

# The Missionary Member Statutes

2<sup>nd</sup> edition

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## Preface

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The *Missionary Member Statutes* were written for the Family's Missionary members, and cover the code of conduct and procedures that Missionary members are expected to adhere to within their circle of membership. The goal of these statutes will help the Family's Missionary members to fulfill Jesus' Law of Love, as based on two of His most important commandments: to love God and others as themselves.

The principle that should be emphasized above all is the Law of Love. All Family members should strive to make the Law of Love the cardinal rule that we abide by when fulfilling our responsibilities, exercising our rights, and obeying Family rules. As the apostle Peter wrote, "Above all things have fervent love among yourselves: for love shall cover the multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8).

The Missionary member category is one of active service. It is comprised of active Homes and members who are devoted to the Family and to winning and helping the world's lost and needy people. Missionary member Homes and Missionary members are those who maintain a high spiritual standard in their service for the Lord, witnessing, promoting the *Activated* program, and being a positive influence in their community.

Missionary membership is a place for those who are missionaries, witnesses, and for those who believe as the discipleship Family does, but who, for whatever reason, are not living the complete Family discipleship lifestyle as outlined in the *Charter*. The individual spiritual standard for Missionary members is similar to that of Family discipleship; the main difference is in the lifestyle.

Those awarded Missionary membership will need to work hard to maintain their membership, but as believers and missionaries, the Family's Missionary members are very important to the Lord, to Mama and Peter, to the rest of the Family.

## Explanatory Notes

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The *Missionary Member Statutes* define the rights and responsibilities of Missionary members and the methods used in the governing of Missionary member Homes. They also outline the logistical and reporting differences between Missionary member Homes that report and tithe directly to World Services, and Attached Missionary members who report and tithe to an existing Family discipleship or Missionary member Home.

The following explanations will help in the study of this document:

**Format:** these statutes are presented in two levels. The first, in **bold text**, are the root clauses, followed by the explanations in normal text. The root clauses carry more weight than the explanations because the clauses are the precisely worded laws that make up the core of the statutes. Explanations are included where needed to clarify and help to catch the spirit or intent of the root clauses. There are examples, scenarios, and sometimes quotations from the Letters included within some of the explanations to help illustrate the practical application of the root clauses. The examples do not cover every situation, nor are they meant to be laws in themselves. They are simply meant to help convey the spirit of the rule itself.

**Age designation:** although the application of the *Missionary Member Statutes* is for Missionary members 16 years and older, children and teens under that age who are Missionary members, particularly 12- to 15-year-olds, should also have a basic understanding of the "Responsibilities and Rights" and age-appropriate parts of the "Missionary Member Rules." The children and teen's parents and shepherds should be teaching them to live by the general principles of behavior codified therein.

**Local laws:** the *Missionary Member Statutes* cover the Family International's religious beliefs and policies for Missionary members worldwide. Since laws vary greatly from country to country, it's not possible to ensure that all Missionary member policies strictly conform to the laws in every country in which Missionary members reside. Missionary members should be mindful of the laws regarding their activities in the countries in which they reside.

**Definitions and Explanation of Terms:** The definitions of terms used or referred to in the *Missionary Member Statutes* are included in the *Family Discipleship Charter's* "[Definitions and Explanation of Terms](#)," which Missionary members are welcome to read or refer to.

**"Responsibilities and Rights of Missionary Members and Homes":** defines the responsibilities that Missionary members and Homes are expected to live up to as their standard of membership. It also explains the rights of the individual members and of parents, and includes the rights of a Missionary member Home.

**"Missionary Member Rules":** a summary of rules and guidelines pertaining to Missionary members and Missionary Member Homes.

**"Missionary Member Procedures":** contains the various procedures that Missionary members and Missionary membership Homes are expected to follow for everything from accepting new disciples into a Home, to movement between different circles of Family membership, and more.

**"Missionary Member Board Criteria":** contains the six board criteria, which define the standard for Missionary member Homes within each of the six Family board pillars.

**Appendices:** supplementary material.

# Responsibilities and Rights of Missionary Members and Homes

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The Family International is a Christian missionary movement dedicated to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Family members receive Jesus as their personal Savior and are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Additionally, Missionary members have chosen the Lord's call to serve Him in the Family International, and therefore have responsibilities to both God and the Family, and certain rights guaranteed them in God's Word and the *Missionary Member Statutes*.

## Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member

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### A Missionary member should:

- A. Maintain a close connection with God through communion with Jesus and hearing from Him, prayer and praise, reading of His Word through both the Bible and the Letters, Scripture and Word memorization, and the minimizing and resisting of worldly, ungodly, and unedifying influences in his life; thus exhibiting the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Galatians 5:22–23).**

Missionary members should strive to maintain a deep relationship with Jesus through prayer, praise, the written Word, and personal prophecy. As Family members you should pray and hear from the Lord, both individually and with others where possible, and strengthen your spirit through regularly reading God's Word.

"The Lord is expecting a great deal from all of us, because 'unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more' (Luke 12:48). We are given an abundance of His love, His truth, and His Word. We must be the most well-fed Christians on Earth, and still the Lord continues to pour His Word bountifully upon us—both through the WS publications, as well as the Words you are personally receiving straight from our Husband and Lover. So with all that He gives us, He can certainly require that we work to achieve the spiritual goals He has set before us" (ML #3197:4).

You should resist the Devil (James 4:7) by actively striving to minimize worldly, ungodly, and unedifying influences in your life. These worldly, ungodly, and unedifying influences could be anything that pulls you away from the Lord or pollutes your spirit, mind, or heart with "junk food" of the spirit and hinders your connection with God. This would include reading unedifying or ungodly material, including pornographic material, in books, magazines, or on the Internet; watching of unedifying videos, movies, or TV; playing unedifying computer games; engaging in ungodly or unedifying communications; listening to ungodly music; browsing ungodly or unedifying Internet sites, using foul language, or engaging in other activities that are a reproach to the cause of Christ.

While not all novels, reading material, movies, TV, computer games, music, or Internet sites are necessarily ungodly or unedifying, and while undoubtedly in your day-to-day work and outreach you will come in contact with these influences, the excessive intake of any worldly influences is unedifying to your spirit and thus you should minimize its influences in your life.

The Lord said, "If you are to focus on the power of the keys, if you are to allow the words I speak to you to dictate your life, you must rid yourselves of all that stands in your way of this. Detach yourselves from other things that clutter your life—the cares of the world, the pride of life, anything that opposes My Word" (ML#3374:50).

"If you are unsure about whether something is unedifying, go to the Word, go to the Lord, counsel with your shepherds and be open to what the Word, the Lord, and your shepherds say" (ML #3197:61).

- B. Believe that David was God's Endtime prophet, that Maria is God's chosen and anointed successor, who has inherited David's mantle as God's prophetess, and that Peter was commissioned by David and anointed by the Lord to work alongside Maria.**

There are a number of differences between the churches and us, but the main one is that God gave us David, His Endtime Prophet, as our founder, shepherd, king, and leader. Through the years Dad trained Maria as his successor, and with his passing, the Lord has anointed her as His Prophetess, Shepherdess, "winetaster," and as the Family's queen. Years ago in prophecy through Dad the Lord said, "When David is

taken from thee, you shall be known as a prophetess, and you shall be heeded as the Oracles of God and you shall become as another one—as the Prophetess of God!” (ML #111:22).

Not long before Dad went to be with the Lord, Dad also prayed for and commissioned Peter to carry on as the Family’s king after he died. Dad prayed, “Jesus, bless Peter and anoint him for this task to carry on after me, And Mama, too, Lord. Anoint them, Jesus! Give them wisdom, Lord, and inspiration. Help them to hear Thy voice, that they may carry on to lead Thy people into the future” (ML #2993:40).

We know by the wonderful fruit of David’s, Maria’s, and Peter’s ministries, the billions reached with the Gospel and the millions of souls saved through the Family, that they are called and chosen of God.

**C. Believe and teach the Family’s fundamental beliefs, both biblical and revealed, as published in the “Family International’s Statement of Faith” or otherwise declared as such in a publication with a GN or ML number.**

The Lord—through the Bible, Dad, Mama, and Peter—has poured forth an immense amount of teaching, training, guidance, spiritual truths, revelations, and direction. The Bible and the Letters embody our religious beliefs and doctrine. These beliefs vary in importance, but some are an integral and essential part of our faith, which as Family members we must believe and teach.

The “[Family International’s Statement of Faith](#)” contains a comprehensive listing and basic explanation of the Family’s fundamental beliefs, including the following subjects: the Holy Scriptures, God and the Trinity, Creation, the fall of man, Jesus Christ the Son of God, salvation by grace, the Holy Spirit, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, gifts of the Spirit, the gift of prophecy, divine healing, keys of the kingdom, fruits of the Spirit, angels, departed saints, Satan and his demons, spiritual warfare, prayer, the Lord’s Supper—communion, the Church: the fellowship of believers, the Great Commission, consecration, non-conformity to the world, discipleship, cooperative communal living, marriage and children, the sanctity of life, civil government and religious liberty, Jesus’ Law of Love, perspective on sexuality, the Bride of Christ, and the Time of the End.

We also have other beliefs that are explained in published MLs, which we consider to be fundamental and essential. However, not every Letter or publication from World Services contains fundamental or essential beliefs. There are thousands of Letters that have been published on a myriad of subjects. Contained within these are a wide variety of teaching and revelations, dreams and spiritual experiences, and advice and counsel on both spiritual and practical matters. Some of these are fundamental and essential to our belief system and some are not.

For example, salvation by grace, eternal salvation, prophecy, and a belief in spiritual warfare, angels, and departed saints are all essential Family beliefs. You can’t be a Family member unless you believe these truths. The same holds true with such doctrines as Creation, as outlined in Genesis, that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, etc.

There are, however, times when Dad has made statements in the Letters to the effect of, “This is what I feel about this subject, but you don’t have to believe it if you don’t want to.” Dad also had different hypotheses and theories on how things could play out in the Endtime. These speculations and scenarios were not considered fundamental Family beliefs, whereas Dad’s direct revelation concerning our living in the Time of the End, which all Family members embrace, is essential.

As Dad said, “We all heartily agree on all the fundamentals and all the major doctrines and the things that are really essential. So we don’t need to split theological hairs over some of these little things that I say. But what the Scripture says, that’s it! You’d better agree with this!” (ML #2234:27).

**D. Read the Bible, the Letters, and other Family publications, both old and new.**

**E. Live in accordance with the Word by applying the spiritual and practical counsel given in the Letters to his daily life.**

The Letters contain God’s counsel for the Family, and as Family members we should do our best to please God by following the guidance He’s given in His Word. Missionary members, however, are not required to live the counsel in the Word that pertains to Family disciples that portray the sample of full-time communal discipleship as per the Words of David, though they are nonetheless encouraged to apply it as much as they are able.

**F. Endeavor to overcome, including when necessary requesting united prayer against, personal weaknesses and besetting sins, so that they do not grow to cause physical or spiritual disruption in the Home, and/or physical, spiritual, or emotional harm to himself or others.**

**G. Live by the principles of the Law of Love: to interact lovingly and harmoniously with all members of the Home in which he resides and with Family members at large.**

Dad succinctly explained the Law of Love in the following quote. "'Love doeth thy neighbor no harm,' for 'thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself': This is God's Law of Love! 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' 'Against such love there is no law.' This is the Lord's Law of Love. Obey it and you can have total love, life, and liberty in the Lord. These are God's conditions [Romans 13:10; Matthew 22:39; 7:12; Galatians 5:22–23]" (ML #302C:15).

Many have the idea that the Law of Love concerns only sexual matters. This is not so. The Law of Love governs all of our actions. It's the foundation of our unity and is the basis for all of our Family rules, rights, and responsibilities. (The Law of Love, and all its aspects, is further defined in the GN series on the Law of Love, MLs #3201–3212, as well as in the Family Statement, "God's Law of Love—The Family's Foundation Principle.") This clause in the statutes is one of the most important, as it sets the tone for all that is to follow and influences all our interactions with each other.

"The Law of Love is the guiding principle of our lives; it's what everything we do should be based on. The Lord says, 'You must learn the gift of encouragement. That's a very major part of My Law of Love.'—And what about comfort, simplicity, preferring one another, doing a little extra for your brother or sister, sympathy, compassion, and feeling the pain which others suffer? These are all important parts of the Law of Love as well" (ML#3201:24).

Living the Law of Love includes engaging in loving communications and refraining from gossip. Blurting out everything you know or everything you may have heard about a person or a situation can quickly develop into harmful rumors or gossip. This is not love, and the "pastor's pillow" effect of gossip can be very harmful.

We should endeavor to fulfill the scriptural injunction to "bear one another's burdens" and to love one another by doing all we can to make sure that we are aware of the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of those around us, and do whatever we can to help care for them. We should refrain from discord and allow the Law of Love to govern all of our actions, for it is the basis for all of our Family rules, responsibilities, and rights.

**H. Conduct himself as a good Christian, showing outgoing love and concern for others and interact as lovingly and harmoniously as possible with all people.**

As Christians and representatives of the Family, we are responsible to manifest the Lord's love to all men by being good samples of His love; to avoid actions, words, or attitudes that would stumble, hurt or confuse others, or reflect negatively on the Lord, His Word, or His work.

**I. Refrain from activities, appearance, or behavior that would be a reproach to the cause of Christ and/or reflect negatively on the Family.**

Each of us should be a good example of a Christian and of a Family member, for our sample speaks much louder than our sermon. As much as possible, our actions should lift up Jesus, and should not defame, blemish, or be a poor reflection of the Lord or the Family.

In different areas of the world, this could mean refraining from different things. Wherever we live, we must take into account the traditions and culture of the community or country and refrain from behavior or speech that would unnecessarily offend individuals of that culture. This is part of trying to comply with the biblical counsel to "become all things to all men" (1 Corinthians 9:22).

Missionary members and their household are a reflection of the Family to the public and local community and must be in line with Family standards and local expectations in such things as cleanliness, vehicles, property maintenance, adequate living accommodations, care and education of their children, and responsible witnessing with children and teens.

**J. Recognize that his body is the temples of the Holy Spirit, and as such not abuse it; keep a clean and presentable appearance, and actively and consistently endeavor to stay healthy and physically fit.**

The Family's definition of "abusing the body" also includes the smoking of any substance. Cigarettes, cigars, pipes, or any other substance people can smoke are not to be partaken of by Missionary members. We should also be moderate in the consumption of alcohol, keep a clean and presentable appearance, compatible with the country and culture in which we live, and actively and consistently endeavor to stay healthy and physically fit.

As witnessing Christians, our personal appearance is also part of our testimony and therefore an important part of our witness that can reflect either positively or negatively on our missionary work.

**K. Fulfill the reporting and tithing requirements, and appear each month on a Missionary member Home's eTRF without exception.**

The reporting and tithing requirements are further outlined in "[Home Requirements and Activities](#)."

**L. Respect the *Charter's* standard and rules when in any Family discipleship Home or when fellowshiping with Family disciples.**

When visiting Family discipleship Homes, or attending Family disciple fellowships, Missionary members must respect the *Charter's* rules and standard that Family disciples are committed to maintain, including abiding by any alcohol, movie, and Internet usage guidelines, or any other guidelines that the Family discipleship Homes have in place.

