

# **Guildford Baptist Church**

## **World Mission Values/Principles**

- 1. To foster national leadership and interdependency in the Body of Christ wherever possible and avoid creating relationships of dependency.**

*In a post-colonial context, much has been written about this. In many ways we already work this way, so this first point is simply about reinforcing the principle to empower those on the front line.*

- 2. To promote a holistic view of World Mission but always with evangelisation and discipleship as the underlying commitment.**

*Holistic mission is an important and biblical development, and we seek to promote that in our work. But this second point attempts to redress the balance a little, so that we don't lose sight of the centrality of salvation in Christ that transforms us as individuals and communities.*

- 3. To foster world partnerships with individuals/couples in association with established initiatives or organisations.**

*In short, we still believe in long-term vocations to live and serve overseas 'which will continue alongside and beyond our present world partner commitments. We will identify and support the calling of GBC members in moving into World Mission and this may include short-term as a "taster" for longer term commitment.*

- 4. To foster partnerships with churches across the world as well as in a cross-cultural context here in the U.K.**

*Looking to create genuine partnerships with churches and organisations with a world focus – e.g., Resurrection Church in Beirut, Trinity Baptist in London, Friends International.*

- 5. To ensure our World Partners receive good pastoral care and support.**

*Something we have a good reputation for and something we want to continue to develop both as GBC and through WPs developing their own support networks and groups. We want to*

- regularly undertake reviews with our World Partners and consider their accountability.*
- pastorally supportive of those in contact with our World Partners.*

- 6. To be open to the changing face of mission which may require less travel but more technical innovation.**

*We still believe in the importance of physical presence for face-to-face engagement but the Covid limitations have taught us how to have a greater world connection and*

*involvement - e.g., conferencing in countries like India, Pakistan, teaching and mentoring/coaching remotely. Through technology World Partners are able to engage with GBC and with one another in new ways.*

**7. To foster a global perspective on Christian faith among every member of the church, as well encouraging ways of giving expression to this in everyday life.**

*This point is based on the premise that there is no such thing as Christian faith that is not global in some sense. So, the question then becomes, how can we help our own Christian community to give expression to this in their own backyard, as well as by supporting our World Partners? Being involved in World Mission can be in a wide variety of ways and doesn't necessarily involve travel and being overseas.*

**8. To be open to anyone who senses a calling to World Mission, but to pray specifically for a younger generation to engage.**

*Like many of the values, this is not mutually exclusive. We don't want to put an age limit on mission. Indeed, retirement ought to allow for greater involvement for many people. But we do want to be intentional about fostering world mission among our younger people – more than just short-term missions. This may include challenging individuals into World Mission as well examining their own sense of calling*

**9. To have a particular interest in the persecuted church.**

*Seems like this has developed quite naturally in the last number of years – Open Doors etc. And given how widespread persecution of the church is becoming, it seems logical that our global vision embraces this particular challenge.*

**10. To be more aware than we have been of the call to communities without access to the gospel.**

*BMS have made their focus to be on unreached people. We don't need to do that. But it could be that we give expression to this particular aspect of world mission, either through the BMS or through our own endeavours. This may also include those people on the move as migrants or refugees.*

**11. To recognise that a calling to World Mission may include a variety of roles and activities.**

*Involvement in World Mission can include a wide range of roles including vocational (such a teaching or medical), business in mission, short term relief and organisational leadership, full or part time. In additional it may focus on specific matters such as justice or creation care.*