

FOREIGN MISSIONS POLICY STATEMENT

**NORTH BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST
MURFREESBORO, TN**

Approved by NB elders in 2002

Revised in 2007

Table of Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Sections</u>
4	Introduction
	Part I: Policy Statement
4	A. Benefits of Policy Statement
4	B. Theological Foundations
7	C. Policy Review
7	C.1. Comprehensive Review
7	C.2. Modification of Policy
8	D. FMC Composition and Functions
8	D.1. Membership
8	D.2. Qualifications
8	D.3. Chairperson
8	D.4. Secretary
8	D.5. Size
8	D.6. Meetings
8	D.7. Responsibilities
9	D.8. Goal Setting
9	E. Missions Education
9	F. The Focus of North Boulevard's Work
9	F.1. Type of Work
10	F.2. Missionary Selection
10	F.3. National Preacher Support
11	F.4. Doctrinal Requirements
11	F.5 Short-Term Mission
13	G. Church-Missionary Relationships
13	G.1. NB Responsibilities
13	G.2. Missionary Responsibilities
14	G.3. Missionary Furlough
14	H. The Budgeting Process
14	H.1. Budget Development
14	H.2. Budget Priorities
14	H.3. Budgeting Goals
14	H.4. Funds Management
	Part II: Implementation of the Policy
16	A. Current Work
16	B. Chief Priorities
16	C. Goals
	Appendices
18	A Where Have We Been? – Missions History of North Boulevard
21	B Where Are We? – Current Foreign Missionary Efforts
23	C Where Are We Going? – Foreign Missions Goals
24	D Sample Working Agreement
28	E Sample Missionary Report Forms
30	F Initial Missionary Application
32	G Follow-Up Missionary Application

FOREIGN MISSIONS POLICY STATEMENT

Introduction

This document consists of (1) a statement of the biblical bases upon which the Foreign Missions/Evangelism Committee of the North Boulevard church of Christ will seek to operate, (2) the body of guidelines it will follow, (3) several Appendices for reference, and (4) an extended section on the implementation of the guidelines.

The basic purpose of this document is to state how the North Boulevard church will seek to honor our Heavenly Father by the proclamation of the gospel throughout the world. It is prepared by the Foreign Missions Committee (FMC), which includes some of the church’s elders, and is approved by the body of the elders/shepherds. The FMC is the group designated by the elders to care for the details of administering the policies stated herein. But since worldwide evangelization is the responsibility of the church itself, it is the desire of the FMC and the elders that the congregation have access to this document as a part of being informed about the work described and participating actively in the prayerful, emotional, and financial support of the work. To these ends it will be found on the North Boulevard web site and will be available to all members who wish to see it in our church library.

Part I: Policy Statement

A. Benefits of Policy Statement. In outline form, this Policy statement is designed to provide the following *benefits to the church and those whom we support*:

1. Generate a sense of direction within the FMC
2. Permit careful and timely evaluation of crucial issues that arise
3. Prevent decisions that are based on personal whims, hunches, vested interests, and appealing but uninformed presentations
4. Facilitate responsible spending and management of funds and human resources
5. Minimize confusion as well as increase consistency and understanding concerning the goals and strategies of North Boulevard’s missions efforts.
6. Provide more responsible care of those sent out and the work to which they will be committed

B. Theological Foundations. Worldwide proclamation of the gospel is a biblical mandate. It is appropriate, therefore, to state on the front end the biblical base on which the Mission Committee of the North Boulevard church seeks to operate. In short, we hold that the Creator God is the only true God, who is sovereign over all the universe, and that He has chosen to use His people to be His instruments to spread throughout the world the incredible good news of His work in Christ Jesus to save lost, estranged people and weld them into a community of faith and love. This central conviction finds more detailed expression in the following statement.

Biblical Foundations for Worldwide Evangelizing

All ministry for Christ should be derived from solid biblical teachings. The North Boulevard ministry of worldwide evangelization is neither whim nor fad but is founded on several central biblical convictions. Among them are the following.

1. God is the Creator,¹ the “Maker of heaven and earth,”² and the Sustainer of the world and its inhabitants.³ He sends rain and sun on the good and evil alike.⁴ People depend utterly upon Him for “life and breath and everything else.”⁵ Because of His nature as Creator and Sustainer He deserves to receive “glory and honor;”⁶ people are to live “to the praise of the glory of His grace.”⁷ He is Lord of hosts and rules over all. Devotion to any other god or ideology is offensive to the only true God⁸ and eventually robs people of blessings He desires to give them.
2. God made humans in His image, “after his likeness,”⁹ with the capacity to seek Him¹⁰ and know Him.¹¹ He is a moral God who has ethical standards.¹² From the earliest biblical period sin has separated people from their Maker and Sustainer,¹³ preventing their enjoyment of the blessings of fellowship with God and having His nature in themselves.¹⁴ Eventual separation from God and destruction result from the ultimate choice to live self-centered lives apart from God.¹⁵
3. God has always expressed a concern for the whole earth. He wanted the entire earth peopled.¹⁶ His promise to Abram involved “all peoples on earth.”¹⁷ Although He chose Israel to be His people, that choice was not to save them and condemn other nations. Rather, He desired to display in Israel something of His own nature so that they could declare God’s glory “among the nations” and be “a light to the nations.”¹⁸ Solomon’s prayer at the dedication of the central Jewish structure, the temple, acknowledged the place of the non-Jew.¹⁹ God Himself said, “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth.”²⁰ The Lord God said, “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the water covers the sea.”²¹
4. Jesus Christ is God’s Son and the One through whom God deals decisively with the effects of sin on people. Through Christ alone²² sinful people may be reconciled to God,²³ redeemed,²⁴ adopted into God’s family,²⁵ saved,²⁶ and become partakers of His holiness.²⁷ It is not surprising, therefore, that God mandated a worldwide proclamation of the “good news about the Lord Jesus.”²⁸
5. While God is sovereign, the Ruler of all, and can use even His enemies to accomplish His purposes,²⁹ He intends His people to be the primary vehicles for spreading the gospel universally, through both what they have become in Christ³⁰ and in what they teach.³¹ The local church is God’s “missionary society” and must undertake to the best of its ability the responsibilities entailed in selecting, supporting (spiritually, emotionally, and financially), supervising, and evaluating its workers and works,³² as well as wisely using other human and financial resources available for evangelizing.³³
6. God’s intention is that “as many as possible” be brought to faith in and obedience to Christ,³⁴ and that they be strengthened so as to remain steadfast in their obedience and loyalty.³⁵ Making people three-month disciples is no credit to human workers nor a glory to God. While many enterprises may be used both to evangelize and train (literature, television, radio, schools, medical work, agriculture and the like), it seems clear that the establishment and maturing of viable, culturally appropriate churches is both an apostolic norm³⁶ and a God ordained means of keeping people faithful.³⁷ The solitary Christian is not contemplated in the New Testament. We hold, therefore, that while attention may be given to several dimensions

of world evangelism, priority should be given to the establishment³⁸ and development of churches, and treat as secondary those good works, which are more or less “handmaidens” to the church.

7. Evangelization is a spiritual work designed to deliver people from the Evil One, bring them into the kingdom of God, and increase the worship,³⁹ service⁴⁰ and praise of God.⁴¹ It is important to carry out this dimension of the church’s work with the mind of Christ, encouraging both individuals and sister congregations in their own evangelistic efforts. May God be praised.⁴²

