

At Grace Vineyard we are passionate about supporting and investing in anyone committed to our global mission as a church;

“To be disciples and make disciples in cross cultural mission; prioritizing teams working with unreached people groups, both here and overseas”

Jesus says in Matthew 24 that the gospel of the kingdom would be preached in the entire world as a testimony to every people group before He returns. For the body of Christ this means we have the huge task ahead of us of hastening His coming by reaching the planet with His good news.

This brochure has been put together to give some direction on how to be set apart and sent as a Grace Vineyard Missionary, playing *your* part in fulfilling *our* mission as a local church!

Firstly, we want to encourage those interested in cross-cultural mission to make yourself and your interest known to a member of the missions focus team as soon as you are aware that this is your goal, so we can mentor, recommend courses and potential suitable short –term missions trips.

On the following page you’ll find the pathway we are looking for people to travel down, with the prayer and support of our missions team, to become recognised and endorsed missionaries of Grace.

Pathway to be a Missionary at Grace Vineyard

Below are requirements that need to be happening before applying to be a Grace Missionary, whether it is a financially supported missionary or prayerfully supported missionary.

Being a Grace Missionary means you will be endorsed and sent out by the church, have your information displayed at church and given advice and help with networking, but it does not necessarily mean financial support.

- **Call.** Be able to describe how God has called you into this Missions area.
- **Demonstrate Ministry.** Involvement in evangelism and discipleship making with people from other cultures / people groups in Christchurch or involvement in some practical area that you want to be involved with overseas (e.g. if you want to be involved in community development or administration – what is your experience in these areas?). What training / qualifications do you have that will help you get entry to the country etc.?
- **Language Learning.** If you have to use languages other than English – how far on are you with appropriate language study or how have you begun to learn the language?
- **Involvement.** Being part of the local church – do you belong to a team within the church? Do you have positive relationships within the congregation of either City Campus or Beach Campus congregations?

- **Team or Pioneer.** Do you plan to be part of a team overseas – if so which team where? Or are you going with a team – who are they? If you are planning to pioneer alone what is your history of pioneering successfully? Most applicants will need to show that they are going from a team to a team.
- **Finances.** Do you have any savings and work history that will contribute towards the work you are planning to do?
- **Training.** have you attended a missions training course such as Perspectives or Mosaic or some other course run by a missions agency

Becoming a Financially Supported Missionary at Grace Vineyard

To become a Financially Supported Missionary of Grace Vineyard requires closer ties to the specific Missions heart of the church, and being able to show a long-term commitment to your area of missions.

Therefore you need to fulfil all of the above, as well as these additional requirements:

- **Experience:** Have you made a short term missions trip financed by yourself to this place / people group to check out working there and test your call?
- **Your Call** needs to be to target an unreached or least reached culture / people group – this is the future priority for Grace Missions.

You also need to be aware that as a church we will not, on most occasions, provide financial support from the mission's budget for people doing DTS's or other short term mission trips. Obviously, people are free to approach family and friends to do fundraising for these things.

In most cases, we will also not financially support people going overseas to study.

If you are doing these things then we welcome you to take the next step by contacting the mission's team about involvement as a Grace Vineyard Missionary. You can contact Scott or Ruth Pickering at the Beach congregation or Chris Parsons at the Ferry Road congregation, or email missions@grace.org.nz.

In no way are we are trying to put people off with the previous list. However, overseas mission work is challenging and demanding and needs serious preparation on a variety of levels, spiritually, training and skills, and language development etc.

Next Steps

Once you are working on all or most of the above requirements to the satisfaction of the mission's team then you would fill out a missions application form and meet with the team for an initial interview.

This may result in one of four outcomes:

1. A recommendation that you begin preparation and screening to be considered to go as a missionary overseas. This would involve interviews with a psychologist or counsellor, filling out questionnaires, etc. The missions committee would then recommend you to the church leadership team. Once this has been done, you will be asked to present your ministry goals (including the nature of the team you will be working with) to the committee. The church leadership, in consultation with the team, then allocate missions funds to applicants applying as Supported Missionaries who they believe qualify. People receiving acceptance as Missions Associates are then given advice and publicity as appropriate.

2. A recommendation that you do further training and development wherever the committee believes this is necessary (this may be in language learning , counselling for personal issues or it may mean further relationship, ministry or work development in the church or in New Zealand) and then a review to look at suitability to go.
3. A recommendation that you may be more suited to mission within New Zealand at present. This could be reviewed in the future if the candidate wanted to make another application after a year or two.
4. A recommendation that you join with another church planting training team for a year or so as an intermediary training step.

As a strong local church we are excited at the prospect of seeing many more people trained and equipped to reach those who have not yet heard the gospel of the kingdom. As our faith grows we intend to see more resources released, to make way for more opportunity to reach the nations.

Bring on the global harvest!

Grace Vineyard Missions Focus Team