As stated in "[Offenses Warranting the Placing of a Missionary Member on Probation](#)," sexual acts between Missionary members and Family disciples are not permitted. Missionary members who violate this rule will be placed on probation for three to six months.

As outlined in the "[Governing Principles of the Missionary Membership Rules](#)" persistent breaking of the *Missionary Member Statutes* may result in the loss of Missionary membership.

**M. Live in unity with other Family Homes and members.**

**N. Live in accordance with the agreed-upon goals of the area and the Family at large.**

These would include any region-wide, country-wide, and/or city-wide goals that have been voted in by the respective Homes.

**O. Fulfill his obligations and responsibilities, whether financial, legal, or otherwise. This includes handling finances or business dealings with other Family members in an honest and responsible manner.**

An important part of your sample as a good Christian is to fulfill your obligations, legally, morally, financially, or otherwise, to others.

**P. Present himself, his Family membership, and his work in an honest manner and act responsibly in all business or financial dealings, provisioning, fundraising, product distribution, appeals for support, bookkeeping, and other obligations related to legal entities, humanitarian aid, and the receipt of government benefits.**

The Lord has instructed us to "provide things honest in the sight of all men" (Romans 12:17), and it's important that our sample to others reflects that in every aspect of our lives. As Missionary members you should be open about your membership in the Family when witnessing and in particular when distributing tools and fundraising, provisioning, making appeals, etc. While it's good to present the Family's works overall, Missionary members or Homes must not present other Homes' or members' works that they are not involved in as their own.

An Attached Missionary member is a member of the Home he is attached to and may present that Home's work when witnessing.

**Q. Engage in active missionary outreach on a regular basis.**

The Lord's Great Commission to all Christians is to "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). As Family members we have answered that call and have made a commitment to win others to Jesus by preaching the Gospel. As Missionary members you should actively engage in missionary activities such as distribution of Family publications and products, personal witnessing and soul winning, signing up people to the *Activated* magazine course, and follow-up and/or building up a local body of believers. Attention should be given to the distribution of the *Activated* materials and promoting the *Activated* magazine course, if it is available in your area.

**1. A Missionary member 16 years of age and older, must, health permitting, spend a minimum of two hours per week, or eight hours per month, engaged in quality witnessing.**

The goal of this clause, is for able Missionary members to spend time preaching the Gospel and helping others to grow in their knowledge of and faith in the Word. Two hours is the bare minimum for those who simply are unable to witness more. These two hours per week should be "quality witnessing hours." This two hours of focused witnessing does not include fundraising activities that have little or no witness, such as ballooning, face painting, car washing, or CTP activities that include little or no witness. Quality witnessing hours should focus on witnessing activities, such as signing up people to the *Activated* magazine course, distribution of Family publications and products, personal witnessing, soul winning, follow-up by visitation, phone, or mail, and/or establishing and ministering to a local church of believers.

- 2. When pastoring or establishing a following, a Missionary member should teach his converts by using the *12 Foundation Stones* and/or *12 Bridges* courses, or work towards bringing his following to that level with the goal of teaching them these courses.**

If the *12 Foundation Stones* or *12 Bridges* class books are not yet translated into your local language, you could at least cover the main points in each *12 Foundation Stones* class by using whatever materials you have available in your language, supplemented by whatever Letters or materials referred to in the classes that are available in your local language.

We recognize that among select, non-Christian cultures, many of your following may not reach the level of *12 Foundation Stones* or *12 Bridges*, or that it may take a long time before they do so. Nevertheless, you should be working towards bringing them along spiritually as much as they are able to receive, even if progress is slower than in other cultures or countries.

**R. Take precautions to keep the Home library, electronic or otherwise, secure.**

See also "[Designations of Family Publications.](#)"

- 1. All publications in the Home must have specified portions deleted or modified in accordance with World Services Pubs Purge guidelines.**
- S. Receive permission from the Family disciple and Missionary member Homes in a metropolitan area before distributing Family publications or products to the general public, if not residing in that particular metropolitan area.**
- 1. The regional council may overrule the decision of the Homes and allow or disallow the member requesting permission to witness in the metropolitan area.**
  - 2. A Missionary member may not distribute Family publications or products to the general public in a metropolitan area its regional council has designated closed to those not residing there, unless the Missionary member resides in that metropolitan area.**
- T. Live in unity by supporting the joint decisions of other Missionary members living in the Home.**

If any Missionary member, after counsel, prayer, and seeking the Lord with the other Missionary members he/she lives with, is still in disagreement or unable to cooperate with the majority decisions, he/she should voluntarily leave that Home by moving to another Missionary member Home or opening his/her own Missionary member Home.

- U. Obtain written permission from the regional council—or a production center authorized by the regional council—before engaging in any legal agreements in the name of Family entities or any Family-authorized companies that concern the distribution or sale of Family products, or before acting as an official representative—other than as a sales representative—of any Family companies.**
- V. Inform and seek counsel from the regional Communications and Community Relations board before participating in national, international, or other major media interviews, documentaries, websites or forums, movies, books, written or verbal rebuttals, press releases, or articles in the name of the Family.**

Dealing with the media can be precarious and can have repercussions if mishandled, thus Homes must counsel with and receive authorization from their regional CCR board before becoming involved in any major media interaction. This includes any media that will affect the country, other countries, or any other major media interviews. It also covers media outreach that is conducted in the name of the Family, or in the name of a local work that is known as the Family.

If the media interview is a local affair—for example, if the local newspaper wants to do an article on your Home's charitable or missionary work outreach—this would not fall under the above guidelines and therefore the Home would not be required to seek prior counsel and approval from the CCR board. If, however, you live in a major city and the local newspaper is published nationally, then you would need to check with your CCR board before granting the interview, since such an article could have national ramifications.

When granting permission for a local article or interview, the Home needs to realize that they are only speaking on behalf of their local Home, and are not representing the Family International.

## Rights of an Individual Missionary Member

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### **A Missionary member has the right to:**

- A. Remain a Family Missionary member, providing he conducts himself as a Missionary member, as outlined in these *Missionary Member Statutes*.**

If you are keeping the rules and requirements in these *Missionary Member Statutes* and complying with any GNs concerning the responsibilities of Missionary membership, and provided your Home does not fail the Home review, you cannot be moved to Fellow membership, or be excommunicated; you have the right to remain a Missionary member.

- B. Receive all Missionary member mailings from World Services.**
- C. Communicate, without hindrance, directly with World Services Leadership and/or other leadership, and to have the email addresses of these persons readily available.**
- D. Apply to join a different circle of Family membership providing he conducts himself according to the appropriate governing rules.**
- E. Withdraw from Missionary membership at any time he desires, to no longer be part of the Family.**

Anyone is free to leave the Family at any time he wishes. No one is forced to remain. In fact, if someone wants to depart from Family membership, we encourage him to do so. We do not pressure anyone to remain in the Family; on the contrary, we seek only those who have made a personal decision to be in the Family in whatever place of service he chooses.

- F. Sit as a board member, if appointed by the regional council.**
- G. Receive as much service from the boards as the boards and their members are able to give.**
- H. Make the decision on medical matters involving himself and/or his children.**

We believe that divine healing is a privilege available to all who believe in Jesus. The decision to avail yourself of that privilege is a personal matter between you and God. It is recommended that the individual hear from the Lord regarding his personal health issues or about those of his children, and follow the Lord's instructions according to his faith.

"According to your faith be it unto you" [Matthew 9:29]. As Dad said, "God wants you to make your own choice by faith according to your own faith—not mine, not ours, not somebody else's, but yours!" (ML #M:45).

If you are a parent with or the legal guardian of children in the Family, the medical decisions regarding your underage children are your responsibility to make, and they should be made in your child's best interests.

There are legal factors to consider when making medical decisions for your children, including the ages when children can make their own decisions. As far as the Family is concerned, those who have reached the age of 16 are eligible to make their own medical decisions in countries where this is legal.

Of course, in an emergency, if an adult is unconscious, or otherwise incapacitated, then the husband or wife or parents, or in the case of a single, others in the Home, are responsible to pray and make whatever

medical decisions are necessary to help the individual. If an emergency concerns a child, it is the parents or legal guardians who have the responsibility to decide what should be done.

- I. Report to the appropriate authorities and/or initiate criminal proceedings in his name or for his minor children if he believes that a criminal act has been committed against them or against members of his personal family.**
  - 1. This legal action must be initiated by the individual, and can not be taken on behalf of the Family Home he resides in or on behalf of the Family as an organization.**
- J. Initiate civil proceedings against a non-Family individual or organization.**
  - 1. A two-thirds majority of the adult members of the Home must approve the action. If the member does not receive a two-thirds majority approval, the member initiating the civil suit would need to apply to join another Missionary member Home, or report as his own Missionary member Home, until the proceedings have concluded.**
- K. Initiate civil proceedings against another Family individual, if he wishes to. The member bringing the legal action may be required by the regional shepherds to step out of Missionary membership to do so. Once the proceedings have concluded the member may reapply for Missionary or Fellow membership.**

We believe that Family members should settle their personal differences by using all of the avenues provided by the right of redress rather than initiating civil action against one another. We believe it is unscriptural for one Family member to take another Family member to the civil courts, as the apostle Paul clearly states, "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers. Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?" (1 Corinthians 6:1, 5-7 NKJ).

Nevertheless, if a Family member still wishes to pursue civil action against another Family member, he is free to do so. However, because of the ramifications the action could have on the Home and its members, on its ministries, or other Homes in the area, the Family member may be required to step outside of Family membership for the duration of the legal action. Once the issue has been concluded, he may reapply for Missionary or Fellow membership.

## Responsibilities of a Missionary Member Home

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Though living communally is encouraged for Missionary members, it is not a requirement for membership. MMs who report alone and do not reside with other MMs are both a Missionary member and a Missionary member Home, so must fulfill both this ["Responsibilities of a Missionary Member Home"](#) and ["Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member."](#)

### **A Missionary member Home is responsible to:**

- A. Send a monthly eTRF of their activities and witnessing statistics, as per the instructions received from their reporting office, and tithe 10% of their Home's income to World Services, as well as contribute 1% to the Family Aid Fund, and 3% to their common pot.**

- 1. The reporting office can allow a Home to use a paper TRF in instances where using the eTRF may not be possible.**

In order to cover the cost of mailings and other services, World Services will continue to set a minimum figure for the monthly 10% tithe. Special exceptions from the minimum may be granted in hardship cases by the RSs.

In cases of no, low, or late 10% tithe, 1% FAF contribution, or 3% common pot contribution, no or late Home monthly report, the Missionary member Home will automatically be placed on probationary notice. If the situation with the no or late tithe, FAF contribution, common pot contribution or monthly report is not rectified within two months, the Missionary member Home will be moved to Fellow membership.

MM Homes are eligible to receive FAF benefits including baby bonuses, pass-on gifts, and a Tool Fund gift. Pioneer gifts and Home loans will also be available to MM Homes if the RSs decide they are eligible. See the ["Definition of a Missionary Member Pioneer Home"](#) for details on MM pioneer Home requirements.

MM Homes will qualify for emergency funds just as FD Homes do, but they will not retain them in their Homes in the form of a HER. To make sure the emergency funds are available to MM Homes quickly, WS has prearranged with the RSs to ensure that any qualifying MM Home that requests assistance get emergency funds within 48 hours. Remote MM Homes may be given emergency funds to use immediately in an emergency until more FAF funds can be gotten to them.

As members of the Family, Missionary members are also encouraged to share of their abundance through offerings to World Services and/or Family members.

- B. Be free from debt, to a Family governing body, Family business, Family Homes or individuals, or to a business that services the Family.**

If a Missionary member Home doesn't tithe 10% of the Home's income, and as well contribute 1% to the Family Aid Fund, and 3% to their regional common pot; or misses a Home loan payment for two consecutive months, they will automatically be placed on probationary notice. If these are not paid within the 60-day probationary period the Missionary member Home will be moved to Fellow membership.

- C. Complete the Missionary member Home reviews and sends them in on time. Homes that do not send in the Missionary member Home review will be in jeopardy of losing their Missionary membership.**

- 1. Missionary member Homes that do not pass the Home review will be in jeopardy of losing their Missionary membership.**

The decisions and actions of all those residing in the Missionary member household, including any non-Missionary members, will be taken into consideration and could influence the outcome of the Home at its review. Under extenuating circumstances the Home may be allowed to remain MM with instructions to improve in a certain area by the next review or to rectify something within a specified amount of time.

**D. Be an example of a positive Christian influence.**

A Missionary member Home should not share the same premises with those outside their immediate family who are a reproach to the cause of Christ, or with those involved in criminal behavior.

**E. Follow directives from World Services and area goals sent out by the regional council to the Missionary member Family.**

**F. Ensure that their children residing in the Home are protected from all forms of abuse, including physical, mental, emotional, sexual, or psychological.**

**G. Ensure that the Missionary members listed on the Home's eTRF are currently Missionary members.**

**1. If, after being dropped from a Home's eTRF, a member does not appear on another Home's eTRF by the next reporting date the member will relinquish his Missionary membership and will be reclassified as a Fellow member.**

**a. An extension of 30 additional days may be granted by the regional shepherds in exceptional cases.**

Home members should ensure that all those listed on their monthly eTRF are bona fide Missionary members residing in or attached to the Home.

## Rights of a Missionary Member Home

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### **A Missionary member Home has the right to:**

- A. Determine its basic nature, goals, and operating procedures, providing it operates within the *Missionary Member Statutes* and endeavors to reach the goals of the Family and the agreed upon goals of its area.**

The Home is free to decide its basic nature and goals: what its main ministry or ministries will be and specifically what goals it will attempt to reach in conjunction with the overall goals of the Family at large.

- B. Open a Home or choose to move the Home to a new location in the same city, or in any city in the same country that has no Family discipleship or Missionary member Home, providing it is not a closed city or in a closed metropolitan area.**

- 1. If the Home wishes to move to a city within its present country of residence that already has a Family discipleship or Missionary member Home, Home members must follow the "[Procedure for Opening a Home in a City or Metropolitan Area with a Family Discipleship or Missionary Member Home.](#)"**

Where a Home decides to live is up to its members. They can move anywhere within their present city or to another city in the same country providing there are no FD or MM Homes in that city or metropolitan area, or in following with the "[Procedure for Opening a Home in a City or Metropolitan Area with a Family Discipleship or Missionary Member Home.](#)" The Home may want to inform their RD of their intent to move, as their RD may know of others also looking for a house in that city or area.

If your Home is moving within the same city and has found a house in or near a neighborhood that already has a Home, though you don't have to get permission from the other Homes in the city, it would be wise and loving to consult with the existing Homes as to whether or not it is agreeable to have the two Homes in such close proximity. This is not to discourage Homes from locating close to each other. In fact, it can be a blessing to allow Homes to collaborate more on projects, witnessing, and fellowship. The point is to communicate and counsel with the other Homes, which is particularly important concerning outreach areas within the city.

The form used for closing a Home may be found on the MO website at [RO-RD\\_forms](#).

- C. As a new Missionary member Home, apply for Missionary member pioneer Home status in writing along with or before the Home sends in its first eTRF. The regional shepherds will inform the Home within 30 days whether pioneer Home status has been granted.**

The Home must apply in writing to their RSs for pioneer Home status. See "[Definition of a Missionary Member Pioneer Home](#)" for how to qualify as a pioneer Home.