Biblical Foundations Endnotes

- ¹ Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; 102:25; Acts 17:24-28; Rev. 4:11, etc. God as Creator and Sustainer is one of the great teachings of Scripture, running through the whole like a mighty stream of water.
- ² Ps. 115:15; 121:2; 124:8; 134:3; 146:6.
- ³ Heb. 11:3; Col. 1:15-17; Matt. 6:25-34; Acts 17:25.
- ⁴ Matt. 5:45; cf. Acts 14:17.
- ⁵ Acts 17:25, 28.
- ⁶ Rev. 4:11. Note how He is due praise *because* He has created all things.
- ⁷ Three times in the discussion about the work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to save sinners it is affirmed that the grand object is for people to live “to the praise of His glory” (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14).
- ⁸ See Ex. 20:3; 23:13; Deut. 5:7; 6:13-15 for covenant regulations.
- ⁹ Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6; Jas. 3:9; cf. Ps. 8:5-8.
- ¹⁰ Acts 17:27; Is. 55:6. Universally, humans have a “god capacity.” If they do not know the true God, then they invent false or imaginary gods.
- ¹¹ Gal. 4:8-9; Heb. 8:11. “Knowing God” builds on but is not the same as knowing about God. Humans may know God in the sense of intimacy. See J. I. Packer, Knowing God (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993).
- ¹² Already in Gen. 18:25 He is referred to as the “Judge of all the earth.” The judgments on the sinful world of Noah’s time (Gen. 6:5-7), the arrogant ancient world (Gen. 11:1-9) and Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:16-19), are early indications that God has a moral claim on humans.
- ¹³ Gen. 3:2, 16-19, 23-24; Is. 59:1-2; Rom. 5:12-19; 6:23. The effect of this separation not only keeps humans from developing in the righteousness for which they were made; it sets them up for eventual judgment, giving an account for the choices they have made (Rom. 14:12; 2 Tim. 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:5; Heb. 4:13).
- ¹⁴ See 2 Pet. 1:4 for “divine nature,” Eph. 5:1 for “imitators of God,” and Heb. 12:10 for partaking of “His holiness.”
- ¹⁵ Rom. 6:23; 2 Thess. 1:8-10; Jas. 1:15; Rev. 21:8;
- ¹⁶ Gen. 1:28; 9:1; cf. Acts 17:26.
- ¹⁷ Gen. 12:3; 18:18; 22:1-18; 26:4-5; 28:14.
- ¹⁸ Ps. 96:3; Is. 42:6; cf. Lk. 2:32; Acts 13:47
- ¹⁹ 2 Chron. 6:32-33; cf. 1 Ki. 8:41-45.
- ²⁰ Is. 45:22. These words to captive Israel were words of hope, pointing to the future of God’s dealings with people.
- ²¹ Hab. 2:14; cf. Is. 11:9.
- ²² Jn. 14:6; 1 Cor. 3:11; Acts 4:12; Col. 1:15-20; 2:9-10. In a day of pluralism even some Christians hold that God will save all pious people in whatever religion. For a summary of views see John Sanders, No Other Name: An Investigation into the Destiny of the Unevangelized (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1992). A lively discussion of various views is found in Gerald H. Anderson and Thomas F. Stranksy, eds., Christ’s Lordship & Religious Pluralism (New York: Orbis Books, 1981). One may wish to read a strong affirmation of the exclusive claim of the gospel in Carl E. Braaten, No Other Gospel! (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1992).
- ²³ 2 Cor. 5:17-18; Rom. 5:9-11.
- ²⁴ Eph. 1:7; Rom. 3:24; 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
- ²⁵ Rom. 8:15, 23; Eph. 1:5.
- ²⁶ Jn. 12:47; Heb. 7:25; 1 Tim. 1:15. “Salvation” is a multi-faceted, dynamic concept, involving deliverance *from* separation from God, punishment for sins, and an empty, meaningless life (1 Pet. 1:18); as well as deliverance *to* a new, joyous and purposeful way of life (Col. 2:9-10), life “to the full” (Jno.10:10).
- ²⁷ Heb. 12:10; Eph. 4:20-24; 2 Pet. 1:4.
- ²⁸ Acts 11:20; cf. Matt. 28:18-20; Lk. 24:46-47; Acts 10:42; Rom. 16:25-27; Col. 1:6,23.

- ²⁹ Ezra 1:1; Is. 10:5; 44:28-45:1.
- ³⁰ Eph. 3:10; 1 Pet. 2:9, 11-12; Matt. 5:14-16; Rom. 15:18; Phil. 2:14-16.
- ³¹ Acts 13:2-3; Phil. 1:5; 4:14-16; cf. Acts 8:1-4; 11:19. For a useful and constructive discussion of the content of the message the early Christians preached see Michael Green, Evangelism in the Early Church (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1970; Published by Eerdmans in the USA) ch. 3.
- ³² Cf. Phil. 1:5; 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 11:8; 1 Tim. 3:14-15. At least from the turn of the 20th century members of the churches of Christ argued that the local church is “God’s missionary society.” Earl I. West, The Search for the Ancient Order Vol. 3, 1900-1918. (Indianapolis, IN: Religious Book Service, 1979), pp. 306ff. Currently in the USA several Evangelical groups have opted for “church sponsored missions” rather than missionary societies.
- ³³ Entailed in stewardship (1 Cor. 4:2) and Christian wisdom (cf. Eph. 5:15-16; Matt. 10:16).
- ³⁴ cf. 1 Cor. 9:19; Rom. 15:20-21; 16:25-27.
- ³⁵ Acts 11:23; 14:21-22; 15:41; 18:23; 1 Cor. 15:58; Col. 1:22-23; 2:6-8. In one sense every book in the New Testament was written to strengthen Christians and help them to remain true to their Lord.
- ³⁶ Acts 9:31; 14:23; 15:41; 1 Cor. 5:5, 12-13; 2 Thess. 3:14-15. The effect of evangelism by the apostles was to leave behind local communities of believers who so related to each other that they built up each other (Eph. 4:1-16), provided constructive discipline (1 Cor 5:5; 2 Thess. 3:14), spurred each other to love and good works (Heb. 10:24-5), and lived to the praise of God.
- ³⁷ Eph 4:1-16; 1. The Greek word ἀλλήλων, usually translated “one another” or “each other,” occurs no less than ninety-nine times in the New Testament and indicates something about the necessity of group life among Christians.
- ³⁸ Here the word “establishment” has no reference to a church’s enjoying political protection, a favored position, in any particular country. Rather, the concept is simply one of “starting,” “planting,” “founding,” or “beginning” churches. All these terms are used to describe the same process. Jesus is the only “foundation” in that sense (1 Cor. 3:11), but Paul does refer favorably to someone’s proclamation of the gospel as “laying a foundation” (1 Cor. 3:10; Rom. 15:20). In this latter sense one may “found” a work or a church. The agricultural metaphor of “planting” is used of God’s action with Israel (1 Chron. 17:9; Jer. 24:6) and Christians’ work with the Word of God (1 Cor. 3:6-7; cf. Jas. 1:21). Of course “starting” and “beginning” are terms inherent in the action of preaching the gospel and seeing a church come out of it. The essential element is that preaching the Word of God is intended to produce devout disciples of Jesus who carry out their lives and work as a defined group, called a church. A splendid study of Paul’s efforts at this in Thessalonica is Abraham Malherbe, Paul and the Thessalonians (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987) where he refers to the “founding,” “shaping,” and “nurturing” of the church. It is well known that evangelizing individuals may not result in a viable church. Deliberate effort must be put forth in teaching the “all things” of Matt. 28:19-20 so that a stable church will result. In all cases, of course, it is God who gives the growth or increase (1 Cor. 3:7). But Paul cautions, “Let each man take care how he builds” on the foundation (1 Cor. 3:10b). It is clear from Malherbe’s study that Paul exerted deliberate and vigorous effort to do more than win individuals to Christ. So must we.
- ³⁹ Rom. 15:16; 1 Thess 1:9-10.
- ⁴⁰ See 1 Thess. 1:9-10; Acts 14:15; Rev. 5:10.
- ⁴¹ 2 Cor. 4:5; Rom. 15:7; Eph. 1:6, 12, 14.
- ⁴² Rom. 16:25-27; Rev. 5:9-10.

C. Policy Review. It is intended that this document be reviewed periodically, both to assure the church is following its own stated intentions, and to revise the policy as deemed wise by the FMC and elders. New members of the FMC are expected to become familiar with the document and determine to work within the stated guidelines until and unless revised. The Policy should answer 70% to 90% of the questions arising for the FMC, thus allowing regular meeting times to be devoted to more critical issues of the work.

C.1. Comprehensive Review: After initial approval, the Missions Policy Statement of the North Boulevard church shall undergo comprehensive review every four years.

C.2. Modification of Policy: When it is recognized that components of this policy need modification, they will be agreed upon by the FMC at a meeting called for that purpose, but changes will not be inaugurated until they have been discussed at a later meeting. In other words, a change must be discussed at two meetings, no less than one week apart,

before the change is inaugurated. All suggested changes and their rationale will be submitted to the elders for approval or modification.

