

CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY AT FRAZER UMC

Missions or the Cross-cultural Ministry at Frazer UMC is building on the foundation built during the last few years, beginning with the creation of a nine member board that has been given authority and responsibility for setting the direction of Frazer mission outreach. The board members are elected to three year terms and will rotate so there will be three new members elected each year. The board is also divided by areas of responsibility. There are three members responsible for overseeing the various mission experiences and trips, three members responsible for mission education and three members responsible for the financial aspects of missions.

The board has been working with other Frazer mission volunteers on the development of a strategic plan that spans the next three years. The plan will be updated periodically as goals are met and new opportunities are discovered. Below is a review of the process and the plan as it is defined to this point. Because the plan is fluid, updates will be made public as they are defined and approved by the board.

THE PROCESS

Volunteers within the WIN Pod met initially to define the mission statement of this part of Frazer and to define the critical success factors that are essential to achieving the mission of the WIN Pod. The missions volunteers were then contacted and began a series of meetings with the purpose of creating a strategic plan that will be the road map and the basis for decision making with regard to missions over the next three years. During this series of meetings, the group developed goals and action steps that will help Frazer meet its goal of 1000 unique mission participants in 1000 days and, more importantly, achieve the Mission of the WIN Pod. While not exhaustive, the action steps we have defined are beginning steps towards achieving our goals. The following is the plan and definition of terms associated with the plan. As additional actions steps are determined, they will be added to the plan.

THE PLAN

Mission Statement

Our mission is to equip and empower people to lead others from different cultures to Jesus.

Terms:

Equip – to furnish or provide with whatever is needed for use or for any undertaking; prepare

Empower – to give power and authority to; to authorize, esp. by legal or official means

Lead – to go with to show the way, to escort; to influence or induce; to act as a guide

Culture – the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic or age group; the sum of attitudes, customs and beliefs that distinguishes one group of people from another.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

There are four defined critical success factors:

Passion for the Lost – intense driving or overpowering feeling or emotion for people who are destined for Hell and eternal separation from God.

We as the church must develop in ourselves the same passion for others that caused God to sacrifice Himself through Jesus for us. We must be compelled to share this love with all of mankind.

Replication – the act or process of duplication or reproducing something

We as the church must continually reproduce those things that equip and empower us to lead others to Jesus

Innovation – the introduction of new things or methods

The church must look for new ways of reaching the lost and develop methods that compel others to want to know what we have that is different from what the world has to offer.

Participation – the fact of taking part, as in some action or attempt; a sharing, as in benefits or profits

We as the church need to have participation from all areas of the church and from all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds. We must learn to use our gifts and talents as God designed them to fit together.

GOALS

Cross-cultural Experience Goals

Our goals for cross-cultural experiences are broken down according to Acts 1:8 where Christians are commanded “go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth.” We have equated this to be going to Montgomery, the state of Alabama, the United States and the international community. We have therefore broken down the goal from the Five Smooth Stones challenge of 1000 unique cross-cultural participants as follows:

400 Participants in cross-cultural experiences in Montgomery and the Tri-County area.

250 Participants in cross-cultural experiences in the state of Alabama

150 Participants in cross-cultural experiences in the United States

200 Participants in cross-cultural experiences in the International Community

Unique participation is defined as 1000 different people participating in cross-cultural experiences. If one person takes advantage of several opportunities, that person will count as one even if the experiences are in each of the four different areas. In order to qualify as a cross-cultural experience, there must be a sustained time in the experience defined as five to seven days minimum. These days may be spread over time or done all at once. For instance, a person who works with a ministry here in Montgomery once a month for six months would be counted, but a participant in a one or two day service project would not count towards this goal. A person could choose to go to Livingston, Alabama, to work with a partner church in their community outreach for a week in the summer and that would count toward reaching our goal. The volunteers in the area of missions will work on establishing new cross-cultural experiences so each member at Frazer has the opportunity to use the gifts and talents God has blessed them with in order to lead others to Jesus.

