

Acts 1:8 Team Mission Strategy

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 ESV

I. Vision

The primary goal of the Deer Park Baptist Church Acts 1:8 Team is to carry out both the Great Commandment (found in Matthew 22:37-39) and the Great Commission (as outlined in Matthew 28:18-20). We aim to achieve this by crafting a comprehensive response to God's desire, which is that the entire world comes to know Him through the love, service, and deliberate outreach efforts of His Church.

To accomplish this mission, our church is dedicated to making the mission personal for every member of Deer Park Baptist Church. This involves the development of partnerships, both locally and internationally, that place a strong emphasis on personal involvement through prayer, financial contributions, and active participation.

Our ministry is structured around the Acts 1:8 passage, which acknowledges the church's responsibility to extend its reach beyond its own boundaries. This extension includes sharing the message of Christ with individuals in our immediate community (referred to as "Jerusalem"), in our surrounding region and country ("Judea and Samaria"), and ultimately, across the world ("Ends of the Earth").

II. Values

A. God loves all People and desires to have a personal relationship with them. (John 3:16)

- 1) We are called to love all people and share the Good News of the Gospel with them, whether they are across the street or on the other side of the world.
- 2) We will show respect for the distinctiveness of each culture by conveying the Gospel in a manner that is comprehensible and embraced by each indigenous community.
- 3) Acknowledging God's love for all people groups, we will prioritize our ministry efforts by establishing partnerships in

regions where the people are either unreached or under-reached by the Gospel.

- B. God has given the responsibility of reaching the lost world to His Church. (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8)
 - 1) As we strive to become more like Christ, our mission is to guide others in their faith journey and instill in them a passion for carrying out the Great Commission.
 - 2) It is essential that we prioritize our partnerships to be responsible stewards of the time, talents, and resources that God has entrusted to us. To whom much is given, much is expected.
 - 3) Our commitment is to prepare our members to serve as missionaries, both now and in the future, through missions education, strategic mission partnerships, and mission projects.
- C. We aspire for every member of Deer Park Baptist Church to recognize their role in the mission whether it be through prayer, giving, sending, or going. (Acts 13:1-3, Philippians 4:15-20)
 - 1) Ensuring the long-term sustainability of our mission efforts necessitates making it a priority for our church leadership.
 - 2) It is crucial for the church to effectively communicate with the congregation regarding the endeavors of our missionaries, especially those with whom we partner.
 - 3) The congregation should be kept informed about opportunities to engage in prayer and financial support for specific needs, participate in short-term mission trips, and understand the process for answering God's call to mission work.

III. Action Plan

- A. Missions Education: Implement regular missions-focused teaching from the pulpit, the family ministry curriculum, and adult Sunday School curriculum to educate and inspire the congregation about the importance of missions.
- B. Local and Global Mission Partnerships: Establish and maintain relationships with strategic partners to accomplish the mission. Presently, Deer Park Baptist Church partners with A.C. Corcoran Elementary through Heart4Schools ministry, Operation Christmas Child, and a Romanian Church Planter, Mircea Dumitru.

- C. Associational Partnerships: Deer Park Baptist Church partners with the Charleston Baptist Association, The South Carolina Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.
- D. Global Missions: Support the work of the International Mission Board and Send Relief through financial contributions, prayer support, and short-term mission trips.
- E. Local Outreach: Meet the needs of our local community through the work of clothing, hygiene, and food initiatives through the Deer Park Food Pantry and FoodShare.
- F. Missionary Support: Provide training, resources, and financial support to church members called to long-term mission work.
- G. Communication: Regularly communicate with the congregation about the work of our missionaries, specific prayer requests, opportunities to give, upcoming mission trips, and the impact that their contributions are making.
- H. Discernment and Commissioning: Establish a process for discerning and commissioning members who feel called to long-term mission service.
- I. Evaluation and Adaptation: Periodically review and adapt our mission strategy to ensure it aligns with the evolving needs and opportunities for mission work.
- J. Accountability: Establish accountability mechanisms to ensure transparency and responsible use of mission resources.

Acts 1:8 Team Financial Policy

I. Source and Availability of Funds for Missions

- A. Funds for support of DPBC missions are derived from three sources:
 - 1) A percentage of budget funds stipulated for missions through the Acts 1:8 fund.
 - 2) Designated offerings to the Acts 1:8 fund, the Deer Park Food Pantry Fund, Heart4Schools Fund, Operation Christmas Child Fund, and related accounts received throughout the year.
 - 3) Designated offerings received for the support of special mission initiatives or for mission trips.
- B. All funds for the support of missions are subject to the availability of funds on hand within the specified annual church budget period.
- C. Any exception to policies regarding the source and availability of mission support funds must be approved in advance by the Acts 1:8 Team.
- D. Financial support for mission initiatives with separate restricted accounts may occur through financial transfers from the Acts 1:8 account or through financial coverage of a specific mission expense at the discretion of the Acts 1:8 Team.

