to their sending pastor and the Mission Office.
  - iv. In addition to the required recommendations, the candidate must have a recommendation of a WBF missionary in the country of service or region. It is preferred the person making the recommendation NOT be related to the couple when possible.
  - v. Due to the nature of tax laws related to income derived in the United States by a foreign national, the couple agrees to furnish the WBF Mission Office with a letter from a US tax preparer stating that their taxes are properly filed and paid. This letter must be received annually by the WBF Mission Office no later than 30 days beyond the deadline for filing US income tax returns (normally April 15).
  - vi. The sending pastor will receive a copy of these policy guidelines and be briefed by the WBFMA Director regarding the nature of these policies. The missionary couple shall furnish the WBF Mission Office with a signed partnership agreement between them and their sending pastor stating their understanding of the responsibility of the couple to maintain compliance, specifically with regard to immigration status and tax laws and the willingness of their pastor to work with the WBF Mission Office should this become an issue. This must be received by the application deadline for missionary approval.

## **J. Missionary Intern Program**

True education is a combination of schooling and experience. If the missionary is to cope with the many adjustments that he will face on the

mission field, he should have some practical experience in the pastorate or in working with an experienced pastor or missionary.

The Missionary Intern Program is set up to help the missionary intern get this necessary experience. The genius of intern training is that the intern has a church-centered ministry experience with the pastor; keeping in mind the primary aim is to build into a missionary candidate, through experimental training, many useful tools and ideas that will help him cope with future situations, which may be encountered some day on the mission field. He needs to discover any deficiencies he may have in time to correct them so that he can be a sharp, useful tool in the Master's hand. The Candidate Missionary may get the required experimental training by:

1. Pastoring a church for at least one year, or
2. Working with a pastor or missionary for at least one year.

*Note:* If a missionary candidate has had pastoral experience or has a working relationship with a pastor or missionary, he may be exempt from the Intern Program requirements. In every case, the Mission Committee will determine whether or not the candidate has met the requirements of the Intern Program.

**Please contact the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency for an application form.**

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Missionary Applicants:**

1. Must be in agreement with our doctrinal position.
2. Must be in agreement with our Practices and Principles.
3. Must attend our annual Missionary Seminar and, on completion, must sign a statement that he is in agreement and can support the Mission Policy of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency.

4. Must be willing to carry out the Missions Indigenous Church Policy.
5. Shall do no deputation work or enlist personal support until he has been approved by the Mission Committee. To do so may actually hinder approval. Churches are urged not to pledge support to missionaries until they are approved.

## **B. Application Procedure**

1. Interested applicants should write to the Mission Director for a Preliminary Information Questionnaire. This questionnaire involves no obligation on the part of the candidate but provides basic information, which is helpful to the Mission Committee in determining the possibility of the candidate's working with the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency.
2. On advice from the Mission Director, the candidate may request formal application papers. These should be filled out only after the candidate has thoroughly read our Practices and Principles. If the candidate is in basic agreement with the policies as stated, he is encouraged to complete application papers consisting of a Formal Application Questionnaire, Doctrinal Questionnaire, Statistical Questionnaire, and the Articles of Agreement. These questionnaires may be obtained from the Mission Office.
3. On advice of the Mission, each applicant must have a physical examination by a Mission-approved physician. Proper forms for this are available at the Mission Office.
4. After reviewing the above papers, the Mission Director may elect to invite the candidate to an interview with members of the Mission Committee prior to a formal invitation to the Candidate Seminar, which is held in Arlington, Texas each summer.
5. On the recommendation of the sending church and the Mission Director, qualified candidates will meet with the Committee at the conclusion of the Candidate Seminar.

6. Appointment is made by the Mission Committee.

### **C. Notes**

1. The term of service on the foreign field shall be comparable to that of mission agencies working in the same area, unless otherwise determined by the Mission Committee.
2. Missionaries returning from the field will be asked to read and sign the Practices and Principles of the Mission before beginning their furlough work.
3. It shall be the general policy of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency to give a good account of stewardship and not duplicate Fundamental Baptist missionary work that is already being done.

## **APPOINTEES**

### **A. Definition**

Personnel approved by the Mission Committee who have not yet arrived on the foreign field shall be known as **Missionary Appointees**.

### **B. Supervision**

Appointees are under the jurisdiction of the home administration (local church and Mission Committee) until such time as they arrive on the foreign field.

### **C. Training**

All appointees must have attended a Candidate School Seminar during one of its regular sessions prior to departing for the field.

### **D. Deputation**

Every appointee will report back to the Mission Committee after twelve months of deputation have been completed following approval.

## **FURLOUGH**

Missionaries will normally receive one-year furlough in preparation for their next term of service after three years of field service. This is not a strict policy, as it may be advantageous in some areas to adjust both the regular term of service as well as the furlough. However, some phase of ministry should be completed before returning for furlough (a work fulfilled to report of - Acts 14:26), and a subsequent phase of ministry should be in view for the next term. The first term on the field should include up to one year for language study with subsequent years of adapting to the culture and beginning ministry. The Mission Committee will determine each exception to the term of service and furlough on its own merits.

## **INACTIVE MISSIONARIES**

Missionaries who do not return to the field at the end of their normal furlough shall be termed "**inactive**" and shall be without remuneration. Exceptions will be made only with the approval of the Mission Committee.

## **RETIREMENT, RESIGNATION AND DISMISSAL**

### **A. Retirement**

#### **1. Regular Conditions of Retirement**

It is the policy of WBFMA to evaluate retirement status of personnel at the age of 65. If it is determined that the missionary is physically and mentally capable of continued service on the mission field, terms shall be extended one year at a time. Each yearly evaluation may be done either in person or via phone or alternate media source from the field.

#### **2. Other Causes for Retirement**

Retirement due to failure of health and other adequate causes will be given due consideration.