- D. FMC Composition and Functions.** It is recommended that the FMC include at least one elder and one deacon, with others added according to the following manner and standards:
- D.1. Membership: *Members* should be added as nominated by the current Committee and approved by the elders. Current committee members may exercise their option to cease serving on the FMC.
 - D.2. Qualifications. New Committee members, as North Boulevard members, should have the following qualifications:
 - a. *Beliefs*: Be faithful Christians who hold to New Testament Christianity as generally understood by thoughtful leaders in mainline churches of Christ.¹
 - b. *Interests*: Have a deep interest in worldwide evangelization.
 - c. *Experiences*: Possess some past knowledge or involvement in missions. However, there is room for novices with keen interest to become learners.
 - d. *Learners*: Be willing to gain understanding of the mission process, consisting of:
 - (i) being led through the Missions Policy Statement;
 - (ii) reading articles, booklets, and/or books;
 - (iii) becoming familiar with the last five years of NB's evangelistic endeavors.
 - D.3. Chairperson. The FMC shall be coordinated and led in its deliberations by a *chairperson*.
 - D.4. Secretary. A *secretary* should be appointed to record careful notes on each meeting and furnish a copy to each member of the FMC.
 - D.5. Size. The *size* of the FMC should be determined by the amount of work to be done, and the FMC should assess the needs and determine the size of the group. As the worldwide work increases in size and complexity it may be advisable to form sub-committees that will report to the FMC as a whole.
 - D.6. Meetings: The FMC shall meet monthly, unless unusual circumstances arise which dictate more frequent meetings. Of course, both sub-committees and individuals will be expected to do their assigned work between meetings. Members of NB are invited to attend specially designated meetings. [In the case of missionary candidates in residence at North Boulevard, they will be invited to meet with the FMC at specified times.]
 - D.7. Responsibilities. Each committee member should be willing to carry out the following responsibilities or cease serving on the FMC:
 - a. *Lifestyle*: Maintain a strong posture of Christian living by praying, engaging in Bible study, worshiping, and serving others in some specific ways.
 - b. *Education*: Constantly pursue an understanding of both missions and the world situations through reading, attending workshops, watching select videos, etc.
 - c. *Policy*: Regularly review the Missions Policy Statement.
 - d. *Prayer*: Pray regularly for those whom North Boulevard supports financially.
 - e. *Communication*: Accept appropriate responsibility for communicating with missionaries and carrying out services for them.
 - f. *Attendance*: Faithfully attend FMC meetings.
 - g. *Committee leadership*: Willingness to be a liaison, or contact person, for a specific missionary, a certain work, or a certain area of the world.
 - h. *Congregational involvement*: Help the FMC educate the congregation in missions so the congregation will:

- (i) pray more pointedly for the works,
- (ii) contribute financially with spiritual dedication and focus,
- (iii) participate in the edification of the missionaries who are sent out and supported financially by North Boulevard,
- (iv) consider their own first-hand involvement in one form or another of worldwide evangelization. (See below on Missions Education.)

note: As the budget permits, recommendations may be made that NB members, elders (and wives), committee members (and spouses), and others attend workshops pertinent to North Boulevard missions.

D.8. Goal Setting. The FMC will set one-year goals each July and review long-range goals each January and seek to measure the effectiveness of those goals each year. All goals should be achievable while demanding a step of faith. For specific goals please refer to the appendix section (see p. 17).

E. Missions Education. In addition to its specialized preparations in missions, the FMC should take steps to provide opportunities for the congregation to become increasingly educated in missions/evangelism. This may be done by the following:

1. Encourage the preacher to preach periodically on the joyous duty of the church to evangelize throughout the world.
2. Providing occasional classes in the church curriculum designed to educate in Missions.
3. Give notice of books and videos which treat missions subjects, notify the congregation of missions workshops conducted by others, provide bulletin inserts, construct bulletin board displays, have occasional special speakers, etc.
4. Plan and conduct a bi-annual missions workshop designed to provide help for both North Boulevard members and churches in the area.
5. Have a missions-emphasis month at North Boulevard.

F. The Focus of North Boulevard's Work. No church can participate in all of the available activities or ministries which contribute to world evangelization in one way or another: printing, broadcasting, education, medicine, church planting and development, and the like. Nor can it be involved in every country in the world. Missions Policy Statements both include and exclude. A church that establishes such policies thus avoids impulsiveness and arbitrary decision-making. It can do a better job by deliberately focusing on a stated number of activities. It can work with greater efficiency and energy on those items.

The following guidelines present the intended focus of this church at this time in its history as determined by the FMC and elders. The included and excluded items are not arbitrarily chosen. They are a product of biblical principles and research on world conditions. The current agenda will likely be changed through routine Policy evaluations, but the church's funds, prayers, encouragement, and evaluations will be focused according to these stated guidelines.

F.1. Type of Work: The funds this Committee manages will consist solely of those ministries whose ultimate goal is the spreading of the gospel. Compassionate service to others, while both required by God and a useful coordinate of evangelistic work, is still compassionate service rather than overt teaching of the Gospel. Although support will continue to be given to present works (evangelizing in new areas, founding and initial development of churches, broadcasting, and training on the field), North Boulevard has

- established a priority of starting biblically based churches at various places in the world. To maintain this priority (see section II.B) will call for a reduction in or move away from support of para-church groups to the provision of financial and emotional/spiritual support for people who found and/or develop churches of Christ which seek to follow New Testament ideals, including simple, spiritual worship with *a cappella* music. (See Missions Budget section for statement about percentages of expenditures.)
- F.2. Missionary Selection. The selection process shall involve the following procedure. The Missions Coordinator shall be expected to take the lead in surfacing and initially screening candidates. After an initial screening questionnaire, candidates will interview with the entire FMC. We shall give priority to, if not insist upon, candidates' having credentials in these areas:
- a. *Spiritual preparation*: we shall look for those with sustained active membership in a local church, evidence of on-going spiritual growth, a sense of calling for the task, evidence of some gifts for the type of ministry envisioned as a missionary, and a deep commitment to the mission of the Lord. (See Doctrinal Requirements below.)
 - b. *Intellectual development*: We shall seek those with appropriate missions training (preferably some at the graduate level), including at least limited cross-cultural experience; but if not that, then some experience in evangelizing in the USA.
 - c. *Physical health*: While not requiring the standards for a priest in ancient Israel, we shall give priority to those who have a sense of self-control in their habits of life, which would include both the absence of known addictions, diseases, or other conditions which would disqualify one for demanding cross-cultural evangelistic work. Informed judgments will be made about health conditions that might jeopardize workers or their work on the target field.
 - d. *Emotional maturity*: We shall require both references from knowledgeable past acquaintances and appropriate psychological screening to determine the emotional maturity level of candidates. Age, the ability to work in a group and get along with others, and one's general attitude will factor into our choices of workers.
 - e. *Mission team*: In the case of a missionary team, we shall prefer that there be two or more married couples with singles added as deemed prudent. In other words, we shall be looking at the mix in a team. Appropriate team formation activities shall be required.
 - f. *Other factors*: We shall look at marital status, work experience, leadership ability, financial responsibility (ability to handle funds appropriately) and social skills commensurate with the work to be undertaken.
- F.3. National Preacher Support. We define nationals as missionaries working in their own country. Because of inherent complications in supporting nationals, NB will avoid directly supporting or sponsoring nationals in future mission works. Supporting nationals can create dependency, thwart church development, and initiate problems of inadequate oversight and accountability. Should we elect to support national evangelists in the future, we will seek to address the challenge of oversight through such means as working through the eldership of a mature church in the region of the evangelist's work. To minimize the chances of creating dependency on American support and guidance, we will require that the evangelist and NB agree on a realistic exit strategy for both. The strategy

would define the evangelist's task in terms of church and leadership development and a projected decrease and eventual withdrawal of NB financial support. In other words, it is our goal to help plant and develop culturally appropriate churches that will mature into following the four-self formula: self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating, self-theologizing.

- F.4. Doctrinal Requirements. Special note should be taken of the doctrinal requirements we shall insist upon for those whom we send out. Since the Christian faith involves matters of truth and error, right and wrong as stated in Scripture, we shall expect candidates both to have a grasp of the biblical message and believe its central teachings. Among the things we have a right to expect in those whom we send out are the following:
- a. *Scripture*: Belief in Scripture as the inspired Word of God and the Christian's standard for determining the expressed will of God for individuals and the church. In other words, exegesis of Scripture shall always take precedence over emotional feelings and sheer tradition.
 - b. *Jesus*: Belief in Jesus as the Son of God and that salvation comes through Him alone.
 - c. *Salvation*: Conviction that faith in Christ and confession of that faith, repentance of sins, and immersion in water for forgiveness of sins, incorporation into Christ, are taught in the New Testament as precedents to salvation.
 - d. *Holiness*: Conviction that biblical teaching about Christian behavior and ethics must be followed, that God has called His people to be holy, and that both the missionaries and the churches they start should seek to live in this manner.
 - e. *Ideals*: That God wants Christians today to strive to follow those ideals for his people as expressed or modeled in the New Testament, including such matters as a holy life, the organization of the church with elders and deacons, only a cappella music, weekly participation in the Lord's supper, and the like. In other words, the New Testament must be used as the guide for the kind of churches to be founded and developed.²
 - f. *Proclamation*: Belief that one should tell the story and let the Lord work through His Word and His workers.
- F.5. Short-Term Missions: While our primary goal for global missions is to provide sponsorship for long-term missions, the North Boulevard church recognizes the value of correctly executed short-term missions for both the spiritual growth of participants and as an aid to the long-term missionary and the local people. This document and other guidance from the FMC is designed to encourage those who wish to participate in a short-term mission effort and to assist those who may wish to lead such an effort.
- a. *Definition*: Any mission effort lasting from a few days to up to two years shall be defined as a short-term mission. These efforts may include works such as building construction and repair, medical programs, evangelistic campaigns, leadership training, developmental and agricultural training and technology transfer, vacation Bible schools, internships, and apprenticeships provided they are deliberately connected with the overall work of the church and solidly related to the task of missions.
 - b. *Benefits*: We believe some of the potential benefits of short-term missions include increased manpower for the accomplishment of short-term tasks, the encouragement of long-term workers, the demonstration of God's love in action, and a potentially

profound effect on the participant's worldview resulting in greater support for global mission work and cultivation of the desire to become a long-term missionary.