II. Definition of an Official Mission Initiative and Mission Trip

- A. A proposed new mission initiative or mission trip to be sponsored by DPBC may be originated in one of four ways:
 - 1) In response to a written request from an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention (such as the Charleston Baptist Association, South Carolina Baptist Convention, North America Mission Board, or the International Mission Board).
 - 2) In response to a written request from an evangelistic association or other recognized missions organization, or a leader in the mission field.
 - 3) In response to a written request by an individual member of DPBC who desires to lead a mission initiative.
 - 4) By the Acts 1:8 Team or church staff member in response to a need or opportunity.

- B. Persons or organizations must submit to the church office a written request for a new mission initiative at least three months prior to the time of the proposed onset of the ministry to allow time for processing by the Acts 1:8 Team. Exceptions for urgent requests may be granted by the team at their discretion. Required forms are available in the church office.
- C. With exception for Disaster Relief and emergency requests, an individual or organization must submit to the church office a "Mission Trip Proposal Form" at least 10 months prior to the date of the proposed mission trip. This request must be approved by the Acts 1:8 Team prior to the commitment of any support funds for the trip.
- D. A mission initiative or mission trip is conferred official status when the proposed ministry is approved in advance by the Acts 1:8 Team.
- E. The Acts 1:8 Team will notify the individual or organization of the decision of the Team concerning the request for sponsorship of a mission initiative or trip.
- F. Any exception to policies regarding approval of an official mission initiative or trip must be approved in advance by the Acts 1:8 Team.
- G. Any promotion of mission initiatives or trips in Deer Park Baptist Church publications or on the church website must be approved through the church office. Promotion does not necessarily entail that a mission initiative or trip is sponsored by Deer Park Baptist Church.
- H. Officially sponsored mission initiatives and trips must report regularly to the Acts 1:8 team through a representative at Acts 1:8 Meetings. Reports should include data about ministry participation, impact, finances, needs, and future plans. All hunger initiatives will include data on number of families, number of individuals and the number of times served. This information will be used in the Acts 1:8 Annual Report which will be made available to the congregation.

***Note:** Necessary forms may be obtained from the church office.

III. Participation in Deer Park Baptist Church Mission Initiatives and Mission Trips

- A. The Team Leader of any Deer Park sponsored mission initiative must be a church member in good standing in addition to being approved by the Acts 1:8 Team and Senior Pastor.

- B. The Team Leader must be approved by the Acts 1:8 Team prior to authorization being given to issue any confirmations, make any reservations for travel or accommodations, make any purchases or commit any mission funding from the Acts 1:8 budget.
- C. An Acts 1:8 Team representative will provide written notification of the Team's approval of a designated team leader for a mission trip to be sponsored by DPBC.
- D. Church membership is not required for team members. All team members must agree with DPBC beliefs. All team members must have a background check and be a regular attendee of DPBC for at least six months. Exceptions must be approved by the Acts 1:8 Team and the Senior Pastor.
- E. Individuals requesting to participate on a mission trip must fulfill the following qualifications:
 - i Must be a member or regular attendee of DPBC for at least 6 months. Non-members may participate with prior approval of the Acts 1:8 Team and Senior Pastor.
 - ii Must have a background check.
 - iii Must be able to share their personal testimony of salvation.
 - iv Must have completed the DPBC Mission Trip form(s).
 - v Must participate in mandatory training sessions that are provided by the team leader in cooperation with the Acts 1:8 Team.
 - vi International Mission Trips require participants to be at least 14 years of age unless given special approval by the Senior Pastor. (Any exception for children traveling with their parents must be approved in advance by the Acts 1:8 Team and Senior Pastor)
- F. The Acts 1:8 Team reserves the right to limit the number of persons on a proposed trip.

IV. Funding of Deer Park Baptist Mission Initiatives and Mission Trips

- A. Distribution of general mission funds to Deer Park sponsored missions are determined on a priority basis. Priorities and distribution percentages will be determined by the Acts 1:8 team and will be reviewed at least annually.
- B. First priority for mission trip funding is given to DPBC members.

- C. Non-members may only receive mission trip funding by special invitation from the Acts 1:8 team.
- D. Any exception to the policies regarding financial support for mission trips must be approved in advance by the Acts 1:8 Team and Senior Pastor.

V. Eligible Expenses for Financial Support of Mission Team Members

- A. Only eligible expense items are used in determining the total trip expenses for team members, and DPBC financial support is based upon the total of these expenses.
- B. Eligible expenses for individual team members:
 - 1) Travel expenses to and from the mission field, including the cost of airline tickets, airport taxes, etc.
 - 2) Ground travel expenses on the mission field.
 - 3) Housing accommodations on the mission field.
 - 4) Food expenses on the mission field, as outlined before the trip and by the team leader.
 - 5) Other essential expenses that are related to the transportation and maintenance of the individual team members while on the mission trip.
- C. Funds are not provided by DPBC for unplanned extra meals, travel insurance, tips, visas, gifts, souvenirs, personal purchases, or sightseeing unrelated to the purpose of the mission trip, passport, passport or visa photos, required vaccinations, expenses related to unexpected layovers, and preventative medications.
- D. Any exception to policies regarding financial support of mission team members must be approved in advance by the Acts 1:8 Team.

