

GO Team Mission Statement and Philosophy of Ministry 2022-23

What is the GO Team's mission?

We desire to help the members at Hillside practice Matt 28:19-20 whether to go as a missionary or send, pray for and give (financial, pastoral and theological) resources to missionaries that will result in building sound indigenous local churches among the least reached people groups of the world. The GO Team has determined it is most effectively accomplished through pastoral and theological training of national pastors to minister the gospel to their own people.

How is the Great Commission modeled?

If Matthew 28:19-20 is the command, then Acts 14:21-23 is the model. The passage describes three areas of focus: first, evangelism is foundational (v21); second, discipleship of believers by strengthening and encouraging them (v21-22); third, training pastor-elders to serve the local church (v23).

What is the local church?

A local church is a body of believers who regularly assemble together to worship through the reading, preaching and singing of God's Word, praying, practicing the ordinances of baptism and communion, and encouraging and fellowshiping with the saints. The local church submits itself under the elders (Heb 13:17, 1 Pet 5:5) who are biblically qualified pastor-elders (1 Tim 3:1-7). The church is self-sustaining, defends the truth within its own culture (1 Pet 3:15, Jude 1:3), trains up biblically mature leaders and teachers from within (2 Tim 2:2, Tit 1:5), and participates in planting and establishing other churches locally and cross-culturally (Matt 28:19-20, Book of Acts).

What is our philosophy of ministry?

The priority will be supporting missionaries who train national local pastors in theology and ministry. Since it often takes years for foreign missionaries to acquire the language and culture, training local leaders and pastors who already speak the language, understand the culture and have relationships with the people will more effectively advance the local church. In regions where the gospel is not prevalent, we will support missionaries who focus on evangelism, discipleship and Bible translation that leads to planting local churches. A third category is mobilization in which experienced missionaries help mobilize others onto the field.

How does the GO Team help Hillside to obey the Great Commission?

We teach Hillside a biblical view of missions. We shepherd those who are interested in being sent as missionaries. We help Hillside to be senders of missionaries by keeping them informed of what our missionaries are doing through monthly prayer emails, providing opportunities to give financially through the GO Team Budget, and organize short-term missions with missionary partners.