- D. Choose to disband the Home.**

- E. Determine the personnel make-up of the Home.**

- F. Apply to become a Family discipleship Home providing the Home is eligible and follows the "[Procedure for a Missionary Member Home Becoming a Family Discipleship Home.](#)"**

**G. Create any Home newsletters, appeal letters, flyers, pamphlets, or audio-visual promotional materials with limited local distribution, or designed for distribution to the Home's contacts.**

**1. Quotations and artwork from Family publications may be translated and/or included in these local publications without prior approval.**

If a Home's newsletter, appeal letter, local pamphlet or audio/visual tool is only going to be sent to their Home's contacts, will not be mass produced, and is used only for local distribution, the Home may approve it. This includes local advertisements for your local work, like your show group, your youth club, etc. It would also cover your testimony sheets you send to friends and contacts, etc.

If the Home or members of the Home wish to use quotations from the MLs in a letter ministering to someone, newsletter, appeal letter or other local pamphlet, they may do so. If these quotations appeared first in an original English publication and have not already been translated into the needed language by an approved translator, the Home may translate them if they have a suitable translator.

**H. Translate and duplicate World Services-produced tracts, *Reflections*, and *Family Activity Reports*.**

All other Family distribution materials will be produced by or via an approved production center.

## Responsibilities of Missionary Member Parents

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For various reasons some children or teenagers of Missionary members may not want to or be able to be Missionary members. However, the responsibilities of Missionary member parents, as outlined in this section of the statutes, pertains to the parenting of all children and teens (including 16- and 17-year-olds) of MM parents unless otherwise stated.

### **Missionary member parents are responsible to:**

- A. Love and care for their children, raise them in a godly manner, impart to them the knowledge of God through his Word, and see that their physical, spiritual, medical, and emotional needs are supplied to the best of their ability, and should protect their children from all forms of abuse, including physical, mental, emotional, sexual, or psychological.**

- 1. In certain circumstances, Missionary members might share the parenting of their children with a non-Family parent and not have full control over decisions affecting their children's upbringing and training. Nevertheless, Missionary members should attempt to raise their children in a godly manner as much as is within their ability to do so.**

- B. Uphold and teach their Missionary member children the Family's fundamental beliefs.**

Parents should uphold and teach to their MM children the Family's fundamental beliefs, both Biblical and revealed, as published in "[Family International's Statement of Faith](#)" or otherwise declared in a publication with a ML or GN number.

- C. See that their school-aged children are properly and sufficiently educated in a manner appropriate to their age, ability, and aptitude in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and practical-life skills, as well as other curricular subjects, on an ongoing basis, and ensure that sufficient academic records of their children's educational progress are kept.**

- 1. If homeschooling, parents should inform themselves of the education laws of the country in which they reside.**

All children of Missionary members must receive a proper education. Some countries may require that homeschooled children be tested or meet other requirements, so it is important to be fully informed about the homeschooling laws in that country.

Missionary members who are found to be grossly negligent in their duty of providing their children with a proper education will be in jeopardy of losing their Family membership.

- 2. Parents with children who are not schooled in the local language should see that their children have the opportunity to learn the local language.**

- D. Make the decision on medical matters involving their children.**

- E. Train their children in accordance with the standard in the "[Childcare Discipline Guidelines](#)" so that their children's behavior is not a reproach to the cause of Christ.**

- 1. Missionary members living in a communal Missionary member Home should have a united disciplinary standard with the other members of the Home.**
- F. Properly counsel and guide their resident teenagers in all matters regarding emotional relationships, sexual interaction and birth control, ethics, community responsibility, the dangers of drugs, the laws of the land, and for those teens who would like to move out of Family membership and leave the Home, preparation for living independently.**
- 1. If one of their resident teenagers no longer wishes to be a part of the Family or is unable or unwilling to abide by the Missionary member standard, the parents are required to stop reporting the teenager as a Missionary member on the Home's monthly eTRF.**

## Rights of Minors

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The care and well-being of minors—children and teens under the age of 18—raised in the Family is of paramount importance and the Home is responsible to ensure that the needs—physical, spiritual, emotional, and educational—of all its minors are provided for. The Home is also responsible to ensure that the rights of all Family minors are respected by all members of the Home.

Although children under the age of 16 do not have the same rights as voting members, it should be understood that as children get older they should be given a greater degree of personal autonomy. For instance, 12- to 15-year-olds should be given more responsibility and freedom of choice than 10-year-olds, and likewise 10-year-olds more than 6-year-olds.

### **Children and teens have the right to:**

#### **A. Have their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs met.**

Each child deserves to live in a safe, happy environment that is conducive to their proper upbringing. They are entitled to healthy and nutritional food, and their emotional needs should be amply met.

#### **B. Be free from abuse of any kind—sexual, physical, spiritual, mental, or psychological.**

The Family has a zero tolerance policy in regards to abuse in any form. The Family will immediately expel and excommunicate a member deemed guilty of sexually or physically abusive behavior towards children.

Should a member of the Family have a reasonable basis to believe that a minor is suffering abusive treatment, that member should immediately report this to the minor's parents, to his or her Home shepherds and to the shepherding desk.

Ultimate responsibility for decisions related to the well-being of their minor children lies with the parents or legal guardians.

#### **C. Receive needed medical attention.**

Children and teens should receive sufficient healthcare in order to help them remain in good health. When a child or teen needs medical or dental attention, he or she has the right to receive it.

#### **D. Have time allotted on a regular basis for the reading of the Bible and age-appropriate Family literature.**

As Mama explained: "We believe that our children's lives are very precious and therefore we put a special emphasis on teaching and training them in the 'nurture and admonition of the Lord' (Ephesians 6:4). The education we give them is based and centered on God's Word and godly principles" (Maria #76:15).

#### **E. Engage in witnessing activities appropriate to their age and aptitude.**

Although those 16 years of age and above should witness a minimal number of hours per week, this clause grants the right to all Missionary member children to engage in spreading the Gospel, if they so desire. While children have the right to witness, they cannot be forced to do so against their will.

In sensitive countries the witnessing opportunities and methods available for children may be limited.

#### **F. Be given sufficient time, opportunity, and educational materials to receive an education that allows them to become competent in a manner appropriate to their age, ability, and aptitude in the skills of language arts, mathematics, social studies, sciences, and other academic and curricular subjects, including practical-life skills.**

All our children have the right to an adequate education that allows them to be on par with their peers outside the Family in the core curriculum subjects of math, science, social studies, language arts, and other subjects required at a level appropriate for their age by educational authorities. Thus a normal six-year-old should be educated at least to a standard of achievement equivalent to that of an average six-year-old, taking into consideration the child's ability and aptitude.

**G. If a teen, obtain official certification for the schooling they receive, if they or their parents desire.**

If a teen wants to get his home education certified, he has the right to do so. The parents and the teen should agree together as to the certification that is most appropriate. If it's not possible for the Home to provide the means to get such certification, the parents are free to move with the teen to another Home that can provide it.

**H. Have regular physical exercise and play.**

**I. Privately and directly communicate, via mail and/or email, without hindrance, with World Services Leadership or their regional shepherds at any time on any matter, and to have their letters or email sent, or to have the address supplied to them upon request.**

## Right of Redress

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The term "redress" is defined as "to set right, to remedy or rectify" or "to provide reparation for a loss or wrong experienced." This "Right of Redress" is in place so that if or when members' rights are infringed upon, or they feel they were wronged in some way, they can report it and appeal to a higher body knowing that the matter will be looked into, and if needed, disciplinary measures meted out accordingly.

- A. A member whose rights are infringed upon, and those who observe the rights of others being infringed upon, which may result in physical, spiritual, psychological, or emotional harm, have the right and responsibility first to bring the matter before the person causing the harm, then, if deemed necessary, before the Home, with the expectation that the matter will be remedied within a reasonable amount of time.**

Jesus said, "Moreover, if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church" (Matthew 18:15–17). If your rights are being infringed upon, you have the right to speak up about it and to expect it to be remedied. If you see someone else's rights being infringed upon, you have both the right and the responsibility to report it as well.

First, in scriptural fashion, you are to bring up the matter to the person who's doing it, and then, if that doesn't rectify the situation, you should bring it up to your Home. There may be times when you don't feel you can bring the matter up directly to the person, in which case you can seek help from others in your Home. If the situation is serious enough, or the erring member doesn't change his ways within a reasonable amount of time, you should bring the matter before the Home.

A "reasonable amount of time" depends on what the infringement is and what the harm is. If, for example, you see that someone is verbally abusing another member and shouting at him, a reasonable amount of time for that to be remedied is immediately. Whereas if a Home member feels that he is not included sufficiently in the affairs of the Home, he can bring it up to the Home for discussion. In that case, a reasonable amount of time would be to discuss the question within a couple of weeks at most. It depends on the problem, how serious it is, and whether or not it's causing harm.

- 1. If the matter is not remedied within a reasonable amount of time or is deemed a serious offense, the member has the right and the responsibility to write to the shepherding desk formally requesting that action be taken.**

- a. Such requests may also be sent to World Services Leadership, if so desired.**

If you feel the situation is very serious, or if it is not taken care of after you have followed the steps outlined in clause A., then you can take the next step of informing the SD of the situation. Your SD will pass your report to the RSs to look into. You should send a report as soon as possible.

"If you are personally convinced that something is really wrong with your leader's actions or orders, and that God's work is being damaged or His sheep are being abused, mistreated, or hurt as a result, then it is your duty to report it to a higher authority" (ML #2417:17). "Failure to report a crime is a crime" (ML #662:22).

- 2. The shepherding desk must investigate the matter within 60 days. The regional shepherds can extend the time, if necessary, to conclude the investigation.**

- a. If, through investigation, confirmation is made that the rights of the member have been infringed upon, resulting in physical, spiritual, psychological, or emotional**

**harm, appropriate and proportionate discipline must be assigned to the offending members. The offended member and those who had reported the offense must be informed of the action taken.**

- b. If, through investigation, it is found that the entire Home was negligent in protecting the rights of the member, the entire Home must be appropriately and proportionately disciplined. The offended member, and those who reported the offense, must be informed of the action taken.**
- c. If, through investigation, it is decided that the member's rights have not been infringed upon, the shepherding desk must inform the member who alleged he was offended, as well as those who reported the matter.**

## City Councils

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**A. A city or metropolitan area that has more than one Family discipleship and/or Missionary member Home is required to create a city council consisting of one representative from each Home within the city or metropolitan area.**

- 1. If there are a large number of Homes in the metropolitan area and/or the travel distances make it difficult to meet, the Homes may decide to divide the area into two or more city councils.**
- 2. A Home's representative would be chosen by a simple majority of that Home's Home council.**

The purpose of the city council would be, among other things, to meet to discuss issues that the council deems should be discussed and/or decided upon, which could include discussing ideas for building a stronger and more dynamic work within the city or metropolitan area; coordinating local outreach and provisioning; coordinating local meetings for friends, GMs, and AMs of the Homes involved; discussing matters of Home cooperation and fellowship within the city; coordinating activities and events for the children and teens; and discussing local business.

The city council should include representatives from all the FD and MM Homes in the metropolitan area, not just those within the city limits. An exception would be if the Homes decide to divide the area into two or more city councils as outlined in A.1 above.

It's up to the Home council to decide who to send from the Home to the city council meeting to represent the Home for those meetings. The Home's decision of who to send to represent the Home could be based on any number of reasons, including the agenda for the meetings, available personnel, etc.

**B. Family discipleship and Missionary member Homes within the city or metropolitan area must attend and participate in city council meetings**

- 1. City council meetings must be held at least once every three months.**

City councils are encouraged on a monthly basis, with at least one required within any given three-month period.

- 2. The Homes' city council representatives must elect a city council chairperson through a majority vote for a six-month term. A chairperson may be re-elected to consecutive terms.**

A recommendation is that city councils consider keeping the same city council chairperson for consecutive meetings, if the council meetings are proving to be effective. This would be opposed to frequently voting in a different chairperson, which could add a measure of randomness to the council meetings.

The city council may also want to elect a council secretary to keep the notes of the meetings, which could be sent around to the city's Homes so all members know what was discussed and the conclusions reached.

**C. The chairperson's authority and responsibilities are to organize the city council meetings and keep a record of all decisions made, copies of which should be sent to all Family discipleship and Missionary member Homes in the city, and be available to pass on to the next elected chairperson.**

- 1. The record of all city council decisions and meeting notes must also be made available for the regional council upon their request.**
- 2. Members of the city council, including the elected chairperson, have no authority over the Homes other than that which the Homes agree to grant them.**

The city council is not an additional level of shepherding and does not have any shepherding authority over the Homes in the area.

## Rights of a Missionary Member in a Sensitive Country

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- A. Due to the nature of sensitive countries, those volunteering to work in a sensitive country must understand that while working in a sensitive country they may need to relinquish specific rights granted by the *Missionary Member Statutes*, if deemed necessary by the regional shepherds. These are:**
  - 1. The right to determine by prayer and discussion the basic nature, goals, direction, or activities of the Home where those activities might be deemed unwise or would endanger the safety and security of that Home or of other Homes in the country.**
  - 2. The right to open a Home, to be a road team Home, or to visit as a road team within the country.**
  
- B. The regional shepherds retain the right to remove Family members from sensitive countries at any time.**
  - 1. The regional shepherds may not remove members who hold a passport to the sensitive country from that country. However, if they flagrantly or repeatedly disregard clauses A.1 or A.2 of this section they may be in jeopardy of losing their Family discipleship.**

Because of the nature of sensitive countries, the RSs are not required to give a member 30 days to leave the country.

# Missionary Member Rules

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## Governing Principles of the Missionary Membership Rules

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The "[Missionary Member Board Criteria](#)" helps to further define the application of the MMS's requirements in conjunction with the New Wine for today.

**A. Missionary member responsibilities are to be fulfilled by all Missionary members to the best of their ability and the *Missionary Member Statutes* are to be adhered to by all Missionary members, except in unavoidable circumstances or with rare exception.**

**1. Members who flagrantly or continually break the rules or who persistently disregard their membership responsibilities will face disciplinary action in a manner appropriate and proportionate to the severity and/or frequency of the offense, up to and including the loss of their Family membership.**

The rules are to be followed by everyone. Although we have tried to make the rules as precise as possible, some of them are by their nature more subjective. Unlike the "[Offenses Warranting the Excommunication of a Missionary Member](#)" or "[Offenses Warranting the Placing of a Missionary Member on Probation](#)" there are times when exceptions can be made to behavioral-type rules in unavoidable circumstances. As hard as you might try to keep those rules, it's inevitable that at some time or another you will break one. When you do, you need not fear that you will lose your Family membership. However, if you persistently disregard or blatantly break the rules, you will face appropriate disciplinary action up to and including the loss of your Family membership.

If someone is deliberately ignoring a clause in the "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)" or flagrantly disregarding one of the rules in the *Missionary Member Statutes* it will result in some form of discipline ranging from admonishment to probation, being moved to another category of membership, if eligible, or loss of Family membership, or even excommunication, depending on the severity and frequency of the offense.

Your Home could also be moved to another category of membership if it is not fulfilling its responsibilities as a Missionary member Home or is allowing the members of the Home to consistently break the rules or disregard their responsibilities.