Educational Goals

The group discussed what the Frazer congregation should know about Cross-cultural Ministry. While not exhaustive, the list was consolidated and the top five were chosen as goals. The other information, while not included as quantified goals, is important and will be relayed on an ongoing basis. The top five goals consist of the information deemed most important in educating the Frazer members and will be vital in helping move cross-cultural ministry to the next level. The education goals are:

1. **What is Planned - 75%** of Frazer attendees know the details of at least one scheduled cross-cultural experience.
2. **What Happened - 100%** of cross-cultural experience participants can verbalize the outcome of the trip and 50% of Frazer attendees can relate the outcome of at least one trip.
3. **How can one be involved - 75%** of Frazer attendees know where to get information about cross-cultural ministry at the church and where to get information on the cross-cultural experiences both past and future.
4. **Why should one be involved - 80%** of Frazer attendees know the Great Commission and understand that it is not a suggestion ... it is mandated in scripture.
5. **Who do we support - 75%** of Frazer attendees can recognize the name of at least one full time cross-cultural worker supported by Frazer and know some details about where they serve and what they are doing.

Financial Goals

Frazer UMC will provide up to 25% of financial support for Frazer members on non-local Frazer mission trips as money is available.

Frazer UMC will provide up to 50% of financial support for Frazer members on non-local Frazer mission trips who have never been on a mission trip as money is available.

At least 50% of Frazer UMC financial assistance for mission trips should be raised through fund raisers.

Over the next two years, raise \$135,000 through fundraisers for Frazer mission teams and projects.

As appropriate, move current project funds to support Frazer cross-cultural teams and projects.

Increase support for full-time missionaries to at least \$300,000 by the 2011 budget.

ACTION STEPS

Cross-cultural Experience Goals

Right away:

1. Find out if we can change wording on commitment card and if so change to: (or something similar) (Jacque)
Go on Int'l mission trip
Go on National mission trip
Participate in State/Local Mission experience
2. Check on possibility of having a September passport drive at Frazer (Chris McInnish)
3. Check on possibility of having trip shots given at Frazer by volunteer doctors/nurses with donated vaccines (Mark Platt ?)

By Aug. 1 – Contact supported missionaries to find out the following:

(Jacque to see if Candy will do this.)

1. Do you want/need a mission team to come?
2. What would you want them to do? (Construction, Medical, Prayer, Help with ministry such as ESL, VBS, etc., other)
3. Would there be a particularly good or bad time for them to come?
4. Would your needs be conducive for sending several teams as a multiple week project and/or sending several different teams during the year?

By Aug. 1 – Contact the following for ideas for mission opportunities:

1. Talk with UMC State District for trip opportunities (Barry?)
2. Talk with successful mission churches (Butch)
3. Talk with World Changers (Dian: Brian Word, Shane...)

By Sept. 1 – Have a list of potential local, national and international trips

By Nov. 1 - Have final list of trip locations for February 2010 through February 2011

By Nov. 1 –

1. Buy books for team leaders (Carol Sue's recommendation)
2. Have team leaders finalized.
3. Have description of each trip.

In January –

1. Prepare training materials for team leaders before training.
2. Train team leaders
3. Prepare “catalog” of ways to be involved in the mission trips (going, supporting someone who is going, supporting part of the work that will be done, praying) (Ready for Mission Emphasis Month in February)

In February –

Missions Emphasis Month; Highlight Frazer members who have been on short term cross-cultural experiences, present opportunities, recruit for upcoming trips.

Leading up to trips –

Support team leaders in meetings with teams.

Assist in logistics of trips
Commission teams in all services two weeks prior to leaving

Educational Goals

Develop and maintain content for web presence off Frazer main page.

Have all cross-cultural teams post blogs on Frazer website during their experiences.

Set up a permanent place for Frazer members to get information on all cross-cultural experience opportunities and the results of those experiences.

Video all participants of prior trips and begin library of stories and outcomes.

Develop streaming video from library to be displayed in a prominent place in the church.

Develop teams to continually correspond with supported cross-cultural workers in order for the cross-cultural workers to be highlighted in Frazer Family News and on Web Page.

Periodically highlight supported cross-cultural workers prior to and during worship services.

Increase awareness of missions and the need for support of full-time cross-cultural workers.

Financial Goals

Refine budget to reallocate funds as current project commitments are completed to support Frazer members' cross-cultural experiences.

Sponsor and support fundraisers each year with the proceeds going to support Frazer members' cross-cultural experiences.

Work with Finance Committee on innovative ways to increase support for cross-cultural ministry.

Give Frazer members opportunities to support cross-cultural ministries through special events.