

## **APPLICATION for Missions**

### **Santa Barbara Community Church**

#### **Application Process**

1. Applications will be reviewed quarterly by SBCC's Missions Group. Applications are to be submitted electronically to the Missions Group at [missions@sbcommunity.org](mailto:missions@sbcommunity.org)
2. The selection process will not be governed by the particular deadlines of the applicant(s).
3. We recommend the following process for those seeking to be supported by SBCC:
  - a. Be a member of SBCC for at least 2 years.
  - b. Be a committed, regular member of a homegroup.
  - c. Have your homegroup pray for you in this decision and support your desire to go into the mission field.
  - d. Meet with an Missions Group Member or Elder and include them in your planning and visioning process.

#### **Missions and SBCC**

- ✓ **SBCC's Missions Thrust:** to support ministries that promote a local church emphasis, to grow missionaries out of our own local body, and to make our Christian witness overt.
- ✓ **Mutual edification:** our hope is that we will have a reciprocal relationship with each missionary. We want missionaries sent out from SBCC to return to the church to teach, encourage, inform, and stimulate our church body.
- ✓ **Long-term vs. short-term:** we recognize that God usually uses short-term mission trips to cultivate a calling to the mission field; as a result, we will often give some financial support to these trips on a case-by-case basis. Nevertheless, in terms of percentages, the majority of our missions giving will be devoted to long-term missions work.
- ✓ **Sending Church:** SBCC desires to be a sending church. We are seeking to develop and send members of our body to the mission field. We affirm the need for missions agencies to assist the church in their sending efforts. The church and the mission agency become partners in training, sending, and sustaining the missionary.
- ✓ **Balance:** we seek to be balanced in our missionary endeavors between foreign, local, and social justice concerns.
- ✓ **Speaking up for the voiceless:** we will give priority to places and people who lack a voice, whether through lack of fiscal & social resources (as in a Third World country), or through lack of vital church presence (e.g., in most of Western Europe).
- ✓ **Prayer:** we will pray as a church regularly for missions and missionaries, and encourage the body to grow in missions-mindedness. At one level, every member of the body will be involved in missions.

## Application Questions

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. These questions will help us to get to know you better.

- Your Name
- What Agency will you be serving with? How did you select the Agency?
- Where will you serve?
- What will your ministry entail?
- What is your tentative date for departure?
- How did you become a Christian?
- Tell us about your relationship with your family. Were you raised in a Christian home? Do you have another church home that you were involved with before SBCC? How does your family view your faith, and your interest in going to the mission field?
- Describe your decision process in regard to becoming a missionary.
- What is your ministry budget; monthly, outgoing/one-time expenses etc.?
- How do you plan on raising and maintaining your support? Be detailed as possible. How much have you raised to date?
- What are your expectations in your relationship with SBCC once you go to the mission field? Please be specific.
- If applicable, list the names of your current homegroup leaders. Also, provide us with a name and contact information of a reference from SBCC.
- How many contacts (give an exact number) do you plan on contacting who do not attend SBCC?
- Please send completed application to Kathy Roberts, [missions@sbcommunity.org](mailto:missions@sbcommunity.org)

## Expectations

As stated earlier, with whomever SBCC sends out, it is our hope to have a relationship of mutual encouragement and support. We ask missionaries from SBCC to do the following:

- ✓ Establish a prayer/advocacy group before you leave. They will be your primary representatives in the church for information and prayer, and will meet regularly to pray for you.
- ✓ Read and sign and return an annual contract that is sent out each January. Your supervisor or board member will also need to sign.
- ✓ Complete a yearly report (following our outline) and submit it to the Missions group. The report is sent to you in June and is due back by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ✓ Send us detailed newsletters quarterly (preferably electronically).
- ✓ Future fundraising: Missionaries will need to work closely in the future with the Missions group in regard to seeking further support. For example, the missionary needs to gain permission from the elders before holding fundraising events among church members.
- ✓ Agree with the following SBCC Fundraising Policy

We ask that any missionaries or missions organizations who are on the SBCC budget refrain from also soliciting individual donors from SBCC. Specifically we ask that any informational desserts, or gatherings to update people about goals and ministry, not include fundraising. There are two reasons for this policy: 1) donor fatigue, and 2) donor confusion. When members of a church who are giving to a unified missions budget are also asked at the same time to be individual donors to particular ministries that are already a part of that budget, confusion can result because they are in fact already giving to that ministry. In essence they are being asked to give twice. This "double dipping" breeds donor confusion. This policy would not include a small number of individual supporters who have already, historically, been a part of a support team prior to a missionary becoming a part of the SBCC budget. If a SBCC budgeted missionary should at the same time solicit funds from SBCC members we would see this as cause to re-evaluate this missionary and our budget commitments to them.