- c. *Overcoming limitations:* While there are limitations to short-term missions, we hold that many of these can be overcome or managed by providing adequate pre-trip preparation, proper on-site supervision, and appropriate debriefing and follow-up afterwards. Other concerns about such matters as the inherent language and cultural barriers can be addressed by working closely with an on-site long-term worker in the planning, supervision, and follow-up stages to ensure that the short-term work is culturally appropriate, directed at the most vital needs, and that proper resources and manpower exist for follow-up after the short-term mission is completed.
- d. *Provision of funds:* While biblical objectives as well as expense and cost/benefit analyses suggest that the church should invest the majority of its resources in the support and sponsorship of long-term missionaries and missions points, in an attempt to encourage well-executed short-term efforts, NBCC has chosen to provide limited funds for expenses related to short-term missions such as materials and logistical or administrative costs. It is believed that allowing participants to pay for their own personal expenses (travel, lodging, food, etc.) generally provides greater value for the participant as well as helping to manage trip expenses.

In general, funds will only be given to groups originating from NBCC. Additionally, short-term trips supported should generally be taken to places where NBCC either has a long-term missionary present or has previous successful experience at that location. Other locations will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the short-term missions subcommittee. Since funding will be limited, ideally requests should be submitted before the budgeting process begins in September, for consideration for the following fiscal year. Some money may be budgeted for use in works that arise after this time. We will place a cap on the total amount of money we will give in such cases, and approved money will generally be given on a first-come-first-served basis.

- e. *Committee oversight:* To maximize fruitfulness and minimize difficulties, all NBCC short-term missions should be coordinated in conjunction with or by the short-term missions subcommittee from the earliest planning through the debriefing and evaluation stages. This will help ensure sound missiological principles are followed, proper coordination and communication with the long-term missionary is accomplished, and that the work being considered is in alignment with the larger church vision. NB members are, of course, free to participate in short-term missions activities with other groups. In order, however, to receive financial help or public endorsement from or collect money through NB, the short-term missions subcommittee must review and approve the activities.

The short-term FMC members will be trained in the most effective ways of conducting short-term missions so as to maximize the benefit for the kingdom of God. Those with interest in coordinating or participating in a NBCC short-term mission trip are encouraged to seek additional information from the FMC. Trip preparation checklists, missiological guidance, and experience-based knowledge will be available. Those who coordinate ongoing campaigns (Scotland, City of Children, Christian Student Center mission trips) are encouraged to dialogue with the subcommittee in order for all involved to share and gain additional insights.

- f. *Responsibilities of Trip Coordinators:* It is expected that the coordinator of a short-term

mission trip will submit a detailed written plan beforehand, coordinate pre-trip training for participants in conjunction with the FMC, provide a detailed account (including statistical data) and evaluation of the trip afterwards, and provide a detailed expense account and cost analysis at the conclusion of the entire project. The post-mission evaluation should be submitted to the short-term FMC within 30 days of the conclusion of the trip. It is expected that those participating in the trip will be able to share their experiences by a variety of methods for the encouragement and edification of the larger congregation in such settings as a Sunday P. M. meeting, various Bible classes, and Life Groups.

G. Church-Missionary Relationships. The church-missionary relationships are critical and it is important to delineate the various expectations.

G.1. NB Responsibilities: The basic responsibilities of North Boulevard will involve:

- a. *Sponsorship*: Ideally, NB will both sponsor and support those whom we send out. Where several team members have support from a variety of churches, we feel the team needs an overall sponsor or coordinating church. Other arrangements are known to be workable,³ but we express our preference. A church the size of NB should be able to provide the expertise and backing needed by a team. However, NB has no desire to dominate another church or challenge its autonomy or good work.
- b. *Working Agreement*: NB will negotiate a written and signed Working Agreement or Ministry Covenant between NB and the missionaries supported, and arranging for the agreement to be reviewed and amended as necessary during each furlough. (See Appendix for a sample Working Agreement.)
- c. *Liaison*: NB will provide a liaison who will have power of attorney for the missionary (when desired), and who will engage in such activities as purchasing and shipping supplies, furnishing necessary information for dissemination to the congregation about the work, taking care of various emergencies arising with the workers, and communicating regularly with those workers. When matters need to be taken to the elders after Committee discussion, they shall be taken to the elder attached to the FMC.
- d. *Reports*: NB will oversee the distribution of reports or newsletters from the field.
- e. *Decision-making*: We will assist the missionary in making major decisions.
- f. *Prayer*: We will be praying both publicly and privately for the missionary, the people and/or churches with which they work, and the untouched lost in the area where they work.
- g. *Relationships*: We will develop an adopt-a-missionary program whereby one or more families agree to surround a specific missionary with a covenant of prayer, cards, letters, gifts, and visits (when possible).
- h. *Site visits*: We will visit the missionaries at least every three years or as needed.

G.2. Missionary Responsibilities: The basic responsibilities of the missionaries shall be outlined in detail in the Working Agreement and will differ in specifics from field to field and task to task. But the basic responsibilities shall involve the following:

- a. *Ethics*: Missionaries will maintain Christian integrity and ethics in all relationships.
- b. *Spirituality*: They must attend to their own spiritual nurture while on the field.
- c. *Time management*: Missionaries must arrange their time so that they give themselves to the tasks which they are sent to accomplish.

- d. *Schedule*: Missionaries will follow scrupulously the agreed upon agenda of work.
- e. *Edification*: Our missionaries will seek to engage in on-going efforts designed to increase their usefulness in the field of work.
- f. *Money management*: Whenever missionaries receive additional monies for their work, they will coordinate its spending through NB.

G.3. Missionary Furlough. It is recognized that periodically missionaries need a break from their field work in order to be refreshed, to communicate to the church(es) in the USA the nature of their work, and to participate in raising up new workers. When they are on home leave North Boulevard will provide the following:

- a. *Support*: We will provide full support during that period.
- b. *Expenses*: We will provide expenses for housing as needed, and/or
- c. *Volunteers*: We will obtain volunteers in the congregation to keep the missionary family while in Murfreesboro.

H. The Budgeting Process. While supporting missionaries and missions causes involves spiritual and emotional support as well as financial, attention must be paid to the acquisition and disposition of money, that “stored up energy” with which God entrusts His people. The availability of money in the West and the way it is often handled constitute great challenges to the missions enterprise.⁴

H.1. Budget Development: The foreign missions budget will be developed by the entire FMC and submitted to the elders for possible modification and eventual approval. The proposed budget will be based on the previous year’s budget, but with priorities being given to stated missions goals.

H.2. Budget Priorities: North Boulevard has established as a priority, for new mission efforts, the evangelization of receptive peoples with the intention of developing biblical churches. Rather than concentrating on a particular geographic area our focus will be on highly receptive people groups. In the future we may broaden our focus to include other considerations such as areas where the church is weak, where people have never heard the Gospel, where there are large numbers of people, or an area chosen by the missionary (without regard to any other priority).

H.3. Budgeting Goals: Budget goals include the following:

- a. *Sponsorship*: Our basic financial goal is to be the sponsor and substantial supporter of the missionaries we help.
- b. *Current missions*: We shall continue supporting items in the current budget while evaluating them and making changes as needed.
- c. *Cooperation*: Partial support from other churches or individuals for specific team members will be permitted when North Boulevard serves as the sponsor of the team.
- d. *Individualization*: The dollar amount for the team/missionaries will be stipulated in the Working Agreement between the missionaries and NB.

H.4. Funds Management: Other items involved in managing the funds allocated for missions may include the following.