**2. Rules in "[Offenses Warranting the Excommunication of a Missionary Member](#)" and "[Offenses Warranting the Placing of a Missionary Member on Probation](#)" are to be kept at all times by all Missionary members, with no exceptions.**

**a. Because they are minors, those under the age of 18 who commit offenses warranting excommunication may either be excommunicated, lose their Family membership, or be placed on probation, depending on the age of the offender and the severity of the offense.**

**i. If the offense was deemed to be abusive mistreatment of a child the individual must be excommunicated.**

The *Missionary Member Statutes* state that you will receive excommunication or probation for breaking one of the rules under these categories, and that you will be penalized accordingly. If you commit an excommunicable offense you will be excommunicated, and depending on the nature of the offense that excommunication will likely be permanent.

There may be the situation where, after a predetermined period of time, and depending on the nature of the offense committed, it may be possible for someone who was excommunicated to be reinstated and rejoin

a circle of Family membership. The decision to reinstate someone who was excommunicated must be agreed to by at least a two-thirds majority of the RSs within that region, after prayerful consideration of both the request and the circumstances surrounding the individual's original excommunication. The decision to allow an excommunicated member to rejoin a circle of Family membership, if it were to happen, would not be an arbitrary opinion on the part of the RSs. Their decision must be based on guidelines established specifically for this purpose by the Family Policy Council.

Individuals who have been excommunicated for abusive mistreatment of a child will not be eligible for reinstatement to any circle of Family membership at any time.

**B. Missionary member responsibilities and rules are only those specifically mandated in the *Missionary Member Statutes*.**

Missionary members are expected to live within the parameters of the MMS. Even if you are obeying all the rules, you and your Home must also live up to your responsibilities as defined in the "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)" and "[Responsibilities of a Missionary Member Home](#)" in order to remain a Missionary member or a Missionary member Home.

Any matter not addressed in the *Missionary Member Statutes* isn't a Missionary member responsibility or rule. The recent Letters give up-to-date application of how to fulfill the responsibilities and rules, but it is up to each individual and/or Home to decide how or if other matters that aren't addressed in the *MMS* should be made rules for their lives or Homes. Of course, you will want to pray about all such matters, counsel about them, and look in the Letters and Family pubs to see the counsel given and endeavor to apply it to your lives, but ultimately it's up to you and your Home to make a decision on how to apply that counsel.

## Offenses Warranting the Excommunication of a Missionary Member

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See the "[Governing Principles of the Missionary Membership Rules](#)" for a broader understanding of the application of a Missionary member's responsibilities and rules.

**A Missionary member will be excommunicated by the regional shepherds for:**

**A. Abusive mistreatment of a child.**

As stated in the "[Rights of Minors](#)" Family children have the right to grow up in a safe and secure environment, free from abuse of any kind—sexual, physical, spiritual, mental, or psychological. The Family has a zero tolerance policy towards child abuse. Abusive mistreatment of a child, whether through the excessive use of force when disciplining, sexual abuse, or any other abusive mistreatment will result in excommunication.

**B. Those age 18 years and over engaging in any form of sexual interaction with those under the age of 14.**

**C. Those ages 16 and 17 engaging in sexual acts with those under the age of 14.**

**D. Those age 18 years and over engaging in a sexual act with minors under the age of 16 or the local age of consent, whichever is higher.**

**E. Committing intentionally endangering or life-threatening acts, other than the legally sanctioned use of reasonable force in defense of self, others, or property.**

Family members should not commit intentionally endangering or life-threatening violent acts for any reason, except in the rare case of legally defending themselves, or others, or their property. For example, you may, of course, resort to the use of physical restraint or force if someone is about to hit you—or any innocent helpless person, for that matter—over the head with a bat or is trying to grab your children or set fire to your property. Dad stated, "When an unwelcome visitor invades your property and starts breaking down doors, windows, socking disciples, and ripping off your sheep, don't hesitate to defend yourselves until the police come. You may have to use a little force to prevent even greater violence. Try not to hurt anyone, but definitely, forcibly restrain them from further trespassing and violence with whatever force it takes to do so" (ML #143A:61,79).

**F. Activities that foster schism within the Family, including the continual voicing of doubts, criticisms, and/or skepticism, in a destructive manner designed to foster strife or doubts about Dad, Maria, Peter, the Word, or the Family.**

**1. Members are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification or counsel, as well as voice objections or raise concerns about matters they feel need to be changed or addressed. This should be not be done in a way that results in strife or the spreading dissent or doubt, but should be addressed to the appropriate shepherds.**

"Questions are legitimate if you are undecided or uncertain about an issue, and you truly want to know the answer. If handled in the right manner and the motive of your heart is to sincerely find the answer through the right channels, there is nothing wrong with expressing your questions. Handling such questions 'in the right manner' means talking to the right people—those who are strong in faith and who would likely

have the answers or be able to find them. It's not right to talk about questions or doubts with people who are weak in faith or the Word, who might be stumbled.

"There is a difference between legitimate questions that are asked out of sincere, pure motives, and skeptical, distrustful questions that are generated by the Enemy for the purpose of trying to weaken the questioner and stir up division. The person who has legitimate questions will be open and will seek to understand. They'll want to receive and believe the answers; they want the doubts dispelled. But the person whose questions are not legitimate is the one who already has his mind made up, who doesn't seek answers, but who seeks to use his questioning as an avenue to preach a message of defiance or doubt, and pour forth the voice of Satan" (ML #3088:25–26).

#### **G. Engaging in substance abuse.**

##### **1. Depending on the severity of the abuse, or whether it was a repeat offense, the individual may receive probation or loss of Family membership.**

The terminology "substance abuse" was chosen to cover the full range of possibilities—legal and illegal drugs and intoxicants. Some drugs and intoxicants are not illegal, but the use of them is considered abuse. For example, sniffing glue or taking certain over-the-counter drugs for non-medical reasons can result in getting high. Even though not always illegal, those activities would be considered substance abuse. The severity of the offense will be taken into consideration and will result in either probation, loss of Family membership, or excommunication.

#### **H. Engaging in male-with-male sexual acts.**

It is our Bible-based belief that God strictly forbids male homosexuality. Male homosexuality or "men with men working that which is unseemly" (Romans 1:27) is forbidden. Those found guilty of male-with-male sexual interaction will receive probation, loss of Family membership, or excommunication, depending on the severity of the offense.

## Offenses Warranting the Placing of a Missionary Member on Probation

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See the ["Governing Principles of the Missionary Membership Rules"](#) for a broader understanding of the application of a Missionary member's responsibilities and rules.

**A. A Missionary member will be placed on probation by the shepherding desk for three to six months if it is determined that he or she has committed any of the following offenses:**

While portions of publications may be shared with friends and contacts, giving FD/MM/FM publications to those not authorized to have them will result in probation.

**1. Committing violent acts judged not worthy of excommunication, or determinedly or repeatedly threatening violence against others.**

Committing acts of violence, except in the unavoidable case of legally defending themselves, others, or their property is not acceptable in the Family. Those found guilty of violence will receive punishment in the form of probation, loss of membership, or excommunication, depending on the severity of the act, or whether there is a reoccurrence.

If a mate was defending himself or herself from spousal violence, it could be judged self-defense and possibly not be grounds for disciplinary action.

Those found guilty of repeatedly threatening violence against others will receive probation, and if threats of violence continue the member will be in jeopardy of losing his or her Family membership or of being excommunicated.

**2. Alcohol abuse.**

Regardless of amounts consumed, the effect of alcohol varies from person to person. Members must be moderate in their consumption of alcohol. Overdrinking is not permitted in the Family, and those found abusing alcohol repeatedly—or if serious consequences result from overdrinking—will be placed on probation.

**3. Failure to report an excommunicable offense.**

**4. Engaging in male-with-male sexual interaction.**

**a. Depending on the severity of the sexual interaction, or whether it was a repeat offense, the individual will face loss of Family membership or excommunication.**

It is our Bible-based belief that God strictly forbids male homosexuality. Male homosexuality or "men with men working that which is unseemly" (Romans 1:27) is forbidden. Those found guilty of male-with-male sexual interaction will receive punishment in the form of probation, loss of Family membership, or excommunication, depending on the severity of the offense.

**5. Sexual acts or contact with Family disciples.**

**a. The regional shepherds may grant in rare instances and for a specified period of time that a Family disciple 18 years and older may engage in sexual acts or contact with a Missionary member 18 years and older in accordance with the guidelines stated in the *Charter's* "Sex and Affection Rules."**

**6. Disregard for the restrictions on the distribution of Family literature as outlined in ["Designations of Family Publications."](#)**

## Childcare Discipline Guidelines

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- A. Child discipline in the Family International, as outlined in the “Family Discipline Guidelines” (ML #2919), must be reasonable, age appropriate, and proportionate to the offense, always balanced with love, understanding, and respect.**
- B. The Home must establish a united behavioral and disciplinary standard. This involves agreeing on Home rules, defining appropriate correctional methods, and establishing clear limits for any correctional discipline.**

The purpose of child discipline in the Family is child training and character building. The Home must decide together on the behavioral standards, Home rules, and accepted disciplinary measures for the children in the Home within the guidelines published in the “Family Discipline Guidelines” (ML #2919).

Whatever method of discipline is used, it must always be reasonable and proportionate, and must never be carried to extremes. Discipline should always be balanced with love, understanding, and respect. Children should be treated with respect at all times, including during discipline. In all cases, it is essential to ensure that the punishment is appropriate to the age and maturity of the child, proportionate to the offense, and reasonable in all circumstances.

Any person found to administer discipline in an unacceptable manner or one that could be harmful to a child is in jeopardy of being placed on Home censure, or in more severe cases, of being placed on probationary status or of being excommunicated.

It’s important to note as well that laws concerning child discipline vary greatly from country to country, and Homes should be mindful of these laws in the countries in which they reside.

### **C. Parents, teachers, and others working with children should:**

- 1. Be familiar with the childcare discipline standard as articulated in the *Missionary Member Statutes*, as well as the Home’s childcare discipline guidelines. Failure to heed these guidelines could result in disciplinary action being taken by a Home against a negligent parent or adult.**

All Home members should be familiar with the childcare discipline standard and are responsible to monitor the correction of children and report to the parents any serious neglect or excesses they encounter, or concern they have.

- 2. Inform the children of the behavioral rules of the Home, and be sure they know the consequences for disobedience.**

Children should also be made fully aware of all house and behavioral rules and know the consequences should they not obey them. Correction should always be given in love and be well balanced with praise and prayer. The goal of child training is happy, self-disciplined children who want to do the right thing.

Some common correctional methods include:

- giving verbal instruction—letting the child know clearly what you expect;
- expressing disappointment or displeasure in a verbal warning;
- children may receive simple correctional taps or swats at the time correction is needed, as long as it is done calmly;
- loss of privileges;
- imposing extra duties without taking away from the child’s schooling, exercise, or rest time;

- restricting conversation for a few minutes; and
- disruptive younger children can be given time out and be separated from their peers for a short time, but they should not be left alone.

Please refer to the "Family Discipline Guidelines" (ML #2919) for a detailed explanation of what is acceptable when administering correction.

## Designations of Family Publications

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### **A. Family publications are designated for specific readerships.**

- 1. Family disciples, Missionary members, and Fellow members may receive publications designated as FD/MM/FM. They may also read or have all Family publications, subject to each publication's age designation and restrictions.**
  - a. Publications designated as FD/MM are sent only to Family discipleship and Missionary member Homes.**
- 2. Active members may receive publications designated as AM or GM. They may read or have FD/MM/FM publications, subject to each publication's age designation and restrictions, at the discretion of the Active member's Home.**
- 3. General members may receive publications designated as GM. They may read or have AM or FD/MM/FM publications, subject to each publication's age designation and restrictions, at the discretion of the General member's Home.**

A publication designated as FD/MM/FM will automatically be sent or made available to all FD, MM, and FM Homes. An FD/MM/FM publication will not be sent to or automatically be made available to AMs or GMs, but the publication may be given to an AM or GM, at the discretion of the Home and subject to the publication's age designation and restrictions.

### **B. Restrictions on the distribution of Family publications pertain to all Family members and are as follows:**

- 1. FD/MM/FM/AM publications may not be posted online except by World Services Administration's permission.**

This restriction pertains to posting FD/MM/FM/AM publications anywhere online, including personal, area, or Home websites, blogs or social networking sites, as well as posting FD/MM/FM/AM publications on someone else's website, blog or social networking site.

- 2. FD/MM/FM/AM publications are for members and may not be distributed to the general public except with World Services Administration's permission.**
- 3. FD/MM/FM/AM publications may not be knowingly given to those who seek to hinder the Family.**

### **C. World Services Publications may change the designation or use of any Family publication, or make exceptions to any of the above rules.**

## Home Requirements and Activities

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### **A Missionary member Home:**

- A. Consists of one or more members 18 years and older, residing together.**
- B. Sends a monthly eTRF of their activities and witnessing statistics, tithes 10% of their Home's income to World Services, and contributes 1% of their income to the Family Aid Fund and 3% to their regional common pot.**
- C. Maintains a working email address at which it can receive World Services and area communications and notices, and has a postal, residential, or business address at which it can receive printed World Services publications.**
- D. Purchases its distribution materials from a local production center unless the Home receives permission via their production center to do otherwise.**
- E. Protects the work, security, and privacy of their Home and other Homes by keeping address lists private and secure, regularly burning or shredding selah trash, and encrypting confidential or sensitive computer files and email communications containing addresses, financial information, or messages to/from leadership, desks, or offices.**
- F. Votes in area referendums.**
  - 1. A referendum's results are determined by a simple majority of all members 16 and over of all affected Homes, unless the referendum is regarding a financial matter, in which case a two-thirds majority of members 18 and over of all Homes determines the outcome.**
    - a. Home members who do not vote on the area referendum will have their votes counted as abstentions.**
  - 2. The tally of the votes of the Home's voting members must be emailed to the regional council by the date specified on the referendum.**
  - 3. Once tallied, the regional council will promptly inform all participating Homes of the results of the referendum.**

## Marital Separation Rules for Couples with Children

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- A. Once a couple with children has determined that they will separate, they:**
- 1. Must reach a mutual agreement regarding the custody of the children from the marriage, taking into account the children's preferences and best interests.**
    - a. The separating couples should consider legalizing the child custody agreement by obtaining a legal divorce.**
    - b. If the couple does not wish to obtain a legal divorce, a written agreement, stating that the marriage is dissolved and giving details of the custody of the children, must be signed by both parties and two witnesses, using full legal names. Each party should retain a signed and notarized copy of the document.**
      - i. A copy of the signed agreement must be sent to their regional desk.**

## Rules Governing Attached Missionary Membership to a Missionary Member Home

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The following concerns only Attached Missionary members (AMMs) reporting and tithing directly to a Missionary member Home.

The *Missionary Member Statutes*, including the procedures for becoming a Missionary member and codes of conduct, apply to Attached Missionary members. The only differences between AMMs and MMs (who report as their own MM Home) are the rules below, which apply specifically to AMMs.

Because Attached Missionary members do not live in an MM or FD Home and are not a Home in themselves, those sections of the *Missionary Member Statutes* that specifically apply to a Home, do not apply to AMMs.

