

Policy  
Statement  
of  
  
antioch  
new  
testament  
Baptist  
mission

Revised and adopted  
December 2005



A ministry of  
**Maranatha Baptist Church**  
**Elkton, Maryland**

Antioch New Testament Baptist Mission provides a number of services for its missionaries and, as a mission we try very hard to do all that we can to be of assistance and encouragement. As ANTBM has grown it has become necessary for the mission to formulate in more detail its policy and practice. Inasmuch as the Mission tries to be diligent in cooperating with its missionaries, the Mission in turn expects its missionaries to reciprocate in like manner with the proper Christian attitude.

## ANTBM POLICIES

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

- I.** All applicants must be a born again, Spirit-filled believer with a definite personal call from God to the ministry of missions. They must be an active and tithing member of the Maranatha Baptist Church and they must agree with the ANTBM Doctrinal Position, Practices and Policies.
- II.** Applicants must be US citizens or legal residents and have been a member of Maranatha Baptist Church for at least six months immediately prior to applying to the Mission.
- III.** Applicants cannot be divorced; this applies to the applicant and spouse.
- IV.** Applicants must have a happy and harmonious marital relationship if they are to enjoy a successful ministry. Further, the applicant's children must be in submission to their parents' authority.
- V.** The Mission application must be completed in its entirety and all required and/or requested information provided. All questions **MUST** be answered. A letter of recommendation from the applicant's pastor **MUST** accompany the application.
- VI.** Applicants will be expected to disclose their personal indebtedness and any criminal history.
- VII.** Applicants will be required to attend a personal interview with the pastor of the Maranatha Baptist Church, the Mission Director, and possibly the Mission Board. The applicant will be notified in writing of the decision by the Mission.

### **APPROVED MISSIONARIES**

- I.** It is the responsibility of each ANTBM missionary to keep the Mission informed of any changes in family status including the names of all family members, birth dates, social security numbers, change of address and/or telephone number, serious health matters, etc. Social security numbers are sometimes needed when the Mission is conducting business on behalf of a missionary; they will not be disclosed to unauthorized individuals. It is not uncommon for the Mission to be the last to be informed about a missionary need, changes, etc.; this is wrong and **SHOULD NOT** happen.
- II.** Applicants must allow God to teach them to be resourceful in the managing of their personal finances. Heavy personal indebtedness is strongly discouraged.
- III.** When conducted, Missionary Candidate School is mandatory attendance for all ANTBM missionaries on deputation and/or furlough. Missionary Candidate School is from the day of registration to the last class day and closing service. While on deputation and/or furlough and not engaged in services, ANTBM missionaries will be expected to attend the services of the Maranatha Baptist Church unless they are away visiting family or providentially hindered.
- IV.** While on deputation missionaries will be expected to provide the Mission with a copy of their itinerary, and to keep the Mission advised of any changes.
- V.** During furlough it will be incumbent on the missionary to provide the Mission with a furlough address and active contact telephone number.
- VI.** Missionaries serving under ANTBM are required to have raised 100% of their support before being cleared to leave for their field of service. A proposed budget and support level must be submitted to the Mission office for review and approval by the Director and/or Board of Directors within three months of beginning deputation. A final review of their respective support level and needs must be submitted not less than 6 months prior to projected departure date. All too often a missionary leaves for the field under supported and encounters unexpected financial expenses for which they have no resources. Missionaries with a heavy debt and/or insufficient support **WILL NOT** receive mission approval to leave for the field.
- VII.** Missionary news/prayer letters are required to be sent to financial supporters a minimum of once every 2 months with a copy provided to the Mission office.
- VIII.** Missionaries are required to acknowledge to the contributor, if known, the **specific amount** of support or gift received. This may be included at the bottom of the individual news/prayer letter. If a third party prepares the missionary news/prayer letter for mailing, and the respective missionary does not wish to disclose his or her income to the preparer, then a separate thank-you card may be sent. Either way, this **MUST** be done a minimum of once every 2 months. This will preclude the Mission from receiving inquiries from supporters about support not being acknowledged. Since individuals and churches care enough to give, then the missionary **MUST** care enough to acknowledge the **SPECIFIC** amount and say "thank you."

**IX.** All missionaries are required to tithe to their respective home church unless the home church pastor indicates otherwise.