### 3. Provision for Retirement Income

Missionaries are required to raise adequate support while in initial deputation work to cover the cost of an approved retirement and insurance program. Should churches desire to continue support for a retired missionary the Mission Office will receive and forward the funds to the missionary each month.

### **B. Withdrawal or Dismissal**

#### 1. While on the Field

Should a missionary desire to withdraw from the mission, he must, if on the field, give three months' notice to the Mission Committee.

#### 2. While on Furlough

If a missionary on the field intends to resign from the mission when on furlough for such reasons as marriage, salaried employment, purposes of trade, or to join another mission organization, he must inform the Mission Director before leaving the field. Should the decision to resign be reached at home, the Mission Director should be informed without delay so that arrangements may be made for the termination date of the furlough.

#### 3. Discipline and Recall of Missionary Personnel

In the event that it becomes necessary to discipline or recall missionary personnel working under the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency, the following procedure will be followed:

a. The Mission Director, along with the Mission Committee, will make no final decision on the discipline or recall of any missionary personnel until the matter has been thoroughly discussed with the pastor of the missionary's home church.

b. If, after consultation with the pastor of the missionary in question, it is deemed necessary to recall him or her from the field, it is the policy of the Fellowship to immediately withdraw all support, to inform the State

Department, to cancel visas, and further, to provide passage for immediate return of the person or persons recalled.

#### 4. Resignation or Dismissal of an Appointee

In the event of a resignation or dismissal of an appointee who has not reached the field, all funds remain Mission property.

#### 5. Disposition of Mission Property

Anyone leaving the Mission must turn over all Mission property and/or money in his charge to the Mission Committee to be disposed of at the Committee's discretion.

#### 6. Status of Overdrawn Accounts

In the event that any appointee or missionary personnel is overdrawn in Mission funds at the time of resignation or dismissal, he will be expected to make restitution of the entire amount.

## **MISSION POLICY**

### **A. Deputation**

Deputation is one of the most important tasks for appointed missionary personnel. It is the means of presenting themselves and their needs to churches and groups in order to obtain prayer and financial support for their ministry on the mission field.

A report of offerings received and deputation expenses should be sent to the office each month. Deputation Report forms are supplied by the Mission Office.

It is extremely important that love-offering checks be sent to the Mission Office for two reasons:

1. IRS regulations require that funds given for non-profit ministry be channeled through an approved (501c-3) non-profit organization. Receipts are sent from the Mission Office to the Church or individual donor which can be used in case of an audit by IRS. If the church does not receive a receipt from the Mission Office, it must

provide a form 1099 to the missionary, and keep a copy on file. The Mission Office receipt eliminates the need for a form 1099.

2. Offerings not channeled through the Mission Office are considered by the IRS as personal income. The missionary will be responsible for payment of Social Security and Income Taxes on any funds which are not sent to the Mission Office.

3. The missionary may request an immediate deposit of the love offering funds, so that he will be able to pay his travel expenses while on deputation. A procedure has been developed which will enable him to have immediate access to the funds needed for his deputation expenses and which will satisfy IRS regulations.

A warning and caution is in order, for it is easy to turn in large expense reports that could eat up all that the missionary would collect in offerings. Remember that the more the missionary spends, the less he will have as a balance to build up to meet the needs for equipment and passage. It is good common sense to keep expenses as low as possible and for missionary personnel to put into their accounts all that they possibly can. It takes a great deal of money to go to the mission field.

## **B. Reports**

1. Missionary personnel of the World Baptist Fellowship are required to make monthly reports to the Mission Director on forms that are provided for them by the Mission Office. ***All monies received, except personal gifts, no matter from what source shall be accounted for.***

***Note: "Personal Gifts" Defined - No missionary personnel shall solicit funds for their personal use. However, gifts received for Christmas, anniversaries, and birthdays are considered personal gifts and need not be reported as missionary personnel funds received and need not be listed on the monthly work-report forms.***

2. Work reports are to be sent to the Mission Office within two weeks after the end of the month. If work reports have not been submitted for two consecutive months, the monthly field work support (work fund) will be withheld until the proper reports are received.

3. Churches that are not members of the World Baptist Fellowship wishing to help in finances, gifts, or support of any missionary personnel are encouraged to mail their contributions to the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Office. If the donor insists on sending the donations

directly to the missionary personnel, the missionary will make a report to the Mission Office of such offerings.

**Note: Any surplus over approved funds will be kept in the missionary personnel's accounts for future use and may not be transferred to any other account.**

Missionary personnel who receive offerings on the field should inform the donor that tax exemption may not be claimed unless he has a receipt for offerings from an authorized non-profit agency. A receipt from missionary personnel is not recognized by our government as valid for tax exemptions. Therefore, it is best for all concerned if the contributors send their offerings to missionary personnel through the Mission Office.

### **C. Language School**

Before being considered ready for field work, all missionary personnel are to remain in language school until they are completely finished and a satisfactory report is received from the language school. The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency wants all missionary personnel to finish the required studies and attain required efficiency in the language before leaving language school; therefore, no time limit is set on these studies since some people are naturally better linguists than others; some have had former language study; some have hearing much keener than others; etc. Missionary personnel should endeavor to master the language, even if it means additional weeks and months of study. Also, some languages are more difficult than others, and a stated time of study would be unrealistic. However, once the student leaves language school, any additional training he feels necessary must be paid for out of his personal support. Specialized training will be the exception.

### **D. Education of Children**

Children of missionary personnel under the World Baptist Fellowship will attend high school in the States if the standard of the high school is not adequate where the missionary personnel are stationed. **Home schooling is acceptable. It requires, however, a high degree of dedication.**

It is also recognized that in some countries, undue religious pressure and other factors make education in the public schools undesirable. In such cases, missionary personnel may acquire additional support to send children to a private school.

