

## An Overview of Missions at Community Church

By Brenda Hernday (April 2011)

*Community Church exists to glorify God and, in His strength, equip and empower the body of Christ to serve others in love and go make disciples.*

Have you ever really considered just how “missional” this purpose statement for Community Church is? The words “serve others” and “go make disciples” stand out as “missional” words, and are biblically supported by Jesus’ Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 as He tells the disciples to “Go and make disciples of all the nations.” However, it is really the first part of our purpose statement that speaks to the heart and goal of missions. As John Piper explains in his book *Let the Nations Be Glad*:

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions.”

So, it is our desire to glorify God, and worship Him, that fuels us and causes us to respond with His love & grace to serve others and disciple others in Christ. And as Community Church has grown, in numbers and in spiritual maturity, God has and is challenging us to respond through missions in greater ways to bring others into His family to worship and glorify Him. We have gone from a church body that used to have a once a year response to the financial need to engage in missions activities, to a church body that now embraces the act of tithing 10% of our church budget towards missions. We are giving back to God, what He has so graciously given us; and in so doing, He is calling us to participate at a higher level in His Kingdom activity.

And as God is collectively growing our hearts and response to His call to missions, the Missions Advisory Team at Community Church is also growing from just a couple of church leaders, to a team of church members that continually seeks God’s direction and wisdom on how we, as a church body, are engaged in expanding His Kingdom. The mission of the Missions Advisory Team (MAT) at Community Church is to provide Godly stewardship over the Missions budget and to provide resources and opportunities to the church body that will mobilize and energize us to share God’s love and Gospel with people in our community and the world. The strategy of the team to carry out this mission is to educate, motivate and facilitate.

**Educate** – The MAT and church leadership are constantly seeking ways to educate the church body about world missions and ways to equip each individual with the knowledge and tools they need to engage purposefully in expanding God’s kingdom.

**Motivate** – The MAT has undertaken a project to share with this church body all of the missionaries and ministries that Community Church currently supports. As we see and hear the stories of our brothers and sisters that are serving the Lord with the fullness of their lives, we pray that God motivates us to be in prayer for these missionaries and to ask how we can be even more engaged in His Kingdom work.

**Facilitate** – If you are looking for a way or a place to serve in missions – in the church, on a short-term trip, in this country, in a foreign country, longer-term – whatever you want to explore, the Missions Advisory Team exists to assist and facilitate your search and desire to serve and share God’s love.

This mission and focus of the Missions Advisory Team is somewhat newly formed and the Team continues to seek the Lord in shaping the missions response and activity of Community Church; but the Team and the church leadership are humbled and excited to see God’s hand moving us closer to His vision for how Community Church is and will be a greater vessel for

expanding His Kingdom. We recognize there is much to be done and much more God will ask of us as we seek Him more deeply, but we press forward always asking the question, “Are we living up to our potential in expanding the Kingdom of God?” After all, as John Piper concludes in *Let the Nations Be Glad*,

“God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshipers for himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of his name among the nations. Therefore let us bring our affections into line with his, and, for the sake of his name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts, and join his global purpose.”

If you would like to talk with someone on the Missions Advisory Team about how you can serve with us, or if you have questions on how we can help you find a way to engage in missions, e-mail [missions@community-church.com](mailto:missions@community-church.com) or call Brenda at 920-233-0817.