- a. *Working Agreement*: The Working Agreement will spell out many specifics suited to the workers and their field of work. These should include:

- i. Sufficient notice of adjustment in salary due to factors like cost of living changes and exchange rate variations;
 - ii. Fringe benefits;
 - iii. Support for missions training for long-term missionaries who are home on furlough;
 - iv. Terms of discontinuation of working relationships;
 - v. Attendance at workshops pertaining to the work;
 - vi. Length of work periods on the field and furloughs;
 - vi. Statement of NB's responsibilities and commitments to each missionary;
 - vii. Many other items will be involved as indicated in the sample Working Agreement found as an appendix.
- b. *Missionary support structure criteria*: Support structure will be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria:
- i. Method: Should financial crises arise the FMC will work directly with the missionaries so appropriate adjustments can be made.
 - ii. Frequency: Change in support levels will not take place during a term of service unless uncontrolled circumstances warrant such action.
 - iii. Criteria: Changes in the nature of the work, family situations, and national economic swings will be used as grounds for considering changes.
- c. *Budget surpluses*: In the case of budget surpluses the FMC will arrange tangible works to be supported so the money given for missions will be spent for missions.
- d. *Designated giving*: Some churches have encountered serious problems in handling "designated giving." In response to this potential danger North Boulevard shall
- i. Encourage people to give to the general budget rather than designating funds for specific works.
 - ii. North Boulevard may establish auxiliary project funds as directed by the FMC.
 - iii. The FMC will use discretion in forwarding extra money to specific missionaries or mission work.
 - iv. The FMC will have several possible uses already planned so that any one-time, undesignated gifts may be dispersed immediately upon receipt.
- e. *Emergencies*: When emergencies arise in the missions endeavors, North Boulevard will respond by
- i. Asking the congregation to pray about that crisis.
 - ii. Taking a special contribution at the elders' discretion.
 - iii. When possible, establishing an emergency fund from financial surpluses, one-time gifts, or a percentage of the budget (to be held in escrow for that purpose).
 - iv. An "emergency" is defined as
 - aa. Rampant inflation
 - bb. Famine
 - cc. Earthquake
 - dd. Any natural or human disaster
 - ee. Missionary family needs--medical problems, fire, theft, need for evacuation, or other similar situations.
 - v. When there is legitimate doubt about a situation the missionary, the FMC, and the elders will decide in concert about the matter in question.
 - vi. In case of an emergency, funds will be administered by the elders and the FMC.

Part II: Implementation of the Policy

- A. Current Work.**⁵ As this ministry in world evangelizing is carried out it is recognized that current expenditures of funds may not conform to the priorities stated in this Policy Statement. Accordingly, an effort will be made in the coming years to shift financial and spiritual emphasis to accommodate those priorities. Where partial support is being given to evangelists, efforts will be made to become the sponsor, and in most cases, the sole financial supporters of those whom we send out. In other words, North Boulevard wishes to be proactive in serving the missionaries in the best possible manner.
- B. Chief Priorities.** Because people may be either receptive or resistant to the gospel at a given time, it makes good sense to give greatest attention to those who are ready to hear, while attending more lightly to the resistant groups. Consequently, the chief priority of the North Boulevard church in the next several years is to send out qualified persons to areas of the world known to be receptive, and there to bring people to Christ and train them to live and work together in and as viable, indigenous churches.⁶ By “indigenous” we mean a church that:
1. will think of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as their God, not a foreign deity,
 2. seeks to be faithful to that God,
 3. meets the needs of people in its context,
 4. worships in ways that it understands (language, music, etc.),
 5. follows the leaders it appoints by biblical standards, and
 6. develops the capacity to initiate its own activities.
- C. Goals.** As a policy, we will set and evaluate long and short-term goals. For specific goals, please refer to the appendix.

Endnotes

- ¹ One good statement of this position is Everett Ferguson’s The Church of Christ: A Biblical Ecclesiology for Today (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995).
- ² A useful treatment of the biblical materials on this may be found in Everett Ferguson, The Church of Christ.
- ³ It is known that teams may function well when each couple or single has a separate supporting church. But the success of the effort depends on several things, chief among them a mutual agreement prior to team departure on the goals and procedures of the team.
- ⁴ See Jonathan Bonk, Missions and Money: Affluence as a Western Missionary Problem (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991), as well as his “Mission and the Problem of Affluence,” pp. 295-309 in Toward the 21st Century in Christian Mission (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993), edited by James M. Phillips and Robert T. Coote.
- ⁵ For a brief history of North Boulevard’s involvement in missions see Appendix 1.
- ⁶ We hold that evangelism is a presentation of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit--in order that sinful men may come to put their trust in God through His Son--to accept Him as their Savior and serve Him as their King, in the growth of the church and the praise of the Father. Those who accept the message are to be taught to be responsible, reproducing members of God’s church to the glory and praise of His name and the betterment of human society.

APPENDIXES

- A Where Have We Been? – Missions History of North Boulevard
- B Where Are We? – Current Foreign Missionary Efforts
- C Where Are We Going? – Foreign Missions Goals
- D Sample Working Agreement
- E Sample Missionary Report Forms
- F Initial Missionary Application
- G Follow-Up Missionary Application

Appendix A Where Have We Been? Missions History of North Boulevard

Since its foundation in 1947, the North Boulevard congregation has had a heart for missions. Members have consistently dedicated their resources, financial and otherwise, to both local and foreign evangelistic efforts. As the size and resources of North Boulevard have increased since 1947, so have the focus and commitment to mission efforts. Oversight of missions and the type of mission work that is sponsored have gradually changed shape as the church has decided to refocus its efforts away from individual missionaries in hostile and/or unreceptive areas toward team missionaries sent to create self-sustaining congregations in areas receptive to the Gospel.

History of Endorsed Mission Work

Some of the earliest records of mission work supported by North Boulevard indicate that by 1959, the church had begun regularly supporting a church planting effort at the Cedarloo Church of Christ in Cedar Falls, Iowa. North Boulevard helped to support the Cole family there until the late 1960's. Evangelism included preacher support and, much later, a radio program in the Cedar Falls area. Domestic support was also offered to Steve Dunn in Storrs, Connecticut, where he served from 1973 until 1977, whereupon Cloyd Taylor took over and was supported until the mid-1980's.

Other much smaller endeavors earmarked as missions-related are scattered throughout North Boulevard's early history. Usually these are one-time aids to local (e.g., Smyrna, Franklin Road, Rogersville) or domestic (e.g., CA, MA, PA, NJ) churches for building programs, initial preacher support, or other short-term efforts.

Consistent, monthly support to foreign missions included the Philippines, Korea, and Thailand. Support to Ray Bryan, a missionary to Manila, Philippines, began in early 1964. Bryan's support ended in the 1990's, upon his death. Support to Korea via Chi Ho Lee, who taught at the Korean Christian College and preached to a local church, began in the early 70's and continued on a regular basis until 1995. North Boulevard supported Kenneth Fox in Chaing Mai, Thailand from August 1969 until March 1976. Fox began his work in Bangkok and later moved to a school of preaching in Chaing Mai.

Not until 1971 do North Boulevard's records reflect a concentrated *focus on foreign missions*. It was then that Albert Gardner (Kumasi, Ghana) and Joe Shulam (Israel) began receiving significant financial support from the church on a regular basis. Both Gardner and Shulam sent regular updates to the church, which were published in the *Lifelines*. Several of the Israel updates indicate the hostile environment (i.e., hostile to the Gospel) in which Joe and his wife Marcia were (and still are) ministering. Gardner sent campaigns from Kumasi to Accra while in Ghana. He ended his work in Ghana in 1973.

For several years in the 70's, North Boulevard also supported Blake Geig (Barrie, Ontario) and Gordon McEtvany (North Bay, Ontario). These individual efforts were short-lived. From 1982 to 1994, North Boulevard helped support Ron Holland in the Philippines. In 1989, the church contributed to Dhanaraju Bonthu in India for a brief stint as well.

Beginning in 1981, first through the means of a Sunday school class, North Boulevard sponsored Andrew Isiip in Nigeria. As the Bible Chair of the Nigerian Christian College, he worked at church planting on weekends. His North Boulevard support ended in 1997 in an effort to focus our financial support on full-time workers.

In early 1990, support began for Bruce Thweatt in Rocky Mount, NC and continued until 1995. Beginning in 1992, North Boulevard sponsored for a three-year period Alexander Melirrytos in Athens, Greece.

North Boulevard focused on two new foreign areas starting in 1996. The church gave its first sponsorship to Carlos Martinez in Honduras and Eddie Young in Dundee, Scotland. While the Honduras work was fruitful, Scotland is an area where evangelism is extremely difficult. Support for Martinez discontinued in 2001 when he came to work with Hispanics in the United States, and for Young when he returned home in 2000. North Boulevard continues support of the Dundee, Scotland church and is preparing them for self-sufficiency by 2006. David Coggin, began working with the young people of Glasgow, Scotland, and then in Cumbernauld. In 2004 he and Maria relocated to Newcastle, England where he serves as a full-time evangelist.

In addition to its support of missionaries in the field, North Boulevard has always supported institutional evangelization efforts as well. For many years, North Boulevard provided for the Herald of Truth and continued to do so into the 21st century. Initial support for MTCS arose in the early 1970's (approximately 1972) and also remains current. Agape began receiving support in 1981 for its adoption work. In the mid- 1990's, World Christian Broadcasting began receiving North Boulevard's support as they broadcast the gospel into unreceptive areas. Early in the 1990's, North Boulevard added support to the City of Children and the Baxter Institute. Baxter Institute is very successful in training Central and South Americans to return to their homes and plant churches. However, many of these have continued on some sort of American financial support. The City of Children is a successful children's home in Mexico.

Oversight of Mission Work

In the first two decades since North Boulevard's foundation, church-supported mission endeavors were directly overseen by the elders. As a group, they decided where and how mission funds should be spent. By late 1973, when North Boulevard had approximately 700 members, a FMC had been formed, with an elder in charge (Will Grandstaff) and nine other members.