If kindergarten is a prerequisite to the first grade, these costs may be taken out of the missionary personnel's work fund, if kindergarten is not prerequisite, and the parents desire their children to attend kindergarten or nursery school they must pay these schooling costs out of their personal support.

Missionary personnel's children will receive their allotted monthly support as long as they remain in school. However, if they take a job and leave school (not summer vacation employment) or get married, their monthly support will cease.

If excess funds are available in the parents' account, and they wish to use it for this purpose, the parents may pay college tuition for their children who are unmarried.

## **E. Financial Requirements**

The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency is a faith mission, although some might challenge our right to be called a faith mission. It is maintained that the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency does qualify as such and establishes its position in the following:

1. It depends wholly upon God to supply its needs in answer to believing prayer. Its trust is completely in Him to move the hearts of His people to supply funds for the work.
2. It does not ask people to give to its work. It does "ask God and tell the people." It believes in giving publicity about the work and its needs. It is left up to God to move people to give.
3. It does not contract debts beyond its assets. It does not borrow money to send missionary personnel, build buildings, or to carry out any phase of its work. Because of this principle, it cannot guarantee any stated amount. It can only move forward as the Lord supplies the funds.
4. It does not receive guarantee of support either from churches or individuals. Missionary personnel are given declarations of intention of support from individuals or churches, but these are not guarantees. The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency never bills donors or demands payment of pledged support. Unless God prospers the one making a declaration of support, he will not be able to give. No missionary personnel or mission should place too much trust in men - they can fail, they have failed - but God remains faithful.

5. Many instances are known where God has supplied the need in critical hours. Nearly all missionary personnel have experienced His supply. The events were such that only God could have arranged for the funds to come at the precise time.

All of the above are recognized faith principles followed by "faith mission agencies."

A word of explanation is needed in connection with the statement. "it does not contract debts beyond its own assets." This, of course, means that the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency will not go into debt to those outside of the Mission. It works on a "pay as you go" basis. It does not buy equipment if it does not have the money in hand. It believes the missionary personnel should keep themselves free of debt. In connection with the accounts of missionary personnel, these should likewise be kept from going into the red. If a deficit does occur, the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency expects complete cooperation on the part of the missionary personnel to help clear the account.

Behind the financial principle is the thought of economy and conservative spending, whether in equipment or travel.

**Note: Financially, faith agencies suffer from a chronic problem that does not trouble denominational boards. Donors can be obtained more readily for missionary personnel who go to the field, and that is the way it should be. However, few people understand the complexity of missionary administration, and they fail to realize that it costs money here on the home front to operate the sending agency.**

Overhead for missionary operations, contrary to uninformed opinion, is not wasted money; it is absolutely essential to the orderly progress of missionary endeavor. The Mission Committee encourages those interested in our missionary work to make a monthly contribution, if at all possible, to the General Fund. Out of this fund the overhead for our home-base expenses is drawn.

## **F. Monthly Allowance**

1. The Mission Committee has established certain financial requirements for those who are accepted as missionary personnel. Since there are differences in housing requirements and work fund needs on various fields, there can be no hard-and-fast rule as to the exact amount of support missionary personnel will need. No missionary

personnel will be permitted to go to the field unless their basic financial needs are secured. Basic monthly needs are as follows:

Personal Support Couple	\$3,000.00
Single	\$2,000.00
Children's Allowance – Birth-12	\$70.00
Children's Allowance – 13-21	\$80.00
Rent as needed - base	\$500.00
Work Fund based on needs of field	\$100.00-\$1,000.00
Maintenance (couples & singles)	\$150.00

## 2. Definitions

a. **Personal Support for the Family.** As its name implies, this includes tithes, food, personal needs, incidental furnishings of the home, and other personal family expenses. (Personal Family Support is reviewed from time to time as the need arises.)

b. **Work Fund Expenses.** This includes such items as utilities, automobile expenses, travel in interest of work, heating of the home, language school tuition, children's tuition, printing and postage, literature needs, expenses in beginning a new work, and other expenses pertaining to the work.

c. **Housing Allowance.** The base amount of missionary personnel's housing allowance is \$500.00 per month and may be adjusted to meet the need on each particular field.

d. **Maintenance.** Adult missionary personnel are requested to raise \$150.00 per month (couples and singles) for the purpose of meeting in part the needs of administration on the mission field and at home. This maintenance money is not deducted from the missionary personnel's monthly support, but is an amount raised in addition to his support.

e. **Health Insurance.** Group health insurance is available for missionary personnel and their families. All missionaries must be covered under the missions group policy or an alternative policy approved by the Mission Director.

## G. Other Monetary Requirements

## 1. Emergency Fund

All missionary personnel will be responsible for raising \$400.00 for his/her part in the emergency fund. (The emergency fund is based on \$400.00 per adult.) Missionary personnel may raise the \$400.00 while on deputation or give \$20.00 monthly until they have placed \$400.00 in the emergency fund. In the case of an emergency, missionary personnel may request monies from this fund **upon written approval from sending pastor**. An emergency defined is an immediate threat to life or limb or the destruction of property. After all other efforts to raise needed funds have been exhausted, agreement will be made between the mission, the missionary, and the sending pastor as to how the funds will be reimbursed to the emergency fund. If the missionary is not able to reimburse the amount requested while on the field, he will be expected to reimburse the amount when he returns home on furlough.

## 2. Transportation Fund

Adult missionary personnel will raise monthly support for their return passage. The amount needed is based on the cost of return passage divided by the number of months the missionary personnel are to be on the field.

## 3. Retirement, Life Insurance, and Social Security

Missionary couples may draw a total of \$500 per month from their backlog for a life insurance and/or retirement program. Single missionaries may draw a total of \$250 per month for this purpose. Quarterly Self-Employment Social Security is paid from the accounts of those who come under Social Security. Missionaries not covered under Social Security may place the equivalent amount into their private retirement plans.

