

# Missions Internship Program

Living Grace Community Church

We hold the commands to go and make disciples of the nations as a high priority at Living Grace. In other words, we take missions very seriously. It is our desire to send qualified men and women to the nations to plant new churches and support existing churches. The LG Missions Internship program is designed to be a process through which your character is both revealed and shaped as you involve yourself in this local body of believers. We want you to get to know us and we want to get to know you in a variety of contexts. While much of what you will learn in the program will serve to train and equip you, our intention is that this would only provide the foundation for further training and equipping should both you and LG feel you are ready to do so spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Below is an overview of the internship looks like.

## 3 Components of the Missions Internship Program

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In order to complete the Missions Internship Program at Living Grace you will participate in three main areas of preparation for missionary service.

### Knowledge

Bible classes, various readings, sitting under the preaching of the Word consistently, and learning from the wisdom of others in the body through conversations and Home Group involvement all help to prepare your mind to serve well on the field.

### Character

Regular involvement in the body life at Living Grace will both reveal your character and also aid in refining and developing your character in ways that will benefit you wherever the Lord should lead. We want you involved in a wide variety of ministries doing things you are comfortable with and things you would not have chosen on your own. We want to see you serve!

### Skills

Local cross-cultural ministry involvement is a great way to prepare for ministry in any context. We believe that you will not simply “flip the switch” for evangelism when you get to your people group. We want to see that you have a propensity for evangelism, particularly with those of other cultures, here and now. This will likely include a short-term trip and/or the possibility of up to 12 months spent in a different environment (Caravan Ministries is an example).

## Brief Overview of Missions Internship Program Requirements

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- Completion of the Certificate level of [Perspectives on the World Christian Movement](#) course
- Comprehensive knowledge in Systematic Theology and Bible Knowledge
- Weekly meetings with Lead Pastor (or designated person)
- 8 books that discuss pertinent missions-related issues. (see reading checklist)
- Active involvement in the ministry at Living Grace Church.
- Active engagement in local cross-cultural contexts
- Watching of various sermons from Mission's Conferences (e.g. Radius Missiology Conference, Cross Conference, etc.)

- Watching and Interaction with the video series “*Dispatches from the Front*”
- Interaction with real life missionaries on the field both in personal visits when they visit Bakersfield or when you go there (short-term missions’ trips) and email in order to learn more from those who are actually doing the work of missions

## Essentials for Missions

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We think it is important that those who participate in the Missions Internship Program understand the following things we consider essential at Living Grace when we think about long-term missions:

### Fluency in the Language

It is our belief that a missionary must be fluent in the heart language of the people he or she is ministering to. We demand that a person shows fluent proficiency in the heart language before the gospel can be communicated.

### Cultural Understanding

We believe that a person must understand to a high degree the world- view of the people they are ministering to. They must understand the cultural nuances of the people and the hindrances and gateways for the gospel to be proclaimed with understanding and purity and without syncretism. We believe this takes the missionary years of being invested in the people group before an adequate understanding of culture and worldview can occur.

### Going to the Unreached

We believe that it is essential to go to those places where the name of Jesus has not been spoken of before. While we seek to empower churches in all situations, we make a special focus on those places where the gospel has never been before.

### Gospel Purity

We believe the missionary must have a clear understanding of what the gospel is and what it is not. We believe this is the best cure against syncretizing the gospel with a people's formerly held beliefs.

### Church Planting

We send out missionaries to unreached people groups to plant churches. We believe churches are the hope for the world and the best institution to communicate the gospel, build up the followers of Jesus and meet the physical and spiritual needs of people.

## How long is the Missions Internship Program?

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A minimum of two years—longer if you desire to go at a slower pace and longer if we/you decide that time spent serving in another context (like Caravan Ministries) is a good fit for you.

This allows the Elders and church members to get to know you, as one seeking to be sent, so that we can better affirm and bless God's call on your life. We view this as a long-term (10-20 years minimum) relationship. We want our people to get to know you well and that simply can't happen in a short period of time.

## Do I have to be a Living Grace member to be in the Mission Internship Program?

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You do not have to be a member to enter the program. However, if you are seeking to be sent and supported by Living Grace as a global partner you will need to become a member of the church.



## Does This Internship Take the Place of Future Training?

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No. It is our expectation that after you complete the internship you will go on to further training to sharpen your missions skills. We can only do so much within the context of the local church. In order to be a full time missionary from Living Grace you will need further training from an approved and qualified school (e.g. Radius International or New Tribes, etc.). We think this is so important that we will *not* support a missionary long-term unless they attend a qualified missions training program.

## Is financial support guaranteed upon completion of the Missions Internship Program?

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No. Unfortunately, we can't make promises. Participation in the Missions Internship Program *in no way guarantees funding in the future*. All decisions will be made by the LG Elder's based on a number of factors.

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*Intern Signature*

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*Print Name*

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*Date*

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*Lead Pastor Signature*

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*Print Name*

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