In 1990, under the leadership of Andy Adams, a more focused group on missions began to evolve. Bob Webb was first appointed deacon of missions and later, after becoming an elder, contact elder for missions. Other elders (Don Daniel, Gerald Coggin, and Walter Jenkins) were included to contribute to the mission oversight. As the organization of the FMC changed, Bob Webb and Don Daniel focused on foreign missions, while Gerald Coggin and Walter Jenkins concentrated on benevolence and local evangelism.

The oversight of missions remained so until 1994, when, under the leadership of Bob Webb, Nick Norton became deacon of missions, which at the time included foreign, domestic, and local evangelistic endeavors. Since 1994, a more focused FMC has included additional members so that the task of oversight is not as overwhelming.

In August 1999, Dr. Philip Slate came to North Boulevard from his position as Chairman of the Department of Missions at Abilene Christian University. His experience in foreign missions has brought new insight and knowledge to the FMC. A Missions Policy Statement was finalized in 2000. This policy statement provided direction within the FMC and facilitated responsible spending and management of funds.

Change in Mission Focus

Since about 1995, the FMC has recognized a need to bring a sharper focus to the church's mission work. A major accomplishment of the last decade has been to decide to do better supporting instead of more. As a result of this refocus, many of the evangelistic efforts under the missions umbrella were shifted to separate local evangelism or benevolence areas. Some of these ministries include the prison ministry, Cedar Grove, Inner City, MTCS, Agape, and the MTSU campus ministry.

The type of mission work that is *sponsored* has gradually changed shape as North Boulevard has decided to shift its efforts away from institutions and missionaries in unreceptive areas toward team missionaries sent to create self-sustaining congregations in areas receptive to the Gospel. The most recent "institutional" type work that is new is World Christian Broadcasting, which was added in 1997. The impetus for this addition was that WCB is able to disseminate the Gospel to some places that are resistant to open evangelism.

Although the FMC has decided to maintain support for those missionaries North Boulevard is currently supporting, any new funds will be focused on receptive territories, even to the exclusion of medical or agricultural missions. Both North Boulevard and the world at large need a good experience with missions; one way to achieve that is to focus on receptive territories.

The FMC's goals include periodically evaluating all mission efforts supported by North Boulevard. The evaluation would include a visit from a North Boulevard member. Periodic campaigns from North Boulevard have visited several of our sponsored missionaries (Honduras, or Scotland), but these campaigns were not under the supervision of the FMC.

In addition to the goals outlined in the Policy Statement, the elders agree that a larger percentage of funds for evangelism should be earmarked for efforts outside our local area. Through Missions Workshops (such as the one held in September 2000), the FMC will provide education to further the worldwide task of the church. FMC members are becoming more educated about the mission field in today's world. With better preparation, education, and a sharper focus on the church's goals, the FMC hopes to improve North Boulevard's sponsorship of worldwide evangelization.

Appendix B Where Are We? Current Foreign Missionary Efforts

A. Current Work. As our ministry in world evangelism continues, it is recognized that current expenditures of funds may not yet conform to the priorities stated in this Policy Statement. Accordingly, a conscious effort has been and is being made to shift financial and spiritual emphasis to accommodate those priorities. Where partial support is being provided to evangelists, efforts will sometimes be made to become their sponsor and, in most cases, the sole financial supporters of those whom we send out.¹ In other words, North Boulevard wishes to be proactive in serving our missionaries in the best possible manner.

Some support of these persons and groups will continue, but they are to be seriously re-evaluated. Presently North Boulevard is supplying financial help to the following:

1. Missionaries sponsored by North Boulevard:

- a. **Aaron and Marisa Bailey**, Mwanza, Tanzania. This missionary couple are working to establish and mature churches in urban Mwanza. Their work involves men and women from myriad cultures, speaking several languages. We sponsor and fully support them.
- b. **David and Maria Coggin**, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. David is a "native son" of North Boulevard and Maria is English. After working in Cumbernauld, Scotland, for several years, David presently serves the church in Newcastle as evangelist and outreach minister. We sponsor and fully support them.
- c. **Alistair and Linda Ferrie**, Dundee, Scotland, work with a growing congregation in Dundee. North Boulevard sponsors and is a substantial financial supporter of the Dundee work. For several years a group has gone from our congregation to assist this work in various ways.
- d. **Calvin and Alicia Groen**, Mwanza, Tanzania, East Africa. They are part of a team working among the rural Sukuma tribe and are experiencing great success in planting churches among the rural people. We sponsor and fully support them.
- e. **Carlos and Zaile Martinez**, San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Carlos works chiefly in leadership training and, secondarily, as an evangelist in Honduras. He has planted two churches and is highly effective in developing leadership within area churches. North Boulevard furnishes their full support.
- f. **Joseph and Marcia Shulam**, Jerusalem, Israel. Joseph is an evangelist who works not only with a local congregation in Jerusalem, but also with a Jewish training school there, in radio evangelism, and with other evangelistic efforts directed toward Jews in other parts of the world. He has helped establish congregations in Finland, Brazil and Israel. North Boulevard has a long history of working with the Shulams and provides partial support.

¹ As a matter of clarification, the term "Support" is used to mean supplying financial and/or spiritual help and encouragement. "Sponsorship" is understood to signify the general oversight and responsibility for an evangelist/missionary and the receiving of, accounting for, and forwarding of funds for him, and may include either partial or full support. While all "supporters" should have a high interest in the one(s) being supported--and his (their) work, it is the responsibility of the "sponsor" to oversee the work and provide needed care and counsel.

2. Missionaries co-sponsored:

Since 2001 North Boulevard has co-sponsored a group of three evangelists in partnership with the Nsawam Road Church of Christ of Accra, Ghana, in a mission to Bamako, the capital of Mali, West Africa. North Boulevard furnishes their financial support, while Nsawam Road provides their oversight and spiritual guidance. These families are:

- a. **Honoré and Sabine Adje Balley**, from Benin, West Africa
- b. **Peter and Comfort Ofori-Amponsah**, from Ghana, West Africa

3. Other entities supported financially:

- a. **Baxter Institute:** training facility in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, designed to train Spanish-speaking evangelists. This school's goal is to train Latin American church workers, as it has long done in an excellent manner.
- b. **City of Children:** Ensenada, Mexico: a Christian home for homeless children which has established itself as an exemplary compassionate and evangelistic work at the same time. North Boulevard youth groups and sponsors have participated in work campaigns to assist this effort for many years.
- c. **World Christian Broadcasting Corporation:** headquartered in Franklin, Tennessee, produces multi-lingual radio programs which are broadcast to penetrate countries largely closed to conventional missionary work. While the situation in the Soviet Union has opened up some, several Asian nations remain closed to the Gospel. A new broadcasting tower in Madagascar will reach Muslim dominated countries in Africa and the Middle East, which remain closed to the Gospel. This work, though indirect by nature, is useful in surfacing contacts and strengthening the Christian image among the targeted populations.
- d. **World Bible School:** a grass-roots Bible correspondence program which utilizes Christians in many congregations across America and other countries. It reaches hundreds of thousands of interested students around the globe and teaches them the simple gospel of Jesus Christ. North Boulevard has a good number of members who serve in this ministry as teacher/counselors.

B. Chief Priorities. The chief priority of the North Boulevard church's mission effort for the next several years is to send out qualified persons to areas of the world known to be receptive to the gospel. Therefore, bringing people to Christ and training them to live and work together as viable, indigenous churches. By "indigenous" we intend a church that:
will think of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as their God, not as a foreign deity,
seeks to be faithful to that God,
meets the needs of people in its context,
worships in ways that it understands (language, music, etc.)
follows the leaders it appoints by biblical standards, and
develops the capacity to initiate its own activities.

Appendix C Where Are We Going? Foreign Missions Goals

As the Policy calls for the establishment of short and long-term goals, we shall attempt to do the following:

Long-Range Goals for 2007-2017. North Boulevard should strive to:

1. Develop a zeal for foreign missions among NB members
2. Develop effective, consistent communications with our missionaries
3. Send out a missionary family every two to three years
4. Expand the evangelism of the Sukuma people of Tanzania by developing missionary clusters
5. Develop a plan to involve NB in the evangelism of Asia/China

Short-Range Goals for 2007-2012. The FMC should strive to:

1. Submit the Missions/Policy Statement to the elders for their eventual approval, after making any modifications they desire.
2. Develop a zeal for foreign missions among NB members
 - A. In Corporate Assemblies – Through sermons, prayers, Power Point presentations, *Lifeline* articles, pictures, and missionary videos.
 - B. Among The Youth – by scheduling missionary visits for youth group meetings, restructuring campaign debriefings, and having teens write about campaign experiences.
 - C. In Our Children – by incorporating missions exposure into the curriculum, and by getting the children to write letters and pray for families on the field.
 - D. Among Our College Students – as we integrate them with college representation on the Foreign Missions committee and encourage their short-term work.
 - E. Through Adult Bible Classes – in opening communication between the FMC and class leaders and teachers; initiating an adult missions class; and providing substitute teachers from our missionaries and the FMC.

