

Missions Door

Our Mission

*Come with us...
Following Jesus Christ
Working together as culturally diverse people
Generating faith communities*

Since the birth of Missions Door in 1948, the focus has always been to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, train those who commit their lives to Jesus, and relate them to new or established churches that are dedicated to Christ.

The Mission's vision is to partner with God and His people in generating faith communities that are biblically based, driven to reach the lost, culturally and generationally relevant, spiritually alive, and have a commitment to multiply. We are all about "connecting people with opportunities" for Christ and His Kingdom.

Where We Serve

The geographic dimensions of the Mission began with a focus upon the United States and the North American Continent. In recent years we have expanded to countries in Africa and Asia. Our boundaries extend from Canada in the north to Panama in the south; and from Kenya in the east to Cambodia in the west. We are eager to explore new opportunities to expand to new countries where we have indigenous leadership connections or a clear vision for a new area from churches in an existing field of ministry or an existing partnership.



An International Missionary Family

Missions Door is unique in the diversity of its missionary family. Our missionaries hail from a number of birth countries. These include the Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Philippines, and the United States.

Over 40 percent of our appointed missionaries are Asian, Black, Latino and Native American. Almost 20 percent of our missionaries are women.

God has truly blessed us with rich diversity in our missionary family!

The Need for Ministry in the United States

While many people see the United States as a “Christian nation with churches on every corner,” in reality there are over 200 million people in the U.S. who have yet to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Only three other countries in the world have a population greater than 200 million, making the U.S. the fourth largest unreached nation in the world.



The United States is home to millions of immigrants, making it one of the largest international countries in the world. The need for new churches in the U.S. is significant and growing.

The Categories of Ministry of the Mission

Missions Door missionaries serve in one of the following categories of ministry: Campus, City, Economic Development, International, Latino (USA), Specialized, and Suburban Church Planting.

Campus Ministry (Campus Ambassadors)

Campus Ambassadors is the church-related campus ministry of Missions Door. Its mission is to create communities through which students’ lives are transformed by the power of Jesus Christ, relating them to local churches, and training them as servant-leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.



Campus Ambassadors minister to students of all religious backgrounds, including those who, increasingly, have little or no religious heritage. Though this involves the training and mobilizing of Christian students, the ministry’s primary purpose is not to minister to Christian students on campus, but to reach secular students who have not heard the gospel.

Approximately one-fifth of Campus Ambassadors ministers focus on international students. With the growth of the number of international students attending U.S. colleges and universities, the Mission has a unique opportunity to reach internationals who might never have the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ in their native countries. Many of these international students are only in the U.S. for a limited period of time, and when they return home to their countries of origin they are accepted as leaders because of their education.

The Campus Ambassadors ministry distinctives are:

- *Lordship Evangelism* – introducing students to Jesus Christ and calling them to personally commit themselves to Him as Lord and Savior.
- *Church Relationship* – helping students understand and appreciate their Christian responsibility for active involvement in the local church, God’s primary instrument for growth and service throughout the Christian life.
- *Biblical Righteousness* – challenging students to grow as obedient disciples of Christ, whose personal, social and public lives reflect God’s righteousness, justice and compassion in our world.
- *Leadership Development* – equipping students to serve and influence others through Christ-like leadership in the church, the marketplace, and society at large.

City Ministry

From its beginning, Missions Door has pioneered ministry in America’s major cities. The Mission’s urban ministers embrace the following commitments:

- *We believe* God calls us to make disciples and start contextualized churches in the city and among all peoples.
- *We facilitate* church-planting movements of various types by collaborating with visionary leaders who are catalysts within their own networks.
- *We treat* our church planters as architects/entrepreneurs who are assessed, trained, empowered, and held accountable in culturally- relevant ways.
- *We share* our Lord’s visceral connection to “the poor, the stranger, the widow, the fatherless, the harassed and the helpless,” compelling us to bring His love into their lives.
- *We bring* to church planting an expertise born of experience and a welcoming environment to people from a variety of cultures, races, and economic groups.
- *We commit* ourselves to mutually affirming partnerships that allow the particulars of a project to determine who does what.



Church Planting

Starting new city churches is the primary ministry of the Mission’s city category. Urban churches have been started in Boston, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Providence, Rochester, Trenton, Troy and Washington D.C. These churches encompass a wide range of people groups, and many are multi-cultural. Ministry is

conducted in Cantonese, Dan, English, Hindi, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Urdu and Vietnamese.

