

## **Grace for Generations (Grace4G)**

Grace4G is an initiative of Grace Bible Church with two distinct yet complementary goals:

- 1) to eliminate the outstanding debt on the sanctuary completed in 2007
- 2) to reallocate the funds that otherwise would be spent on debt service into three key areas of ministry: Missions, Outreach and Church Planting

It is the desire of Grace that the fund associated with Grace4G be entrusted not only with the resources necessary to eliminate the current building debt, but also develop into a vibrant and strategic ministry of the church with a long-term focus that invites ongoing contributions.

In order to manage the funds collected for Grace4G, a distinct fund will be established. The goal is that the Grace4G fund function like a foundation and dispense a prescribed amount of grants each year toward projects that are consistent with the philosophy of ministry of GRACE and in accordance with the guidelines given in this document.

### **Grace4G Ministry Focus**

While consistent with the church's current missions program, the funds raised through Grace4G are to be allocated to specific areas as determined by the missions team and elder board, with funds managed by the trustees. These areas are:

- Cross-cultural Missions
- Local outreach
- Church planting

All grant proposals must have one of these broad areas in mind in order to be considered for funding.

### **General Guidelines**

While consistent with the church's current missions program, the funds raised through Grace4G are to be allocated to specific areas. These areas are:

- Consideration and approval of any Grace4G project will occur in a manner consistent with the current process for consideration and approval of short and long-term missionary endeavors and actions. Namely, all proposals will be presented to the missions team for review and then sent to the elder board of Grace Bible Church for approval. If approved by the elder board, all funds for the project will be managed and disbursed by the Grace Bible Church deacon board.
- Grace4G funds are for long-term projects and durable investments, not occasional or unforeseen material or personnel needs, travel expenses, or "disposable" items.
- Grace4G projects are specific in focus, clear about the goals they hope to achieve, and are designed in such a way so as to show how funding will enable them to accomplish these goals within a predetermined time period, as well as defining the mechanisms for accountability and measurement.

- Each project will be required to report back to us with evaluation based on the stated goals of the project. We need to be willing to evaluate well and stop supporting those that are not effective according to their self-stated goals.
- Grace4G funds seek to help new projects get started, either by partnering with a previously unsupported ministry candidate, or by amplifying the effects of an existing supported missionary in a new project that is consistent with his or her overall focus as detailed in their long-term application.
- It is preferred that a member of Grace be active, on the board or in a leadership role. While Grace will look to its own community first, it is not required that project leaders be a part of the Grace family.
- Grace4G projects will receive funding for a fixed time period, usually two years (with potential for longer), with the expectation that they will become sustainable and viable at that point, or achieve the stated goal described in the application process.
- Grace4G projects are distinct from other ongoing mission needs in terms of their scope, focus, and time sensitivity so it is expected that disbursements of funds will be significantly greater than amounts typical of the special projects fund (#3310).

### **Area Specific Guidelines**

#### *Cross-cultural missions*

Cross-cultural missions consists of local and international gospel ministry that is targeted to those individuals and communities who would likely not call Grace Bible Church their home church. In the international context the reasons for this are self-evident. Domestically this may be due to significant gaps in culture or absence of socioeconomic homogeneity.

In order to be considered for Grace4G funding, potential cross-cultural missions projects must meet the following criteria:

- Projects must define and target a specific people group or community that would otherwise have a low likelihood of being reached by Grace with the Gospel.
- Projects must have either an evangelistic component to their stated ministry objective, or provide for some means of integration of their people group into a believing community.

(This is not to say that crosscultural missions projects cannot have a humanitarian/compassion ministry focus, but should demonstrate how such a focus provides for opportunities to meet spiritual as well as physical needs.)

#### *Local Outreach*

Local outreach has for its primary purpose to introduce Christ to unbelieving, unchurched and de-churched individuals so that they come into an active relationship with Him and ideally become members of Grace Bible Church. While no specific approach or method is

endorsed, local outreach is by nature highly evangelistic and all means should lead to this end.