VI. Eligible Expenses for Support of General Team Ministries on Trips

- A. DPBC support may be provided for part or all of essential expenses for general team ministries on the field.
- B. The approved team leader of an DPBC mission trip must submit to the church office a "Request for Mission Team Ministry Expenses" (Form MS-5)* at least three months or more prior to the date of the mission trip. Any additional expense needs must be approved by the Associate or Senior Pastor, pending availability.

- C. Eligible expenses related to the Team ministry on the field:
- 1) Materials and supplies for Vacation Bible Schools, backyard Bible studies, etc.
 - 2) Bibles and tracts for evangelistic witnessing.
 - 3) Supplies, materials, and equipment for evangelistic crusades.
 - 4) Supplies, materials, and equipment for leadership training, discipleship training, and other related training activities.
 - 5) Supplies and equipment for medical projects.
 - 6) Supplies and equipment for disaster relief and/or other humanitarian ministries.
 - 7) Supplies, materials, and equipment for building projects.
 - 8) Cost of translators necessary for the effectiveness of the mission team.
 - 9) Other general expenses that are essential for the specific ministry of the mission team, including travel expenses
- D. All expenses related to general team ministries on the field must be approved in advance by the Acts 1:8 Team, except in emergency situations where a trip leader may exercise discretion in making a decision.
- E. Each mission trip budget should be authorized and recommended by the Acts 1:8 Team to the Finance Team to assure there are funds available.
- F. Any exception to the policies regarding financial support for general team ministries on the field must be approved in advance by the Acts 1:8 Team.

***Note:** Necessary forms may be obtained from the church office or on the church website.

VII. Individual Financial Support for Mission Trips

- A. Individual support funds for DPBC Mission trips
Individuals going on mission trips are encouraged to provide as much of their personal expenses as possible. This will allow church funds to be available for assisting persons who feel led of God to go on a mission trip but who need financial assistance to participate. For those who need funding, financial support may be provided for any

qualified church member going on a mission trip sponsored by DPBC in accordance with the following guidelines:

- 1) Through particular giving and mission benefits, funds will be available for any church member who goes on a short-term mission trip sponsored by DPBC. A certain percentage will be calculated based on available funds of the estimated individual cost as defined in Section V. This financial support DOES NOT INCLUDE any provision for the cost of general ministries on the field as defined in Section VI.
- 2) Each applicant must submit to the church office a Mission Trip Participant Application at least 6 months before the mission trip, depending on travel expectations outlined by the group leader and/or Acts 1:8 Team.
- 3) To encourage personal commitment to a mission trip, the support given by the church will be available as part of the last payments for the trip, meaning it would not be available for a deposit or early payments for the trip. A non-refundable deposit should be paid as soon as the Mission Trip Participant Application is approved by the Acts 1:8 Team.
- 4) The mission trip must be approved by the Acts 1:8 Team prior to the provision of any financial support.
- 5) Any exception to policies regarding mission trips sponsored by DPBC must be approved in advance by the Acts 1:8 Team.

***Note:** Necessary forms may be obtained from the church office or on the church website.

B. Special Individual Support for DPBC Ministerial Staff Members

- 1) All current DPBC ministerial staff members receive 100% of funding for any mission trip approved by the Acts 1:8 Team when said staff member is in a primary leadership role that is crucial for the trip regarding specific goals, area coverage, etc.

C. Cancellation Policy

- 1) In all cases, deposits are **non-refundable**.
- 2) If a participant is forced to withdraw from a mission trip, a refund will be given for any payments made, unless airline and ground policies make it too late for the church to receive a refund.
- 3) If a participant withdraws from a trip, any fines issued by the airlines or ground providers will be paid by the participant. If

the participant does not pay these fines, they will no longer be eligible to participate in mission trips.

- 4) If a participant needs to withdraw within one month of the trip and the monies are non-refundable, the participant has the option of asking the church to find a replacement. All replacements must be approved by the mission trip leader and the church staff. There are no guarantees that replacements will be found. Financial issues regarding participants and replacements will be the responsibility of both parties and will not be a matter concerning the church.

VIII. Mission Team Participant Reports

- A. Each person who receives financial support for a mission trip (whether sponsored by DPBC or by another person or organization) is asked to provide to the Acts 1:8 Team a "Mission Trip Debrief Report" within two weeks following completion of the trip. This will help with the evaluation process of current and future mission work through DPBC.
- B. Participants may be asked to present a brief oral report or testimony to the church congregation and/or special groups or classes.
- C. The team leader is expected to assist in securing the "Mission Trip Debrief Report" from each person on the mission team.
- D. The team leader is expected to provide a "Mission Team Evaluation Report" within two weeks following completion of the trip. This form would be the leader's evaluation of each mission trip participant.

***Note:** Necessary forms may be obtained at the church office.