- A. A prospective member applying to become a new Attached Missionary member should follow the “[Procedure for a New Member Joining a Missionary Member Home](#)” clause B, or, if the individual is currently a Fellow member, the “[Procedure for a Fellow Member Moving into a Missionary Member Home](#).”**
  - 1. A current Family disciple or Missionary member may become an Attached Missionary member by finding a Home that will accept him as an Attached Missionary member.**
- B. All Attached Missionary members must report, tithe, appear on a Home’s eTRF, and fellowship with that Family discipleship or Missionary member Home monthly.**
  - 1. An Attached Missionary member is required to give his full 10% tithe to the Home monthly along with a report of his witnessing stats and activities for that month.**
    - a. The Home should report the member on its eTRF personnel roster as a Missionary member tithing to the Home.**
    - b. The Home should include the member’s stats on its eTRF, along with the witnessing stats of the other Home members.**
    - c. An Attached Missionary member is not required to give 3% of his income to the Common Pot or 1% to the Family Aid Fund, and therefore is not eligible for Family Aid Fund benefits, the Tool Fund gift, nor automatically eligible for board services.**
  - 2. Failure by an Attached Missionary member to report and tithe to his Home for two consecutive months will automatically terminate his membership.**
    - a. In this case the Home should remove him from the Home’s eTRF personnel roster.**
    - b. The Home can later vote to reinstate an Attached Missionary member providing he is fulfilling the requirements of a Missionary member.**
  - 3. A Missionary member reporting and tithing to a Home is required to fellowship a minimum of once a month with the Home he is reporting to. If away for an extended**

**period of time or in the case of unavoidable circumstances he should keep in touch with the Home via phone, mail, or email.**

**C. An Attached Missionary member may become his own Missionary member Home and tithe and report directly to World Services under the following circumstances:**

**1. He has been an Attached Missionary member for a minimum of one year.**

**a. The regional shepherds have the right to waive the one-year requirement.**

An example where the RSs may waive the one-year requirement is if the Home that the Missionary member has been reporting to and working with moves to another city or country, or if an FD or MM becomes an AMM for a period of time, but then wants to report on his/her own as an MM Home.

**D. All witnessing activities by an Attached Missionary member are under the auspices of the Home and are the responsibility of the Home, including:**

**1. If not in the same city as his Home an Attached Missionary member must obtain approval from the Family discipleship or Missionary member Homes in a city before conducting outreach in that city.**

**2. Supplying the Attached Missionary member with Family distribution products purchased from an authorized production center, unless the Home and the production center have a different agreed-upon arrangement.**

**E. An Attached Missionary member is eligible to receive all FD/MM/FM mailings from World Services, and have Missionary member access to the Family Members Only website. An Attached Missionary member will have his own copy of mailings sent directly to him from World Services.**

**1. The Home which the Attached Missionary member is reporting to is required to send World Services a monthly mailing fee, as determined by World Services, to cover the cost of the mailings to the Attached Missionary member.**

**a. If World Services does not receive the mailing fee for a particular month, mailings for the Attached Missionary member will not be sent for the following month.**

**2. In cases where it is not expedient for a Missionary member to receive World Services mailings at his own address, he may receive his mailings at the Home to which he reports.**

**3. Since an Attached Missionary member is not a Family Home, he will not be given a full Home library of older pubs, but he may keep copies of the mailings which he receives from World Services and have a copy of the InfoStore electronic library, which Missionary members are eligible for.**

**4. Since an Attached Missionary member is considered a member of the Home to which he reports, the Home may give or lend him paper or electronic copies of publications that he is eligible for.**

Since AMMs receive their own mailings from WS, this usually wouldn't be necessary. But in the event of an AMM mailing getting lost in the mail or when there is a need to get FD/MM pubs that came out before the AMM began reporting as MM, the Home can give him copies of pubs he is eligible to receive.

**F. An Attached Missionary member will receive shepherding from the Home he reports to. He is not automatically eligible for board services, but if he feels the need to contact or communicate with Family leadership above the Home, he may contact the regional desk directly.**

- G. An Attached Missionary member who would like to join a Missionary member Home would follow the "Procedure for an Attached Missionary Member Moving into a Missionary Member Home."**
- H. If the Home the Attached Missionary member is reporting to will change status to become a Fellow member Home, the Attached Missionary member has the following four options to choose from:**
- 1. He may join a different Family discipleship or Missionary member Home as an Attached Missionary member, provided he is accepted by a two-thirds majority of the Home.**

– or –

  - 2. If he has been an Attached Missionary member for at least one year, he may apply to the regional desk to become his own Missionary member Home.**
    - a. If he has been an Attached Missionary member for less than one year, he may apply to the regional desk for an exception to become his own Missionary member Home.**

– or –

  - 3. He may report as his own Fellow member Home.**

– or –

  - 4. He may join the Home as live-in Fellow member.**
- I. If it is determined that an Attached Missionary member has committed one of the "Offenses Warranting the Placing of a Missionary Member on Probation," the "Procedure for Placing a Missionary Member on Probation" applies.**
- J. If it is determined that an Attached Missionary member has persistently or flagrantly disregarded the "Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member" or the "Missionary Member Rules" or for similar contravention of the "Offenses Warranting the Placing of a Missionary Member on Probation," the "Procedure for Revoking a Missionary Member's Family Membership" applies.**
- K. If it is determined that an Attached Missionary member has committed one of the "Offenses Warranting the Excommunication of a Missionary Member," the "Procedure for Excommunicating a Missionary Member" applies.**

# Missionary Member Procedures

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## Procedure for a New Member Joining a Missionary Member Home

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When a person joins the Family as a Missionary member he becomes an integral part of and influence on the Home he joins, and eventually on other Homes as well. Thus, someone accepted as a new Missionary member must meet certain criteria.

This procedure also applies to those who want to join an MM Home as an Attached Missionary member.

### **A. For a person to become a new Missionary member he must:**

- 1. Have received Jesus as his personal Savior and been filled with the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. Be of legal age, or if not, present notarized parental permission.**

The Home may find it wise to initiate communication with the parents and/or close relatives of a prospective member of any age to make sure his or her relatives have a basic understanding of the Family, to answer any questions, and to avoid misunderstandings. If the parents voice any major concerns, the Home might find it in their best interest to encourage the prospective member to first become an Attached Missionary member or an Active member for a period of time, provided he has fulfilled those specific membership requirements, during which time he could endeavor to lovingly explain his new-found faith and commitment and help his parents or relatives overcome their concerns regarding his desire to serve the Lord with the Family.

It is imperative to always seek the Lord for His approval and confirmation through prophecy, asking the Lord to clearly and specifically speak, and to put His stamp of approval on the decision of the individual to join at that time.

Some factors the Home will want to take into consideration are:

- The prospective member's commitment and desire to reach others for Jesus.
- Background, including any serious problems or debt that could hinder his service for the Lord or present a reproach to the Family or to your Home.
- Legal situation: marital, military, or other contractual obligations.
- Medical concerns.

The SD should be consulted if there could be potential problems with relatives that could affect other Homes in the area. When needed, the SD will also consult with the CCR RBC. "Potential new disciples need to be time tested, to be Family tested, with time for their parents to get acquainted and used to the idea" (ML #2385:57, 60).

- 3. Have a clear understanding of the Family, its goals, way of life, and believe that David was God's Endtime Prophet and that Maria is God's chosen and anointed successor, who has inherited David's mantle, as God's Prophetess, and that Peter was commissioned by David and anointed by the Lord to work with and help Maria.**
  - a. In order to ensure that the prospective member understands the Family and our fundamental beliefs, he should ideally complete the *12 Foundation Stones* course before joining the Home.**

It should be rare that a prospective member joins an MM Home without having completed at least the *12 Foundation Stones*, but should that happen he should complete that course first, then move to the *12 Bridges*. Ideally, he should also read through the *12 Bridges* before moving into the Home, but if he hasn't completed the *12 Bridges* before joining, he should finish it before going on to the "Priority Reading List for a New Family Disciple or Missionary Member."

- i. **A new Missionary member who has not finished reading the *12 Foundation Stones* and the *12 Bridges* courses before joining the Home should finish the courses along with the "Priority Reading List for a New Family Disciple or Missionary Member" within their first year in the Home.**
- b. **If the prospective member is joining as an Attached Missionary member, he must complete the *12 Foundation Stones* and the *12 Bridges* courses before being voted in as an Attached Missionary member.**

The requirement to complete the *12 Foundation Stones* and the *12 Bridges* courses before being voted in as an Attached Missionary member, is waived for those joining an MM Home full time.

4. **Show a sincere interest in reading God's Word and desire to engage in evangelism.**
  5. **Have a sincere desire to dedicate his life to serving Jesus with the Family.**
  6. **Be free from substance abuse and/or the use of illegal or illicit drugs.**
  7. **Read the *Missionary Member Statutes* and make a commitment to follow the principles and guidelines outlined in the *Missionary Member Statutes*.**
- B. Two-thirds of the Home's adult members must agree to receive the prospective member into the Home, after having prayed and received confirmation from the Lord.**
1. **If the prospective member is a former Family member the Home must request approval from the regional shepherds via the shepherding desk before he can rejoin the Family as a Missionary member.**

A former Family member would not be required to go through the *12 Foundation Stones* and *12 Bridges*; however, he should still read the "Priority Reading List for a New Family Disciple or Missionary Member."

- a. **The shepherding desk must respond within 15 days of receipt acknowledging that the application was received and passed on to the regional shepherds. The response must include the date that the application arrived, which date begins a 45-day processing period.**
- C. Upon completion of the above qualifications, the new member must complete the "Statement of Commitment for a New Missionary Member."**

## Procedure for an Attached Missionary Member Moving into a Missionary Member Home

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- A. For an Attached Missionary member to move into a Missionary member Home, he must:**
  - 1. Find a Missionary member Home willing to accept him.**
  - 2. Be of legal age, or if not, present notarized parental permission.**
  - 3. Follow the “[Procedure for a New Member Joining a Missionary Member Home,](#)” clause B.**
  
- B. For an Attached Missionary member to become his own Missionary member Home and tithe and report directly to World Services, he must follow the procedure outlined in “[Rules Governing Attached Missionary Membership to a Missionary Member Home.](#)”**

## Procedure for a Fellow Member Moving into a Missionary Member Home

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- A. A Fellow member who is in communication or fellowship with a Missionary member Home and would like to join the Home, must first read the *Missionary Member Statutes* and if, after prayerful consideration, he agrees to meet the Missionary member standard, two-thirds of the Home's adult members must agree to accept him as a prospective member.
- B. The Missionary member Home must check with the regional desk to verify whether the prospective member is eligible for Missionary membership.
  - 1. The regional desk must within 15 days of receipt acknowledge that the application was received and passed on to the regional shepherds. The response must include the date that the application arrived, which begins the 45-day processing period.
  - 2. If the application is denied, the shepherding desk will notify the prospective member within 45 days of receipt of the application that the application has been denied, and why. The prospective member may not reapply for Missionary membership for six months.
  - 3. If the application is approved the prospective member may move into the Home and begin his three-month period as a provisional Missionary member.
- C. The new provisional member should complete the "[Reading List for a Fellow Member Becoming a Family Disciple or Missionary Member](#)" during his first three months in the Home.
- D. If at any time the Home deems the provisional member is not living up to the *Missionary Member Statutes*, the Home is free to recommend that the provisional member return to Fellow membership. The decision of the Home will be final.
  - 1. The Home must notify the shepherding desk of such a decision.
  - 2. The provisional member may begin to look for another Missionary member Home to accept him, but he would need to start the joining process over again with the new Home.
- E. At the end of the three-month period as a provisional member, two-thirds of the Home's adult members must confirm whether the provisional member is living according to the *Missionary Member Statutes*, and if so, he will then become a full-fledged Missionary member with all the rights and responsibilities pertaining thereto.

## Procedure for a Fellow Member Becoming a Missionary Member Home

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- A. A Fellow member that wishes to become a Missionary member Home must read through the *Missionary Member Statutes* in order to determine whether he may be living the Missionary member standard before applying to the regional shepherds for Missionary membership.**
- B. The Fellow member should send a statement to the regional desk that he is living the Missionary member standard as outlined in the *Missionary Member Statutes* along with his application to become a Missionary member Home.**
  - 1. The regional desk must within 15 days of receipt acknowledge that the application and statement was received and passed on to the regional shepherds. The response must include the date that the application arrived, which begins the 45-day processing period.**
  - 2. The regional desk may ask for further information from Homes or others who know the Fellow member.**
  - 3. If the application is denied, the regional desk will notify the Fellow member of the reasons why the request was denied.**
    - a. The Fellow member will then be ineligible to reapply for Missionary membership for six months from receipt of the notice of denial.**
  - 4. If the regional desk does not respond within the 45-day period, the Fellow member may continue the process of becoming a Missionary member Home.**
- C. Having begun the process of becoming a Missionary member Home, the Fellow member must complete the Missionary member Home review and submit it to the regional shepherds.**
  - 1. If the Fellow member passes the Missionary member Home review, he will qualify as a provisional Missionary member Home.**
  - 2. If the Fellow member does not pass the Missionary member Home review, he will retain his Fellow membership and will not be eligible to reapply for Missionary membership for six months.**
  - 3. The regional shepherds must inform the Fellow member within 60 days of the end of the review month whether or not he was granted provisional Missionary membership.**
- D. Having become a provisional Missionary member Home, the Home will have all the rights and responsibilities pertaining to Missionary membership for the next six months.**
  - 1. If the Home must be placed on probationary notice during its time as a provisional Missionary member Home, the Home members will automatically revert to Fellow**

**membership and will not be eligible to reapply for Missionary membership for six months.**

- a. This does not apply when the Home is placed on automatic probationary notice by the reporting office for no, low, or late monthly report, tithe, 1% Family Aid Fund, and/or 3% common pot contribution, as long as the matter is resolved within 60 days.**
- E. After the provisional Missionary member Home takes its second Missionary Membership Home review, the Home will become a full-fledged Missionary member Home.**
- 1. If the provisional Missionary member Home does not pass the Missionary member Home review, the Home members will retain their Fellow membership and will not be eligible to reapply for Missionary membership for six months.**
  - 2. The regional shepherds must inform the Home within 60 days of the end of the review period whether or not the Home was granted full Missionary membership.**

## Procedure for a Fellow Member Becoming an Attached Missionary Member

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- A. A Fellow member wishing to report to a Family Discipleship or a Missionary member Home as an Attached Missionary member must first read the *Missionary Member Statutes*. If, after prayerful consideration, he determines that he wishes to apply for Attached Missionary membership he must find a Family discipleship or Missionary member Home that agrees to invite him to report to their Home as an Attached Missionary member.
- B. The Fellow member and the Home he is joining must write to the regional desk for permission for the Fellow member to join the Home as an Attached Missionary member.
  - 1. The regional desk must within 15 days of receipt acknowledge that the application was received and passed on to the regional shepherds. The response must include the date that the application arrived, which begins the 45-day processing period.
  - 2. The regional desk, if necessary, may ask for further information from others who know the Fellow member.
  - 3. If the Fellow member's application is denied, the regional desk will notify the member and the Home of the reasons within 45 days from the date the regional desk received the application. The Fellow member will then be ineligible to reapply for Attached Missionary membership for six months.
- C. If the Fellow member's application is accepted, or his application has not been denied within the 45-day processing period, the Fellow member must then fulfill the "[Procedure for a Fellow Member Moving into a Family Discipleship Home](#)," clauses D–G in the *Charter*, or the "[Procedure for a Fellow Member Moving into a Missionary Member Home](#)," clauses C–E in the *Missionary Member Statutes*, depending on which Home he may be joining.

