

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Selecting A Mission Experience	4
Participation	6
Team Preparation	10
Mission Support	11
Funding	12
Sample Forms	17
<i>Participant Application</i>	
<i>Ministry Information</i>	

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# THE MISSION EXPERIENCE AT HRBC

Acts 1:8

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”*

The Mission Strategy Team is called to lead the congregation in the following ways:

Our goal is to establish Acts 1:8 Teams to mobilize people, employ prayer, and allocate finances and other resources so as to effectively make disciples beginning in our Jerusalem, extending to our Judea and Samaria, and reaching to the ends of the earth.

Our goal is to proactively investigate, plan, educate, and lead the church in missions experiences that are relational, holistic, ongoing, and intergenerational.

Our goal is to determine through prayer, reflection and discernment where God is leading us to work with him in the world and to partner with a variety of appropriate mission ministries and entities to accomplish our God-given mission.

Our goal is to emphasize personalization of missions and expand the church’s vision for building God’s kingdom by keeping missionaries constantly in touch with our church family and engaging HRBC in hands-on work.

Our goal is to actively call out gifts within the congregation and empower congregants to use them on the mission field. We will encourage short-term missions involvement as well as seek out and nurture potential long-term missionary candidates within our congregation.

The Missions Ministry of HRBC seeks to empower God's people to be on mission in Virginia, United States and the World. The **Ends of Earth Regional Team**(EoE) has the specific responsibility to call out those in our congregation with passion for ministry in the greater mid-Atlantic region and beyond. This team will strategically focus on training, equipping and sending people into the world to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We must be diligent with strategic efforts in those areas where God is leading us and place a high priority on discerning His call. The purpose of this handbook is to explain EoE mission in detail so those participating will have an understanding of our goals and our strategy for accomplishing those goals.

## SHORT-TERM MISSION EXPERIENCE

The short-term Mission Experience is a vehicle by which God's church can advance His kingdom, spread the gospel throughout the world, disciple church members and have lasting relationships on the field. We will minister repeatedly to locations where we are called, as we build relationships and partnerships with churches, communities and missionaries throughout the world. Frequent, repeated contact with a partner will allow us to establish a close relationship with them, and become a vital and strategic ally.

# MISSION EXPERIENCE SELECTION

The first action of a missional church is prayer. Faithful prayer will lead us to see where God is working, and join Him in that work. When considering Mission Experience or partnership we will carefully consider our vision/mission statements:

Ends of Earth will be –

- ◆ Proactive in investigating, planning, and leading the church in missions and in endorsing specific missions activities.
- ◆ Mission Experiences will be intentionally designed to be relational and holistic. Most will be ongoing.
- ◆ Making disciples will be the ultimate goal.
- ◆ Mission Experiences will be inclusive of all ages.

## FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS WHEN SELECTING MISSION EXPERIENCES

- ◆ We will also make certain that the talents and gifts we bring to any location meet the strategic needs in the field as determined by our host.
- ◆ We will differentiate between missions and benevolence. Missions is the clear involvement of our people fulfilling the Acts 1:8 commission. Missions may involve benevolent work, but benevolence does not necessarily fulfill the commission.
- ◆ As members of HRBC become aware of and interested in potential mission opportunities, we ask that they consider how these opportunities meet the mission/vision objectives stated above. If the ministry is thought to be consistent with our objectives, a Ministry Information Form is available to be submitted to the EoE Regional Team. Completion of this form will facilitate the process of communications with the EoE Regional Team. Once completed, it should be forwarded to the Regional Team Leader or the church office. A sample of this form is provided on pg. 23.
- ◆ As potential mission opportunities become known, the EoE Regional Team will investigate in detail to determine if the mission is viable as well as consistent with our vision/mission statements. If it seems to be appropriate, the Mission Strategy Team will request details of the potential mission. The mission location may then be added to the list of potential partners of the EoE Regional Team.
- ◆ Other factors will be considered: cost, leadership, distance, accessibility, risk, safety and resource availability. A deliberate effort will be made to limit and match the number of our partnerships according to our resources, in order to maximize our impact in selected areas.

# MISSION EXPERIENCE PARTICIPATION

## PROCESS TO PARTICIPATE

- ◆ Individuals interested in participating in an EoE Mission Experience should express their interest to the specific Project Coordinator.
- ◆ The number of Team Members for any specific Mission Experience will be determined by the EoE Regional Team consulting with the field missionaries about their specific needs.
- ◆ In the case of more volunteers than available positions on a Mission Experience, volunteers will be accepted in the following ways:
  - ◆ in the order they were received.
  - ◆ according to participation qualifications. (See Qualifications for Participation, pg. 7.)
- ◆ Upon notification of acceptance, participants will be asked to pay a deposit fee. If not paid before stated deadline, another participant will be considered for the position. If financial aid is requested, that need should be voiced before the deposit fee deadline.
- ◆ A waiver of liability must be signed by each candidate.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Team Members must remember that they are ambassadors for Christ at all times. This is a tremendous responsibility. For this reason, each team member must seek to be above reproach in his/her actions and attitudes.

