



# Missions Handbook

*Every ARPC member a "sender" or a "goer" in God's Mission.*

Adam Road Presbyterian Centre

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**Definition of Missions**

*How ARPC defines missions and the role of the Missions Committee*  
Page 1

**Vision and Mission**

*The goals and tasks of the Missions Committee*  
Page 2

**How can I get involved?**

*The discipleship process for a missionary and ARPC members' involvement*  
Page 3

**Training of Missionaries**

*Equipping ARPC Missionaries for long-term fruitfulness*  
Page 4

**Supporting Missionaries**

*Our care and support of missionaries (in collaboration with missions agencies)*  
Page 5

**FAQ**

*Commonly asked questions on missions*  
Page 6



## Definition of Missions

At Adam Road Presbyterian Centre (ARPC), we seek to make mature disciples of Christ through active participation in God's Mission. This Mission is God's plan for the redemption of the world, which started with the promises to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 to bless all nations, and will eventually culminate with a great multitude of people from every nation, tribe, and language, praising God before His throne (Revelation 7:9-10).

However, our participation can only be done through the gift of God's grace in our lives, which drives us to do the good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do



**Missions is not just for a select few, but for all disciples of Christ to participate in.**

(Ephesians 2:8-10). By His grace, we carry His message of His love to the nations in love. By surrendering our lives to Him, we are empowered by His Spirit to make disciples of all nations.

This is the responsibility for all believers; Missions is not just for a select few, but for all disciples of Christ to participate in. Together as a

Body of Christ, we hope to prayerfully send workers to proclaim the Gospel (Romans 10:13-15). As they do so, we will actively pray for and support them in their work overseas.

Thus, ARPC Missions Committee defines missions as:

*Compelled by God's love and empowered by His Spirit, Missions is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a cross-cultural context, with the aim of making disciples of all nations.*

# God's Mission

In ARPC, various ministry platforms have been developed as opportunities for us to serve in God's Mission.

A helpful way for us to understand God's Mission holistically is to view it as including both **Local Evangelism** and **Cross-**

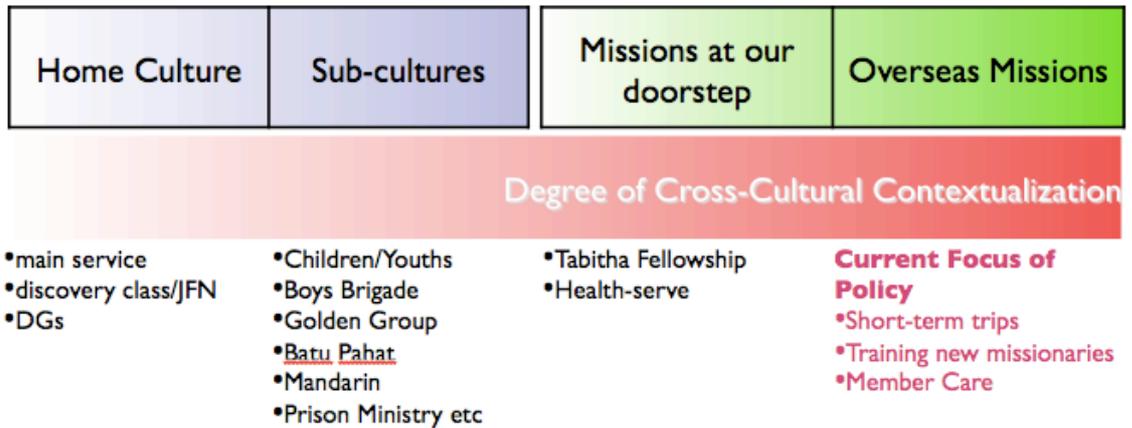
**cultural Missions.** (see diagram below).

In order to mobilize our people to serve in a cross-cultural context, the ARPC Missions Committee has been formed.

This Missions Policy thus seeks to explain what the Committee aims to achieve and how it prayerfully

plans to attain its goals in the area of **Cross-cultural Missions.**

**God's Mission = Local Evangelism + Cross-Cultural Missions**  
 (*Missio Dei*)



# Vision

*Every ARPC member to be actively involved in God's Mission as a "sender" or a "goer".*

The Missions Committee's **vision** is to see every ARPC member become either a "goer" (one who is sent to work in an overseas cross-cultural mission field) or a "sender" (one who sends and supports "goers"). We believe that active participation in God's Mission will help strengthen and mature the local Body of Christ.

# Mission

*1) To raise "senders/goers" in ARPC through awareness and exposure programmes*

*2) To mentor, disciple and support "goers" for Christlike and life-long fruitfulness in the missions field.*

The Missions Committee's **mission** then is to set up opportunities for members to be exposed to God's work in the world and consider how they can be actively involved as senders or goers.

