



# Case Study #2: Imago Dei Church

Pipeline Development  
October 26, 2023





# Sending at Imago Dei Church



# A Snapshot

1. **12 years old**, started Sept. 11, 2011
2. **700 members**
  - a. 62 total adult missionaries sent since inception (32 units)
  - b. 48 adult missionaries, 37 kids on the field (24 units, 6.8% of membership)
  - c. 158 advocates (21.8% of membership)
3. **15 pastors** (7 staff and 8 lay), **14 other** staff roles (3 FT, 11 PT)
  - a. Missions Team
    - i. Missions Pastor (FT staff)
    - ii. Global Mission Coordinator (8 hrs/wk)
    - iii. Local Mission Coordinator (10 hrs/wk)
    - iv. Women's Coordinator (6 hrs/wk)
    - v. Other Lay Leaders (e.g. Anna Daub)
4. **\$2.25 mil** total budget, **15%** to missions and ministry

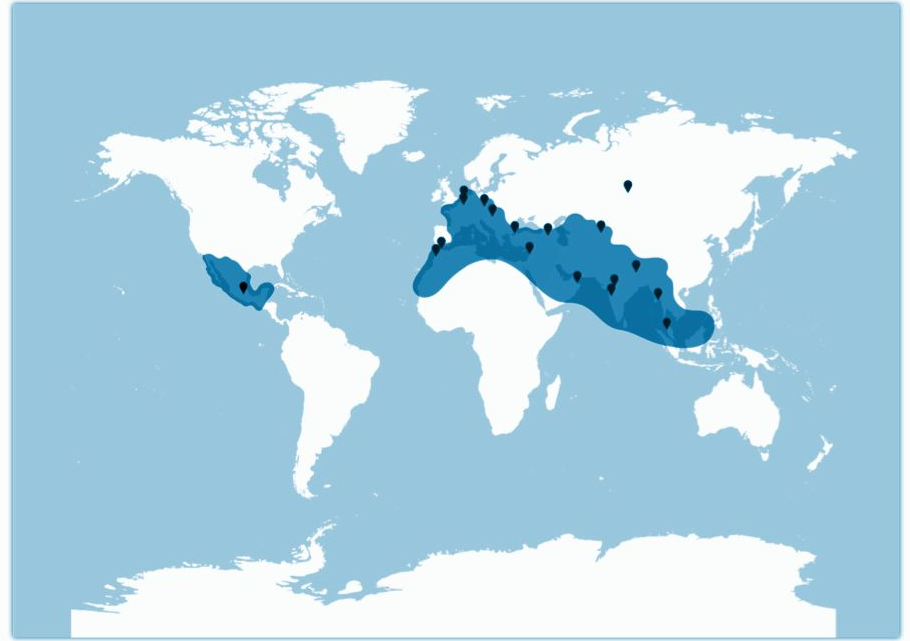
# Our Foundation

- Our Philosophy of Ministry
- Missiological Convictions
- The P.E.A.C.E. Plan
  - Plant Churches
  - Evangelize the World
  - Aid the Poor and Sick
  - Care for the Widow, Orphan and Oppressed
  - Equip Leaders

# Our Focus

- Make disciples of all peoples in all places—not just some of them in some places. So, we are focusing on a least reached region of the world with many unreached peoples and places.
- We want to send to the gospel gaps in proximity to our current missionaries within that least reached area of the world.
- Where in the world are we?
  - We have 24 family units on the field (48 adults, 37 kids).
  - Serving among 16 people groups in 17 countries.

