MISSIONS POLICY

The Church at South Mountain

MISSION ALIGNED

At The Church at South Mountain (CASM), our vision is to magnify the glory of God by proclaiming His saving grace and preparing believers through clear Bible teaching to impact their world. Missions are one of the ways we live out that vision by taking the truth of God's Word beyond our walls and into the world.

The heart of our Missions Ministry is to **develop, nurture, and encourage a culture of service**. We do this by **educating, equipping, and mobilizing** believers to reach both the local and international community, in obedience to Christ's command in Matthew 28:18–20 and in confidence of the Gospel's transforming power *(Rom.1:16)*.

MISSIONS PHILOSOPHY

Our **missions philosophy** reflects a biblical and practical pathway of growth for those called to serve:

1. **EQUIPPING**—Building a foundation of truth, character, and skill. We prepare believers through teaching sound doctrine, developing faithful character, and strengthening ministry competence.

2. **EMPOWERING**—Encouraging believers to serve and cultivate a church-wide missions mindset. As a body, we learn to pray, give, and go together.

3. **EXPLORING**—Expanding opportunities to see and serve where God is at work. Through short-term missions and leadership exploration trips, we discern how God may further use CASM to impact the nations.

Through this progression, we aim to form disciples who not only go on mission trips but who live missionally, magnifying God's glory wherever He leads.

LONG-TERM MISSIONARY SUPPORT

Long-term missionaries are those men and women whom God has called to serve full-time in a missionary capacity. CASM is dedicated to supporting and partnering with like-minded, long-term missionaries through fervent prayer, personal communication, sharing of resources, hosting visits, financial giving, and sending of short-term teams or individuals to help meet specific needs and engage in Gospel ministry.

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

The purpose of short-term mission trips (STMs) is to come alongside long-term missionaries, pastors, churches, and parachurch ministries on the mission field for brief but intensive periods of time to encourage them in the faith and help them reach the lost and build up the church in their local contexts. STMs are not vacations; they are intensive periods of Gospel ministry that can have a profound impact. For this reason, STM applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of CASM in good standing for at least one year at the time of application.
- Demonstrate ongoing spiritual growth through consistent participation **at CASM** in Sunday worship, involvement in a discipleship or family care group, and regular attendance at Wednesday evening prayer service.
- Maintain an active role of service within the church.
- Be in a discipling relationship for at least six months.
- Acknowledge and accept the potential risks associated with ministry in a foreign country.
- Possess the physical ability required to travel and serve internationally (needs may vary depending on the specific trip).
- Commit to attending all required team meetings for the trip.
- Complete and submit the STM application form and participate in an interview with the Missions Pastor or Missions Director.