- ◆ Team members must submit to the authority of all Project Coordinators and Ministry Leaders .
- ◆ Team Members need to maintain high moral standards in their personal lives.
- ◆ Team members must participate in any skill development and training prior to the Mission Experience. This may include, but is not limited to language, customs and logistical information.
- ◆ Some Mission Experiences may require special training or skills. (i.e., medical or technology ) Applications will be assessed according to the needs of the trip.
- ◆ Team Members need to be physically able to meet the demands of the Mission Experience.
- ◆ Due to the political instability and anti-American sentiment in various countries around the world, HRBC asks that team members refrain from expressing political opinions while on mission.
- ◆ Team Members must abstain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages or any use of tobacco or illegal drugs while on the trip.
- ◆ The Team Member must adhere to the behavioral guidelines for each specific team set by the team leadership or missionary agency with a mind toward the host's culture. This will require a servant attitude toward all nationals and team members, as well as the willingness to learn from the host culture.
- ◆ Prospective adult Team Members participating in a Mission Experience that will involve interaction with children/youth must submit to a background check.
- ◆ The Project Coordinator reserves the right to ask an uncooperative Team Member to return home if that Team Member's behavior is destructive to the team, the ministry, or the host community. Any additional cost incurred as a result of this action will be at the team member's expense.

(Qualifications for Participation, continued)

- ◆ Upon application, the MST retains the right to refuse participation to any individual who has exhibited poor behavior or attitudes pertaining to past Mission Experiences.
- ◆ Upon returning from a Mission Experience, Team Members are encouraged to engage in regular ministries through other Acts 1:8 teams to continue to apply what they have learned through their Ends of the Earth Missions Experience.

## GOALS/GUIDELINES WHEN FORMING TEAMS

### Project Coordinator

- ◆ Acts as the main contact with the Missionary Partners.
- ◆ Assists in making plans to prepare for the Mission Experience.
- ◆ Plans/lists all needs to complete a specific project, i.e. travel, lodging, logistical activities and personnel.
- ◆ Reviews project lists with Regional Team Leader
- ◆ Works with project and Team Leaders to secure material and personnel needed for project.
- ◆ Must have already participated in an exploration trip or been on a previous Mission Experience to the specific location.
- ◆ After team is formed, help the team catch a vision for what a long-term relational ministry can mean to them, the field partner and HRBC.
- ◆ Schedule opportunities to train the team to accomplish objectives of the Mission Experience.
- ◆ Plan and conduct team meetings for the purpose of team building and to accomplish planning/preparation objectives.
- ◆ Oversee financial support building for team and team members if necessary.
- ◆ Communicate needed information with Mission Strategy Team, all Team Members and Missionary Field Partners.
- ◆ Plan and coordinate team debrief and follow-up.

### Ministry Coordinator (if needed)

- ◆ Works with Project Coordinator to plan/list all needs to complete ministry projects for team (i.e., VBS, health education classes...).
- ◆ Works with Team Leaders to enable them to understand their role during the mission experience.

### Adult Chaperones (if needed)

- ◆ Will be used when team consists of a significant number of youth/children.
- ◆ Will assist and support the Project Coordinator and all other team leadership in all ways necessary to assure the execution and success of the Mission Experience.
- ◆ Background checks will be required.

### Team Leader

- ◆ Has specific responsibility to lead groups of Team Members in ministry or project activities while on Mission Experience.
- ◆ Works directly with Project Coordinator and Ministry Coordinator.

### Team Members

- ◆ Term used to designate all individuals participating in a Mission Experience.

## TEAM PREPARATION

- ◆ All Team Members should begin praying for themselves, their teammates and missionaries on the field as soon as the Mission Experience team is formed.
- ◆ All Team Members should begin forming a Mission Support Team as soon a decision on a Mission Experience is confirmed. (See Mission Support, Page 11)
- ◆ All Team Members need to make note of all important dates. Pre-project training and post-project debriefings will be held, and are as important as the mission experience itself. Team Members are expected to attend.
- ◆ Let the excitement be a part of your entire journey -- from the moment you sign up to the time you return!

# MISSION SUPPORT

As many people as possible need to be involved in the experience of mission. Whether they are actually traveling or are supporting from home, the HRBC family should be involved. This gives many the opportunity to be blessed by the investment and the involvement.

Mission support begins the day an individual determines God is calling him or her to a Mission Experience. At that very moment, they need to be supported with:

- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Understanding
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Encouragement

Each Team Member will be responsible for developing his or her own Support Team. The most important need for the Team Member is for people to pray for him/her before, during and after the Mission Experience. You should seek people who you think will support your entire journey. Remember, if the prayer support is in place, everything else will fall into place.