**X.** Finances for missionary furlough, whether an emergency or a planned furlough cycle, is a serious matter and sufficient funds need to be set aside in advance. Since it is not uncommon for a missionary not to set aside funds in advance for this purpose, missionaries serving under ANTBM will be expected to do one of two things: **(1)** promise the Mission and before God to set aside a percentage of his monthly support for furlough airfare and use it **ONLY** for that purpose, or **(2)** give the Mission signed permission to withhold five percent (5%) of monthly support, up to \$10,000.00, for this purpose. Under option #1 the respective missionary will be expected to inform the mission, in writing and twice annually, their current passage fund balance. Under option #2 a separate account in the name of the Mission and the respective missionary will be established and the monies maintained there. Any and all interest accrued on the respective account will stay in the account and be given to the missionary upon receipt of a flight confirmation. In the event a missionary should withdraw from the Mission while the missionary has money in his flight account, all money and accrued interest will be surrendered to the missionary.

**XI.** The doctrinal position of ANTBM and the Maranatha Baptist Church is quite clear. Missionaries on deputation are expected to schedule meetings with churches of like minded doctrine. Our position on the King James Bible is "...that the King James Version is the preserved Word of God for the English speaking people of today and that ALL other English versions are corrupt." Churches that do not adhere to this position **ARE NOT** churches that ANTBM will knowingly receive and process support from. If missionary support is being received from a church that does not hold to this position, and it becomes known to the Mission and the position is verified, the support must of necessity be returned.

**XII.** Deputation must be completed before going to a language school or the field. Those working in an area where a foreign language is spoken must acquire a good working knowledge of that language.

**XIII.** Missionaries using foreign language translations are expected to use those that are based on the reliable O.T. Masoretic Text and N.T. Received Text. Also any translation work done by ANTBM missionaries should be done on this basis.

**XIV.** Single missionaries, who subscribe to these policies, doctrinal statement, etc., may apply to go under ANTBM.

## **DRESS CODE**

Our dress code deals mainly with the "outside" upon which the world looks. It applies whether the missionaries are on deputation, furlough, or vacation. We expect them to be convicted that these are right everywhere.

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

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

### **1. Christian Dress in Modesty:**

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

### **2. Christian Dress in Distinction:**

Deuteronomy 22:5, 1 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. Christian Dress in Identification:**

With the Lord and not with 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 befittingly as His children.

### **Ladies:**

The Bible clearly teaches that women are to adorn themselves in modest 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 identify yourself with the women of our day who are rebelling against being a woman by wearing unisex hair styles or clothing (pant suits, slacks, jeans, etc.). Do not wear shorts, see-through clothing, and tight-fitting, revealing clothing, dresses and skirts with slits extending above the bottom of the knee. Should the need arise to wear culottes; they must be full-skirted and not fitted like pants. 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.

### **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 identifies you with styles which have been set by the standards 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 in public.

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

We reject mixed swimming as being improper and immoral for ANTBM missionaries.

We reject the Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) of the day.

### **REASONS FOR DISMISSAL FROM ANTBM**

- I.** Involving oneself in liberal theology, Neo-orthodoxy, Neo-evangelicalism, the Charismatic or Tongues Movement, Ecumenicalism, 5-Point Calvinism (Tulip) and/or Arminianism.
- II.** The use of alcoholic beverages.
- III.** The use of drugs (except medicinal drugs).
- IV.** Adultery or fornication.
- V.** Any type of sexual perversion (homosexuality, lesbianism, incest, etc.).
- VI.** Divorce from one's spouse.
- VII.** A change in position on the King James Bible.
- VIII.** Leaving for the field without being cleared by the Mission.
- IX.** Failure to cooperate with the Mission after repeated attempts to encourage them to do so.

### **ADDENDUM**

We wish to emphasize that ANTBM as a Mission agency is not a Para-church entity. It is an integral ministry governed by the Maranatha Baptist Church, an independent, fundamental Baptist church. Thus it is identified as an in-house service ministry to missionaries.

For missionaries who are not members of the Maranatha Baptist Church, we believe their home church is responsible for the following:

- (1) Problems that may arise while the missionary is on deputation;
- (2) Problems that arise while the missionary is on the field;
- (3) Problems which the Mission cannot resolve; and
- (4) Problems which warrant discipline.

The home church will be requested to advise the Mission of the appropriate action taken.

**Health insurance:** health insurance is a serious matter, and especially so when one is residing outside of the United States. Obtaining health insurance is the responsibility of each missionary.

**Housing goods passage fund:** the raising of funds for the shipping of housing goods is the responsibility of each missionary. The Mission strongly recommends that at the beginning of deputation the missionary investigate what will be needed, the approximate shipping costs, and the immediate establishment of a passage fund.

Antioch New Testament Baptist Mission  
P.O. Box 144  
El kton, MD 21922  
(410) 392-2222