

Maranatha Baptist Mission

Purposes, Precepts, Policies, and Practices



**Maranatha Baptist Mission
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Table of Contents

Organization	3
Purposes	3
Precepts	4
Policies	7
Practices	10
Indigenous Principle	11
Missionaries	12
Financing	12
Ministries	13
Speakers	14
Appearance Code	14
Praying For Missionaries	16
How Can You Help?	17
Board of Directors of Maranatha Baptist Mission	17

Organization

Maranatha Baptist Mission, Incorporated, an international faith missionary ministry, was founded in 1961 by the late Dr. H. Mel Rutter and Mrs. Dorothy Rutter and the late Dr. James W. Crumpton. Dr. and Mrs. Rutter served in Mexico, Chile, Costa Rica, and Peru as missionaries; he served as President of our Mission for the first ten years. Dr. Rutter (Uncle Mel) was later President Emeritus of Maranatha Baptist Mission until his home going December 30, 1999. Dr. James W. Crumpton was Pastor of the West Side Baptist Church, Natchez, Mississippi for 57 years and was President of the Mission from 1971 until his retirement in 1999. Dr. Crumpton went home to be with the Lord on July 22, 2004. Dr. Bill McCorkle became President in 1999 until 2005. The Maranatha Baptist Mission is a ministry of the Victory Baptist Church (formerly West Side Baptist Church). It is supported by the free-will offerings of churches and individuals who have a burden to help get missionaries to the mission fields of the world.

Maranatha Baptist Mission, Incorporated, is a non-profit religious corporation under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

Purposes

Maranatha Baptist Mission seeks to provide a channel through which local churches can extend their missionary efforts around the world by direct support of separated, soul-winning missionaries. We believe that in conformity with the Scriptural example of Acts 13, it is the function of the local church to authorize and send forth her own missionaries. It is our policy to encourage and promote that principle. Therefore, every missionary candidate, to become eligible for appointment under our Mission, must be a member of and commissioned by a local New Testament church. Thus, there is established and maintained a vital relationship between the missionary on the field and his home church. Every authorizing and every supporting church, as well as every missionary, becomes an integral part of the Maranatha Baptist Mission family, and establishes a modern operation of Scriptural method of missionary enterprise.

Precepts (The Statement of Faith)

1. We believe that the Bible, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the infallible and inerrant Word of God. It is divine revelation: the original writings (words) were verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit as He inbreathed holy men of old. And we believe we have His infallible, inerrant Word preserved for us in English (KJV1611).

2. We believe in a Triune God- Ephesians 2:18.
God, the Father, Creator of Heaven and earth, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, rich in grace, supreme in love, and measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of all mankind, and that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

God, the Son, Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, sinless in His life, ever obedient unto the Father, and the only atonement for the sin of this world by His death (through the shedding of His blood) on the cross. We believe that He arose bodily after the third day, ascended into Heaven on the fortieth day, and even now is seated at the Father's right hand, as our High Priest and Only Mediator, making intercession for His own. We look for His personal, visible, premillennial, pretribulational, and imminent return to earth according to His promises, that is our Blessed Hope.

God, the Holy Spirit, a Person, co-equal with the Father and Son, in all His attributes. He was sent by the Lord Jesus Christ from God the Father to reprove the world of sin, of righteousness, of judgment, and to regenerate all who receive Christ as personal Saviour, and to indwell, guide, and teach them the things of God. He empowers the believer to live in victory over sin, self, Satan, and the world. He helps our infirmities and intercedes for us according to the will of God the Father.

3. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but because of Adam's transgression (disobedience), the whole human race fell. Because of this, all men are totally depraved and without Christ, spiritually dead and lost. All men everywhere are sinners, both by nature and by choice. To die in this condition is to be damned forever and eternally separated from God.

