

MEMORIAL NEIGHBOR & NATIONS SERVE TEAMS OVERVIEW

Introduction

Engaging in missions is very dear to the heart of Memorial Baptist Church as we seek to be real people sharing real life who are experiencing and initiating real change in our world. Missions is dear to our heart because it is dear to the heart of God. When Jesus ascended from this earth, He encouraged and commissioned all of His followers to participate in initiating real life change in their world- *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:19-20 NLT)

The reason that we engage in missions activities is because, as Christ’s followers, we have been given an invitation to continue His mission of meeting the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of people with love. We desire to accept that invitation and help others experience real life change. We understand that God is already at work all around us and our primary responsibility is to look around, identify where God is at work, and join Him. Engaging with God in missions should occur each day whether serving locally or globally.

The Memorial Neighbor and Nations Serve Teams

In order to properly inspire its members to engage in missions activities, Memorial Baptist Church established the Neighbor and Nations Serve Teams (N2). The Neighbor Serve Teams responsibilities include all of Jefferson City and the immediate surrounding areas. The Nations Serve Teams responsibilities include any area outside of the Neighbor Serve Teams area, ie. Joplin, Texas, Africa, etc. The teams’ primary responsibilities are to **educate, equip and empower** MBC members to initiate REAL LIFE CHANGE locally and globally. The teams shall consist of no fewer than five members, with each member serving a two-year term. Team members are appointed by the nominating committee, and endorsed by the church members and may serve two consecutive terms, but shall rotate off the team for at least one year before becoming eligible for another term. In addition, each team will include a chair to facilitate meetings, etc.

Educating MBC Members

The Teams’ responsibility to educate MBC members involves informing members about the mission activities that are available, while also reminding members about why we are engaging in missions. God sent Jesus into the world to proclaim the good news about His Kingdom through words and deeds. Now, Jesus sends His followers into the world to continue this mission. We believe that biblical missions involves encouraging and supporting the local believers, sharing the Gospel, and meeting the needs of people with love.

It is important to realize that the real life change we are hoping to initiate has to do with “quality of life” and not “standard of living”. Quality of Life refers to the degree of enjoyment and satisfaction experience in

everyday life (**earthly and eternal**) as opposed to financial or material well-being, while Standard of Living refers to the level of material comfort enjoyed by a person, group or society. We are not attempting to increase the material comforts that people can enjoy, but rather we are trying to help them experience joy and hope by meeting needs with love and introducing them to the Creator of joy and hope.

With that in mind, we must understand the basic needs that should be considered when we engage in serving the needs of people with love: spiritual, fundamental, and structural. We must never lose sight of the fact that the core need we are attempting to meet with love is a spiritual need- the need to hear the truth about Jesus Christ and the opportunity to follow Him. As followers of Christ, everything we do is with this need in mind. Second, we are trying to meet fundamental needs- food, clothing, and shelter. By meeting fundamental needs, we are hoping to a) earn the right to speak the truth of Jesus and b) clear a pathway for that truth to be heard and received. Third, we are trying to meet structural needs- organization, development, and life skills that help improve Quality of Life.

Equipping and Empowering MBC Members

Part of the Teams' strategy to equip and empower MBC members involves an annual **Missions Celebration Sunday**. The purpose of this event is to celebrate the past year's mission activities, promote upcoming missions activities, and collect the annual offering to fund these activities. Ideally the Missions Celebration Sunday would take place the second Sunday of November and coincide with the annual fall study. This timing is beneficial because it allows members to adequately prepare for Spring/Summer activities, prefunds the next year's N2 budget, and allows the teams enough time to determine the next year's budget allocations.

In preparation for the annual Missions Celebration Sunday, there will also be an annual **Missions Commitment Sunday**. The purpose of this event is to remind members about the upcoming mission's celebration, challenge members to make a missions offering pledge, and promote any upcoming mission activities. Ideally the Missions Commitment Sunday would take place six months before the Missions Celebration Sunday.

In addition to the Missions Celebration and Missions Commitment Sundays, the N2 teams hope to encourage a standardized process that would incorporate all avenues of communication available to MBC members; including, but not limited to: bulletins, information stations, email, website, and Facebook (see Communication Addendum).

Choosing Missions Activities

The Teams believes that it is essential to choose missions activities that correctly reflect the passions and heart of MBC members. With this in mind, in February 2011, the teams distributed an initial **"Heartbeat Survey"** that encouraged members to check a geographic location where they might be interested in serving. The results helped our teams identify possible opportunities. Each year the teams will take the "pulse" of MBC members in order to determine future opportunities- both locally and globally.

