

Strategic Sending - Vision, Objectives and Ground Rules

Version 2.1

Vision

We want to see **all churches** pray for **the world** and send workers in line with the **desires of the Lord**.

Objectives

By the grace of God, and subject to his will...

1. The Strategic Sending Team will **develop, publish and promote a set of sending messages**¹ to encourage the whole church to take the whole gospel to the whole world².
2. Every church in the world will get **a simple, clear message** encouraging action in limited areas. (The whole church)
3. The messages will take into account every God-given work of the churches that seems to need **major sending** at this time. (The whole gospel)
4. Together the messages will encourage **engagement with the whole world**. (The whole world³)

Ground Rules

“Strategic Sending” is our name for the project, for the team, for the website, and for the work of developing the set of sending messages.

Strategic Sending is an **evangelical**⁴ **Christian** project under the auspices of the Lausanne Movement. We subscribe to the Lausanne Covenant⁵.

We promote, in a biblical way, specific **geographic directions** for prayer, sending and partnership. We don't champion **methods** (whether of prayer, sending or partnership) nor any **paradigms** of mission beyond the need to send, pray and partner. We hope that this will allow the maximum number of biblical Christians, churches, agencies, denominations and networks to use Strategic Sending as a “plug-in” within their own structures and paradigms.

We expect all Christians to act with **love and respect** for all human beings, and our messages will never encourage Christians to engage in acts of violence, deception or coercion.

We affirm the **importance of local churches** in the mission of God, while recognising the role of denominations, specialist agencies, and networks in accomplishing his will on earth.

Our Sending Messages will be **directive but not prescriptive**. It is up to local churches and other organisations to make their own evaluation of the message(s) in relation to God's will in their situation. There will be no central management, and no evaluation of compliance.

Strategic Sending should encourage **co-operation, not division**, so that the world may know that God has really sent his Son among us⁶.

All things come together under one head, Jesus Christ. We have faith in a person. We are responsible to him. **We will be judged** by him. And because we in the Strategic Sending Team hope to influence many people, we expect to be judged with greater strictness⁷. So we must do our work with care.

We aim to work with **wisdom, love and power**. We value wisdom, knowledge and insight. We work in love for those we serve – God, the churches and the world. We need the power and revelation of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore we will pray. **Prayer, thanksgiving** and openness to God will be present in all we do, even if it seems to slow us down. We depend on God for our success⁸. We want more workers to go out into the harvest field. Therefore we must pray to the Lord of the Harvest⁹.

This is **an on-going project**¹⁰. As the world changes, the messages will change. New versions will be published from time to time. Therefore Strategic Sending will not stop when the first Sending Messages are published. It should continue until either God shows a better way to encourage good sending or the churches are evenly spread through the world and so major sending is no longer required.

Our **work will be in English**. Master documents will be in English. We will not specify a particular style of English (e.g. U.S. or British) but will try to keep our English simple so that many people will understand it. We encourage translation of the Sending Messages into many languages. We welcome translation of our working documents such as this one.

Chris Maynard was the first to be given the vision for Strategic Sending. With the establishment of the Strategic Sending Team in 2024, others have now joined him. He is prepared **to continue leading** Strategic Sending until the 2030's (if God wills). Then he hopes to hand over to new leadership.

History of Changes to this Document

Version	Description of Change(s)	Date	Contributor(s)
1.x	Various versions developed under the “Nehemiah3” brand.	Mostly in 2012	Mostly Chris Maynard
2.0	A new draft, substantially revised following discussion within the Lausanne Strategic Sending Team (SST). But the overall meaning of the document has not changed much. No paragraph was deleted. One paragraph was added to ground rules about the messages being “directive but not prescriptive”.	2024-08-26	Chris Maynard and the SST
2.0.1	Removed an out-dated reference to “Nehemiah3” from the final paragraph. Reworded endnote 1 without changing the basic meaning.	2024-09-06	Chris Maynard
2.0.2	Revised the vision to be explicit about wanting churches to pray and send, rather than the more general “engage”.	2024-10-14	Chris Maynard
2.1	Revised the vision to improve the wording. Added important new ground rule about “geographic directions”. Revised the ground rule about “love and respect”. Added date of start of Sending Team.	2025-03-03	Chris Maynard and the SST

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¹ A “sending message” is information that encourages a large number of people to give their attention to specific parts of the world in the name of Jesus Christ. We are inspired by Romans 10:13-15 where Paul identifies sending as fundamental to salvation and by John 20:21 where we find that sending is intrinsic to the trinity and Christ’s own relationship to his disciples. We also recognise the wisdom of Nehemiah in his careful deployment of the whole people to the whole wall in carefully organised sections. Nehemiah’s organisation in Nehemiah chapter 3 is a close analogy to the work of the Strategic Sending Team.

² Taken from the Manifesto of the Lausanne Movement “Our manifesto at Manila is that the whole church is called to take the whole gospel to the whole world, with all necessary urgency, unity and sacrifice.” See lausanne.org/statement/the-manila-manifesto.

³ In each version of the parable of the sower (Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8) the sower is given no responsibility to avoid the path, the stony ground or the weeds. On the other hand, as Wikipedia notes about “broadcast sowing”, the crucial thing is to sow evenly and at the right “rate” – i.e. the right number of seeds in each area for the most fruitful crop.

⁴ Not all evangelicals call themselves “evangelical” but we don’t have a better word. We use the word in the same way as Operation World 7th Edition. On page 958 evangelicals are defined as “*all who emphasize and adhere to the following: 1. The Lord Jesus Christ as the sole source of salvation through faith in Him, as validated by His crucifixion and resurrection. 2. Personal faith and conversion with regeneration by the Holy Spirit. 3. Recognition of the inspired Word of God [the Bible] as the ultimate basis and authority for faith and Christian living. 4. Commitment to biblical witness, evangelism and mission that brings others to faith in Christ. Evangelicals are largely Protestant, Independent or Anglican, but some are Catholic or Orthodox.*”

⁵ See <https://lausanne.org/statement/lausanne-covenant>.

⁶ See John 17:23

⁷ James 3:1

⁸ John 15:5

⁹ Luke 10:2

¹⁰ We have kept the word “project”. Some people would call this a “process”. They say a project must have an end point. But “on-going project” may be easier to understand.