4. We believe in a personal devil (Satan) who is presumptuous, proud, powerful, wicked, malignant, subtle, deceitful, religious, and fierce. He was cast out of Heaven and is now prince of the air and this world system. He caused the fall of man, is his constant adversary, and seeks to beguile, tempt, accuse, and devour him. He is the arch-enemy of God, hater of Christ, and for this he perverts the Scriptures, opposes the work of God, hinders the Gospel, and works lying miracles (wonders). He has already been judged and someday will be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented day and night, forever and forever.

5. We believe that in Christ only is salvation. To obtain this salvation is to repent as a sinner before God and to have faith in Christ (to receive Him in the heart by faith). This great salvation is by grace, a free gift, through the merits of the shed blood of the Son of God. The blood of Jesus Christ was shed for the sins of all mankind, not merely for a selected few. When one obtains salvation, he can never be lost. This is what Christ called the new birth, being born again from above by the Word of God (the Instrument), and the Spirit of God (the Person).

6. We believe that Heaven and Hell are literal places, prepared of God as the only eternal abodes, according to the Scriptures. All those who have been saved (born again) shall live eternally with God. All those without Christ (devoid of spiritual life) shall abide in the lake of fire forever eternally separated from God.

7. We believe in **the** church (the Body of Christ) who is made up of all blood bought, born again believers from the public ministry of Christ until His coming again for His own (the Rapture). Some are already in Heaven. This group has never all been together at one time; so, in this respect, we could say that the church is in prospect. The church will be together for the first time at the Rapture. We also believe in the local assemblies (or churches). The Holy Scriptures teaches us more concerning the local churches than the church. These **local** churches consist of regenerated believers who have been Scripturally baptized and banded together for worship, work, and spiritual fellowship, spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth, according to the specific teachings of the New Testament. Christ is the Head of the church. We believe that immersion in water in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is the only true Scriptural baptism. The prerequisite to Scriptural baptism is the new birth. We do not accept alien immersion. Immersion performed by churches who teach baptismal regeneration, the necessity to speak in tongues to be saved, that one can be lost after being saved, and /or sinless perfection is considered alien immersion. We believe that the Lord's Supper consists of unleavened bread, and unfermented fruit of the vine, and that they are mere symbols of His body and of His blood that were broken and poured out on the cross for our sins. The prerequisites to the Scriptural observance of the Lord's Supper are the new birth, immersion in water, (baptism), and membership in a local New Testament church. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only ordinances of the New Testament assemblies and are not for believers apart from the assemblies.

Each local church is to be independent and autonomous and free from political authority or ecclesiastical hierarchy. We believe in religious liberty, in separation of church and state (by separation of church and state we are referring to the principles that we are not to have a State Church, and that the government is not to interfere with the operation and teachings of the churches), and in Christians being good citizens.

8. We believe in Bible separation, that is, to be set apart from the world, sin, self, and Satan, and to be separated "unto the praise of His glory" and the furtherance of the Gospel.

We believe that each of us should be born of the Spirit (Galatians 5:25), walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16), be led by the Spirit (Galatians 5:18), and be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), that by His power and grace we might bear the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We believe in being separated from pride, lying, tattling, backbiting, envy, jealousy, bitterness, malice, foolish talking, ingratitude, covetousness, and any other sin of the flesh or spirit (Galatians 5:24). We believe in being separated from the world, and therefore not participating or indulging in alcoholic beverages, drugs (except for medicinal purposes), tobacco, immodesty, the dance, mixed swimming, lodges, worldly movies, gambling, or in being a part of anything else that dishonors our Lord or jeopardizes the Gospel.

9. We believe that all believers (Christians) are to be witnesses unto the lost for Christ. We believe that all believers have certain God-given gifts and talents and are stewards for God. Some are called to preach or to other special ministries. We also believe that all who have rejected the Gospel or who have never heard the Gospel are lost and that it is every believer's responsibility to help get the Gospel to everybody.