## H. Indebtedness

As stated under Item E, "Financial Requirements," missionary personnel do not contract debts beyond their assets. In like manner, all missionary personnel serving under the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency are expected to live within their incomes. **"Owe no man anything, but to love one another"** is the scriptural admonition (Romans 13:8).

There will be times, no doubt, when the opportunities seem ready for immediate expansion and the income falls short of expectation. However, the missionary personnel who walk by faith must wait until the

supply is received before proceeding. In other words, they must live within their income since the Mission cannot permit deficit spending.

Any deviation from this principle shall be brought to the attention of the Mission Committee, and means to solve the financial problem will be recommended.

#### 1. Personal Debt

Missionary personnel shall incur no debt on the mission field. They shall incur no debt to a national. An exception may be made for financing a residence on the field.

#### 2. Credit Cards

No credit cards of any nature are to be issued in the name of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency. Moreover, the use of credit cards in the name of the missionary is discouraged.

### **I. Equipment and Travel Funds**

1. When missionary personnel have sufficient funds in their accounts to warrant the expenditure, they are allowed to withdraw funds for special purposes and for items of clothing and field equipment. Requests for these funds should be made before items are purchased.

2. Travel funds should be in hand before departure plans are completed. Missionary personnel must have sufficient funds in their Backlog and Transportation Fund accounts to provide money to pay for equipment, passage to the field, and customs/handling charges upon entry into the country of service, as well as having money with which to get settled in a home on the field. The amount needed will be determined by consultation with the Mission Director.

3. Missionary personnel will not be permitted to buy equipment or go to the field unless funds are in hand to meet the costs.

4. Certain articles of equipment: such as cameras, video projectors, video recorders, computers, radios, etc., which are necessary in the missionary's work, are items that may be purchased as field equipment.

### **J. Designated Funds**

Since the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency is a faith work, which supports missionary personnel purely by faith with no guarantee of salary, monies received, which are designated to missionary

personnel, will be dispensed exactly as they are designated. None of these funds will be used for any purpose other than that for which they were designated, except by the approval of the missionary to whom they are designated **and** the church or individual making the gift.

**Note:** A reliable mission agency is always happy to fully explain its Practices and Principles. The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency wants only those candidates who will be satisfied with the conditions with which they will be working to apply for assignment. If they are completely satisfied, they will be able to do their best for Christ. The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency will endeavor to clearly present these matters to every candidate. By so doing, it is trying to avoid in advance the tragedies that do happen occasionally, even where the best intentions are involved on the side of the sending agency and the individual.

### **K. Love Offerings**

All love offerings given for the purpose of purchasing field equipment, passage to the field, shipping costs, or deputation expenses shall be sent to the Mission Office. These funds are to be maintained in the Missionary's Office Account. (If funds are needed for travel and other expenses, missionary personnel may request these funds from the Mission Office.) Due to IRS regulations, Missionary personnel will not be allowed to set up their own personal accounts to hold these funds.

### **L. Financial Statements**

Financial statements will be sent to the home pastor of the missionary personnel when they are requested.

### **M. Policy of Ownership**

1. In as much as missionary personnel, when accepted, are considered as authorized servants of the Lord under the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency, it shall be understood that all funds and contributions sent to the Mission Office for missionary support and equipment belong to the Lord and are simply entrusted to missionary personnel to be used in the furtherance of His work in the regions beyond. (**I Corinthians 4:2... "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."**)

2. Residential property purchased with personal funds, rent allowance, or designated gifts is the personal property of the missionary. Some

funds received for the purchase of personal property may be subject to Social Security taxes.

**Work Fund** may not be used in purchasing or building a personal residence.

## **N. Employment**

No missionary personnel may enter into employment on the field with or without pay unless he has special permission from the Mission Committee. When permission is granted, all gain received from any source, whether in the form of money or benefits, must be reported to the Mission Committee.

## **O. Indigenous Churches**

1. It is the purpose of the World Baptist Fellowship to encourage nationals to build their own churches with their own money, calling their own pastors, and educating the nationals to evangelize their own people. The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency will own no property except that which is purchased to build schools for the training of national pastors, headquarters for the field, or any other properties deemed essential for the promotion of the Gospel. The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency will rent or lease property for all needs on the foreign field whenever possible. Therefore, evangelism and the establishment of churches shall be the aim and method of all work, and no method shall be employed which does not contribute directly to this end.

2. The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency does not believe in the institutional method of missions where large sums of money are invested in expensive buildings and property for social or educational purposes. It believes that buildings and property investments should be kept at a minimum, consistent with effective work, and that the wide, forward-moving program of pioneer evangelism should be the primary concern.

3. The autonomy and sovereignty of the local church under the leadership of the Holy Spirit shall be recognized from the first as the New Testament order and ultimate objective. All groups of believers shall be taught to be independent, they themselves becoming missionary in nature. The World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency believes that truly indigenous methods shall be followed from the first, meaning that the local church should be taught to provide for its own

ministry and should not be subsidized by mission funds, either in the support of its pastor or in the erection of its place of worship.

4. To be consistent with the indigenous church policy. American missionary personnel shall not hold membership in national churches. They shall remain members of the church from which they were sent to the field.

## **P. Outreach Methods**

1. Bible-training schools and evangelistic institutes should be fostered and encouraged as a means of developing and training national Bible teachers, evangelists, pastors, and lay workers. Secular education, as an end in itself, is not the mission. Bible clubs, schools, and vacation Bible schools shall be promoted in order to reach the children. Open-air evangelism and tract distribution shall be engaged in as widely as possible, particularly in the carnival and fiesta seasons where large crowds assemble.

2. The ministry of the printed page is one of the most effective methods of reaching souls; therefore, missionary personnel are encouraged to make full use of this medium. It is recommended that great discretion be used in the distribution of controversial literature.

