

DATE: January 15, 2010



Providing Recognition for Non-GBIM Missionaries sent from Grace Brethren churches.

Proposal

Overview:

GBIM leadership is requesting that the Coordinator's Office of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc., develop a simple means of recognition and connection for non-GBIM missionaries sent from Grace Brethren churches. In way similar to how the Fellowship recognizes Cooperating Organizations, it could also recognize missionaries sent from our churches. Such recognition would allow missionaries not serving with GBIM to maintain the connection and identity with the Fellowship that they desire.

Rationale:

In the early 1990s, GBIM recognized that there were many missionaries who had been sent by Grace Brethren churches through other mission organizations. These missionaries felt disconnected from their Grace Brethren relationships because they were not part of GBIM. GBIM launched the Global Associate program in the in order to provide the desired recognition. From the beginning, the focus was on recognition and connection with the Fellowship, and not on integration into GBIM's support and accountability structures.

This program has been much appreciated. However, it has also created a certain level of confusion among churches due to the fact that Global Associate status was granted through GBIM. Some have incorrectly concluded that these missionaries serve under our authority and as part of our international teams. In reality, we exercise no authority and take no responsibility for their ministries.

As part of our ongoing quest to focus on our core mission GBIM has decided to discontinue the Global Associate program. However, it would be unfortunate for these Global Associates to lose their 'link' with the FGBC. We are proposing that the FGBC National Office create a category of recognition for these workers. This action should meet the primary need of the current group of Global Associates, which is an informal, relational connection with the Fellowship. It would also clear up the current confusion concerning the relationship of these men and women to GBIM.

Implementation:

1. GBIM will be glad to assist in this transition through providing our current application materials, etc., to serve as templates as the FGBC National Office creates it approval process.
2. GBIM will donate \$500 per year to the FGBC National Office for the next three years as a goodwill gesture to offset any additional administrative costs that this program might create.
3. We suggest that the goals of this program would be sufficiently met through 1) granting Global Associate status (or another name) to qualified non-GBIM missionaries, and 2) including a special page in the FGBC Annual that includes contact information for Global Associates.

**The following documents are not a part of the proposal
but are documents used in the existing Global Associates
program.**

Global Associate Information Form



PO Box 588 Winona Lake, IN 46590
bhorst@gbim.org

574-268-1888

fax: 574-267-5210

Please type or print clearly. Mark questions that do not apply to you with NA or a line. Should you need more space than given for an answer, attach separate sheets.

Date _____

General Information

1. Full Name Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms./Rev./Dr. _____
Name you prefer to be called _____ Maiden name _____
2. Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____ Mobile _____
3. Full name of spouse or fiancé _____ Preferred name _____
Wedding date _____
4. Birthday _____ Spouse's birthday _____
5. Name, gender, and date of birth of each child

Biographical Information for Publicity:

6. Please state your educational attainments

	School	Years attended	Main subject	Degree
You				
1. College	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Graduate	_____	_____	_____	_____
Spouse				
1. College	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Graduate	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Please attach a brief biographical sketch of you and your spouse.
8. What is your current mission agency? _____
9. Please attach a brief description of your and your spouse's ministries, and name the people groups you are in which you are ministering.

Associate Agreement

10. What have been the results of your discussions of this partnership with your current agency?

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11. Of which Grace Brethren Church are you a member? _____
How long? _____
12. Do you consider yourself part of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, and desire networking with Grace Brethren International Missions, ie. are you in agreement with the Statement of Faith (see back)? _____ Attach any clarifications you would like to make.
13. What security restrictions should be placed on publicity concerning your ministry (eg. our web page, news hotline, newsletter, monthly prayer guide) or our communication to you?
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GBIM Statement of Faith

Grace Brethren International Missions, in harmony with our historic position, believing the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible to be our infallible rule of faith and of practice, and feeling our responsibility to make known the divine message of the Bible, present the following articles as a statement of those basic truths taught in the Bible which are common to our Christian faith and practice.