Policies

Applicants Must Meet The Following Requirements In Order To Be Accepted:

1. Be a saved, born again believer with a personal call from God to be a missionary.
2. Accept our Purposes, Precepts, Policies, and Practices.
3. Belong to a local, New Testament church, here in the United States, who agrees with our Purposes, Precepts, Policies, and Practices. The missionary is to tithe to his (or her) home church.
4. Be authorized and commissioned by the home church (we furnish commissioning papers) and retain membership in the home church here in the States while on the field. Should they change memberships to another home church in the States after their acceptance with our Mission, they must have commissioning papers signed by the new church.
5. Attend all sessions of one of our Institutes of Missions.
6. Not have more than one living companion. (This applies to both men and women.)
7. Not to be interracially married. (Note that it is interracial, not internationality.) All races are acceptable as missionaries, if they meet other requirements. Webster defines the races as: Caucasoid, Mongoloid, and Negroid.
8. Not be nationals who have come to the States to do deputation for the purpose of returning to their country as missionaries. (This is due to the harm that such a practice does to the New Testament, indigenous church principle.)
9. If you have either been with another Mission or have been denied affiliation with another Mission, you will not be allowed to do deputation as an applicant to our Mission until we have contacted the other Mission and are satisfied that you are an eligible applicant.
10. Until you are officially accepted, you must present yourself as an applicant of our Mission. If you have prayer cards and /or stationary printed before acceptance, they must bear the word "Applicant".
11. We must receive verification, in writing, that you have read the entire handbook.

Applicants, If You Are Found Guilty Of The Following, Your Application Will Be Rejected And Your Home Church (And Any Supporters) Will Be Notified:

1. Embracing liberal theology, Neo Orthodoxy, Neo- Evangelicalism, the tongues movement, Ecumenicalism, 5-Point Calvinism (TULIP), Arminianism, and / or the philosophy of Humanism.
2. The use of alcoholic beverage.
3. The use of drugs (except as directed by a physician for medicinal use).
4. Adultery, sex perversion, (homosexuality, lesbianism, incest, etc.).

Our Mission adopts new policies as she is led of the Holy Spirit. Applicants are expected to abide by these policies. Should our Mission adopt a policy with which you are not in agreement, you would be permitted to withdraw your application. However, when you withdraw your application or we find it necessary to reject your application, your supporters will be notified and the reason given.

Missionaries Who Do Not Meet The Following Requirements Are Subject To Dismissal:

1. All debts must be paid, or have arrangements made for payment, before leaving for the field of service.
2. Every missionary on deputation and / or furlough must attend our Annual Institute of Missions.
3. Our missionaries are required to take a furlough every fifth year, unless the Mission determines that they have a valid reason for their time on the field being extended or shortened. For our missionaries who are in countries where the time outside the country is limited, the time and length of furlough will be worked out according to the particular circumstance.
4. Missionaries whose work is carried on in the States are also required to attend our Annual Institute of Missions at least once every four years.
5. A missionary's appointment is subject to reconsideration by the Mission, if his departure to the field is unreasonably delayed.
6. All missionaries who will work with people of another language must acquire a working knowledge of that language before beginning a work among them. The place and length of this study will have to be acceptable to the Mission, prior to your enrollment.

7. Deputation must be completed before going to language school or going to the field.
8. All stationary, prayer letters, and prayer cards must have the name and address of the Mission on them.
9. A copy of every prayer letter must be sent to the Mission.
10. Every offering must be acknowledged to the contributor and the amount specified.
11. All missionaries must have approval from the Mission before making any change in their marital status.
12. Missionaries on any field who desire to affiliate with any other groups (fellowships, service agencies, religious counsels, etc.), must first submit, in writing, the constitution of the agency for official approval of the Mission and be so certified before affiliating with that group.
13. Missionaries who desire to sponsor a missionary not with our Mission must first submit a request, in writing, for official approval of our Mission.
14. All of our missionaries must be loyal to the Mission.
15. Missionaries are not permitted to adopt children outside their own race.
16. You are not permitted to bring nationals to the United States to raise money for the nationals individually or for their churches.

