

# Mission Commitments

## Our Commitment

In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus makes our mission clear—"make disciples." We believe this means starting with our own family and those who live next door. How can we reach people in another country if we are not actively seeking to make disciples of those right around us? However, Jesus also commands us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). To help give our efforts direction and focus, we have developed the following mission commitments. Furthermore, we have cultivated a family of mission partners who function as our connection to the uttermost parts of the earth.

### At Home

- We are committed to *servicing our community* in practical ways. People need to know that we care if they are to hear what we have to say.
- We are committed to *personal evangelism*. People need to hear the gospel if they are to believe and be saved.

### Around the World

- We are committed to *Bible translation and distribution*. People need the word of God if they are to know the love of God through the Son of God.
- We are committed to *planting local churches*. People who respond to the gospel need a local church where they can grow and serve.
- We are committed to *training leaders*. People need qualified servant leaders to shepherd and equip them for ministry.

## Your Participation

The only way Riverview Church can accomplish its mission is if each individual fulfills his or her responsibility to the Lord's disciple-making mandate. Here are five ways you can practically participate.

## **Follow**

It may seem rather obvious that those who are trying to make disciples must be disciples themselves, but this cannot be overstated. Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34). The best way to make disciples isn’t to simply give directions, but to be an example.

## **Pray**

Prayer is the fuel that powers our efforts to accomplish our mission. Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).

## **Serve**

Here’s where your Spirit-led creativity needs to come into play. “So then as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). Service begins in the church. Then it should spill over into your community as you have opportunity.

## **Go**

Making disciples is your mission, but it means that you must go into the world and actually do it. You must actively follow Jesus, pray for the salvation of the lost, serve people practically, and tell them the truth about who Jesus is and why he came.

## **Our Partnerships**

### **Alternaterm Pregnancy Center**

This Ministry is dedicated to preserving life now and for eternity by preventing abortion, promoting sexual integrity and presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their vision is to provide spiritual, emotional, medical and practical support to individuals as they deal with issues relating to sexual responsibility and pregnancy.

### **Cleveland City Mission**

Reaching hearts by providing help and hope to men, women and children in need. Proclaiming the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ and to promote stability, recovery and personal growth through Christian discipleship programs.

### **Harry and Pat Ambacher** (Association of Baptists for World Evangelization)

Harry has served as a church planter in Hong Kong. Harry and Pat are now in retirement and Riverview is committed to supporting during this time period.

**John and Alice Barcus (Avant)**

John has served the Muslim people in Morocco for many years and has had a significant influence among the Jews as well. John and Alice are retired. However, they actively serve in their local church and still get around to visit us here in Ohio.

**Mark and Patti Bean (Wycliffe)**

Mark and Patti seek to bring the Scripture to the Quechua people in the Andes Mountains of Peru in their own language. While the majority of their work focuses on translation, church planting and leadership development have become a natural consequence of their investment.

**Don Linz (SIM)**

Don and his late wife, Barb, served in Ethiopia four years and in Liberia for seven years. Most of that time was spent teaching in Bible colleges. They were on home staff at the SIM headquarters in the Midwest and in Charlotte, NC for 21 years. Though Don is formally retired, he still serves in South Carolina with SIM as a mentor to other missionaries and those in training.

**John and April McDuffee (SEND)**

John and April serve with SEND International, which is a mission agency committed to starting and reproducing churches for the unreached. John is the lead pastor of a church plant in Madrid and has trained faithful men to do the work of the ministry also.

**Javier Soliz (Equipping Servants)**

Javier is a Bolivians national working with *Equipping Servants (ESI)* in Santa Cruz. ESI is a ministry that trains indigenous pastors and other church leaders. Javier meets dozens of pastors every week, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and character they need to be effective church leaders and disciple makers. Javier is married to Gladys. They have one son, Giuliani.

**Steve and Marissol Theis (SCORE)**

Steve and Marissol are assisting local churches in Brazil through the organization of youth camps that focus on evangelism and leadership development.

**Pastoral Training in India**

We partner with a Pastor Training Institute to raise up the next generation of Indian Bible expositors and church planters. This is done through a three-year seminary program and a church planting association.