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# Global Peoples and Places

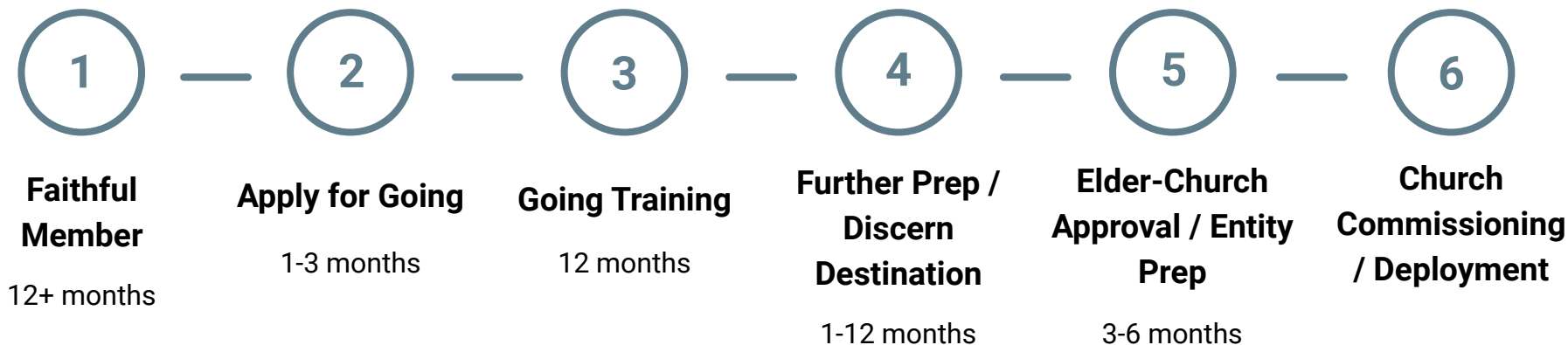
## Peoples

- Tunisian Arabs
- Moroccan Arabs
- Syrian Arabs
- Czechs
- Hungarians
- Russians
- Persians
- Baloch
- Kurds
- Uzbek
- Hindi
- Marathi
- Nepali
- Bhamar
- Malay
- Mexican

## Countries

- Lebanon
- Oman
- Netherlands
- France
- Italy
- Turkey
- Uzbekistan
- India
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Maharashtra
- Nepal
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Mexico
- Russia
- Hungary
- Czech Republic
- Morocco
- Tunisia

# Our Sending Process



# Our Support

- Strategic Sending
  - **LONG-TERM**: within least reached geographic focus area; **MID-TERM**: to long-term units; **SHORT-TERM**: to mid and long-term units.
- Advocacy Teams (see [document](#))
  - 2, 8 people; care for the missionary; cultivate prayer and partnership from the body.
- Short Term Sending (see [document](#))
  - A short-term trip of members to each missionary/church planting team per year.
- Retreat and Pastoral Visits/Care
  - A 3-4 day missionary retreat every 2-3 years; a visit from a pastor and his wife every 3-4 years (no less than once a term); regular calls and communication.

# Our Partnership: Covenant for Missionaries

- Basically, the same commitments as other members.
- Some additional/adjusted expectations due to the circumstances of missionary life and service.
  - 2a - Manner of ministry *consistent* with IDC's Beliefs and Philosophy of Ministry.
  - 2b - Connect with a local church (when possible) and other IDC sent ones; enjoy the benefits of Christian fellowship and the Supper with local churches.
  - 2c - Spend at least *20% of stateside* at IDC; regular contact and appropriate vulnerability for care and partnership.
  - 2d - Submission to and cooperation with appropriate authority—organizational and sending church.



What to expect from GOING?



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- Four Developmental Goals for Us
  - Cultivate spiritual vitality
  - Develop strategic-missional mindedness
  - Equip for the core missionary task
  - Set appropriate expectations for life on the field
- Three Components
  - Deepen Discipleship
  - Equip Classroom Learning
  - Practical Ministry Experience

# What to expect from GOING?

- Deepen Discipleship
  - A plan for reading the New Testament in 25 weeks.
  - Some supplemental reading and assignments (e.g. scripture memory)
  - Communal accountability component (team based)
- The Equip Classroom
  - Be there and be apart of the conversation
  - Help facilitate learning when it is your turn (reading requirements/expectations)
- Practical Ministry Experience
  - A goal of bringing something from nothing
  - Working together as teams
  - Four coaching sessions along the way

# What to expect from GOING?

- Afterwards
  - Exit interviews—for encouragement, constructive feedback on growth areas, and discussing next steps.
  - Completing GOING does not mean that you are ready for missionary service
- Four Possible Outcomes
  - You become a more globally minded and missionally faithful member
  - Imago Dei sends you to join one of our current missionary teams
  - Imago Dei sends you to a new people/place/team within our focus area
  - Another church sends you to join work outside of our focus area



# Challenges We Are Facing



# Challenges

- Addressing issues further upstream.
  - Deficient missional living and disciple-making engines alongside of a vibrant sending culture will eventually make us anemic.
- Getting people ready.
  - Strong sending culture, weak missional living culture.
  - Telling folks they are not ready or the right fit.
- Focusing our limited resources.
  - Prospective missionaries are consumeristic with their own plans, want us to cosign and commit our service to them.
- Matching our folks to field teams.
- Too many people and places, tough to keep our partnership commitments.