Missionaries Guilty Of the Following Will Be Automatically Dismissed and Their Supporters Notified:

1. Embracing liberal theology, Neo Orthodoxy, Neo- Evangelicalism, the tongues movement, Ecumenicalism, 5-Point Calvinism (TULIP), Arminianism, and / or the philosophy of Humanism.
2. The use of alcoholic beverage.
3. The use of drugs (except as directed by a physician for medicinal use).
4. Adultery, sex perversion, (homosexuality, lesbianism, incest, etc.).

Our Mission adopts new policies as she is led of the Holy Spirit. Missionaries will be expected to abide by these policies. Should our Mission adopt a policy with which a missionary is not in agreement, the missionary will be permitted to resign. When missionaries resign or are dismissed, their supporters are notified and the reason (or reasons) for the resignation or dismissal given.

Practices (The Principles of Operation)

Maranatha Baptist Mission, Incorporated, is a faith Mission and the missionaries who are affiliated with her are to live by the media of faith. This faith is to be in our God Who supplies all our needs according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19), and comes by a daily, personal meditation in the Word of God, and by much fervent prayer (Psalms 1:2-3; John 15:7; James 5:16). Just how each member puts his faith into practice is to be personal, under the direction of the Holy Spirit and never contrary to the Holy Scriptures. We do not approve of the financial schemes, antics, wholesale solicitations, and gimmicks, used by many today that are nothing but fleshy methods and are not based upon Bible principles. Our weapons are not to be carnal (worldly-fleshy) but mighty through God, Who, in turn, will bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (II Corinthians 10: 4-5). We seek to utilize the spiritual weapons of: Prayer- Matthew 9:37-38; Waiting- Isaiah 40:31; Fasting- Acts 13:2-3; and the Spirit's power- I Corinthians 2:4-5.

Our Mission allows freedom to the missionary as long as he or she does not do anything contrary to the Holy Scripture. The Mission assumes no financial responsibility for projects on the field that the missionary may feel led to propagate. Our missionaries must accept and observe the Mission's Precepts (Statement of Faith), Practices (Principles of Operation), and Policies. The Mission serves as a contact between local churches and their missionaries.

Each missionary is to be responsible unto God and is to seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit in everything and keep in consideration that He will not lead us to be inconsiderate of methods that may differ from ours- Luke 9:49-50.

All new missionaries going to a field where missionaries already are working will:

- (a) Benefit from advice given by these missionaries.
- (b) Be careful to pay expenses while staying with others.
- (c) Be the director of their own work, if they establish it apart from the other work.
- (d) If some of the workers from the established church should decide to go with the new missionary, he should get the permission and recommendation from that church.
- (e) Be sure the established missionary chooses to let the workers help in the new missionary's work.

We want our missionaries to be able to discern after prayerful consideration, matters that should be reported to the Mission for discipline. This should be done only for the glory of God, the good of the local churches, the good of the Mission, and the good of the ones involved. When it is done this way, they will not discuss these matters with others. When missionaries are dismissed, the Mission will report it to their supporters. Missionaries who are disciplined by the Mission, but not dismissed, will be required to serve on probation plus any other disciplinary measure the Mission may deem appropriate.

Indigenous Principle

We believe the Gospel seed (the Word) properly planted and watered will produce an indigenous church anywhere. An indigenous New Testament church is a local assembly of Scripturally baptized believers, a theocracy operating on democratic principles: self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating in obedience to the Holy Scriptures and in the guidance and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

In applying the New Testament principle of establishing local indigenous churches, our missionaries are not to assist financially (whether personally or through solicitation) the building or furnishing of church houses, schools, camps, and / or orphanages. They are to encourage the established churches to engage in any and / or all of these activities as they are led of the Lord and are financially able.

Our missionaries are not to pay salaries to the national workers, in full or in part except for meeting charitable needs (1 John 3:17). Nor are they to solicit the same from churches in the States! They are to give such emphasis to Bible study that the nationals will be taught and trained to be leaders of their own churches and completely dependent upon the Lord to supply their needs through the local churches.

Our missionaries may engage in printing, correspondence, and / or radio ministries, if they persistently pursue the contacts which they make in order to establish local, indigenous, New Testament churches. These ministries should also assist in the building up in the faith the churches already established.