# FUNDING

Each year the EoE Regional Team will present a budget consisting of all planned Mission Experiences for church approval. Those planned will be funded as follows:

- ◆ HRBC will use budgeted funds to contribute to funding EoE Mission Experiences. Budgeted funding will be on a percentage basis. The percentage may vary (up to a maximum of 50%) based on total cost and priority need by the field partner.
- ◆ The remainder of funding is the responsibility of the individual. However, additional funding may be considered on a case-by-case basis for unique situations.
- ◆ Exploration Trip - (*Exploration Trip is a time planned for HRBC representatives to visit the partner/project site to assess the needs required for a specific project.*)  
All travel and lodging expenses will be paid from the budget of the Regional team making the trip, for up to 3 persons. The budget will also provide funds for board equivalent to a maximum of \$30.00/day.
- ◆ There may be opportunities for church-wide fundraising for a particular Mission Experience. The opportunities will be well publicized and participation by Team Members will be required.

\*\*Individuals seeking reimbursement for any costs incurred while on mission must have prior approval from the Team Leader before the purchase is made, and must turn in a receipt for each expense.

## FUNDING THROUGH DESIGNATED GIVING

Monies given to EoE missions can be designated in two ways:

**Option #1:** Any individual or organization (inside or outside HRBC) may give toward the expenses of any Mission Experience or Partnership, whether coordinated by HRBC or not.. These monies will be distributed as determined by the EoE Regional Team and the Missions Strategy Team.

**Option #2:** Any individual or organization (inside or outside HRBC) may give to a specific EoE coordinated Mission Experience or partnership. These monies will be distributed as determined by the EoE Regional Team and the Missions Strategy Team.

**NOTE:** Monies contributed through designated funds on behalf of a specific individual are acceptable. However, contribution credit will not be issued to the contributor due to IRS regulation.

## USE OF DESIGNATED FUNDS

Monies for a specific Mission Experience or partnership will be used to cover the cost of supplies and other related expenses.

If giving towards a specific project exceeds the amount needed, the disbursement of the excess funds will be determined by the appropriate Regional Team and the MST.

## FUNDRAISING

By-Laws of HRBC (Article 11: Section 8: Events for Profit) state:

*“Neither the church nor any church organization shall conduct in the name of the church any sales, raffles, or entertainments either at the church or any other place for a the purpose of raising money for any cause except for projects that have received prior approval by the church; this shall not be construed to forbid the payment of an amount to help defray ministry costs such as suppers for church organizations.”*

## CHURCH-WIDE FUNDRAISING FOR MISSION EXPERIENCES

When church-wide fundraising is used the following criteria will be considered:

- ◆ Fundraising will be directed toward the financing of a specific project/partnership.
- ◆ Fundraising must encompass elements which will only reflect favorably upon the church and not cause the community to regard our congregation in a negative fashion.
- ◆ Fundraising is to be done in a straightforward and open manner so the donor understands the purpose of the planned ministry and how the funds will be used.
- ◆ Fundraising must never compromise Christian principles for the sake of securing funds.
- ◆ Fundraising projects must receive Stewardship Team and Mission Strategy Team approval before being implemented.

## REQUESTING HRBC MISSION EXPERIENCE SPONSORSHIP

There are times individual church members feel called to mission in a place in the world that has not been part of the church-wide Ends of Earth plan. We applaud their heart for God, and encourage them to listen to and follow Him. Generally, these individual opportunities will not receive financial support from the church, but will be supported in prayer and interest. Please contact the Mission Strategy Team or Regional Team Leader if you are planning to participate in an Experience of this kind. They will make certain the HRBC family is aware of your journey.

*The following pages are Sample Forms used by the Ends of Earth Regional Team when preparing for Mission Experience. Please do not use these forms, they are for you information only. Originals of these forms may be obtained in the church office.*

# Ends of Earth

## Ministry Information

As part of our Missions Strategy Team, the Ends of Earth (Regional Team) is asking you to engage in our spiritual journey to be a *missional* church, being faithful to Acts 1:8. This team has the responsibility to call out those in our congregation with passion for missions outside Virginia. We want to know where God has been burdening your heart to be missional, specifically in this geographic region, so we can gather and share ideas with each other.

The Missions Strategy Team for HRBC is being very intentional when choosing future mission opportunities. As such, we have identified some key concepts to guide us into our future.

- *Ministries of Acts 1:8 Teams are to be intentionally designed as ongoing, relational and holistic.*
- *Acts 1:8 Teams plan so that the ultimate goal of all ministries is to make disciples.*
- *Acts 1:8 Teams are to be inclusive of all ages.*

Please prayerfully consider how your ideas for potential mission opportunities meet these objectives when sharing the following information.

Mission & Location? \_\_\_\_\_

How does this mission meet the objectives of the three goals stated above? (Be as specific as possible ... use back of page if necessary.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_