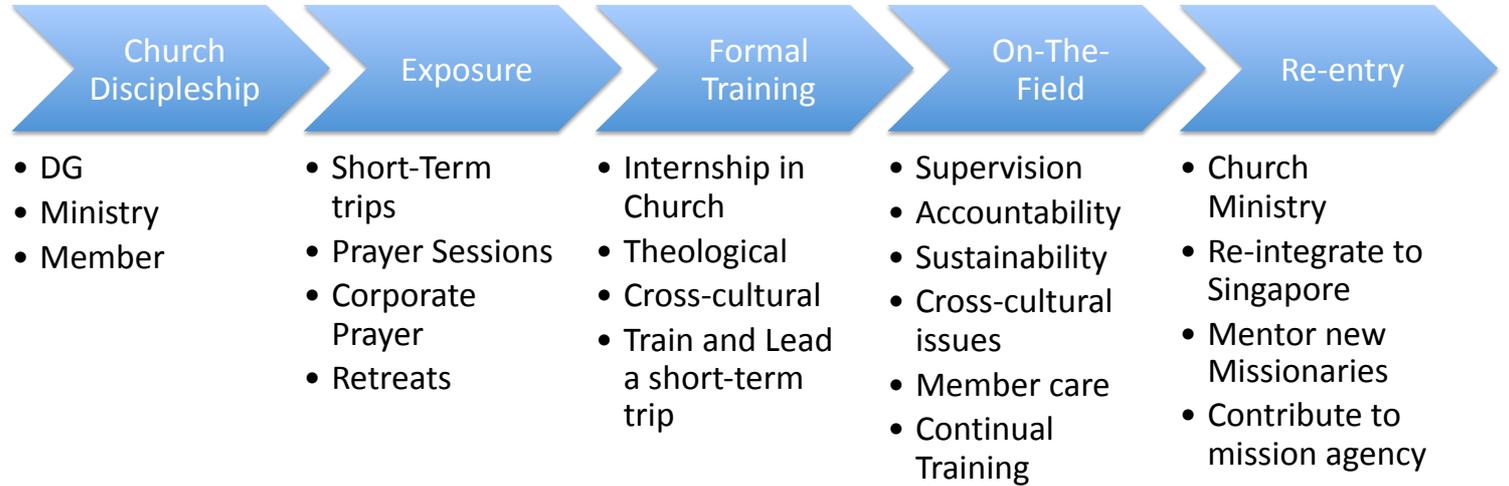
Firstly, awareness and exposure programmes such as Prayer Meetings, Missions trips and retreats will be set up annually to give opportunities for everyone to be a sender or a goer.

Secondly, a series of mentoring and training

programmes will be set up for goers. These will be designed to help nurture and mentor missions candidates, verifying their suitability as a cross-cultural workers and finally preparing them for fruitfulness in the missions field.

# How Can I Get Involved?

The diagram below shows the various development stages of a cross-cultural Gospel worker, and how you can be involved.



## Church Discipleship

*Goer/Sender:* Every missionary begins his/her early stages of growth by being an active member of a discipleship group (DG) within the local church. The disciplines of praying, reading and obeying the Word of God begin here. Thus, it is important to begin your journey by joining a DG.

Furthermore, start by serving in a ministry in church. This will help you discover the gifts that God has given you!

## Exposure and Awareness Programmes

*Goer/Sender:* Missions awareness is cultivated through the monthly Country-focused Prayers conducted during church services. Besides, you can attend Prayer Meetings (e.g. Missions work in Taiwan, Mien Tribe, Cambodia etc) to support the missionaries through prayer and practical help.

You can also sign-up for Short-term Missions Exposure trips with your DG to spend a week overseas to learn about missions first-hand. Finally, you can also join the annual ARPC Missions Retreat to learn from seasoned missionaries and equip yourself as a sender or goer!

## Formal Training

*Goer:* ARPC members who wish to serve God in missions need help to prepare them well for overseas Gospel work. The Goer should apply to join ARPC as staff and start the preparation which includes internship in ARPC, cross-cultural work exposure either locally or overseas, ministry leadership training and formal theological training. More details will be presented on page 4 of this handbook.

*Sender:* Pray for the trainees and encourage them on their preparatory stage. To become a better sender, you can also read books on missiology and how to care for missionaries.

## On-The-Field

*Goer:* After completing his/her training, the goer is seconded to a missions agency (see page 5) to serve as a either a Missionary (a full-time overseas Gospel worker) or a Tentmaker (one who enters a country by contributing to it with his/her professional skills as well as being a witness to its people). The goer is accountable to both the agency and church, while being cared for by these two organizations.

*Sender:* The DG members of the goer, together with other Christians, form a support and prayer group to care for him/her practically and spiritually, as well as his/her family members back home.