Our missionaries are not to be pastors. They must not be listed as pastors on church bulletins, church letterheads, etc. We realize that they may be serving in the capacity of a pastor while waiting for God to supply a national pastor, but always with the clear understanding that it is a temporary situation. In some countries all preachers, except those who belong to a cult, are referred to as pastors. In these areas, such references would not violate this guideline.

Our missionaries must keep their membership in a home church in the United States who commissions them and tithe to that home church.

Our missionaries are not to accept salaries from churches on the field.

We believe that each of our missionaries should seek to be made all things to all men that by all means they might win some (I Corinthians 9:22), have their spirits stirred within them as they see regions beyond wholly given to idolatry (Acts 17:16), and that they be given to continual prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4).

We believe in the great commission that tells us, to go to every creature, to win the lost to Christ, to Scripturally baptize them, to establish local New Testament churches, to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus by a

thorough teaching of God's Holy Word, and to teach them to evangelize others (Matthew 28: 19-20).

Missionaries

We seek missionaries who know that God has called them and have a real love for souls.

We seek to make it possible for those who meet New Testament requirements to go to the field.

The missionary desiring to go to the field under our Mission must agree with our purposes, precepts, policies, and practices.

Financing

This is a work of faith. While few attempt to explain what is meant by a "faith" mission, all would agree on these things. First, a "*faith*" mission is not the missionary arm of a denomination and is not guaranteed support by an association or a convention of churches. It depends, rather, on the voluntary support of each autonomous local church. And since a "faith" mission is not supported by the unified budget of a denomination, the missionary appointee must raise his support by deputation and trust in the Lord to provide through His people.

Maranatha Baptist Mission does not pay a salary or allowance to any missionary. Each one trusts God to supply his or her need, not only for support on the field, but for equipment, passage, and all other items of expense. As God supplies the equipment, passage, and maintenance through churches or individuals, the missionary is then ready to go to the field. New expenses and new responsibilities will then be encountered. While we make no financial guarantees whatever to our missionaries, by the same token we withhold nothing from funds contributed for their ministry. Not one penny is deducted for operating expenses or for any other purpose, and all funds designated are used exactly as directed by the contributor. However, every member of the Maranatha Baptist Mission family is expected to help financially in the operation of the Home Office. The missionaries and the Mission are supported entirely by gifts from individuals and churches. Every gift is conscientiously receipted, recorded, and used as designated.

Many prefer not to designate their contributions, but instead they instruct us to use them where the need may be the greatest. Frequently, emergency needs arise that must be met quickly. A missionary may require medical or surgical attention, and emergency travel funds may become necessary. To finance such needs, until they can be met in the normal manner, we are dependent upon undesignated gifts from those whom God burdens to give. Such undesignated gifts are always a blessing for the missionary and the Mission.

The missionaries pay all expenses incurred in their work on the field (including their living expenses) from funds received from their ministry. Each one accepts

this responsibility by faith. As needs have been made known, they have always been met, and God's abundant blessings have been evident through the years.

If you are contributing to the ministry of individual missionaries, your contributions will likewise be acknowledged by them. Make all checks and money orders (sending cash is not safe) payable to **Maranatha Baptist Mission, Inc.** and address them to:

P.O. Drawer 1425
Natchez, Mississippi 39121

Do not address our Mission M.B.M!

This Mission is a non-profit religious organization, and all gifts are tax deductible.

Ministries

Maranatha Baptist missionaries are doing evangelistic mission work (leading souls to Christ) and establishing local, indigenous, New Testament churches. Our missionaries seek to teach and train the new converts that they will in turn continue this New Testament ministry to the glory of our Lord (II Timothy 2:2).

God has blessed the Maranatha Baptist Mission through:

- (a) The large number of missionaries already on deputation and on the field.
- (b) The fields that have been occupied and those that are in prospect for early occupancy by new missionaries.
- (c) The reports from the fields indicating that souls are being saved.
- (d) The fact that hundreds of churches are channeling missionary funds through this office.
- (e) The testimony of these churches that have already been challenged with new enthusiasm and interest in the cause of spreading the Gospel around the world.