Appendix D Sample Working Agreement

Working Agreement Between (*Missionary*) and the North Boulevard Church of Christ

Introduction: While a binding contract may not be appropriate between brothers and sisters in the Lord, and especially in regard to our Lord's work, it seems expedient to enter into a fraternal agreement about the work that both North Boulevard and (*Missionary*, hereafter _____) may keep in mind what they have pledged themselves to do. Accordingly, we shall regard the following items as mutually agreeable unless they are terminated by a subsequent agreement or the unforeseen necessity of changing them (e.g. a drastic change in the current economic or political system).

AGREEMENT

A. Support

1. N. Boulevard pledges itself to serve as the sponsor and chief supporter of (_____) and their work in (_____). The church shall do all it can to fulfill the role of sponsor and supporter.
2. A monthly salary of \$ _____ will be supplied for personal support. The salary will be reviewed annually in August and September and adjusted in October, if appropriate, based on inflation, other financial considerations and N. Boulevard's financial condition.
3. A working fund of \$ _____ per month will be supplied by the congregation and is to be used in the extension of the Lord's kingdom in (*name of place*). Specific use of the working fund on the field is the responsibility of (*missionary*), within the following guidelines.
 - a. The working fund is not to be used as an extension of the missionary's personal salary (e.g. purchase of books and small appliances.)
 - b. Expenditures for activities requiring the extended absence of the missionary from (*place*) [e.g. language school, lectureships, works with other congregations in the area] must be approved by the N. Boulevard FMC.
 - c. The fund should not be used in a way that discourages congregational giving and responsibility.
 - d. The fund should be expended for items that would normally be provided by the congregation within the American setting. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Printing
 - ii. Literature for use by the congregation
 - iii. Office material, supplies, postage
 - iv. Vehicular gas and oil used for the local work.
 - v. Vehicular maintenance incurred by the local work (based on mileage estimates).
 - vi. Meetings, advertisements, filmstrips, etc.
 - vii. Activities that provide the missionary with tools for presenting Christ in a cross-cultural context (e.g. language training, area fellowship, culture study). Where significantly large expenditures of time and money are involved, N. Boulevard and the missionary shall agree on the proposal.
 - viii. Travel funds for work trips taken by the missionary family, excluding furlough to

the U.S.

- e. The missionary must have the flexibility to use the working fund and feel the confidence of the supporting congregation to administer adequately the fund. The missionary must establish priorities and expend the funds in a realistic and accountable manner, based on the above criteria and the money available.
- f. The working fund will be re-evaluated at the end of each year.
4. Extensive repairs or purchase of major items for the missionary's living quarters are the responsibility of the missionary. Prior to departure to the field extra funds may be obtained from other churches and/or individuals for these items: Examples are:
 - a. Furniture and appliances
 - b. Telephone
 - c. Heating/cooling, water and sanitary systems
5. Should it seem necessary to raise additional funds, the need must be discussed with the FMC. N. Boulevard will serve as the receiving agent.
6. When contingencies arise (like counseling, education, health concerns) which require extra funding, the missionary should contact the FMC who will give it due consideration.

B. Duration of Service and Furlough

1. It is agreed that (*Missionary*) will spend a minimum of ___ years in ___ (____). They will return for their first furlough in ____, which is ___ years after beginning work in the field. The length of furlough will be ___ weeks. They will spend at least one-third of their time at N. Boulevard and the balance of time will be spent with their families. The expenses for the furlough will be supplied in the following ways:
 - a. The basic salary will continue.
 - b. The transportation cost to Murfreesboro will be paid by N. Boulevard.
 - c. The working fund may be used for additional expenses by mutual agreement between the family and N. Boulevard.
 - d. Additional expenses which are not covered by the working fund require prior approval from N. Boulevard.
2. The next period of service and furlough shall be decided in review sessions conducted _____.
3. Should either party decide to terminate this agreement, *excluding health reasons, improper morals, or false teaching*, proper written notice of at least six months must be given. N. Boulevard, using the balance of funds remaining in the working fund, will be responsible for the following:
 - a. Air fare for the return trip to an agreed destination within the U.S.
 - b. Shipment of all personal goods, agreed upon by both parties, to an agreed destination within the U.S.
 - c. One month salary following return to the U.S.

C. The Work

1. The primary thrust of the work in (*place*) shall be to establish self-sustaining congregations. The missionary and his family may engage in additional activities which contribute to this goal, including camp work, radio work and training schools. The amount of the missionary's time and energy expended in these additional works shall be related to the primary goal of establishing a self-sustaining work among the people in (*place*), and

should not significantly detract from this goal.

2. Any proposal for devoting time to outside work, or schooling, by either partner which would deviate or detract from this basic work shall be mutually agreed on by the Missionary and N. Boulevard.
3. (*Names of Missionaries*) pledge themselves to work diligently and prayerfully toward the stated goals of this endeavor.

D. Reporting and Communication (See Appendix 3)

1. A monthly or quarterly report, as agreed upon, will be sent to the FMC accounting for the expenditures of the working fund. (See Appendix 3)
2. The missionary will send a statistical report to N. Boulevard each month or quarter, as agreed upon. The report will conform to an agreed format. (But see Appendix 3)
3. In addition to periodic letters, the missionary will attempt to keep the N. Boulevard family involved and interested in the work in _____ by a team newsletter, occasional articles in the N. Boulevard *Life Lines*, slide/tape/video presentations once or twice a year, etc.
4. N. Boulevard commits itself to communicate with and pray for the missionary.
5. N. Boulevard plans to send a representative to visit the missionary as deemed prudent.
6. The missionary will supply N. Boulevard with a system of emergency contacts (e.g., family and close friends).

E. Life on the Field

1. The missionary family commit themselves to be sensitive to the degree to which culture jolt/shock/stress is being felt, so that a measure of emotional and physical health may be maintained.
2. The missionaries agree that time will be spent together with the family, and that family needs shall be considered and, where appropriate, made known to the N. Boulevard FMC.
3. The missionaries agree that time spent in personal Bible study and prayer is vitally important and will be pursued actively.
4. Should violence break out, or other emergency situations develop, the head of the family is responsible for determining the appropriate actions to be taken for the welfare of the family. Should the family leave the country, at their first stop they shall contact the Mission Committee for further guidance. Upon the outbreak of hostility or national emergency, N. Boulevard will immediately deposit funds in the missionary's account for use during the immediate period of emergency.
5. In case of the death of the parents of the missionaries, N. Boulevard will assume responsibility for the cost of the round trip air fare to the funeral for the person losing the parent.
6. Should personal tragedy befall the missionary, N. Boulevard is committed to return the spouse and the children to the U.S. and assist during the adjustment period.
7. The missionaries are allowed two weeks vacation per year, plus two weeks for church related activities that will assist the missionary in the work.
8. The missionaries are allowed to take off work for five major holidays (U.S., or what may correspond in local custom).
9. As agreed with the N. Boulevard Mission Committee, the missionary's regular personal

- contribution will remain with the local work to aid the work of the evangelistic team.
10. N. Boulevard expects the missionary to maintain high standards of Christian morals and soundness of doctrine. In case of failure on either of the points, N. Boulevard will be willing to return the missionary to the U.S. and terminate support.

F. Conclusion

Although this agreement represents a great deal of detail, it should not be interpreted as an attempt to place everyone in a straight jacket of legalistic interpretation. Its function is to provide a basis for understanding one another when the work and the supporting congregation are separated by great distances and communication is often delayed. N. Boulevard has every confidence in the ability, sincerity, and energy of the missionary to represent the Lord's interest. It is our hope that this agreement will provide the freedom of thought and work necessary for the ministry in (place). We, the elders, commit ourselves to the continued oversight of (missionary) and the (place) work to the best of our God-given abilities.

For the Elders	Date
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Missionary Signatures

Note: When this agreement is ready to be signed, it will be reviewed in its entirety with the Missionary/spouse, the Mission Committee representative, and two elders to avoid misunderstandings and for clarification.

Appendix E Sample Missionary Report Forms

Date: _____
Mission field: _____
Name of missionary: _____
Mailing address: _____

E-mail address: _____
Phone number: _____ FAX: _____
Report for dates _____ to _____

Congregational Development and Involvement

Congregation: _____
Date congregation planted: _____
Present number of members: _____ Meeting place _____ rented _____ owned
Number of Bible classes: Sunday _____; other times: _____
Average attendance on Sundays: _____ Other times: _____
What congregational development activities have you conducted during this period?