3. Medical work has been proven to be a legitimate and valuable means of gaining a hearing for the message of soul salvation and, accordingly, medical evangelistic work is an acceptable method.

## **Q. Support Ministries**

Due to mitigating circumstances, veteran missionaries of longstanding service sometimes find it impossible to remain on the foreign field. It is recognized that they could perhaps be involved in certain types of support ministries which, although not directly involved in church planting, can be of great assistance to the church planting missionary. Modern technology has provided some tools for the ministry which can be used to aid the missionary in his efforts to win souls, plant churches and train national workers. These ministries include, among others, literature, telecommunications, radio/tv, home office administration and Mission Representative. The Mission Committee will consider approval or endorsement on a case by case basis of those who desire to serve under the auspices of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency in auxiliary ministries.

## **R. Cross-Cultural Ministry**

It is evident that there is a huge, ever growing, population of immigrants in the United States, many of whom do not speak English. In effect, the mission fields of the world are coming to our very doorstep. Definite efforts must be put forth by the churches of the World Baptist Fellowship to reach these souls for Christ. The following guidelines are established for these efforts:

1. That missionaries be approved for this ministry who have completed at least two terms of service on a foreign field where they have learned the language and culture of a particular group of people; and due to extenuating circumstances have to leave the foreign field. Each request will be considered on an individual basis.
2. That these works be as closely linked to local Independent Baptist churches as possible so that the children of the people reached, as they become more adapted to the English language and American culture, can be incorporated, if they wish, into the English speaking churches. There will be some children who will wish to remain in the mission church, but some will want to become Americans.

## **S. Change of field**

No missionary personnel may make a change of field without approval from the sending church and the Mission Committee. He may not return home before his normal furlough is due, except in the case of emergency, or unless permission is obtained from the Mission Office.

## **T. Morals**

We believe that the character, demeanor, behavior, conduct, actions, and appearance of a WBF missionary is to be above reproach and blameless. Our goal should always be that which is admonished in 1 Corinthians 10:31: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." As a mission family, missionary personnel must abstain from practices such as, but not limited to: use of alcoholic beverages, non-medical use of narcotic drugs, and use of tobacco in any form, as well as participation in social dancing, lotteries or gambling. All missionaries must use utmost caution and Spirit-led discernment in the viewing of or listening to all forms of media, whether in movies, the Theater, DVDs and videos, TV programs, the Internet, or the printed page. The attitude of our missionary personnel in the area of morals

and ethics should be to “abstain from all appearance of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

## **U. Ecclesiastical Separation**

As a Bible-believing Baptist mission agency, we take our stand regarding the current trends that lead to discrediting the Bible and undermining the historic fundamental doctrines of our faith. World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency, Inc., takes a separatist stand against Neo-orthodoxy, Neo-evangelicalism, the Ecumenical Movement and the modern Charismatic Movement. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy.

## **V. Personal Separation**

We believe the Scriptures teach that every believer should be separated unto God from the world and by the aid of the Holy Spirit should walk in Christian love and holiness, showing qualities of honesty, integrity, forgiveness and loving kindness. We believe that all WBF missionaries should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord and the churches that they represent, and should maintain a professional appearance as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. All missionaries should embrace a lifestyle consistent with biblical precepts. God’s people should refrain from any immodest and immoderate appearance and conduct. The principle of holiness and modesty rather than the fad styles of the world should dictate our style of dress and personal grooming. No one is offended by a high standard. We ask our missionaries to choose a standard for their families that is the least offensive in order to avoid being a stumbling block for missions. Our top priority is to glorify the Lord and guard the testimony of our missionaries and their supporting churches. It is anticipated and expected that good taste in grooming and clothing will be maintained. All men and their sons should look like gentlemen. They must refrain from any immoderate or effeminate appearance, body piercing, and bodily markings. Clothing worn for dress, work or outdoor activities must be respectable. Appearance is important! Men and boys should keep their hair neat and trimmed and conservative in style. All women and their daughters should look like ladies. They must refrain from any immodest appearance and bodily markings. Body piercings should be limited to the ears. Their style of dress should be that which is becoming to Godly mothers and servants of Christ. Tight, short, and revealing clothing which exposes and emphasizes the human form is never appropriate.

Fathers and husbands are ultimately responsible for the lifestyle and dress of the entire family. (Romans 12:1–2; 14:19–21; 1 Corinthians 6:18–20; 8:9–13; 15:34; 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1; Galatians 5:22–25; Ephesians 5:1–2, 15–20; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Timothy 2:1–10; 2 Timothy 3:1–5; 1 John 2:15–17).

## **W. Websites**

Personal websites should promote the missionary's personal ministry and missions generally. Missionaries are not to solicit funds on a private website without specific approval of the Mission Office. All WBF related missionary website content and media are to be reviewed and approved by the Mission Director.

# **SHORT-TERM EVANGELISM PROGRAM (*STEP*)**

## **Objective**

The World Baptist Fellowship recognizes the great need in these last days to do all we can to advance world-wide missions. We recognize that there are those of all ages in home churches who want to have a more hands on approach to missions and assist missionaries on the field but aren't ready to make it a lifetime commitment. We also recognize there are those that feel God is leading them into full time service but are still seeking His perfect will in the matter (Romans 12:1-2). Therefore the WBF Mission Agency adopts a Short Term Evangelism Program (***STEP***) that will sanction believers as Short Term Missionary Helpers allowing them to raise support, get proper orientation, and be united on the field with a host missionary.

## ***STEP* Vision Statement**

***STEP*** sees believers co-laboring with full time missionaries as they evangelize, minister and establish indigenous Baptist churches around the world.

