



May 16, 2008

Fellow Saints at EBF,

During our annual retreat this past January, the elders evaluated the current status of EBF's missionary vision. The desire and purpose of EBF in missions is to glorify God by praying, by being good stewards of our resources, and by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ so that all would hear, respond in faith, and live in obedience.

We believe this statement will give the missions team (committee) direction in planning consistent with the values of EBF. We realized that many of us at EBF were not aware of whom we support together on the mission field. It saddened us to realize that we have not done a consistent job emphasizing missions, so we have set our hearts and minds to increasing our involvement in the proclamation of the gospel and meeting specific needs as a local body of Christ.

Historically EBF has emphasized the importance of supporting missionaries individually. While still encouraging your participation in these ministries, we feel it is imperative that we, together as a corporate body, become more personally involved in the ministries of our missionaries. We do not want to be merely supportive spectators in the gospel, but rather active participants in the growth of the Kingdom globally and locally. We desire to view every supported missionary as an extension of us, not merely as a separate entity whom we support.

We want to focus more of our corporate attention and support on our missionaries who call EBF their home church and are actively on the field bringing the gospel to unreached peoples: at this point these are John Jette (Papua New Guinea) and Mary Haag (Cambodia). As a body, we will be emphasizing and reminding each other of John and Mary and their work on behalf of the Lord to the tribes of Papua New Guinea and the peoples of Cambodia. We desire for their ministry to be our ministry and their people our people, so that we can have a greater effectiveness in their ministry and in our growth in missional vision by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In order to focus more on our two sent missionaries, we, the elders and mission team, have concluded that we will shift our current financial support from 5 other local missionaries (each currently at \$100/month) in order to more effectively support John and Mary (currently at \$210/month and \$100/month, respectively). These 5 financially supported missionaries are: Howard Killion (ISI), Wes Hurd (Art Project), Craig & Ann Combs (Wycliffe), Gayle and Marilyn Davis (International Students in Eugene), and Bruce & Pat Campbell (Assisting Missions Ministries).

Starting September 1, 2008 our corporate financial support for these 5 will decrease 50% and by September 1, 2009 will cease our corporate financial support. These 5 local missionaries have been notified. We will shift these finances to John and Mary (and future full time missionaries from EBF). Currently missions are 2% of our total EBF budget. We hope to increase this to 3% next year.

However, we also want to increase our active participation and involvement with these 5 local missionaries as well as many other local outreach ministries. We have asked that every home group at EBF adopt a local missionary or mission for practical support (see enclosed brochure). You do not need to limit your support to those on the brochure but we ask that the mission be consistent with our vision statement. Support should be creative and practical including prayer, communication, possible simple tasks, or fund raising. We want home groups to inform the EBF body about the mission and their needs. This can include an informational meeting or potluck once a year for the body of EBF. The mission may want to give a presentation or be interviewed on a Sunday morning once every 1-2 years. There are many other ideas. We want you to be involved. (If you are not in a home group this is an excellent opportunity to join one.)

We believe that home group participation in missions will help EBFers grow in Christ by learning how we can love and serve others together, using a variety of gifts and talents. Please pray about your participation. The elders are excited about this new approach to missions and hope you will be as well. Be creative and give your ideas to Greg Hopper-Moore (missions deacon) or an elder.

Our plan is to bring missions to the forefront of our purpose as the body of Christ, and that the Holy Spirit will spur us on to an even greater participation in the proclamation of the gospel and the discipleship of all of His people from all over the world.

So, what does this require of you personally? We ask that you participate in the ministries of local missionaries and keep your vision toward the world as the great ripe harvest field which God has set before us. We also ask you to involve yourself in the ministry of the gospel to the people of Papua New Guinea and Cambodia, making them your mission, too, and not merely John and Mary's ministries. These people are now EBF's concern and their discipleship is a focus of our prayers, our encouragement, and our provisions for they are our brothers and sisters. From simple prayers, to encouragement by writing letters, short-term trips to learn and encourage, and even to the call of the Lord to a life-long service to a people group who have never heard the gospel, our desire is to get involved in our Kingdom calling to the glory of Jesus Christ.

Please continue to pray for your elders and for the direction that the Holy Spirit of God will bring us regarding EBF and our participation and purpose in the proclamation of the Word to the glory of God in Jesus Christ.

To the Glory of God Alone,

Rich Carroll	343-3406
Randy G ill	484-9759
Brick Lantz	687-8338
Rusty Rexius	744-8085
Richard Roberts	520-8582
Rick Siel	485-5829
Bob Smejkal	485-1347

"And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near." Hebrews 10: 24-25