The center of the world wide outreach of the Maranatha Baptist Mission, a ministry of the Victory Baptist Church (formerly West Side Baptist Church), Natchez, Mississippi, is the Home Office. Our missionaries look to our office constantly for counsel, direction, and prayer. Funds for the personal maintenance of our missionaries and their work on the field (sent to our office by their supporters) are sent monthly to them. Problems, both personal and field, are shared and resolved together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Then, there are endless other responsibilities resting upon the Home Office. Contributions are acknowledged and correspondence answered. Conferences are arranged and special speakers secured. Prospective candidates are encouraged and applications processed. Like

the work of our missionaries, our Mission is carried forward by faith, without guaranteed income and is supported entirely by contributions designated specifically for use in the Mission. Our Mission represents a definite missionary project as she carries on these duties and the printing of our paper, Maranatha!!!! This paper is published quarterly and is sent to those who send at least one love offering each year to help with the expense of publishing it. Some send love offerings to make it possible for friends and/ or relatives to also receive the paper.

Speakers

Our Vice President, any of our Representatives, Missionaries on furlough, and those on deputation would be more than willing to share their burden to the hearts of pastors and their congregations for the "untold millions who are still untold". If you would like for one of them to come for a Mission Conference, Bible Conference, Faith Promise Conference, Revival Meeting, or some other special engagement, write:

Maranatha Baptist Mission, Inc.
P.O. Drawer 1425
Natchez, Mississippi 39121

Or call: **601-442-0141**

Appearance Code

Our Code of Appearance deals mainly with the "outside" upon which the world looks. It applies whether the missionary is on deputation, furlough, or vacation. We expect them to be convicted that these rules are right everywhere.

Our missionaries are to conduct themselves as Christian ladies and gentlemen at all times. This is to show in their attitude, speech, actions, and appearance. Since their appearance is obvious to all, we are elaborating upon it.

We seek to follow the guidelines established in God's Word for His people. We believe that the Bible establishes at least three minimum standards for Christian dress:

(1) MODESTY (I Timothy 2:9, II Timothy 2:22). It is true that God's standards for men and women are high.

(2) DISTINCTION (Deuteronomy 22:5, I Corinthians 11:14,15). Men should dress like men and women should dress like women. Notice in Deuteronomy 22:5 the verse says that if we do not dress according to our sex, we are an "...abomination unto the Lord our God."

(3) IDENTIFICATION with the Lord and not the world (I Timothy 4:12, Romans 12: 1-2, and I John 2:15-16). I Timothy 4:12 says, "Let no man despise thy youth but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." God's Word is so clear that we are to dress and conduct ourselves as becoming His children.

Ladies:

The Bible clearly teaches that women are to adorn themselves in modes apparel. Your dresses and skirts must be long enough to completely cover your knees. You must not wear tight sweaters or tight skirts. The neckline of your dresses and blouses must not be revealing or suggestive. Do not wear clothing which will identify you with the women of our day who are rebelling against being a woman or associate you with the unisex (pant suits, slacks, jeans, pedal pushers, gaucho pants, etc.). Do not wear shorts, see-through clothing, tight fitting, revealing clothing, split and / or split skirts. Should the need arise to wear culottes, they must be full at the waist and not fitted like pants (to wear culottes may be considered needful in certain activities only, when to wear a dress might be considered immodest, i.e., climbing a ladder, to paint a wall, playing basketball, softball, etc.). Though we believe that culottes are acceptable when made according to a certain pattern, we do not plan activities during our Institute of Missions that would require culottes. So, we request no culottes for our Institute of Missions. If you have a question regarding whether or not to wear something, it is safer to wear something of which you have no question. Keep your hair clean and well groomed. Do not let your hair style be exaggerated or overwhelming. Be very careful about "trend" and "mod" styles. If you wear makeup, be sure that it is applied in such a way that it does not call attention to the fact that you are "painted". Always be sure that you are not noticed for your flashy clothing, obvious hair-do, gaudy jewelry, or heavy makeup. The Bible points out very candidly that these must not attract attention.