Personal Development and Involvement

Personal study, reflection and prayer:

Family activities:

Culture and Language study:

Personal contacts and evangelistic or developmental studies conducted:

Meetings with fellow-missionaries

Relationships with fellow-missionaries

Out-of-town evangelistic or training activities:

Community involvement:

Children’s education (where appropriate):

Relationships with the Government (where appropriate):

The highlight of the month/quarter:

Plans for the near future:

Financial Report -- Working Funds

Dollar exchange rate:_____.

Is this a substantial variation from the previous period?

Report for the period beginning_____ & ending_____.

Balance forward from last report.....\$

Amount received from all sources during this period.....\$

Total available with which to work.....\$

Expenditures during this period:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Total expenditures during this period.....\$

Balance on hand at end of this period.....\$

Comments on adequacy of funds?

Appendix F Initial Missionary Application

Please fill out this form as an initial request to be sent out as a missionary by the North Boulevard church of Christ in Murfreesboro, TN. This church takes seriously the task of selecting, sending, sustaining (financially, spiritually, and emotionally), and evaluating the workers it sends out to do God's work.

We feel this can be done best when the church and those whom it sends out have a good understanding of each other and share the same basic biblical beliefs. Completing this form may result in an interview between you and North Boulevard's FMC. Should we mutually decide after such a meeting to take our relationship farther you will be asked to fill out a more extensive inventory (but without useless duplication of information on this form) about your life, experiences, beliefs, and recent history.

What you write will be treated confidentially by the FMC and elders. Should you wish to explain any item(s) personally, please so indicate at the appropriate place.

You have a right to information about us, so please feel free to ask whatever you wish. Our Missions Policy Statement is on our Web Site (www.northboulevard.com) and contains much of what you may want to know. We will be as candid with you as we expect you to be with us. We take seriously the directions of our Lord Jesus about evangelizing our world, so we want to do our best for Him.

We look forward to hearing from you. May our Lord bless your efforts to live for Him and serve His purposes in the world, whether or not you and we have a relationship in the future.

+++++

Name _____

Birth date: _____

If married, to whom? _____ Birth date: _____

How long married? _____

Is this the only marriage for you and your spouse? _____ If not, please explain. (Use extra sheet if you wish)

Do you have children? _____ If so, how many? _____

How long have you been a Christian? _____ Your spouse? _____

1. What education do you have? List schools (high school and above), date and emphases (where appropriate). List all studies, whether toward a degree or not.

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Emphasis</u>
---------------	-------------	-----------------

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Other? _____

Appendix G Follow-up Missionary Application

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PROSPECTIVE MISSIONARIES WHO SEEK SUPPORT FROM NORTH BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST MURFREESBORO, TN 37130

Introduction

For prospective missionaries and the churches they approach for support and/or sponsorship, it is mutually beneficial for the kind of data requested below to exist in written form. Such information facilitates good and fair decisions by both parties. A missionary and a church may be a mismatch. Many details are called for in the following Questionnaire; but once filled out, it is possible to use it with several churches as needed. Indeed, some churches do not know how to ask the right questions to obtain the information they will need. We feel this instrument enables you to provide that data for both us and others, so give it your careful attention.

You are not on trial by answering questions and furnishing the requested data. At any point you wish, please feel free to qualify or elaborate on your answer. We recognize some issues are not as easily answered or resolved as others (marriage-divorce-remarriage, Bible translations, etc.), and you may not have thought about some of them. If that is the case, so state. But your answers will enable us to learn how you think about biblical and human issues.

Long term relationships between a sponsoring/supporting church and missionaries are somewhat like marriage: it pays to have a period of courtship by which both parties can come to understand each other and develop a relationship.

You may fill out this Questionnaire either by using a diskette, filling it out electronically from the Attachment, or printing out the form and filling it in by hand. This information will be kept confidential by the elders and foreign missions committee unless you give us permission to pass it on to someone else. If you wish to explain in person any matter from this Questionnaire, please indicate so at that point. Should it be discovered that for whatever reason(s) you and we are not a good match, at your request we will return your completed Questionnaire. But we may discover we are a good match and continue our relationship for God's glory.

I. Family Information

Date:

1. Full name: _____

2. Current address: _____

3. Address at which you may always be contacted:

4. Date and place of birth: _____

5. Current citizenship: _____

6. Please give the following information about your parents:

Father

Mother

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Information on Parents continued)

Year of birth: _____

Nationality: _____

Age²: _____

If deceased, cause of death: _____

Occupation: _____

Member of which church? _____

6. Please furnish the names, ages, and occupations (where appropriate) of your siblings:

6a.

6b.

6c.

6d:

7. Please give appropriate data on your marital and family status (name, birth date, education of spouse; names and date of birth of children) unless you have furnished it in an earlier questionnaire for us (add all information you wish).

7a. (spouse):

7b (child #1):

7c. (child #2):

7d. (child #3):

8. Please summarize your formal education from high school up (unless you have already supplied this information:

School	Entered/Left	Major/Minor(s)	Degrees/Diplomas
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² If deceased, state the age at death.

II. Missions Interests and Preparation

1. Briefly explain why you and your spouse have come to the decision God can use you in foreign evangelism? Did this conviction develop gradually or suddenly?

2. How do your parents (if living) and your spouse's parents (if living) feel about your engaging in foreign evangelism? Do they have reservations about it? Explain as needed.

3. Are you and your spouse prepared to work diligently to learn the languages necessary to your proposed work?

4. Please list the formal education you and your spouse have undertaken to prepare for cross-cultural evangelism. List items like schools and degrees (specific missions/evangelism courses), workshops, and seminars. (While many subjects contribute to one's preparation for missions, we are here particularly interested in courses on Bible/theology, evangelism, missions, cultural anthropology, leadership development, church development, urban missions, language learning [linguistics], and the like.)

5. What experience have you and your spouse had in teaching the gospel to people and seeing them become obedient to Christ?

6. What experience have you and your spouse had in helping new Christians to grow in the Lord? (Mentoring, new Christian classes, etc).

7. Please list any other practical experiences you have had in local church work (teaching classes, preaching, leading singing and prayer, working with women and/or children, etc.), evangelistic campaigns, evangelistic Bible studies, and the like.

8. Do you see yourselves as especially qualified to work in a particular country or among a certain ethnic group? Please explain.

9. Do you have difficulty working with (i.e., along side of) or under the direction of persons from another race or nationality? Explain.
10. If you are not successful in getting to the mission field in which you are currently interested, what would you seek to do with your life?
11. What misgivings, if any, do you have about rearing children in your chosen area of missions? Answer if appropriate.
12. What concerns, if any, do you have about medical care, personal and family safety, and financial well being on the field?
13. What do you regard as your greatest strengths for the work you propose to do?

III. Beliefs, Ethics, and Behavior/Habits

1. At what age did you become a Christian? At that time what did it mean to you to be a Christian?
2. Will your spouse answer the same two questions here?
3. Please mention briefly two or three periods or incidents in your (and your spouse's) life when you feel you made some significant growth in the Christian life.
4. What are your personal habits of prayer and Bible study?
 - 4a. Husband/man:
 - 4b. Wife/woman:

5. What are your basic convictions about the nature of the Bible, and how do you see its function in the life and work of a Christian missionary? In short, how does the Bible function practically and authoritatively?

6. What are your basic convictions about the identity of Jesus of Nazareth? Who is he?

7. Briefly state (if you feel able) how you understand the Holy Spirit to be related to the Father and Jesus Christ. This is not a trick question.

8. List a few things you understand the Holy Spirit to do today both in the conversion process and in the life of a Christian. This is not a trick question.

9. What are your basic convictions about the nature and purposes of baptism as taught in the New Testament?

10. What are your basic views about the role of women in the assembly of the church and their work apart from the assembly?

11. What are your basic convictions about divorce?

12. What are your convictions about the use of musical instruments, incense, dancing, and burning candles in the assembly of the church? Please explain your answer.

13. What are your convictions and practices regarding the use of alcoholic drinks, socially or otherwise?

14. Do you now, or have you ever uses tobacco in any form?

15. Do you now, or have you ever used non-prescription ("recreational") drugs?

16. What are your convictions about denominationalism?

17. Has pornography ever been a problem for you?
18. What relationships would you feel free to have with missionaries from other churches (Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox) and missionary societies? What relationship, if any, would you see as forbidden with these same people?
19. Based on what you know about the North Boulevard church, and particularly what is found in its Missions Policy Statement (request a copy or read it on our Website: www.north-blvd.org), do you know of any area of potential doctrinal differences you would have with it/them? Comment freely.
20. Have you ever been in serious financial trouble? Does managing money give you problems?
21. List your current financial obligations and what plans you have for liquidating them:
- | <u>Obligation</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Pmt. Plan</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
22. Do you see yourself being obligated in the near future to provide financial help for any of your relatives outside your immediate family?
23. Are you aware of any foreseeable domestic, personal, or doctrinal problem which might necessitate your withdrawal from missionary service, once sent?
24. Are there any other strengths or weaknesses in you or the work you and your family plan to undertake which have not been covered in your answers above? If so, please explain.