## **What *STEP* Allows**

- For applicant to apply and be approved to raise support through the banner of WBF Missions.
- To work with any approved host missionary for a predetermined time.
- To give an applicant enough of a hands on experience to allow the Lord to lead them to a possible full time commitment to missions.
- To allow all ages a more flexible opportunity to serve on the field. (i.e.- single, a retired widow, widower or couple).
- Working with their home church they will have a network of prayer, encouragement and financial advantage because the financial burden will be less than for a full time missionary.

### ***Short Term Designation***

#### **Short Term as defined by the WBF Mission Agency is:**

- Any length of time agreed upon up to one year (not to exceed two consecutive years) as determined by home church, WBF Mission Agency, host missionary and applicant.
- This term may be extended upon approval of home church, WBF Mission Agency, host missionary and applicant.
- This term may be rescinded if the home church, World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency, or host missionary withdraws their approval.

#### **Who Can Apply for *STEP*?**

- A committed believer who is a member of a local Bible believing Baptist church and who has shown a love for and further interest in mission work.
- An applicant may be single, married, widowed, or retired.
- One who is recommended by their Pastor as someone who would benefit as well as be of assistance to missionaries on the field.
- One who has read and accepts the doctrinal statement of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency and its Practices & Principles as they apply to ***STEP***.

- Someone who already has the financial resources to go but needs approval in other required areas or someone who meets all the requirements of **STEP** but needs to raise support under the banner of the WBF Mission Agency.

## **STEP Application Requirements**

### **Personal Requirements**

- Must be a member in good standing and actively involved in a Bible believing Baptist Church.
- No younger than 18 years of age.
- No restriction on maximum age if health allows.
- Must have proof of health insurance.
- Must submit a **STEP** application form to the WBF Mission Agency accompanied by a letter of recommendation from their pastor.
- Must have at least one year of acceptable experience in some form of Christian service in their local church.
- Must participate in a **STEP** training session given by the WBF Mission Agency.

### **Financial Requirements**

- Upon approval a budget must be established that is set up by the pastor, the Mission Director and host missionary.
- All approved applicants must raise the support needed for the trip there, the length of stay, and the return trip home.
- Must agree to funnel all support through the WBF Mission Agency for IRS and accountability purposes.

**Upon consideration of the application and consultation with the home pastor approval may be given by the WBF Mission Agency.**

### **CONTACT:**

**MISSION DIRECTOR  
WORLD BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP  
MISSION AGENCY**

**P. O. BOX 13459  
ARLINGTON, TX 76094-0459**

**TELEPHONE: 817-274-7161  
FAX: 817-861-1992  
E-MAIL: [office@wbfma.net](mailto:office@wbfma.net)**

**WORLD BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP  
MISSION AGENCY, INC.**

**WORLD BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP  
MISSION AGENCY, Inc.**

**BY-LAWS  
&  
STATEMENT  
OF FAITH**

## **By-Laws**

**Approved: May 8, 1984**

**Amended: October 15, 2019**

### **ARTICLE I -MISSION COMMITTEE**

#### **Section 1. Number of Members and Term of Office**

The Mission Committee shall consist of not less than eleven (11) members, nor more than twenty-one (21). The Terms of Office shall be proportioned in accordance to the number of Committeemen. The Mission Committee shall be elected for three (3) year terms.

#### **Section 2. Election of the Mission Committee**

Each member of the Mission Committee of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency shall be a member of an Independent Baptist Church, which supports financially the program of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency, and is in complete agreement with its Practices, Principles, and Articles of Faith. The Mission Committeemen of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency shall be nominated and approved each year by the existing Mission Committeemen for each ensuing year. Any vacancies created on the Mission Committee shall be filled by the existing and remaining Mission Committee of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency. Any Mission Committeeman of the Mission Agency may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Mission Committee present. The Mission Committee may fill any unexpired term of a member who is terminated as a Committeeman or who resigns as a Committee Member or who is incapable of acting as a Committee Member because of physical or mental incapacity. Any member of the Committee shall automatically terminate as a member of the Mission Committee upon becoming employed by the Mission Agency.

### **Section 3. Quorum**

A simple majority of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Committee, present in person or by written proxy, shall constitute a quorum for a regular or special called meeting of the Mission Committee. A majority of those present at any regular or special called meeting shall have power of adjourning the meeting to a future date. Proxies have no voting power in the Mission Committee meetings. Proxies are given solely for the purpose of obtaining a quorum so that business can be transacted.

### **Section 4. Qualifications**

Each member of the Mission Committee of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency shall be a member of an Independent Baptist Church, and in agreement with the Practices and Principles, and must freely subscribe to the Statement of Faith, believing without reservation in the infallibility and authority of the Word of God, as preserved for English speaking people in the King James Version of the Bible. Each member must give evidence of deep spirituality and active love for the work of Christ. Each member is to be in agreement with the objectives of the Mission Agency, show an active interest in its operation, and maintain regular financial support to the Mission Agency.

### **Section 5. Duties of the Mission Committee**

They shall be responsible to determine basic policies of the Mission Agency and to give general direction in the fulfillment of these policies. They shall exercise control through the Mission Director who is the executive officer of the Mission Agency.

### **Section 6. Duties of Officers**

a. Chairman - The Chairman of the Mission Committee is to preside at all meetings of the Mission Committee and to represent the Committee in matters of policy and conduct of the Mission Agency.

b. Secretary - The Secretary shall be appointed by the Mission Committee and shall maintain records of all Committee Meetings,

perform official correspondence in the name of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency, and keep up-to-date files on the operation of the Mission Agency.

## **Section 7. Place and Time of Meetings**

The Mission Committee shall meet regularly four times a year at the discretion of the committee. Special meetings of the Mission Committee may be called by the Mission Director of the Mission Agency, the Mission Committee Chairman, or by a majority consent of the Mission Committee. Notices of special meetings except those called by a majority consent of the Committee, shall be mailed to each committeeman by the Secretary at least ten days prior to the time of the meeting. No notice of regular meetings is required.