## Re-entry

*Goer:* Upon return to Singapore, the goer needs to re-integrate back into home culture. He/she can contribute to the life of the sending church ARPC by returning as staff and/or mentor new missionaries.

*Sender:* Coming home can be a stressful and lonely process. The support group can help the goer to adjust back to the home culture as he/she returns to Singapore.

To find out more about signing up for a trip, or joining a missions prayer meeting, or to enquire on any other matters, just e-mail us at [missioncommarpc@arpc.org.sg](mailto:missioncommarpc@arpc.org.sg)

# Training Philosophy

*First and foremost, missionaries are children of God. Like all Christians, they are Ambassadors of Christ, working to present the Gospel for purpose of reconciling God and the world through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:19-20). Just like any other work we do, training and sufficient preparation are crucial.*

*For missionaries, the context of service will be in a cross-cultural environment, seeking to start or strengthen indigenous church movements in a people group that is different from ours. In other words, missionaries seek to present the Gospel in a culturally relevant way for the recipients of the message. The goal is for the new believers to let God's grace transform their lives and challenge them to be part of the Great Commission themselves, furthering the Kingdom of God.*

*In view of the context and challenges of cross-cultural Gospel work, the following training framework has been set up to address these challenges.*

## Internship

*Verifying suitability - Local and overseas internship - building up a support group*

The various internship platforms are designed to help both the church leaders and the individual to verify the suitability of the candidate as a cross-cultural worker.

The trainee starts as an intern in ARPC Church office. This period lasts up to 2 years, and allows the trainee to understand the dynamics of full-time paid Gospel work, as well as acquiring relevant ministry skills. The trainee can opt to spend the second year of the internship overseas, under the mentorship of seasoned missionaries of partnering missions agencies. During this period, the goer should also build up his/her prayer support group.

## Formal Theological Training

*Handling the Word of God - Biblical world-view - godly wisdom*

In this stage, the trainee studies the Word of God on a full-time basis. This helps to acquire skills in learning and teaching the Bible, while developing a Biblical world-view in the individual. The latter helps the person to grow both in godly character (through application of God's Word in one's life) and in wisdom (in handling doctrinal and life issues). Both ARPC leaders and mission

agencies can help the trainee to choose the appropriate college for the training.

Usually, a full foundational theological training can take up to three years. However, for those considering to be tentmakers, with the approval of the Church leaders, this training can be conducted in "tranches" (for example, alternating a year of study with a few years of service in the missions field). This will allow the missionary to be sufficiently trained while maintaining his/her professional skills.

## Cross-cultural Training

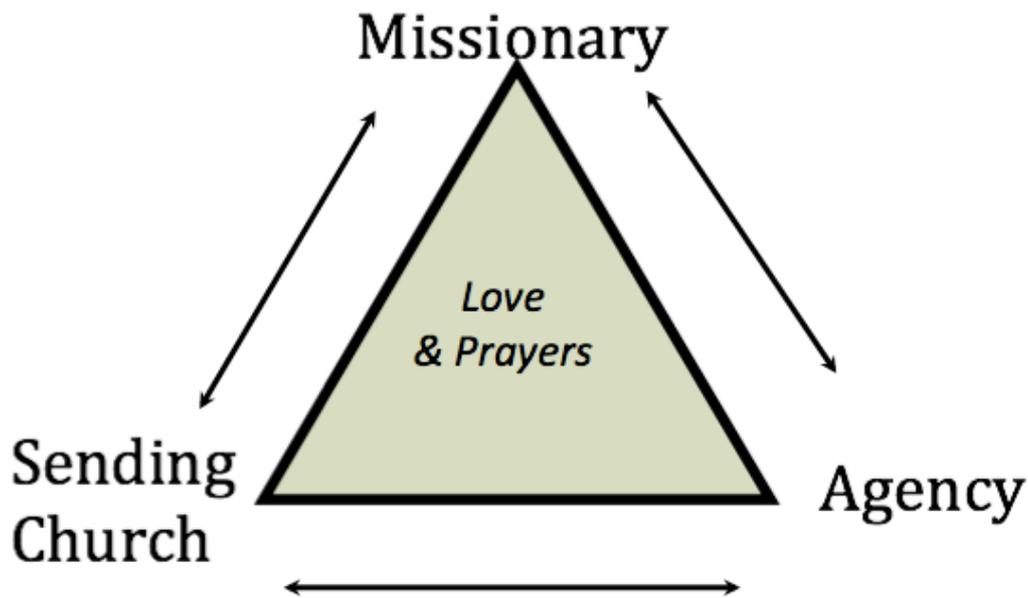
*Contextualizing the Gospel - serving cross-culturally*

Living and serving overseas in a cross-cultural context can be stressful given the cultural differences. Furthermore, the presentation of the Gospel in a culturally relevant way and yet faithful to Biblical truths can be another challenge. Therefore, it is essential that a missionary should be trained in these areas.