## Procedure for a Missionary Member Moving into a Family Discipleship Home

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This procedure also pertains to AMMs applying to join a Family discipleship Home.

- A. A Missionary member who wishes to become a Family disciple by joining a Family discipleship Home must first find a Family discipleship Home that agrees by a two-thirds majority of the Home council to invite the Missionary member to join the Home.**

Home members should get to know the Missionary member before inviting him to join their Home.

- B. The Family discipleship Home and the Missionary member must apply to the regional shepherds via the shepherding desk for permission for the Missionary member to join that Family discipleship Home.**
- 1. The shepherding desk must respond to the Missionary member and the Family discipleship Home within 15 days of receipt of the Missionary member's application, acknowledging that it was received and passed on to the regional shepherds. The response must include the date that the application arrived, which date begins a 45-day processing period.**
    - a. During the 45-day processing period, the shepherding desk may ask for further information on the Missionary member from Homes or others who know the Missionary member.**
  - 2. If the application is denied, the shepherding desk will notify the Missionary member and the Family discipleship Home as to why the request was denied.**
    - a. The Missionary member will then be ineligible to reapply for Family discipleship for six months from receipt of the notice of denial.**
  - 3. If the shepherding desk does not deny the application within the 45-day processing period, the Missionary member may continue the process of joining the Family discipleship Home.**
    - a. Within 90 days after the expiration of the 45-day processing period, the Missionary member must either join that Home, or if unable to do so, find another Family discipleship Home that will accept him and allow him to continue the joining process.**
- C. Before moving into the Family discipleship Home the applicant must:**
- 1. Be free from contagious disease in accordance with the *Charter's* "Health and Hygiene Rules."**
  - 2. Be free of debt, unless the Home agrees to assume the debt.**

**3. Have no legal, marital, military, or other obligations that would prevent him from being a full-time member of a Family discipleship Home.**

There are some legal situations, which might not interfere with Family discipleship, such as jury duty or obligatory public service for a traffic or misdemeanor violation. In some countries a term of military service is obligatory for certain ages, and a provisional disciple may still be able to attend to this requirement without too much disruption in his service to the Lord, in which case the Home could agree to accept him according to the circumstances. In another situation a prospective member may be in the midst of a marital separation or child custody battle that should be settled before the prospective member moves into the Home.

In most cases, though, it would be best for the prospective member to discharge any obligations they may have, legal, military, marital, or otherwise, and join the Family once they are free from such obligations.

**D. Once moved into the Family discipleship Home, the now provisional disciple becomes a non-voting member of the Home for three months.**

- 1. The provisional disciple must list his personal possessions using the “[Personal Possession Declaration for a New Family Disciple](#).” The assets listed will remain his property to take with him should he decide to leave before completing 90 days in the Home, unless he decides to leave some of the assets with the Home.**
- 2. If at any time the Home deems that the provisional disciple is not living up to the *Charter* and the Family discipleship standard, the Home council may decide by a two-thirds majority that the provisional disciple returns to Missionary membership. The decision of the Home council will be final.**
  - a. The Home must notify the shepherding desk of such a decision.**
- 3. The provisional disciple may have access to the Home's library and the MO website, and should read through the board criteria GNs during his first three months in the Home.**

Since there isn't a reading list for MMs who are joining an FD Home and MMs have received all the New Wine as it comes out, it'd be good for the now provisional disciple to read through the board criteria GNs (GN# 1099, 1104–1106) and get to know the *Charter* during his first three months in the FD Home. This should give him a well-rounded understanding of the FD standard.

- E. At the end of the 90-day period as a provisional disciple, the Home council will decide by a two-thirds majority whether the individual is living according to the *Charter* and discipleship standard. If so, he will become a full-fledged Family disciple with all the rights and responsibilities pertaining thereto, except the following:**
- 1. He must remain in the Home for an additional 90 days before gaining his right of mobility.**
    - a. The shepherding desk may authorize transfer to a different Home, if deemed necessary or expedient.**
  - 2. He must refrain from sexual contact or acts with others, except with his mate, until cleared of contagious disease in accordance with the *Charter's* “[Health and Hygiene Rules](#).”**
- F. An agreement should be reached between the Home and the disciple, as to which of his possessions the disciple may take with him should he decide to leave the Home.**
- 1. Acts 2:44–45 applies for the duration of the disciple's stay in the Home. He should willingly share his possessions with the Home and other members.**

## Procedure for a Missionary Member Home Becoming a Family Discipleship Home

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**A. A Missionary member Home that wants to become a Family discipleship Home must fulfill the following requirements before applying for Family discipleship:**

- 1. Have each Home member read through the *Charter*.**
  - a. Each Home member should also read through the board criteria GNs.**
- 2. Attest in writing to the regional shepherds that they believe they are living the Family discipleship standard as outlined in the *Charter*.**

Though the board criteria is in the *Charter*, the Home should also read through the board criteria GNs (GN #1099, 1104–1106). These GNs have the background and Word basis on which the Family discipleship standard is based that the criteria in the *Charter* doesn't include.

- 3. Maintain the Family discipleship minimum Home size of at least six members 18 years and older.**
    - a. Members under three months as a Missionary member do not count toward the Family discipleship minimum Home size.**
    - b. The Home should wait before applying to become a Family discipleship Home until any Fellow members applying to join the Home have completed the "[Procedure for a Fellow Member Moving into a Missionary Member Home](#)."**
    - c. The Home must maintain the Family discipleship minimum Home size during its application period for Family discipleship.**
      - i. If the Home loses some of its members and as a result goes below the Family discipleship minimum Home size, the process will automatically end, the Home will return to Missionary membership, and may not reapply until it again has a minimum of at least six members 18 years and older.**
      - ii. Others may not join the Home during its application period for Family discipleship, though the regional shepherds may give exceptions for this.**
  - 4. Be free of debt.**
  - 5. Have no members with legal, marital, military, or other obligations that would prevent them from being in a Family discipleship Home.**
- B. Having fulfilled the above requirements, the Missionary member Home may apply to the regional shepherds via the shepherding desk for permission to become a Family discipleship Home.**

- 1. The shepherding desk must respond within 15 days of receipt of the Missionary member Home's application, acknowledging that the application was received and passed on to the regional shepherds. The response must include the date that the application arrived, which date begins the 45-day processing period.**
    - a. During the processing period, the regional shepherds may ask a designated representative to visit the Missionary member Home, and/or the shepherding desk may ask for further information from Homes or others who know the Home.**
  - 2. If the application is denied, the shepherding desk will notify the Missionary member Home as to why the request was denied.**
    - a. The Missionary member Home will then be ineligible to reapply for Family discipleship for six months from receipt of the notice of denial.**
  - 3. If the shepherding desk does not deny the application within the 45-day period, the Missionary member Home may continue the process of becoming a Family discipleship Home.**
- C. Having begun the process of becoming a Family discipleship Home, the Home must:**
- 1. Elect Home shepherds, Home managers, and criteria monitors for the six board pillars within their Home in accordance with the *Charter's* "Voting and Election Rules."**
  - 2. Complete the Family discipleship Home review.**
    - a. If the Missionary member Home passes the Family discipleship Home review, the Home will qualify as a provisional Family discipleship Home.**
    - b. If the Missionary member Home does not pass the Family discipleship Home review at this time, the Home will retain its Missionary membership and will not be eligible to reapply for Family discipleship for six months.**
    - c. The regional shepherds must inform the Missionary member Home within 60 days of submitting their Home review whether or not the Home was granted provisional Family discipleship.**
- D. Having become a provisional Family discipleship Home, the Home will have all the rights and responsibilities pertaining to Family discipleship, except the following for the next six months:**
- 1. Home members will not have the right of mobility.**
    - a. The shepherding desk may authorize a member to transfer to a different Home if deemed necessary or expedient. However, the shepherding desk may not authorize a transfer from the Home if the transfer would result in the Home going below the Family discipleship minimum Home size.**
  - 2. Home members must forgo sexual contact or acts with other Family disciples outside their Home until cleared by testing in accordance with the *Charter's* "Health and Hygiene Rules."**
  - 3. If the Home must be placed on probationary notice during its time as a provisional Family discipleship Home, the Home will automatically revert to Missionary membership. The Missionary member Home will not be eligible to reapply for Family discipleship for six months.**
    - a. This does not apply in the case where the Home is placed on automatic probationary notice by the reporting office for no, low, or late monthly report,**

**tithe, 1% FAF, and/or 3% Common Pot contribution as long as the matter is resolved within 60 days.**

- E. If the provisional Family discipleship Home passes their second Family discipleship Home review, the Home will become a full-fledged Family discipleship Home.**
  - 1. If the provisional Family discipleship Home does not pass their second Family discipleship Home review, the Home will regain its Missionary membership and will not be eligible to reapply for Family discipleship for six months.**
  - 2. The regional shepherds must inform the Missionary member Home within 60 days of submitting their Home review whether or not the Home was granted full Family discipleship.**

## Procedure for Defining a Metropolitan Area

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- A. The regional council may set the original parameters of a metropolitan area within their region, if not already defined.**
  - 1. Unless otherwise set by the regional council, the original parameters of a metropolitan area will be those officially recognized by the country where the metropolitan area is located.**
  
- B. A Family discipleship or Missionary member Home desiring that the adjacent city in which their Home resides be included in a metropolitan area must inform the regional council via the regional desk of their request.**
  - 1. Within 15 days of receipt of the request, the regional desk will inform all Family discipleship and Missionary member Homes in that metropolitan area of the petition to include the adjacent city in the metropolitan area.**
  - 2. Within 30 days of receipt of the petition, each Family discipleship and Missionary member Home must vote and notify the regional desk whether they agree to including the city in the metropolitan area. The vote must be conducted as a Home referendum in accordance with the *Charter's* "[Voting and Election Rules](#)," but is not subject to a vote of confirmation every six months.**
  - 3. The tally of the Homes' votes will go to the regional council for ratification.**
    - a. In the event of a tie vote among the Homes, the regional council may cast the deciding vote.**
    - b. If two-thirds of the regional council disagree with the majority vote of the Homes, the disagreement will be referred to the regional shepherds to make the final decision.**
    - c. The regional desk will inform all the Homes of the outcome.**
  
- C. The regional council can initiate the procedure to redefine a metropolitan area whether or not a city already has Family discipleship or Missionary member Homes.**
  - 1. The regional council should consult with any affected Homes before initiating the procedure.**
  
- D. All Family Homes within a metropolitan area are free to conduct outreach within that metropolitan area in accordance with city council decisions.**

This makes it possible for a Home to open in a suburb or adjacent town within the metropolitan area and still be able to conduct outreach within the city itself, unless the city is closed, as outlined in "[Procedure for Opening a Home in a City or Metropolitan Area with a Family Discipleship or Missionary Member Home](#)."

However, if a Home opens in a town that is not part of the metropolitan area, they must obtain permission from the Homes in the area before they can conduct outreach within the metropolitan area.

A road team Home or a witnessing road trip that wants to witness in a metropolitan area that already has an FD or MM Home must receive permission from the FD and MM Homes in the metropolitan area before doing so, according to the "[Procedure for Granting or Denying Clearance.](#)"

## Procedure for Granting or Denying Clearance

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**A. A Family member may move to any country, or be on a witnessing road team for over 30 days in any country, providing he has received clearance from the regional desk for the prospective country.**

Once clearance to a country has been obtained, a member is free to move to a Home that will accept him within that country. But it is the member's responsibility to find a Home that will accept him; the RSs and the RD cannot guarantee acceptance in a Home upon arrival in the country.

When seeking clearance to another country, applications sent to the receiving RD must include a clearance request form, which can be found on the MO website at [RO-RD\\_forms](#). If the applicants would like to open a new Home, they must also fill out the form for opening a Home also found on the MO website at [RO-RD\\_forms](#). Members planning to pioneer their own Home are responsible to ascertain whether the city they are planning to move to already has a Family discipleship or Missionary member Home, and if so, to follow the "[Procedure for Opening a Home in a City or Metropolitan Area with a Family Discipleship or Missionary Member Home](#)."

Member evaluation will generally be required for clearance to sensitive countries, but may also be requested by the regional desk for clearance to other countries as well.

- 1. When seeking clearance to another country, a member should send his clearance request to the regional desk for that country.**
  - a. If a road team or road team Home will stay less than 30 days within any 90-day period in the prospective country, a request for clearance is not required.**
    - i. If a road team plans to go to a country in another regional area or to a sensitive country, the team must apply for clearance, even if the road trip will be there for less than 30 days.**
    - ii. It is the road team's responsibility to determine if a city or metropolitan area in the country they are in has Family discipleship or Missionary member Homes before they begin their witnessing activities. If there are Homes in the city, the road team must first receive permission from those Homes to witness in the city or metropolitan area and inform the regional desk that they have obtained the Homes' permission.**
      - 1. It is the road team's responsibility to be aware of and abide by all local area guidelines and goals.**
      - 2. It is the road team's responsibility to be mindful of local laws and to respect the local customs and culture.**
- 2. Within 15 days of receipt of a clearance request, the receiving regional desk must respond to the clearance applicant, acknowledging that his clearance request was received and passed on to the regional shepherds. The response must include the date that the clearance application arrived, which date begins the 30-day processing period within which the request must be granted or denied.**

- a. **The regional desk may ask the member's Home for further information or for an evaluation of the member.**
3. **Clearance is automatically granted if, after receiving a notice of receipt from the regional desk, the member does not receive further response to his request within the 30-day processing period.**
  - a. **In the case of sensitive countries, after receiving a notice of receipt, members must wait to receive final notification of clearance from the regional desk for that country.**
4. **The regional desk cannot deny clearance to a Family member 16 years and older who wishes to return to the country for which he or she holds a passport.**
  - a. **If the member is a parent, his or her immediate family will also be automatically cleared to the country for which the parent holds a passport.**

The regional desk cannot deny clearance to a member, nor their mate or children, who want to return to the member's passport country. However, you must notify the RD by submitting your clearance request form, which in this case serves as a notification of intent, and since you are automatically cleared, you do not need to wait for a response from the RD before moving.

A couple and their children would not be eligible for "automatic clearance" on the strength of a couple's child being a passport holder of that country.