The Missions Activities are separated into five different categories: partnerships, projects, potential (vision), people and resource response. A **Partnership** is a mission activity where MBC makes a **continuous long term commitment** to serve. A **Project** is a mission activity where MBC makes a one-time commitment to serve. In order for a mission activity to become an official partnership, it must have two non-related Partnership Coordinators (one Lead-Coordinator and one Co-Coordinator) and an official endorsed Partnership Recommendation that includes: partnering missionaries, partnership timeframe, and partnership objectives (see Partnership Recommendation Form Addendum). **Potential**, or vision, refers to a one time mission trip or one year commitment to a local mission activity with the purpose of casting a vision for potential future Projects and Partnerships. **People** refers to support of missionaries on the ground and /or individuals requesting support for mission activities which are not official partnerships of MBC. A resource response is a mission activity where MBC simply makes a **commitment of tangible resources or funds** to an organization or an individual. Because we believe in the power of relational missions, partnerships will receive priority.

It is important that a mission activity whether a one-time activity or a long-term commitment becomes an official project or partnership so that the N2 Team can effectively equip with resources and appropriately fund through the annual offering allocations.

| The Process for Selecting Neighbor/Nations Projects | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Local Activities | Global Activities |
| Identify a Possible Opportunity: Annual "Pulse," Recommendation from Church Member, Etc. | |
| Meeting with N2 Team to review Project Recommendation | |
| N2 Team endorses Project Recommendation | |

| The Process for Selecting Neighbor/Nations Partnerships | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Local Activities | Global Activities |
| Identify a Possible Opportunity: Annual "Pulse", Recommendation from Church Member, Etc. | |
| Actively serve in the opportunity for 1 year. | Send a Vision Trip |
| Prepare a Vision Opportunity report* | Prepare a Vision Trip Report* |
| Meeting with N2 Team to review reports and discuss Partnership Recommendation | |
| N2 Team endorses Partnership Recommendation | |
| N2 Team presents Partnership Recommendation to church for approval. | |
| N2 Team reviews Partnership at conclusion of commitment period. | |

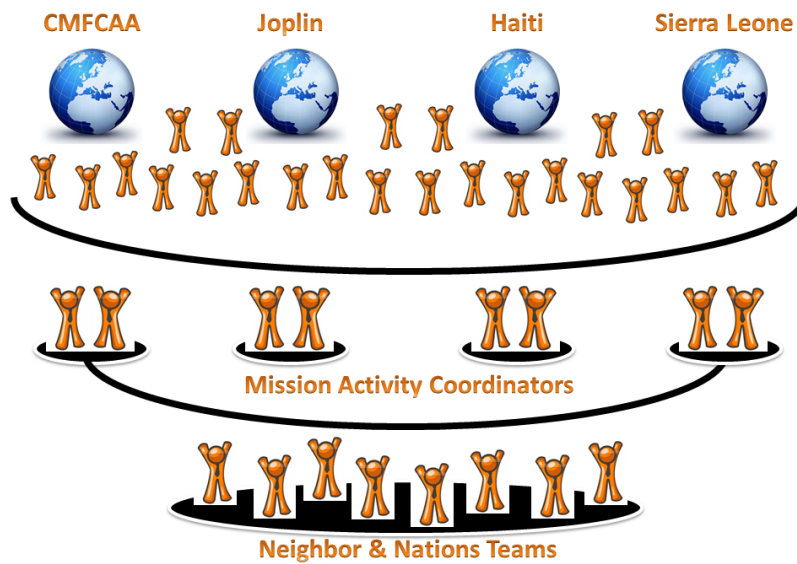
*see Addendum for Vision Opportunity/Vision Trip Reports

Review of Partnership at Conclusion of Time Period

- Is leadership in place?
- Is interest still there per “Heartbeat Survey”?
- Review objectives to determine; have they been met or are they still current?

Equipping and Empowering N2 Team Coordinators

Another part of the Teams’ strategy to equip and empower MBC members involves utilizing Partnership Coordinators. The Team quickly realized that they were incapable of coordinating all the mission activities as God expands the local and global footprint of Memorial. With this in mind, they created a structure that utilizes MBC members as Partnership Coordinators to assume ownership and facilitate mission activities. The primary responsibility of the Partnership Coordinators is to facilitate the mission’s activity through vision casting, communication, and decision making. Thus, the N2 Team saw their role morph into one that involved managing the overall mission activities and attempting to discover new ways to equip and empower Partnership Coordinators through organized processes and infrastructure.



The N2 Team will have semi-annual equipping meetings in September and February and would like quarterly updates when possible. The equipping meeting in September will cover trip dates, trip protocol, communication strategy review, collecting funds from participants, and meeting with your team (team building & prayer). The equipping meeting in February will cover mission budgets. The N2 Team will also provide sample materials for facilitating missions' activities: how to request budgeting allocations, how to request reimbursement for purchases, how to communicate mission activity, and how to collect funds for a mission activity.

If a Partnership Coordinator fails to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, they may be subject to removal after a meeting with the N2 Team and a grace period.