Some Bible colleges offer such training, while missions agencies also have their training institutions.

Then table below summarizes the training components:

Stage	Training Components	Details
1	Internship in Church (2 years)	Internship in Church (2 years), with the option of serving the 2nd year overseas, as intern with Mission Agency
2	Formal Theological Training	Theological Training (meeting Synod and/or Mission Agency requirements). Tentmakers can opt to complete equivalent training in "tranches".
3	Cross-cultural Training	Further training in Cross-cultural Ministry Skills if necessary.



# The Body of Christ in Missions

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." *John 13:34-35*

## Supporting Missionaries

*To provide care and accountability for our Gospel workers overseas, ARPC partners with Missions Agencies. Such an arrangement can be illustrated in the tripartite partnership model as shown above. In this model, the three parties - the sending church (ARPC), the missionary and the missions agency - are all members of the Body of Christ, united in love and through prayers, work together for the glory of God.*

*The Great Commission of making disciples of all nations must be done with the Great Commandment of loving God and one another.*

The roles of each of the 3 parties can be summarized here:

### The Sending Church

The home church provides the foundational spiritual formation of a Christian. Through a series of training platforms, a person's suitability as a missionary is first verified before being seconded to the agency. While the missionary works overseas, the home church continues to pray and care for its worker, as well as supports the goer financially and spiritually. When the missionary returns, the sending church receives him/her back as a family member.

### The Missions Agency

The agency receives the worker from the sending church, further trains and prepares the goer, and helps to place the goer in a team of missionaries overseas.

This provides the support and accountability structure that is required for long-term fruitful labour (i.e. sustainability) for the work overseas. In addition, the agency works in partnership with the home church to provide pastoral care for the worker and his/her family.

### The Missionary

The missionary, being seconded from the church to the agency, joins a team of cross-cultural workers overseas. As he/she serves under the leadership of the agency when overseas, he/she also prays for the home church to remain faithful to God, and to raise more workers for God's Mission and His glory.

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## **What are some of the criteria that ARPC will consider when determining the suitability of a missionary candidate?**

Firstly, any missionary sent by ARPC will be part of its pastoral team, and the criteria for choosing missionaries will be the same as that of other full-time paid Gospel Workers - faithfulness to God, a humble spirit and fruitfulness in labour for Christ. Missionaries should also be able to work in a cross-cultural overseas environment.

## **If I am keen to explore serving as an overseas missions worker, what are the steps that I should take?**

In page 3, we have outlined a number of activities that you can participate in to explore whether God is leading you to be a sender or a goer. Do seriously consider going for short-term

trips organized by ARPC. By attending the various programs and identifying the skills you may want to develop, it is our hope that God will lead you to where he wants you to serve in Missions.

## **Which missions agency should I consider?**

Currently, ARPC works closely with 3 Missions Agencies - OMF, WEC and SIM (see below for their contact information). The agency that the missionary will be seconded to will be chosen prayerfully by both ARPC leaders and the goer.

## **What are short term trips available and how do I sign up?**

ARPC Missions Committee organizes trips annually. These trips will be announced during services. If you are able to form a team of 6-10 persons from your DG, we can also

arrange a trip for your team. You can also subscribe to our mailing list so that you will be informed of the upcoming trips.

## **Why do I need to commit to for short-term trips preparation?**

Each short-term trip lasts around a week. "Trippers" must commit to the weekly training and trip-preparation sessions, usually for a period of 3 months. This is to prepare the team for mission-mindedness, effective collaboration with the partnering missionary and unity in Christ so that the team can be a blessing to the people they are visiting.

## **If I have contacts and would like to start a trip and seek church support, what should I do?**

If you wish to plan for your own trip, do submit your trip

proposal to the Missions Committee before the start of the recruitment/preparation of the trip. By working together, we hope to achieve maximum fruitfulness for each trip.

## **If I have an overseas job-posting, how can the Missions Com help me to be fruitful for God overseas?**

The Missions Committee can help refer you to resources, short-term training and contacts (if available) for you as you prepare to be a witness of Christ wherever God leads you to. You can also e-mail us your regular prayer updates so that we can support you spiritually in your job-posting.

## Contact details:

ARPC Missions Committee can be reached at

### **Address:**

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Adam Road Presbyterian Centre  
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Singapore 289894

**Telephone +65 6466 0119**

**Fax +65 6466 4011**

**Email: [missioncommarpc@arpc.org.sg](mailto:missioncommarpc@arpc.org.sg)**

**Web: [www.arpc.net](http://www.arpc.net)**

## Partnering Missions Agencies

Overseas Missions Fellowship, OMF

<http://www.omf.org/singapore/>

Serving In Missions, SIM East Asia

<http://www.simeast.com/>

Worldwide Evangelization for Christ, WEC

<http://www.wec-sing.com/>