5. **Clearance to move to a country is valid for one year from the date it was granted, unless specified otherwise by the regional desk issuing the clearance. If a member who has been cleared doesn't arrive within one year in the country to which he was cleared, he must reapply for clearance.**
- B. A Missionary or Fellow member applying for clearance to another country while also applying for Family discipleship or Missionary membership, must have already begun the process of becoming a Family disciple or Missionary member before being granted clearance to move.**

## Procedure for Withdrawing Permission to Remain in a Country

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- A. A member's permission to remain in a country may be withdrawn if the member is contravening the *Missionary Member Statutes* or if the member's activities or presence in the country are deemed to be detrimental to the work in that country, and the member is not a national of the country.**
- 1. A Family member 16 years and older may remain in the country for which he or she holds a passport.**
    - a. If the member is married and/or a parent, his or her immediate family may also remain in the country.**
- B. To withdraw permission, the following procedure must be followed:**
- 1. The shepherding desk must write the member explaining the activities that he is engaged in that are detrimental to the work. Upon receipt the member must cease such activities.**
    - a. If the member does not cease the activities the member's permission to remain in the country can be withdrawn.**
    - b. If the member disagrees with the decision, he can write to the shepherding desk within 15 days explaining why he disagrees.**
      - i. The member may remain in the country, but must cease the activities in question while the matter is being decided.**
    - c. The regional shepherds will respond within 60 days.**
  - 2. If the member's permission to remain in the country is withdrawn, the shepherding desk must inform the member, specifying the date by which he must leave the country.**
    - a. Failure to comply will jeopardize his Family membership.**
    - b. Arrangements may need to be made by the Home for the member to raise funds for his move.**

## Procedure for Opening a Home in a City or Metropolitan Area with a Family Discipleship or Missionary Member Home

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**A. A Family discipleship or Missionary member Home desiring to move to a city that already has a Family discipleship or Missionary member Home must send their request to the regional council via the regional desk.**

- 1. Within 15 days of receipt of the request, the regional desk will inform all Family discipleship and Missionary member Homes in that city of the petition to open a new Home.**
- 2. Within 30 days of receipt of the petition, each Family discipleship and Missionary member Home must vote and notify the regional desk whether they agree to the new Home opening. The vote must be conducted as a Home referendum in accordance with the *Charter's* "Voting and Election Rules," but is not subject to a vote of confirmation every six months.**
- 3. The tally of the Homes' votes will go to the regional council for ratification.**
  - a. In the event of a tie vote among the Homes, the regional council may cast the deciding vote.**
  - b. If two-thirds of the regional council disagree with the majority vote of the Homes, the disagreement will be referred to the regional shepherds to make the final decision.**
  - c. The regional desk will inform all the Homes of the outcome.**

**B. New Family discipleship or Missionary member Homes may not be opened in cities or metropolitan areas that have been designated as "closed" without regional council approval.**

- 1. For a city or metropolitan area to be closed, the regional council must first inform World Services Administration of its plan. If the regional council does not hear back within 15 days, they may proceed with closing the city or metropolitan area.**
  - a. If approved as a closed city or metropolitan area, no new Homes may open in that city or metropolitan area without permission from the regional council. All Homes already there would be able to remain.**
  - b. Family members from outside of the closed city or metropolitan area are not permitted to conduct outreach in that city or metropolitan area without permission from the regional council.**
  - c. All Homes in the region must be notified that the city or metropolitan area is closed.**

- i. Approval to keep a city or metropolitan area closed must be renewed annually before January 31<sup>st</sup>, in accordance with the *Charter's* "Voting and Election Rules."**
- 2. The regional council can at any time open a "closed" city or metropolitan area to new Homes, if the council feels it is no longer warranted for the city or metropolitan area to be closed. The regional council must inform all Homes in the region and World Services Administration of this change.**

## Procedure for Designating or Revoking Sensitive Country Status

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- A. The regional shepherds in counsel with the Communications and Community Relations regional board chairperson may designate a country in their region as a sensitive country, providing:**
- 1. They obtain the approval of World Services Leadership.**
    - a. Renewed approval must be obtained from World Services Leadership before January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.**
  - 2. If Family discipleship or Missionary member Homes are already established in the country, then:**
    - a. A simple majority of the Homes in the country must agree by a Home referendum as outlined in the *Charter's* "Voting and Election Rules" that the country should be classified as a sensitive country.**
      - i. If the result of the referendum goes against the country being classified as a sensitive country, the country will temporarily be classified as sensitive until such time as World Services Leadership makes a final decision.**
        - 1. The regional shepherds must communicate with World Services Leadership informing them of the referendum's outcome. The Homes that voted against the measure may also communicate with World Services Leadership explaining their objection to the measure.**
      - ii. World Services Leadership will make the decision and respond within 30 days of receipt of the regional shepherds' communication.**
- B. All members who are invited to or given clearance to a sensitive country must be informed by the regional desk that the country is now a sensitive country and have the basic nature, goals, direction, and operating procedures of the country explained to them.**
- C. To remain in, or be given clearance to, a sensitive country, members must agree to relinquish the rights outlined in the *Charter's* "Rights of Personnel in a Sensitive Country" for as long as they remain in the sensitive country, if the regional shepherds deem it necessary.**
- D. Sensitive country status may be lifted providing the regional shepherds, or the Family discipleship or Missionary Member Homes in the sensitive country, ask for a Home referendum to be conducted to determine whether the country should remain a sensitive country.**
- 1. Once petitioned by the Homes, the regional shepherds must conduct a Home referendum within 60 days.**

- 2. If the Homes, by a simple majority, vote that the country should no longer be a sensitive country, following the Home referendum procedures outlined in the *Charter's* "Voting and Election Rules," and the regional shepherds agree, the country will no longer be classified a sensitive country.**
  - a. If the regional shepherds disagree with the Homes' vote, they must communicate with the Homes, informing them of the outcome of the vote and the reasons why they disagree. A copy of this letter must be sent to World Services Leadership.**
  - b. World Services Leadership will make the final decision.**
  - c. The country will remain classified as sensitive until such time as World Services Leadership makes a final decision.**

## Procedure for Placing a Missionary Member on Probation

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- A. A Missionary member will be placed on probation by a regional shepherd or the shepherding desk if the member commits one of the [“Offenses Warranting the Placing of a Missionary Member on Probation.”](#)”**
- B. If a regional shepherd or the shepherding desk determines that a Missionary member should be placed on probation:**
  - 1. The regional shepherd or the shepherding desk will notify the member that he is on probation for three to six months.**
  - 2. Probation may include a required reading list assignment and/or a loss of fellowship with other Family members to varying degrees depending on the offense.**

See also [“Reading List for a Missionary Member on Probation.”](#)”

- 3. Reoccurrence of offenses warranting probation or contravention of the terms of probation will place the member in jeopardy of losing his Missionary membership.**

## Procedure for Placing a Missionary Member Home on Probationary Notice

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- A. A Missionary member Home will automatically be placed on probationary notice by the reporting office for:**
  - 1. No, low, or late tithe, or no or late eTRF, as per the instructions received from the Home's reporting office, or for failure to tithe to World Services 10% of its income, 1% to the Family Aid Fund, and 3% to their common pot.**
  - 2. Being in debt for two consecutive months to a Family production center or Family business.**
  
- B. If a regional shepherd or the shepherding desk determines that a Missionary member Home should be placed on probationary notice for contravening the *Missionary Member Statutes*:**
  - 1. The shepherding desk will notify the Home that they have been placed on probationary notice, specifying how they have contravened the *Missionary Member Statutes*.**
    - a. The shepherding desk will inform the Home of the changes that must be made to come off probationary notice.**
  - 2. The Home members may not join or open another Missionary member Home during the period of probationary notice.**
    - a. The regional shepherds may grant exceptions.**
  
- C. The Home has 60 days to comply with or make the changes necessary to come off probationary notice. Once the specified changes have been made and verified, the shepherding desk will notify the Home that it is no longer on probationary notice.**
  - 1. If the Missionary member Home has not complied within the 60-day period, the Home will be moved to Fellow membership.**

## Procedure for Moving a Missionary Member Home to Fellow Membership

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- A. A Missionary member Home's membership can only be withdrawn and all the members of the Home moved to Fellow membership if the Home violates, contravenes, or fails to fulfill the "Responsibilities of a Missionary Member Home," its members collectively fail to fulfill the "Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member," or the Home fails their Home review.**
  
- B. A regional shepherd or the shepherding desk can initiate moving a Missionary member Home to Fellow membership providing the following procedure is adhered to:**
  - 1. The regional shepherd or the shepherding desk must inform the Home of the reasons, showing just cause for the change of status of the Home.**
  
  - 2. Upon receipt of the explanation, if a majority of the Missionary member Home is in disagreement with the decision, except in the case of the Home failing to pass Home review, the Home has the right to contest the decision in writing to the regional shepherds within 15 days.**
    - a. The regional shepherds must review the situation, considering both sides, and make a decision concerning the Home's membership status.**
  
    - b. While under review, the Home will remain a Missionary member Home, but the Home members may not join or open another Missionary member Home until the final decision has been made.**
  
    - c. The regional shepherds will notify the Home within 45 days of their decision, whether the Home will retain its Missionary membership or become a Fellow member Home.**

## Procedure for Moving a Missionary Member to Fellow Membership

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- A. A Missionary member's membership can only be withdrawn and the member be moved to Fellow membership if the member violates, contravenes, or fails to fulfill the "Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member" or the "Missionary Member Rules."**
- B. A regional shepherd or the shepherding desk can initiate moving a Missionary member to Fellow membership providing the following procedure is adhered to:**
  - 1. The shepherding desk must write to the member explaining the reasons and showing just cause for the change of status.**
  - 2. If, upon receipt of the message, the Missionary member is in disagreement with the decision, he has the right to contest the decision in writing to the shepherding desk within 15 days.**
    - a. The regional shepherds, upon receiving the member's letter, must review the situation, consider both sides, and make a decision concerning the person's membership status.**
    - b. While under review, the Missionary member will retain his membership status, but may not join or open another Missionary member Home until the final decision has been made.**
    - c. The regional shepherds will notify the member of their decision within 45 days, and consequently he will either retain his Missionary membership or become a Fellow member.**

## Procedure for Revoking a Missionary Member's Family Membership

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A Missionary member is expected to live the Missionary member standard as outlined in the *Missionary Member Statutes* to the best of his or her ability. If a member flagrantly violates or contravenes his or her membership requirements he or she may be in jeopardy of having his or her Family membership revoked.

This procedure would not apply if the member in question has committed an offense warranting excommunication. In that case the "[Procedure for Excommunicating a Missionary Member](#)" would apply.

This procedure is only to be used by the regional shepherds in extreme circumstances that warrant the revocation of an individual's Family membership.

- A. A Missionary member can have his Family membership revoked only by the regional shepherds for persistent or flagrant disregard of the "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)," the "[Responsibilities of Missionary Member Parents](#)," or the "[Missionary Member Rules](#)," or for similar contravention of the "[Offenses Warranting the Placing of a Missionary Member on Probation](#)."**
  
- B. If the regional shepherds determine that there may be grounds for revocation of a member's Family membership they must notify the member and his Home via the shepherding desk that they are initiating the procedure to withdraw the member's Family membership. They must at that time specify in writing how the member is or has been persistently or flagrantly disregarding the *Missionary Member Statutes* as outlined in clause A above.**
  - 1. If the member or his Home wishes to appeal the decision they may write the shepherding desk within 15 days, explaining why they disagree or to explain any extenuating circumstances or reasons why certain of the above responsibilities and rules are not being fulfilled or are being contravened.**
  
  - 2. The shepherding desk must investigate the matter by communicating with the Home, the member in question, and any others involved.**
    - a. The member may request to speak personally with a regional shepherd.**
      - i. The regional shepherd may appoint a designated representative to visit and report on the situation if the regional shepherd is not able to visit at that time.**
  
      - ii. If visitation is not possible or expedient the member will have to communicate via other means.**
  
    - b. During this time the member:**
      - i. Loses his right of mobility until the matter is decided.**
  
      - ii. Is free to begin fundraising activities to facilitate his potential move.**

Once an MM has been notified that his Family membership may be revoked, he may begin fundraising to help facilitate his potential move. However, until the matter has been decided he will retain his Family membership.

- 3. The shepherding desk must within 45 days inform the regional shepherds of its findings.**
- 4. Upon receipt of the shepherding desk's assessment, the regional shepherds will within 15 days of the close of the investigation decide by a two-thirds majority whether revocation of Family membership is warranted.**
  - a. If revocation of Family membership is agreed to by the regional shepherds, the shepherding desk will inform the member and his Home that his membership has been revoked in accordance with the findings.**

In this case the Home should decide how quickly the member should move out.

- C. The departing member may keep any Family publications in his personal possession.**

## Procedure for Excommunicating a Missionary Member

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- A. A Missionary member can be excommunicated by the regional shepherds only upon committing one of the offenses listed in “Offenses Warranting the Excommunication of a Missionary Member.”**
- 1. For a Missionary member to be excommunicated, the shepherding desk must investigate the matter by communicating with the Home members, the member in question, and/or anyone else involved.**
    - a. The member in question may request to speak with a regional shepherd.**
      - i. A regional shepherd may appoint a designated representative to speak with the member in question and/or anyone else involved. The representative will report on the situation if the regional shepherd is not able to visit at that time.**
      - ii. If visitation is not possible or expedient the member will have to communicate via email, mail, or telephone.**
  - 2. After reviewing the evidence the regional shepherds will, by a two-thirds majority vote, determine whether the individual has committed one of the “Offenses Warranting Excommunication of a Missionary Member.”**
  - 3. If it is determined by the regional shepherds that a Missionary member has committed one of the offenses listed in “Offenses Warranting Excommunication of a Missionary Member,” the Missionary member will be excommunicated from Family membership.**
    - a. Family members may have contact with those who have been excommunicated, unless expressly forbidden by the regional shepherds, providing a majority of their Home agrees.**
      - i. If excommunicated from Family contact, the personal family of the excommunicated member may still have contact with him or her, though not in a Family Home or at gatherings of Family members.**
    - b. The regional shepherds may inform their Homes that the person has been excommunicated, and the terms of his or her excommunication.**

# Missionary Member Board Criteria

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## Children and Parenting Board Missionary Member Criteria

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In certain circumstances Missionary members might share the parenting of their children with a non-Family member and therefore may share in the decisions affecting their children's upbringing and training. Nevertheless, Missionary members should attempt to raise their children in a godly manner as much as is within their ability to do so.

**The Word and spiritual training** (based on "[Responsibilities of Missionary Member Parents](#)")

**Missionary member Homes/parents should:**

- A. Believe, uphold, and teach to their age-appropriate Missionary member children the Family's fundamental beliefs, biblical and revealed, as published in the "Family International's Statement of Faith" or otherwise declared in a publication with a GN or ML number.**
- B. Provide sufficient time and planning for their children to have regular and age-appropriate Word time that includes variety in order to make it as alive, exciting, and applicable as possible, so as to meet their children's spiritual needs.**
- C. Strive to teach their children to memorize the Word, as well as instruct them in the use of the spiritual weapons as presented in Family publications for children.**

**Witnessing** (based on "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)")

**Missionary member Homes/parents should:**

- A. Teach and train their children to respect the traditions and culture of the community or country in which they live.**
- B. Teach and train their children in missionary work, providing sufficient opportunity for them to actively participate in and contribute to the various aspects of the Home's witnessing ministries.**
- C. Give care and oversight to their children while witnessing with them that is in line with Family standards and local expectations, so that they are a positive reflection of the Family to the public and local community.**

**Children's welfare** (based on "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)" and "[Responsibilities of Missionary Member Parents](#)")

**Missionary member Homes/parents should:**

- A. Love and care for their children, and see that their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs are supplied to the best of their ability. They should protect their children from all forms of abuse—sexual, physical, spiritual, mental, or psychological. They should see to it that their school-aged children are properly and sufficiently educated on an ongoing**

**basis, and ensure that sufficient academic records of their children's educational progress are kept.**

- B. Make the decision on medical matters involving their children.**
- C. Provide regular dental visits and eye/medical checkups for their children.**
- D. Provide the physical needs of their children.**

Physical needs include not only clothing, shoes, school books, etc., but also sufficient time for physical exercise, fun, and play.