Men:

Dress like Christian gentlemen. Be sure you are clean and neatly dressed. Keep your hair clean and well groomed. It must not touch your ears and / or your collar and must not in any way identify you with styles that have been set by the "stars" of this world. If you choose to wear sideburns or a mustache, they must not be extreme and must be kept neatly trimmed. You must not wear short pants, tight fitting revealing pants, or go without a shirt.

We expect our missionaries to be spiritually mature enough to discern appearance that would be considered worldly, refrain from it, and teach their children to observe the same.

Our Separation Code is written throughout this brochure.

Praying For Missionaries

Workers on far flung mission fields do not need your pity, but they desperately need your prayers. Talk to missionaries and you will find they have this in common: an unshakable confidence in the power of prayer. Praying for them is the best thing you can do for them. But sometimes it is easy to forget.

Christians are more likely to pray about physical trials such as sickness or persecution than about spiritual battles. When prayer is neglected, support is decreased. Of course, you do not want to be guilty of neglecting prayer for missionaries.

Here are some principles to guide you in becoming a real missionary prayer warrior.

1. **Find out all you can about the missionary for whom you are praying.**

A missionary on furlough was shocked to find that the church family did not know the names nor the circumstances of the missionaries they supported. Missionary life in the city is markedly different than that of missionary life in the jungle. Remember this, when you pray.

2. **Pray regularly.** Do not wait for some heart-tugging story to stimulate you to prayer. Use their prayer cards as a reminder.

3. **Be specific in your prayer.** "Lord bless all the missionaries" is not enough! Write and ask the missionary his needs. Often you may be able to meet them. Do not expect the more intimate problems that characterize the mission field to make the pages of the monthly prayer letter. It is difficult to write home about personal defeat or discouragement, impossible to write about government obstacles lest they be expelled from the country, and even when they write, these matters are only mentioned to very intimate friends and prayer warriors. Make yourself available for such information by letting them know that you do not consider any request for prayer too small or too large.

4. **Try to anticipate needs.** Think of the spiritual problems that plague you. Perhaps they are bothering the missionary. If you wait until you hear of a need, often, it is already past.

5. **Be persistent and persevering in prayer.** When you pray for something that requires a specific answer, do not stop until you know that the answer has come. Praise the Lord, and continue praying for new needs.

Every once in awhile, get off the beaten track. Pray for the following: victory over mental stagnation caused by lack of time for reading and study, freshness in prayer and Bible teaching in the absence of an inspired preacher of the Word nearby to offer a spiritual "refresher", guidance in how to present the Gospel to some person with whom the missionary may have fleeting contact, deliverance

from the temptation of pride as the national looks up to the missionary as "the last word" in knowledge and Christian example, wisdom in relationships with other missionaries, strength to overcome the tests of loneliness, and understanding in dealing wisely with the nationals, many of whom are assuming the leadership of churches.

How Can You Help?

Pray fervently for our Mission, the missionaries, their workers, the fields, and our staff at the Home Office. God will continue to bless Maranatha Baptist Mission, Incorporated, to the extent that Christians are faithful in the ministry of intercessory prayer. This, then, could be your greatest contribution. Remember the Words of our Lord when He said, "ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).

Send for our paper, MARANATHA!!!! We must have one love offering each year to help with the expense of publishing and mailing it. Why not send a love offering for friends and / or relatives in order that their names may be added to the mailing list and receive the paper for a year!

Surrender to God's call and go to the field He indicates.

Have a Mission Conference in your church. Give financially that others may hear the Gospel through a missionary, or other ministries of our Mission.

Board of Directors of Maranatha Baptist Mission

Maranatha is a ministry of Victory Baptist Church of Natchez, Mississippi and the Board of Directors is made up from among the men of Victory Baptist.