

1. Purpose

To outline our policy on wholeness in mission.

2. Preamble

CMS is committed to wholeness in mission that unites the proclamation of the word and the demonstration of Christ's love in the witness of the community of God's people. As we live in long term relationship with those we serve, we are compelled to speak of the Lord Jesus and demonstrate his love in practical action as we meet human need.

3. Executive Summary

Definition of terms:

Wholeness in Mission – the term that CMS is using to explain its understanding of the relationship between the proclamation of the word and the demonstration of Christ's love in mission.

Holistic – the integration of word and deed. (We have chosen this term over 'integral' or 'integrated', but the sense is the same).

Executive Summary:

We believe that the integration of word and deed takes place in the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ as they both speak out and live by the gospel. As God draws people to himself through the gospel, he gathers them into local churches. As local churches are gatherings of Christian disciples, they are to be holistic communities who live by and speak out the gospel. Holistic communities will be characterised by their proclamation of the gospel and their radical love for the poor, the marginalised and the needy.

4. Rationale

Mission belongs to God. The Bible is the story of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, creating the heavens and the earth, rescuing his broken world, redeeming a people for himself from all peoples and nations, and reconciling all things under the Lordship of Christ. God is bringing glory to himself as history moves towards the day of Christ's return. Mission is God's activity and he commissions his people, the church, to participate in his mission.

The world is broken because of human sin. Our world is broken and damaged because of human rebellion and therefore falls under God's wrath and judgement. Reconciliation with God is the greatest need of every human being. Only God can save.

The cross stands at the centre of salvation history. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the decisive and central act of God's mission and stands at the centre of our theology of mission. Redemption is only possible because of the substitutionary death of Christ on the cross. God's church is gathered as people respond in repentance and faith to the proclamation of this gospel.

The church is the in-breaking into this world of God's new creation. God gathers his people into his church, into local gatherings of people who have been redeemed by Christ's death and filled with his Holy Spirit, living new lives of love in obedience to and in the likeness of Christ. The church is the in-breaking into this age of the new heavens and the new earth, demonstrating God's power and wisdom. The church is both the outcome of God's mission and a participant in God's mission.

The church's participation in God's mission is cross-shaped. As the community of God's people lives out the cross in word and deed, they bear witness to the costly and sacrificial nature of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The world hears from them and sees in them the gospel of Christ crucified. This cross-shaped integration of word and deed in the lives of God's people is salt and light to a watching world.

Word and deed are integrated in the lives of God's people, gathered into holistic communities. As the community of God's people live under God's rule, loving God and loving neighbour they are a holistic community. This means boldly proclaiming the gospel and calling people to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ but also many other things, including radically loving the poor, the dispossessed and the needy, advocating for them and campaigning against injustice and evil – especially for those who are brothers and sisters in Christ. Word and deed are integrated in the life of each believer and in the life of the church.

5. Wholeness in Mission and CMS

CMS exists to assist churches to participate in God's mission

The church is central to God's purpose in the world. Mission societies like CMS exist to work with churches to enable them to participate in God's mission.

CMS works with local churches to set apart missionaries for long-term gospel ministry. All CMS missionaries are linked in partnership with local churches in Australia.

All CMS missionaries serve with or alongside local churches, or with ministries that desire to see local churches planted and growing where none initially exist.

Wholeness in mission is fundamental for CMS missionaries

The work of mission can only be done by disciples of Jesus Christ. It is an expression of the work of the Spirit in the life of God's people. While God does use people who are not Christians to accomplish his purposes, God's mission is the work of Christians. We acknowledge that the outworking of this conviction is complex in contexts where Christians and non-Christians work alongside each other in some partner organisations.

As God's mission can only be done by disciples of Jesus Christ, the mature and godly character of our missionaries is of far greater significance than location, placement or academic or professional qualifications.

CMS prioritises godliness of character by setting apart people who:

- are committed to glorifying God;
- share God's heart of love for the lost in a broken and hurting world;
- are committed to costly and sacrificial discipleship; and
- seek to integrate word and deed in their own lives such that others might respond to the Lord Jesus in repentance and faith.

All CMS missionaries are disciples of Christ whose lives are characterised by a desire and commitment to witness to him through the verbal proclamation of the gospel and by the demonstration of his love and justice. No matter where they are located or the nature of their ministry, they are committed to proclaiming the gospel, in ways that are appropriate to their context. Equally, all are committed to living in a manner worthy of the gospel as they live out the love and justice of Christ in every circumstance. Where possible, all CMS missionaries are members of local churches where their commitment to holistic discipleship can be lived out.

All CMS missionaries will be engaged in ministry that honours God and that works towards the gathering of people into holistic communities formed and shaped by the cross.

- This focus may be explicit or implicit, depending on context. For example, in locations where there are security concerns, this intention may never be openly stated but will still be the desire of the ministry.
- This focus may be direct or indirect. Workers may be directly engaged in such a ministry or indirectly through, for example, leadership development or teaching missionary children.

CMS values equally those whose focus is explicit / direct and those whose focus is implicit / indirect. Together we respond to God's call to share in his work of gathering the lost to himself from every people and nation through the proclamation of his gospel and by living in a manner worthy of the gospel in our lives and ministries.

Approval

For Approval by the Board of CMS-A
Approved by: BOARD RESOLUTION 2013-11b-06.6.1 on 29 November 2013