

ADVANCE.

PLANTING AND STRENGTHENING

WELCOME

Our hope is that this booklet will help you understand the basics of who we are, where we are going, and how you can be part of the action. Our website (advancemovement.com) hosts a number of documents that expand on the themes in this booklet.

Advance is a global movement of churches partnering together to advance the Gospel through **planting and strengthening** churches. The name Advance is a practical way of describing our partnership, and expresses our primary purpose of taking new ground for the Gospel in small towns and large cities throughout the world.

THE BIG IDEA

The Book of Acts covers 30 years. Think of how many churches were planted in just 30 years by the first disciples of Jesus. Every generation needs their own Book of Acts because every generation needs to be freshly evangelized. We have the same God, the same commission, and the same power of the Spirit that they had. More than that, we have the full canon of scripture, 2000 years more experience, and immense technology at our disposal. What could we do in the next 30 years if we took God at His word, drew on His power, and partnered together? The Big Idea of Advance is this: Let's do it again. Let's do the Book of Acts again. In our generation.





THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

If we are to achieve New Testament results we need to imitate New Testament practice. Individuals and churches partnered together, and churches also partnered with each other to achieve more than they could alone (2 Cor 8:23, Phil 1:3-5). Both maturity and mission were enhanced through partnership.

WHAT DO WE PARTNER AROUND?

Similar Doctrine and Values
Shared Mission (Planting and Strengthening)
Genuine Relationship
Recognised, Suitably Gifted Leadership

PLANTING CHURCHES TOGETHER

Church planting is the timeless New Testament strategy for gospel advance, but planting churches is hard, and planting healthy churches is even harder. That's why partnership is so vital. Together we can plant churches consistently and well.





STRENGTHENING CHURCHES TOGETHER

Alongside planting churches, the other main feature of New Testament ministry was the ongoing commitment to “strengthen” churches - a word that is specifically used in the New Testament (Acts 14:21-23, 16:4-5, 20:1-2). We try to strengthen three main areas:

Elders - strong elders lead to strong churches

Doctrine - believing the right things

Values - correctly applying doctrine to your context



LEADERSHIP, REGIONS, AND FINANCE



LEADERSHIP AND REGIONS

We have a Global Team that guides our global mission, and teams in Africa, Europe and North America that take the mission forward on those continents - we trust that teams will develop in other continents in due course. We also have Hub Teams that help connect partner churches in smaller regions such as cities. In addition to these broader leadership teams we also form Task Teams when required for projects such as Advance Church Planters Course, Finance, and Communications.

We believe local elders are the highest human authority in the local church, therefore, we think of partner churches as autonomous (self-governing) but inter-dependent.

FINANCE

We ask partner churches to sow 2% of their annual income to our global mission, and another 1-3% (Elders may choose) to their continent's Advance mission. (We assume that partner churches will be giving away at least 10% of their income, so this arrangement empowers them with 5%+ to sow wherever they like).



VALUES AND STATEMENT OF FAITH

We have five foundational, imperative values that all partner churches eagerly embrace, although the local application of these values may differ from church to church:

Gospel Centered | Mission Focused | Disciple Making | Spirit Empowered | Elder Led