## **ARTICLE II - ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER MISSION DIRECTOR**

### **Section 1. His Qualifications**

The Mission Director shall be a man of Christian stature and integrity. He shall be a member of a World Baptist Fellowship church. He shall be in complete accord with the objectives of the Mission Agency. He shall be an able executive motivated by the spirit of service; an impartial administrator who commands the respect of his colleagues, benefactors and missionaries.

### **Section 2. His Duties**

The Mission Director shall be the administrative head of the Mission Agency under the direction of the Mission Committee.

### **Section 3. His Tenure of Office**

The Mission Director is given an indefinite contract and that contract will remain valid so long as the Mission Director meets the moral, doctrinal, and administrative qualifications set forth by the Mission Committee.

### **ARTICLE III - AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS**

The By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the Mission Committeemen present at any regular or special called meeting of the Mission Committee.

### **ARTICLE IV - PROVISION UPON DISSOLUTION**

The assets of this Corporation are pledged to be used in fulfillment of the purpose of the Corporation as stated in Article II of the Articles of Incorporation. In the event this Corporation is in the process of dissolution, the assets of the Corporation are to be transferred to an educational, religious, charitable or other similar organization that is qualified as a charitable organization under Section 501 (c) (3), Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended. Such distribution shall be administered in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Non-Profit Corporation Act, Revised Statutes of the State of Texas, and in accordance with a plan of distribution as adopted by vote of a majority of the Mission Committee present at a meeting of the Mission Committeemen.

### **ARTICLE V - PURPOSE**

To assist local churches in fulfilling the Lord's commission of Matthew 28:19-20 by screening missionary candidates for their field of service; to assist missionary appointees in their deputation; to assist local pastors and churches by directing the transmission of funds and handling all necessary needs of the missionaries. This purpose is to be fulfilled through the implementation of the approved Practices & Principles of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency, Inc.

### **ARTICLE VI - STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Every member of the Mission Committee of the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency, Inc., and its Administrative Officer shall be in whole-hearted accord with the following Statement of Faith:

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## Section 1. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

1. By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which as originally written does not contain and convey the Word of God but IS the very Word of God.

In the English language, we choose to exclusively use the King James Version for teaching and preaching due to its historical accuracy, consistency, and method of translation. We also believe in regards to translation that every tribe and nation can have the preserved Word of God in their language.

2. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; Psa. 119:160; Psa. 119:105; Psa. 119:130; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45; Psa. 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; I Pet. 1:2-3; Rev. 22:19; John 12:48; Isa. 8:20; Eph. 6:17; Rom. 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psa. 19:7-11; John 5:45-47; John 5:39.

## Section 2. Of the True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine

perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Ex. 20:2-3; Gen. 17:1; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; Psa. 83:18; Psa. 90:2; Jer. 10:10; Ex. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; I Tim. 1:17; Rom. 11:33; Mark 12:30; Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; I Cor. 12:4-6; I John 5:7; John 10:30; John 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; II Cor. 13:14.

### **Section 3. Of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

John 14:16-17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; II Thes. 2:7; John 16:8-11; John 15:26; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13-14; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; John 14:26; Rom. 8:14; Rom. 8:16; II Thes. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:26-27

### **Section 4. Of the Devil or Satan**

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels-, that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy, the lord of the anti-Christ, and the author of all the powers of darkness-destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's Son and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Rev. 12:9; Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4; Eph. 2:2; John 14:30; I Thes. 3:5; Matt. 4:1-3; I Pet. 5:8; Zech. 1:3; I John 3:8; Matt. 13:25, 37-39; Luke 22:3-4; Rev. 12:10; II Cor. 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-22; I John 4:3; II John 7; I John 2:22; Rev. 13:13-14; II Thes. 2:8-11; Rev. 19:11, 16-20; Rev. 12:7-9; Rev. 20:1-3; Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:4 1.

## **Section 5. Of the Creation**

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary changes of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind."

Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; John 1:3; Rev. 10:6; Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jer. 10:12; Neh. 9:6; Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:21-23; Gen. 1:11; Gen. 1:24.

## **Section 6. Of the Fall of Man**

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 5:19; Rom. 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1, 3; Rom. 1:18; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:32; Rom. 1:20; Rom. 1:23; Gal. 3:22.

## **Section 7. Of the Son of God**

We believe in the virgin birth of Christ, His Deity, and sinless life, His vicarious death, along with His bodily resurrection and ascension, and in His personal, pre-millennial return. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the second person of the Godhead, God in the flesh, virgin born as no

other man has ever been born nor ever will be born. He lived an absolutely sinless life and became the sinner's voluntary substitute on the Cross by His vicarious death for man's sin. Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day, giving eternal assurance of redemption's full payment and the satisfaction of God's righteous indignation toward sin. He ascended bodily into heaven and he will come to rapture His saints to be with Himself. His coming for His saints is imminent and will be personal, pre-tribulational, and pre-millennial.

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18; John 1:1; 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Luke 1:35; 1 Peter 2:22; 3:18

## **Section 8. Of the Atonement for Sin**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience; and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is every way qualified to be a suitable and compassionate and all-sufficient Saviour.

Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; John 10:8; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 1:4; I Pet. 2:24; I Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:11; Heb. 12:2; I Cor. 15:20; Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25; I John 2:2.

## **Section 9. Of Grace in the New Creation**

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner

above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

John 3:3; II Cor. 5:17; Luke 5:27; I John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; Acts 16:30-33; II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 3:8; John 1:12-13; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9; John 8:31-32; 1 John 2:19.

## **Section 10. Of the Freeness of Salvation**

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

I Thes. 1:4; Col. 3:12, I Pet. 1:2; Titus 1:1; Rom. 8:29-30; Matt. 11:28; Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Rom. 10:13; John 6:37; Isa. 55:6; Acts 2:38; Isa. 55:7; John 3:15-16; 1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5; John 5:40; John 3:18; John 3:36.