Partnership Coordinators

Partnership Coordinators are responsible for the facilitation of their specific mission activity, which includes: vision casting, communication, and decision making. The N2 Team will always be available for any support or encouragement that is needed, but it is assumed that the Partnership Coordinators will assume the main responsibility for facilitation.

Roles & Associated Responsibilities of a Coordinator:

- Christ-Like Example
 - Exemplify the characters and qualities of Christ.
 - Exemplify the fruits of the Spirit.
 - Accept responsibility if a mistake is made and confess it to the N2 Team.
- Vision Caster
 - Cast a vision to the church about what the activity hopes to accomplish and how others can be involved.
 - It's not just about personally enjoying the mission activity, but about leading and inspiring others to be involved.
- Team Player Liaison
 - Serves humbly and selflessly.
 - Fosters a healthy relationship and partnership with missionaries and/or organizations on the ground.
 - Encourages and empowers partnering missionaries and/or organizations and supports their ministries.
 - Seeks to understand the current needs and challenges of partnering missionaries and/or organizations on the ground on a regular basis.
-
-

- Decision Maker
 - Plan activity goals and objectives with input of partnering missionaries and/or organizations- planning, budgeting, etc.
 - Make decisions before and after mission activities.
 - Discern how to use funds, appropriate timing, and any needed logistics.
- Communicator
 - Communicate in a timely manner to the N2 Team, partnering missionaries and/or organizations, Church, and activity participants.
 - Communicate before, during, and after a missions activity.
 - Be a good listener.
 - Utilize the “Communication Strategy.”
 - Team Player

Mission Offering Allocations

| FUNDING | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Amount | Explanation |
| | Missions Offering |
| | Remaining balance from the previous year |
| | Approximate Funds for upcoming year |
| <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work towards a zero-balance budget (hope to spend the collected funds each year). Any additional funds remaining at the end of the year will be rolled into next year's budgeting allocation. | |

| OPERATIONS & EMERGENCY | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Amount | Purpose | Explanation |
| | Missions Team Budget | Administrative expenses, event planning, etc. |
| | Emergency Fund | 10% of collected funds. |

| PARTNERSHIPS | | | | |
|--------------|---------|------------|----------------|-----------|
| Amount | Purpose | Objectives | Trip Leader(s) | Resources |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Notes:

- Partnerships are a priority for our team and their objectives will receive primary consideration.
- It is our desire to work towards clear partnership objectives for funding, but we want to make additional resources available.
- A trip leader is allotted 50% of the original trip cost to go towards their expenses, but cannot share in any money used for trip reduction.
- A trip leader may choose to give their allotment to: 1) another participant, 2) divide it among participants, or 3) transfer it to resources.
- A maximum of 50% of the Resources may go towards trip reduction for participants.
EX: If the Resource allotment is \$2,000, then a maximum of \$1,000 may be used for trip reduction.
- Participants may receive no more than 25% reduction of the trip cost.
EX: If the trip cost is \$3,000, then a maximum of \$750 may be used for trip reduction from Resources.

Mission Offering Allocations (Continued)

| PROJECTS | | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|----------------|-----------|
| Amount | Purpose | Objectives | Trip Leader(s) | Resources |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Notes:

- Project Coordinators may request more funding if there is a specific project objective that requires financing.
EX: While responding to Katrina relief, the coordinator becomes aware of a need for a refrigerator.

| POTENTIAL | | | | |
|-----------|---------|--|----------------|-----------|
| Amount | Purpose | | Trip Leader(s) | Resources |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Notes:

- It is our desire to empower vision trips based on potential leadership and interest of MBC members as we continue to expand the missional vision of MBC.
- Because a MBC Partnership requires 2 Partnership Coordinators, it is important to finance ½ of two trip leaders' expenses.
- It is also our desire to empower vision casting experiences locally

| PEOPLE | | |
|--------|------------------------|-------------|
| Amount | Purpose | Explanation |
| | Missionaries A | |
| | Non-Sponsored Missions | |

Notes:

- Our team desires to actively support missionaries in the field.
- Our team desires to encourage and support MBC members who participant in non-sponsored mission activities (10 people x \$100 maximum).

| RESOURCES | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Amount | Purpose | Explanation |
| | Additional Resources | |
| <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is our desire to utilize the missions offering to primarily provide resources that will empower and equip our members to initiate REAL LIFE CHANGE locally and globally. | | |

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO ADD:

- Communication Strategy
- Trip Planning – expectations
- Trip Participant Survey
- Evaluation of process – add as Team Leader

Addendum
PARTNERSHIP RECOMMENDATION

Partnership Title: _____
Coordinators (Lead & Co): _____
Partnering Organization: _____
Timeframe for Evaluation: _____

OBJECTIVES:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Partnership Coordinator(s) Signature(s): _____
Partnering Organization Signature(s): _____
Mission Team Leader(s) Signature(s): _____