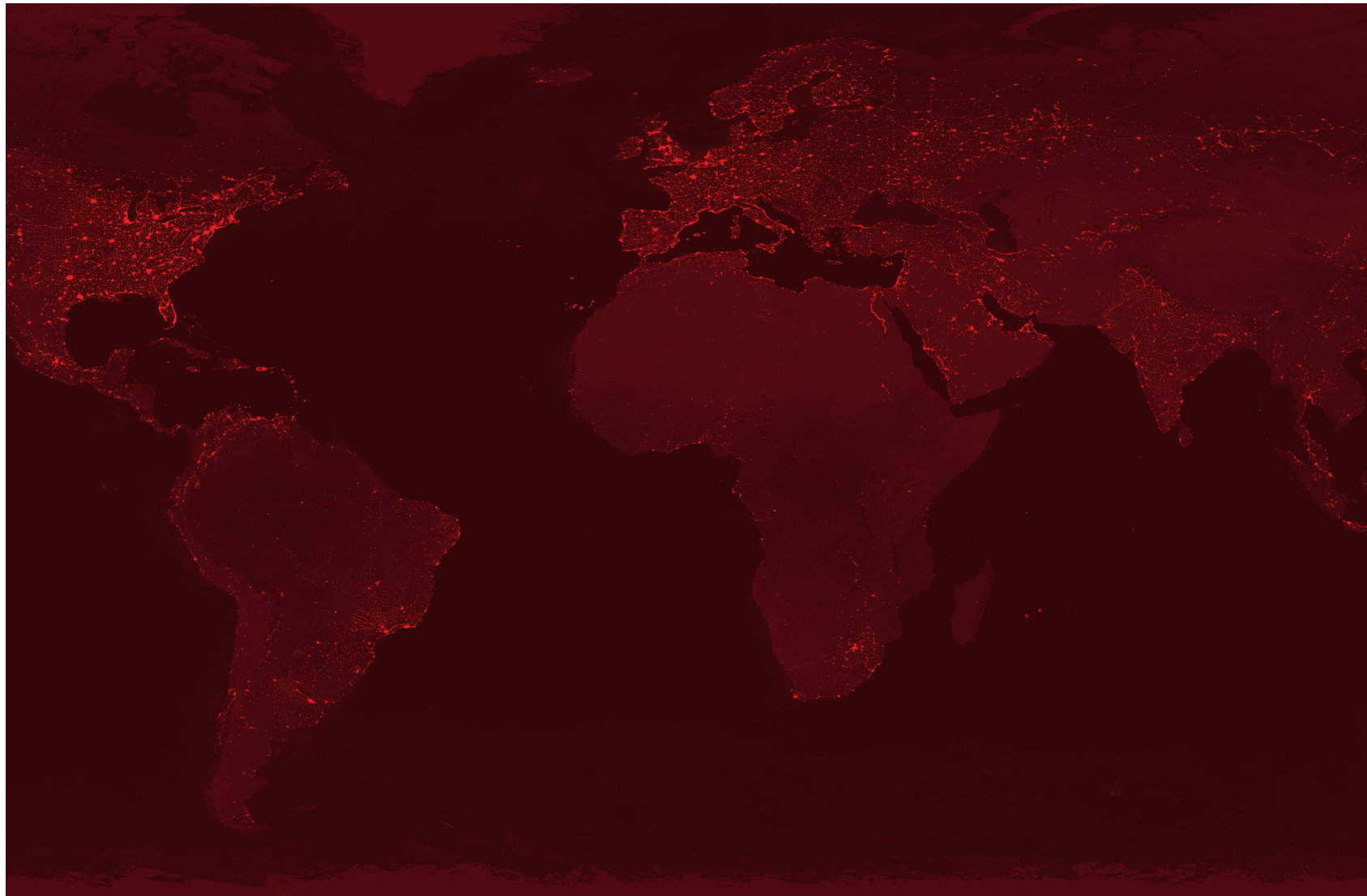
Our **Statement of Faith** outlines the primary, non-negotiable biblical doctrines that we believe as partner churches. Our Statement of Faith can be found at advancemovement.com.



EXPECTATIONS AND JOINING

The simplest way to describe partnership is to say that partner churches agree to actively and joyfully promote our four pillars of partnership - similar doctrine and values, shared mission (planting and strengthening), genuine relationship, and recognised, suitably gifted leadership.

For more details on expectations and joining, see the document on our website (advancemovement.com) entitled *Expectations and Joining*.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

You probably have a number of questions that we would love to help answer. Any of our leaders are available to talk with you, or please email us at info@advancemovement.com. We would also encourage you to read the documents on our website (advancemovement.com) that expand on the themes in this booklet.



www.advancemovement.com