Recontextualization Ministry

It has been estimated that as many as 85 percent of the existing churches in the United States have plateaued or are in decline. By recontextualizing, churches gain a new sense of vision and purpose and that helps them refocus upon their ever-changing ministry area or community.

Leadership Development

There is an urgent need for trained leaders among our urban churches, and Missions Door is addressing that need through the URBACAD program (Urban Academy). Courses are taught in a variety of languages and locations across America.

Sankofa Student Ministries

Sankofa Student Ministries was born out of a burden that God gave to black pastors in Chicago for their students to be reached while away on college campuses.

The ministry distinctives of Sankofa Student Ministries are:

- *Evangelism* – communicating the gospel so that every human being is encouraged and challenged to return to Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord.
- *Discipleship* – elevating the Scripture from the Bible into the believer's spirit.
- *Cultural Integrity* – taking the principles of Scripture and applying them to the specific reality and struggles of African Americans.



Economic Development Ministry

In partnership with national church associations in Latin America and Asia, Missions Door develops economic enterprises that provide resources for ministry. The funds generated support indigenous pastors and their new church plants as well as much-needed community projects, such as wells and water purification systems for clean drinking water. Missions Door puts a priority on supporting indigenous church planters and missionaries in developing countries. Through the ministry of Economic Development, ongoing sustainable resources can be provided from within the borders of their own country. These economic enterprises vary greatly from country to country, but in all cases the profit goes to support local ministries.



International Ministry

The international ministry of Missions Door focuses upon evangelism, church planting, and leadership training. People are being effectively reached in: the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Cambodia, China, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama.

Church Planting

The planting of new churches has resulted in many embracing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. On average, more than two churches are planted every month by Missions Door missionaries who are working in our international fields, mostly done through national workers.



Leadership Training

Honduras Extension Bible Institute (HEBI & HEBI-West) – With the goal of teaching students to apply their knowledge by evangelizing their communities and planting churches, HEBI uses the Theological Education and Evangelism by Extension (TEEE) program to train lay pastors, who in turn train others.

Nogales Baptist Seminary – Located in the border town of Nogales, Mexico, the seminary offers Bible training and opportunities for practical Christian ministry to its students, most of whom come from the northwest region of Mexico.

Seminaire Baptiste Evangelique du Quebec (SEMBEQ) – Begun in 1974, this seminary assists local churches in the preparation of leadership for the local church.

Other extension ministries are the *Lenca Bible Institute*, the *Nicaraguan Extension Bible Institute (NEBI)*, the *Panamanian Extension Bible Institute (PEBI)*, and the *Seminario de las Americas* in Belize and El Salvador.



Christian Radio

Radio Station *HRVC* (La Voz Evangelica) and Estereo Luz in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, through 11 repeater stations on AM, on FM and on short wave, reach a potential audience of hundreds of thousands of listeners daily with the gospel.

Latino (USA) Ministries



Latino Ministries focus on reaching Spanish-speaking people in the United States by developing leaders, planting new churches and strengthening existing local churches and ministries. With almost 15 percent of the population in the United States being of Latino descent, Missions Door is committed to reaching this large and growing segment of the population. Partnering with churches to start Spanish-language ministry is a primary strategy being employed.

In addition to evangelism, church planting and leadership training, other key objectives of our Latino Ministries are to help organize local networks of Latino churches and begin sending Latino missionaries to other countries.

Because of the significant connections between Latinos in the United States and the rest of Latin America, all of our Spanish-language ministries are related under one Vice President.

Specialized Ministry

In the U.S. there are millions of people who are not easily reached by existing local churches and ministries. These people are often hidden from and little touched by Christian influence—they are hardly reached and hard to reach!

Some of these unreached people include Native Americans, those who are suffering from AIDS, the terminally ill, and those from other religious backgrounds.



Specialized Ministries focus upon evangelism, discipleship, church planting and compassionate assistance. We also have Specialized missionaries whose ministry focus is connecting short-term mission teams from U.S. churches with sister churches in other countries.

Many missionaries who minister to a particular unreached group either come from that group or have a close connection that makes them sensitive to the group's needs.

Suburban Church Planting

Many new suburban communities have no churches. Planting new churches in new and growing communities of the United States is a focus of ministry that God is using to reach many unreached people.



Where Do We Go From Here?



This is an exciting time for ministry across the North American continent and beyond to the unreached peoples of our world. We affirm with the Apostle Paul, "...a great door for effective work has opened to me" (I Corinthians 16:9). The door is wide open and the needs are great. Following Jesus Christ, we want to do our part to connect people with opportunities to share the Good News of new life and salvation in Jesus Christ.

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