

APPLICATION for Missions

Santa Barbara Community Church

Application Process

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

Missions and SBCC

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

Application Questions

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

- *How did you become a Christian?*
- *Describe your decision process in regard to becoming a missionary.*
- *What will your ministry entail?*
- *Tell us about your relationship with your family. Were you raised in a Christian home? Do you have another church home that you were involved with before SBCC? How do your parents view your faith, and your interest in going to the mission field?*
- *If you are serving with a particular missions agency, how did you select it?*
- *What are your expectations in your relationship with SBCC once you go to the mission field? Please be specific.*
- *How do you plan on raising and maintaining your support? Be as detailed as possible.*
- *How many contacts (give an exact number) do you plan on contacting who do not attend SBCC?*

Expectations

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

- ✓ Complete a yearly report (we have an outline that is easy to follow) and submit it to the Missions group.
- ✓ Send us detailed newsletters quarterly.
- ✓ Establish a prayer/advocacy group before you leave. They will be your primary representatives in the church for information and prayer, and will meet regularly to pray for you.
- ✓ Future fundraising: Missionaries will need to work closely in the future with the Missions group in regard to seeking further support. For example, the missionary needs to gain permission from the elders before holding fundraising events among church members.