## **Section 11. Of Justification**

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not on consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us.

Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 5:11; Titus 3:5-7; Hab. 2:4, Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:18; Heb. 10:38.

## **Section 12. Of Repentance and Faith**

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Saviour.

Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; Luke 18:13; Rom. 10:13; Psa. 51:1-4; Psa. 51:7; Isa. 55:6-7; Luke 12:8; Rom. 10:9-11.

## **Section 13. Of the Church**

We believe that the church began with the calling out of the twelve apostles by Jesus Christ and was empowered on the day of Pentecost. We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated together by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers of ordination are pastors or elders and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures; we believe that the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission; First, to make individual disciples; Second, to build up the church; Third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and methods of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Acts 2:41; Acts 2:42; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:4, 8-11; Acts 14:23; Acts 6:5-6; Acts 15:23; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-7; I Tim. 3:8-13; Matt. 28:19-20; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:22-23; I Pet. 5:14; Acts

15:22; Jude 3-4; II Cor. 8:23-24; I Cor. 16:1; Mal. 3:10; Lev. 27:32; I Cor. 16:2; I Cor. 6:1-3; I Cor. 5:11-13.

## **Section 14. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost with the authority of the local church to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:6; John 3:23; Rom. 6:4-5; Matt. 3:16; Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20; I Cor. 11:23-28.

## **Section 15. Of the Security of the Believer**

We believe that those who receive Jesus Christ as Savior are eternally secure. Our security rests totally on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. As a result, we have assurance of eternal life. We believe that the true believer is forever secure as a redeemed possession of God. This security is founded on the full payment of the believer's sin by the Cross of Christ in His substitutionary atonement and God's proof of receipt of that payment in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The sole condition of salvation is faith in Jesus Christ and His redemptive work. This positive expression of faith has as its negative side repentance and rejection of any other basis of salvation. Therefore, the security of the believer is not conditioned upon his circumstances or emotional experiences or strength, but it is an acceptance of that basis of reconciliation, which has already been accepted by God. The believer is in the possession of God, which is the opposite of lost. He is secure because God has taken the responsibility for His own.

John 10:27-30; 1 John 2:1-2; I Pet. 1:5; Phil. 1:6; Rom. 8:31-39; Hebrews 2:10.

## **Section 16. Of the Righteous and the Wicked**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked, that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17-18; Prov. 11:31; I Pet. 4:18; Rom. 1:17; I Cor. 15:22; Acts 10:34-35; I John 2:29; I John 3:7; Rom. 6:16; I John 5:19; Gal. 3: 10; Rom. 7:6; Rom. 6:23; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34-41; John 8:21; Luke 9:26; John 12:25; Matt. 7:13-14.

## **Section 17. Of Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

Rom. 13:7; II Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14; I Pet. 2:17; Acts 5:29; Acts 4:19-20; Dan. 3:17-18; Matt. 10:28; Matt. 23:10; Rev. 10:6; Phil. 2:10-11; Psa. 72:11.

## **Section 18. Of the Resurrection and Return of Christ and Related Events**

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily "the third day according to the Scriptures;" that He ascended "to the right hand of the throne of God;" that He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God;" "that this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" - bodily, personally and visibly; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first;" that the living saints "shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;"

"That the Lord shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David;" and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet."

Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2, 4-6; Acts 1:9; Acts 1:11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:1; Heb. 12:2; Heb. 8:6; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9-10; John 14:3; I Thes. 4:16; Matt. 24:27; Matt. 25:13, Jas. 5:8; Matt. 24:42; Heb. 9:28; I Thes. 4:16; I Cor. 15:42-44; I Cor. 15:52; I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thes. 4:17; Phil. 3:20-21; Luke 1:32; Isa. 9:6-7; I Cor. 15:25; Isa. 32:1; Isa. 11:4-5; Psa. 72:8; Rev. 20:1-4; Rev. 20:6.

## **Section 19. Of Missions**

The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches.

Matt. 28:18-20: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. "

Mark 16:15: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

John 20:21: "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

Acts 1:8: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Rom. 10:13-15: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet

of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things. "

## **Section 20. Of the Grace of Giving**

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the Faith.

II Cor. 8:7: "Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week.

I Cor. 16:2: "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

Under grace we give, and do not pay, the tithe - "Abraham GAVE a tenth part of all" - "Abraham GAVE the tenth of the spoils" - Hebrews 7:2-4 - and this was four hundred years before the law, and is confirmed in the New Testament; Jesus said concerning the tithe, "These ye ought to have done" - Matt. 23:23.

We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church.

Lev. 27:30: "The tithe is the Lord's."

Mal. 3:10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

In the New Testament the storehouse was the common treasury of the church.

Acts 4:34, 35, 37: "And brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down at the apostles' feet . . . Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet."

## **Section 21. Of Separation**

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Saviour and Lord. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations; and to refrain from all immodest and immoderate appearances.

Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; Leviticus 19:28; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

Note: As a fundamental group of believers, we take our stand regarding the current trends that lead to discrediting the Bible and undermining the fundamentals of the faith. WBFMA takes a separatist stand against Neo-orthodoxy, Neo-evangelicalism, the Ecumenical movement and the modern tongues movement.

## **Section 22. Of Abortion**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother are acceptable.

Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44.

## **Section 23: Of Human Sexuality**

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful

perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

Genesis 2:24, 19:5, 13, 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1: 26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4.

2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.

Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23.

## **Section 24: Of Family Relationships**

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church.

Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12.

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction.

Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13, 14; Mark 10:6-12; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; Hebrews 13:4; Titus 1:6.

## **AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH**

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and, therefore, is binding upon all WBF missionaries. All literature used in the mission ministry of WBF shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.