



Missions Definitions

“Missions is any endeavor aimed toward the goal of reaching beyond the needs of the local congregation for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission – by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ making disciples and relating to the whole need of mankind, both spiritual and physical.” *How Missions Minded is Your Church?* APMC

“Missions is the worldwide enterprise of making disciples of the nations that falls outside the normal outreach responsibilities of the local church.” *Church Missions Policy Handbook*, APMC, 3rd edition, p. 11

“Any cross-cultural endeavor outside of your local congregation to obey the Great Commission by proclaiming the gospel of Christ, making disciples and gathering those disciples into local churches.” Generic Evangelical Free Church Mission definition

“The sending out of specially equipped disciple-makers who cross barriers of distance, culture and language in order to establish and strengthen the church in places beyond the normal sphere of influence of our members.” Generic

“East Lansing Trinity church affirms the definition of missions as any endeavor outside its local congregation to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ, making disciples and relating to the whole need of mankind--spiritual and physical.” East Lansing Trinity Church, East Lansing, MI

“The sending out and supporting of equipped disciple-makers who cross barriers of distance, culture and language in order to establish and strengthen the church in places beyond the normal sphere of influence of our members, both within and outside the USA.” Northwest Bible Church, Dallas, TX

“To present the Lordship of Christ to the world through His power by means of any ministry extending beyond the congregation and the church facilities. This will cover a wide range of missionary activity, including evangelization, discipling, planting churches and aiding in their growth and development (both overseas and in the United States).” Southhills Christian Church, San Jose CA

“...the sending out of specially equipped disciple-makers who cross barriers of distance, culture and language in order to establish and strengthen the church in places beyond the normal sphere of influence of our members.” Curt Dobbs, workshop on missions policy, 1992.

“Missions is discipling beyond Grace Church’s immediate sphere of influence for the purpose of establishing and strengthening local churches throughout the world.” (Grace Church of Edina)

“Missions is that endeavor of the local church to carry the gospel across cultural and/or geographical boundaries in order to make disciples for Christ from every group of people.” (Ward Church, Livonia, MI)

“Missions may be defined as the sending out of specially equipped disciple-makers who cross barriers of distance, culture, or language in order to establish and strengthen the church in places beyond the normal sphere of influence of our members. Missions, then, is specially cross-cultural outreach, whereas evangelism includes sharing the gospel in one’s own culture. Missions is defined primarily by culture, rather than by geography.” (Northwest Church, Fresno, CA)

Definition of a Cross-Cultural Church Planting Missionary

Cross-cultural church planting missionaries are messengers sent by their respective churches to places where there is no Christian witness. They live an exemplary life and communicate the gospel in ways their new neighbours can understand. Their aim is to see conversions to Jesus Christ. They teach believers to obey all of Christ’s commandments. The final goal of their missionary activity is a body of obedient Christian disciples who are able to carry on the work of evangelism and discipleship among their own people and who are eager and able to reach other peoples also.”

Establishing Ministry Training, Robert W. Ferris, ed., p. 33

Stuff you need to know about
Doing Missions in Your Church