In order to be considered for Grace4G funding, potential local outreach projects must meet the following criteria:

- Projects must target those individuals that live in the North Dallas area and surrounding suburbs that are located within a reasonable driving distance from Grace Bible Church.
- Projects must have the evangelism of non-believers or non-churched individuals as their primary focus.
- Projects must demonstrate how integration of new believers into the broader community of Grace Bible Church will be achieved.

### *Church Planting*

The local church is “the hope of the world,” and it is a deeply held belief that planting churches is the most effective, stable, and long-term means by which the disciples are made. While church planting is a regular activity of international missionaries, the church planting aspect of Grace4G funding is domestic in focus.

In order to be considered for Grace4G funding, potential church planting projects must meet the following criteria:

- The church planter or team must demonstrate sufficient experience, training, and expertise in the area of church planting.
- The project must envision the installation of a church that is consistent with the New Testament model of church planting, namely that it possess the following characteristics: led by elders or men who possess the characteristics of elders, a commitment to the preaching of the Bible, a passion for evangelism, equipping of its members to serve, theological alignment with the doctrinal statement of Grace, practicing of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s table, and the expectation of membership on the part of its congregants.
- The project must evince careful research about the need for and viability of a church plant in the target community.
- While material resources are a necessary part of church planting, the goal is for at least 75% of the funds granted to go toward salaries of church planters or supplemental staff.

### **Additional Guidelines**

The following guidelines must also be adhered to for consideration as a Grace4G project:

- Funds will only be distributed to 501c(3) or other qualified public entities or individuals.
- There are no deadlines to apply for funding, but all grant proposals will require at least 90 days consideration before approved.
- Applicants may only submit one proposal per 12 month period.
- In keeping with the normal practice for consideration of new members as well supported missionaries, all applicants must assent to the Constitution and Bylaws of the church.
- To be considered, all projects must indicate and explain why the participation and investment of Grace4G funds is vital and catalytic to their project. All projects must additionally display extensive planning, forethought and careful analysis regarding how they envision their project succeeding. All projects must indicate and reveal additional sources of funding.
- Ideally, a Grace4G project requires the specific and unique participation of Grace, beyond simply financial resources. Applicants must be explicit in their application as to what the particular contribution Grace and its members will make to this project.
- Given that ministry occurs in the context of relationship with each other and with God, each project should have well defined roles for sponsor, mentor, partner, and accountability relationships.
- If applicable, all applicants must disclose a current budget for their respective ministries.
- All approved projects will receive funding for a period of 12–24 months. At the end of 24 months applicants may ask for a renewal or extension of funding at the discretion of the missions team and leadership of Grace.
- Given the nature of a foundation, and the types of donations that may be made, Grace will allow for designated giving to one or more of the three categories on the part of donors, including specific projects that have been approved.
- Every three years Grace will evaluate these guidelines to determine if they are relevant and working. We will evaluate if the foundation is funding the things we should or if we need to change guidelines to fund things we haven't because of the guidelines. This will allow us to look for change in God's leading, the culture of the church or other factors.
- The three areas of ministry focus are to serve as broad categories for projects that will be considered. Grace will allocate funds, however, on a project by project basis, regardless of which broad category that project falls under. As a part of the three---year evaluation, we will insure that there is balance in the three areas of funding (missions, outreach, church planting).

**Grace for Generations  
Initial Application**

**Name & address of applicant**

**Name & mailing address of organization (if different)**

**Brief history of the organization**

**Brief summary of the project**

**What is your relationship to Grace?**

**What is your current area of Christian service?**

**Amount you're requesting?**

**How is this new or different from other past projects?**

**How will this impact those it serves?**

**Do you agree with the doctrinal statement of Grace Bible Church in its entirety? In areas of disagreement, please explain why?**

**If the church determines to move forward with the applicant, another, more detailed application will need to be submitted.**

**If your project is approved for funding, you will be expected to report to the Grace missions team twice per year (within a 12 month period of time) on the progress of your project.**