1. **THE BIBLE:** the Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, verbally inspired in all parts, and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God (II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:21)
2. **THE ONE TRUE GOD:** existing eternally as three persons-the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22, Matt. 28:19, II Cor. 13:14).
3. **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:** His preexistence and deity (John 1:1-3), incarnation by virgin birth (John 1:14; Matt. 1:18-23), sinless life (Heb. 4:15), substitutionary death (II Cor. 5:21), bodily resurrection (Luke 24:36-43), ascension into heaven and present ministry (Heb. 4:14-16), and coming again (Acts 1:11).
4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT:** His personality (John 16:7-15); and deity (Acts 5:3-4); and His work in each believer: baptism and indwelling at the moment of regeneration (I Cor. 12:13; Rom. 8:9); and filling (Eph. 5:18) to empower for Christian life and service (Eph. 3:16; Acts 1:8; Gal. 5:22-23).
5. **MAN:** his direct creation in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-28), his subsequent fall into sin resulting in spiritual death (Gen 3:1-24; Rom 5:12), and the necessity of the new birth for his salvation (John 3:3-5).
6. **SALVATION:** a complete and eternal salvation by God's grace alone, received as the gift of God through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).
7. **THE CHURCH:** one true Church, the body and bride of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-32), composed of all true believers of the present age (I Cor. 12:12-13); and the organization of its members in local churches for worship, for edification of believers, and for world-wide gospel witness, each local church being autonomous but cooperating in fellowship and work (Eph. 4:11-16).
8. **CHRISTIAN LIFE:** a life of righteousness, good works, and separation unto God from the evil ways of the world (Rom. 12:1-2), manifested by speaking the truth (James 5:12), maintaining the sanctity of the home (Eph. 5:22-6:4), settling differences between Christians in accordance with the Word of God (I Cor. 6:1-8), not engaging in carnal strife but showing a Christ-like attitude toward men (Rom. 12:17-21), exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), and maintaining a life of prayer (Eph. 6:18; Phil.4:6), including the privilege, when sick, of calling for the elders of the church to pray for and to anoint with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:13-18).
9. **ORDINANCES:** the Christian should observe the ordinances of our Lord Jesus Christ, which are (1) baptism of believers by triune-immersion (Matt. 28:19) and (2) the threefold communion service, consisting of the washing of the saints' feet (John 13:1-17), the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:20-22, 33-34; Jude 12), and the communion of the bread and the cup (I Cor. 11:23-26).
10. **SATAN:** his existence and personality as the great adversary of God and His people (Rev. 12:1-10), his judgment (John 12:31), and final doom (Rev. 20:10).
11. **SECOND COMING:** the personal, visible, and imminent return of Christ to remove His church from the earth (I Thess. 4:16-17) before the tribulation (I Thess. 1:10; Rev. 3:10), and afterward to descend with the Church to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth (Rev. 19:11-20:6).
12. **FUTURE LIFE:** the conscious existence of the dead (Phil. 1:21-23; Luke 16:19-31), the resurrection of the body (John 5:28-29), the judgment and reward of believers (Rom. 14:10-12; II Cor. 5:10), the judgment and condemnation of unbelievers (Rev. 20:11-15), the eternal life of the saved (John 3:16), and the eternal punishment of the lost (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:15).

This statement must be subscribed to by every missionary serving under the Society. It is endorsed annually by each member of the Board of Trustees.

Global Associates

Frequently Asked Questions



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What is it?

Global Associates is recognition of missionaries from Grace Brethren churches serving in various agencies who want to stay related to what the Grace Brethren Fellowship is doing world-wide.

Why would I want to be a part of Global Associates?

As a Global Associate you would:

- be officially recognized as part of the Grace Brethren ministry family. You already are a part of the family. Global Associates would give you recognition throughout the Fellowship.
- network with Grace Brethren International Missions (GBIM) personnel and other Global Associates. You would stay in the "communication loop" as Grace Brethren churches reach out around the world.
- increase your exposure to the Fellowship and generate new prayer for your ministry. You would be listed on the Global Associate page in GBIM's prayer calendar.
- cooperate (as much as you want to) in ministry with GBIM or Charis (the fellowship of international Grace Brethren leaders). Dream a little. Make a proposal. Let's work together.

