

Calvary Missions Giving Plan (MGP) Recommendation

October 11, 2021

At our April 2021 Leadership Team meeting, I presented to Calvary's leadership a proposal for a new approach to our budgeted missions giving. Historically, Calvary has either supported Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), or Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina (CBFNC) giving plans to support missions. Changes in denominational identity and linkages have caused some churches previously supporting the missions giving structures of the SBC and BSCNC and also, more recently, CBF and CBFNC to re-evaluate where they send their missions dollars. Based on Calvary's guiding ministry principles, it is time for us to re-evaluate how we go about selecting and supporting strategic missions partners.

Rather than sending our missions dollars to CBF and CBFNC (or SBC entities), **we are creating a unique giving program that uses our budgeted missions dollars to fund specific like-minded, Christ-centered, Gospel-focused agencies that clearly align with Calvary's mission and values.** This approach gives us flexibility in determining which agencies we financially support. The Calvary Missions Giving Plan (MGP) will directly fund Calvary's strategic ministry partners and only those partners. The MGP allows us to choose a small number of missions partners with whom we can develop a more personal connection and leverage our shared identity and values. We will be able to routinely hear from these small numbers of partners in our worship services, receive updates as to their ongoing ministries, and be more personally connected to their work.

The MGP may be adjusted each year and will be voted upon each year by the church. **The MGP will be budgeted as a set percentage of our annual tithes and offerings just as our missions offering has been budgeted in previous budget years.** Ministry partners will be sent their funds either annually or quarterly, as will be determined by our Leadership Team. Adopting the MGP does not prohibit specific requests to the Deacons for support of additional missions agencies to be funded by the Logan Lawrence Endowment, but these agencies cannot be part of the MGP.

I am working with our Leadership Team to develop Calvary's unique Missions Giving Plan. The plan will consist of a small number of community, regional, state, national, and international missions agencies. We hope to model much of the plan after Psalm 146, being sure to include support for those agencies who meet the needs of the oppressed, the persecuted, the poor, the orphan, the imprisoned, the broken, those in crisis, and those who live in darkness without the Gospel. Agencies and organizations will be evaluated for their alignment with Calvary's guiding ministry principles by the pastor and/or the Leadership Team. Those currently under evaluation and/or consideration for the Calvary MGP include:

- Baptists on Mission (Baptists Men)
- Baptist Children's Home of NC
- Gardner-Webb University Christian Service Organization (CSO) Scholarship for Ministry Preparation
- ABCCM (Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministries)
- Western Carolina Rescue Mission
- 12 Baskets
- Buncombe Baptist Association

- Gideons International
- Samaritan's Purse
- Open Doors (opendoorsusa.org)
- Welcome House Raleigh (Welcomehouseraleigh.org)
- Prison Fellowship (prisonfellowship.org)
- The Ecclesia Church Planting Network (ecclesianet.org)
- Calvary Sponsored Missionary/Family (to be determined)

There are literally hundreds if not thousands of worthy organizations. The challenge is to create a plan that is broad in its reach, that aligns with who we are as Calvary, and that is limited in number so that we can develop personal connections with each organization. You may have a specific missions organization in mind that is not on the above list that you would like our Leadership Team to consider to be part of the MGP. If, after prayer and evaluation, you would like to submit the name of an organization for consideration, please do so by e-mailing or calling me (828-228-8639, pastor@calvarync.org) or Bruce Morgan (828-712-4524, brucemorgan@bellsouth.net). Again, the Leadership Team will consider which organizations will be part of the MGP based on a number of factors. Invariably, the MGP will not consist of all requests. Recall that requests by church members for other like-minded organizations not on the MGP can be made to the Deacons for funding from the Logan Lawrence Endowment.

So, in the 2022 budget, with the approval of your Leadership Team, we are recommending the following for your approval:

- 1) That 7% of our Tithes, Offerings, and Undesignated Donations be budgeted for the Calvary Mission Giving Plan. In the proposed 2022 budget, that equals \$13,790 for the MGP. In comparison, last year, we budgeted \$10,080 for CBFNC. In years to come, we endeavor be able to continue to increase our missions giving as a percentage of the budget.
- 2) That the church approve replacing the CBFNC line item with the Calvary Mission Giving Plan in the 2022 budget. The implication is that, to the degree that budgeted missions dollars determines denominational affiliation, Calvary Baptist Church is unaffiliated.
- 3) That with the help of the pastor, the Leadership Team develop the Calvary MGP based at least in part on the model of Psalm 146 and present the plan to the church for approval each year as part of the budgeting process. The MGP will list those agencies receiving funding along with the percentage of the MGP allocated for each agency.

This year, we will present the church budget on Sunday, November 21 and vote on the church budget on Sunday, December 5 following worship. Given that the MGP is new to Calvary and that the Leadership Team needs a bit more time to develop the plan, if the concept of the MPG is approved on December 5 (items 1 and 2 above), the Leadership Team will present the details of the MGP (item 3 above) including the agencies and the percentages each will be funded by the first Sunday of January, 2022 for church review and approval.

Thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful participation in this process. May God grant us wisdom and grace as we determine how we can best support His Mission in the world.

Blessings In Christ,

Rendell