What will it cost me?

It will not cost you administrative hassle with your current mission agency. Global Associates is recognition, not partnership with GBIM. You are not "our missionary." You stay under the direction and administration of your current agency. As a Global Associate, you only add new relationships.

It will not cost you money (unless you want it to). Since Global Associates is not a GBIM program, there are no fees. Of course, GBIM has no funds available for Global Associates, so participation in meetings and conferences are at your own expense.

It may cost you some time. Global Associates invest some time to maintain the relationship with GBIM and the Fellowship. It can be as little as adding us to your prayer letter and communicating regularly. A Global Associate can invest more time and build a deeper level of relationship.

What it is not.

Global Associates is not a GBIM program or partnership. So Global Associates are not "ministering with GBIM". You have your own agency, so GBIM does not try to assume oversight or responsibility. GBIM asks that Global Associates not present themselves as part of GBIM.

Who can be a part of the network?

The Global Associates network consists of missionaries who:

- minister internationally and cross-culturally with agencies other than GBIM,
- are members of a Grace Brethren church and sent by that church into their ministry, and
- wish to be recognized as part of the Grace Brethren movement world wide.

What do I do to become a part of the Global Associate network?

- 1) Tell your church that you are interested in Global Associates.
- 2) Discuss the idea with your present agency leadership so they understand what you are doing.
- 3) Ask GBIM for an Information Form. Fill it out and return it to Jennifer Christenberry
- 4) GBIM will contact your church for their official endorsement.
- 5) As facilitators of the network, GBIM leadership will approve you to Global Associates.

What exactly would I need to do once I am a Global Associate?

Send your normal prayer letters to Jennifer Christenberry at GBIM.

Maintain communication with GBIM leadership in your area. Minimally this would be responding to communication from these leaders. You can develop the relationship further.

Set any security guidelines you need concerning communication and publicity about your ministry

Give Jennifer feedback as to how the network is functioning for you. You can ask to be removed from the network at any time.

Beyond that you may:

Visit or call GBIM while in the United States.

Initiate proposals for cooperative ministries. You may want to receive a GO team, our short-term ministry teams. You may want to ask GBIM to assist in planting a church among your people group. If you believe cooperative efforts would work, make a proposal. While we cannot guarantee availability of personnel or finances, we would be glad to consider any proposal.

What will GBIM do?

List you with other Global Associates in our prayer materials. Send you Kairos, our monthly newsletter (if it fits your security guidelines).

GBIM will keep your name and the idea of Global Associates before the Fellowship through our materials. Each Grace Brethren church decides on their own which missionaries to support. Therefore, it is unlikely that you will gain new financial support simply by being a Global Associate.

GBIM leadership in your area will try to keep you "in the loop" concerning plans, meetings, and events. GBIM may invite you to participate in retreats, conferences, and other meetings. Our leadership will include you in "family" issues, but not necessarily "business" issues.

Initiate proposals for cooperative ministry. If you cannot cooperate in a ministry proposed by GBIM, just let us know; we will not pressure you.

GBIM will work to make this effective for you. If it is apparent that Global Associates is not working for you (through inability to communicate, or other factors), we will try to work it out with you. GBIM may cancel your membership at its discretion.

Global Associate Church Response



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_____ has contacted Grace Brethren International Missions concerning joining the Global Associate network. We at GBIM are committed to the truth that the Great Commission was given to the church. Therefore, we need your response to the missionary's desire to join Global Associates. As an indication of your decisions concerning the missionary's desire and your desire to have him/her connected in this way, would you please fill out this form?

1. How long has the missionary been part of your church?

2. What is your decision concerning this missionary joining Global Associate ministry?

Approval without reservation. _____

Approval under these conditions.

Wait until: _____

Do not approve. _____

Could you also help us to get to know the missionary?

1. Could you describe the depth of relationship between your church and this missionary? (ie. little known by congregation vs. key part of global outreach)

2. Please give your over all reaction to this missionary's cross-cultural ministry.

5. Additional comments

Signed _____ Date _____