- E. Invest time in the training of their children so that the children's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs are supplied to the best of their ability. Homes and parents should be aware of and help to develop the interests, talents, and skills of their children, and strive to help them to be happy, inspired, self motivated, fulfilled, and challenged.**
- F. Provide child-friendly surroundings in their children's bedrooms, play and school rooms, if taught at home, that are orderly, clean, tidy, childproof, well ventilated, and with good lighting.**
- G. Teach their children to follow the standard in the Word in regards to cleanliness, dress, and deportment, so as to be a positive reflection of the Family.**
- H. Provide their children who have special needs with the proper physical, spiritual, and emotional care particular to their children's needs.**

"Special needs" are defined by requirements made necessary by challenges: in particular requirements that some have because of physical disabilities or learning difficulties.

**Training and discipline** (based on "[Responsibilities of Missionary Member Parents](#)" and "[Responsibilities of a Missionary Member Home](#)")

**Missionary member Homes/parents should:**

- A. Discipline their Missionary member children in accordance with the standard in the "[Childcare Discipline Guidelines](#)" so that their children's behavior is not a reproach to the cause of Christ.**
- B. Missionary members living in a communal Missionary member Home should have a united disciplinary and behavioral standard with the other members of the Home.**
- C. Have good communication and unity between parents, as well as with other Home members if living communally, regarding the care, behavior, and shepherding needs of the children, lovingly resolving any conflicts through counsel, prayer, and prophecy.**
- D. Lovingly shepherd their children using the Word, prayer, wise counsel, and hearing from the Lord in prophecy.**
- E. Treat and interact with their children in a respectful and loving manner.**
- F. Monitor and minimize worldly and ungodly influences to protect their children in the areas of TV/video/movie viewing, music, unedifying computer and electronic games, and unsupervised use of the Internet.**
- G. Strive to instill in their children character-building qualities such as integrity, responsibility, personal accountability, reliability, diligence, obedience, gratitude, kindness, etiquette, and respect for authority.**

## Church Growth and Outreach Board Missionary Member Criteria

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**Outreach and the Activated program** (based on "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)")

**A Missionary member Home must be actively engaged in missionary outreach and be making a concerted effort to bear fruit in the following four aspects of the Activated program:**

- A. Sowing the seed: Getting out Family publications and products.**
    - 1. Distributing the *Activated* magazine, if available in your local language.
    - 2. Distributing other Family publications and products.
  - B. Bringing people to Jesus: Personal witness.**
    - 1. Personal witnessing, including being an "instant witness."
    - 2. Soul-winning.
  - C. *Activated* magazine course.**
    - 1. Subscribing (and re-subscribing) people to the *Activated* magazine, if available in your country, via the Activated desk or monthly personal delivery program.
- See "The Family's Future and Expansion Program!" ML #3308, pages 24–27.
- D. Church growth: Engaging in follow-up or building a local work, which includes any of the following:**
    - 1. Teaching the [12 Foundation Stones](#) and the [12 Bridges](#) courses, or working toward bringing your flock to that level and toward General, Active, or Missionary membership.
    - 2. Follow-up (in person and/or other means) on *Activated* subscribers/readers, General/Active members or other sheep, and/or actively participating in Activated meetings, Church of Love meetings, and retreats.
    - 3. "Reaching the rich" (including the middle/upper class and labor leaders); ministering to kings, supporters, friends, and provisioning contacts.
    - 4. Winning full-time members, training labor leaders.

**The Home** (based on "[Responsibilities of a Missionary Member Home](#)")

**A Missionary member Home should:**

- A. Ensure that the Home's witnesses and follow-up shepherds are getting quality Word time.**

- B. Ensure that the Home's follow-up shepherds are familiar with the content, structure, and goals of the *12 Foundation Stones* and the *12 Bridges* courses.**
- C. Teach the meat of the Word in your witnessing.**
- D. Hear from the Lord in prophecy for and with those you are ministering to.**
- E. Teach your flock to witness, and go witnessing with them. Teach others to teach others.**
- F. Keep records of your sheep and their feeding and progress in some form, to ensure that you are faithfully and consistently following up on them.**
- G. Ensure that your witnesses are presentable in dress and appearance, appropriate to your country.**
- H. Witness in the name of the Family, with exceptions in some sensitive countries.**
- I. Introduce your friends, contacts, and supporters to the Family and Family teachings at an appropriate time.**
- J. Regularly send testimonies and/or photos of your witnessing activities to your regional Church Growth and Outreach board, Communications and Community Relations board, and to World Services, so they can be considered for publication.**

Testimonies can be sent either by email or with your monthly eTRF.

- K. Invest time and make a concerted effort to learn the local language of the field where you live, in order to become one and be effective witnesses.**
- L. Use your CTP ministries as a means to a greater end, such as to minister to people spiritually and to cultivate sponsors for your Home's witnessing activities.**
- M. Read and observe the memos and advisories sent out by your Church Growth and Outreach board, local Activated desk, and production center.**
- N. Counsel with the regional Church Growth and Outreach board if your Home engages in any work with other churches or religious groups.**

#### **Regarding Attached Missionary members**

##### **A Missionary member Home must:**

- A. Ensure that Attached Missionary members are fellowshiping at least monthly with your Home and are receiving faithful feeding and shepherding.**
- B. Ensure that any Attached Missionary members are abiding by the standard outlined in the *Missionary Member Statutes*.**

#### **Regarding General and Active members**

##### **A Missionary member Home must:**

- A. Ensure that your Home's General and Active members are receiving faithful feeding and are in regular contact with the Home in accordance with the "[Requirements for General and Active members](#)."**
- B. Ensure that your Home's General and Active members are fulfilling the requirements of membership and conducting themselves according to the "General Member Declaration" and "Active Member Declaration," respectively.**

**Regarding witnessing hours** (based on "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)")

- A. All eligible voting Home members should meet the required minimum of 2 hours per week, or 8 hours per month, of quality witnessing hours.**

## Coaching and Shepherding Board Missionary Member Criteria

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**Spiritual life and Christian conduct and sample** (based on "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)" and "[Responsibilities of a Missionary Member Home](#)")

- A. Maintain a close connection with God through communion with Jesus and hearing from Him, prayer and praise, reading of His Word through both the Bible and the Letters, Scripture and Word memorization, and the minimizing and resisting of worldly, ungodly, and unedifying influences in their lives; thus exhibiting the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Galatians 5:22–23).**
- B. Believe that David was God's Endtime prophet, that Maria is God's chosen and anointed successor, who has inherited David's mantle as God's prophetess, and that Peter was commissioned by David and anointed by the Lord to work alongside Maria.**
- C. Live in accordance with the Word by applying the spiritual and practical counsel given in the Letters to their daily lives, in accordance with what is expected of them as Missionary members.**
- D. Endeavor to overcome, including when necessary requesting united prayer against, personal weaknesses and besetting sins, so that they do not grow to cause physical or spiritual disruption in the Home, and/or physical, spiritual, or emotional harm to themselves or others.**
- E. Live by the principles of the Law of Love: to interact lovingly and harmoniously with any members of the Home in which they reside and with Family members at large.**
- F. Conduct themselves as good Christians, showing outgoing love and concern for others and interact as lovingly and harmoniously as possible with all people.**
- G. Recognize that their bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, and as such not abuse them; keep a clean and presentable appearance, and actively and regularly endeavor to stay healthy and physically fit.**
- H. Respect the *Charter's* standard and rules when in any Family discipleship Home or when fellowshipping with Family disciples.**
- I. Live in unity with other Family Homes and members.**
- J. Live in accordance with the agreed-upon goals of the area and the Family at large.**
- K. Live in unity by supporting the joint decisions of other Missionary members living in their Home.**
- L. Be an example of a positive Christian influence.**

## Communications and Community Relations Board Missionary Member Criteria

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**Sample to the public, diligence and forthrightness in business, and legal responsibilities and persecution preparedness** (based on "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)")

- A. A Missionary member Home presents itself, its Family membership, and its work in an open and honest manner in its follow-up, CTPs, not-for-profit and for-profit entities, NGOs (non-governmental organizations), teamwork with other organizations, fundraising, provisioning, and appeals for funding.**
- B. A Missionary member Home acts responsibly in business, legal and financial matters, provisioning, fundraising, product distribution, appeals for support, bookkeeping, and other obligations related to legal entities, humanitarian aid, and the receipt of government benefits.**
- C. A Missionary member Home makes progress in their persecution preparedness in line with the Word, documenting their local work and studying the Family's Statements, to be able to explain Family history, beliefs, and practices.**
- D. A Missionary member Home informs, and seeks counsel from, their regional Communications and Community Relations board before participating in local, national, international, or other major media interviews, documentaries, movies, books, written rebuttals, press releases, or articles in the name of the Family International, or in the name of a Family-run company, a Family publication or ministry, such as *Activated*.**
- E. A Missionary member Home maintains a lifestyle that reflects positively on their membership in the Family in line with the *Missionary Member Statutes* and local expectations in reference to such things as cleanliness, vehicle and property maintenance, adequate living conditions and accommodations, homeschooling documentation, and responsible witnessing with children.**

## Education Board Missionary Member Criteria

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**Education** (based on "[Responsibilities of Missionary Member Parents](#)")

**Missionary member children and teens 6- to 17-years-old should be provided with:**

- A. Time and opportunity to receive a quality education that includes a solid foundation in the core subjects of reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, and sciences in a manner appropriate to their age.**
- B. Educational opportunities that regularly include life skills, art, music, excursions, Christian outreach, social activities, and physical education.**
- C. Extra help and/or tutoring if the student is not on par with his or her appropriate age/grade level.**

Parents and teachers should work together to help the child or teen progress, and prayerfully determine the reason for the child or teen not being up to par. If the child or teen is a slow learner or has a learning disability, it is important that this is recognized as early as possible so that correct teaching methods can be employed.

- D. The time and opportunity to learn the local language, if not schooled in that language.**
- E. The time and opportunity to learn English, if schooled in the local language.**

It's important that time is given for the study of English so that children and teens can benefit spiritually from the age-appropriate books and materials in English.

**Parents and teachers of homeschooled Missionary member children and teens 6- to 17-years-old should:**

- A. Be allotted time for school planning and recordkeeping.**
- B. Be aware of local homeschooling and education regulations.**

It is important that parents inform themselves of the education laws of the country in which they reside. Some countries may require that homeschooled children be tested or meet other requirements.

- C. Competently teach their children. Tutors may be needed to properly teach high school level courses or specific subjects, and should be provided if necessary.**
- D. Ensure that a variety of educational resources are available for the students' use, including reference materials, textbooks, workbooks, art supplies, and audiovisual aids.**

Besides book work, effective homeschooling includes educational input and activities such as visits to museums, planetariums and other educational sites, field trips, documentaries, experiments, and hands-on learning. It includes subjects such as foreign language study, health, drama, art and music, personal study time, classes from Family publications and/or reference material to inspire and motivate the students to learn.

- E. Maintain a classroom or functional learning environment which should be quiet, organized, well lit, and properly ventilated.**

**F. Keep up-to-date records of the education of their children and teens.**

These records must include student attendance, logs, and portfolios. Student logs and portfolios should clearly show the progress of the student in their academic studies, extracurricular activities, Christian and vocational studies, life skills and more. The current and previous school-years' records should be kept on file.

Portfolios and logs can be kept in a variety of ways, including academic tests, school projects, workbook samples, journals, photo/video logs, essays, completed worksheets, excursion brochures and more. Ideas for older students include: résumés, letters of recommendation, homeschool diaries, study transcripts, diplomas, course descriptions, etc.

It is important for teachers and teacher parents who homeschool their children to keep a good record of what the child has done and what they should do next. This will not only help with authorities but will also help you provide suggestions and guidance to those who will be with the student so you and they can see the progress made, and if necessary, you can prove that you have been continuing to educate them. See "Educating Our Children," section: "Planning and Recording Schooling," *FSM #263*.

**Missionary member children and teens with special needs must receive:**

"Special needs" are requirements made necessary by challenges: the particular requirements, especially in education, that some people have because of physical disabilities or learning difficulties.

**A. Proper care and education specific to their needs. Parents should research and decide together through prayer and counsel the individual educational programs necessary for the special child's or teen's training.**

There are several reasons why home education is especially advantageous for families teaching children with special needs. More and more families are finding that the unique opportunities they have to give individualized attention to their child make homeschooling a superior educational choice. In addition to optimal academic success, their child benefits by receiving the crucial foundation of spiritual training and a disciplined character. He also develops confidence and poise in the more secure emotional environment with healthier social contact.

There is no shortage of excellent materials and advice to assist you in designing an excellent program for training your child in every area. By consulting private physicians and/or conducting your own research you can learn what to do with your child at home to ensure maximum development of his potential ("Education Excerpts," *EDX #7*).

## Youth Services Board Missionary Member Criteria

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The Missionary member criteria below applies only to your Missionary member 12- to 17-year-olds. While it's vital that time, attention, love, discipline, care, and attentive parenting be given to your non-MM teens, because they are not in the Missionary member Family, they are not covered in the Missionary member criteria.

**Shepherding and supplying the needs of the 12- to 17-year-olds** (based on "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)" and "[Responsibilities of Missionary Member Parents](#)")

**Missionary member Homes/parents should:**

- A. Invest time in their 12- to 17-year-olds so that their physical, emotional, spiritual, and educational needs are met. Homes/parents should be aware of and help to develop the interests, talents, and skills of their 12- to 17-year-olds, and strive to help them be happy, inspired, self-motivated, fulfilled, and challenged—the goal being that they are not bored and neglected.**
- B. Lovingly shepherd their 12- to 17-year-olds using the Word, prayer, wise counsel, and hearing from the Lord in prophecy.**
- C. Shepherd their 12- to 17-year-olds in minimizing and resisting ungodly and worldly influences in conjunction with the counsel and guidelines given in the Word and the *Missionary Member Statutes*.**
- D. Properly counsel and guide their resident teenagers in all matters regarding emotional relationships, sexual interaction and birth control, ethics, community responsibility, the dangers of drugs, the laws of the land, and for those teens who would like to move out of Family membership and leave the Home, preparation for living independently.**

**Christian Conduct, Sample, and Discipline** (based on "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)" and "[Responsibilities of Missionary Member Parents](#)")

**Missionary member Homes/parents should:**

- A. Teach their 12- to 17-year-olds to live in accordance with the standard for Missionary members as outlined in the "Responsibilities of Missionary Members." Missionary member parents are responsible to instill in all their 12- to 17-year-olds character-building qualities such as love for the Lord and the Word, respect, honesty, godly speech, responsibility, personal accountability, stewardship, faithfulness, diligence, obedience, gratitude, etc.**
- B. Require their 12- to 17-year-olds to uphold the standard in the Word in regards to cleanliness, dress, and deportment, so as to be a positive reflection of the Family.**
- C. Discipline their 12- to 15-year-olds in accordance with the standard in the "[Childcare Discipline Guidelines](#)" and shepherd and require that their 16- and 17-year-olds live by the "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)" so that their 12- to 17-year-**

**olds' behavior is not a reproach to the cause of Christ. Missionary members living in a communal Missionary member Home should have a united disciplinary standard with the other members of the Home for their 12- to 15-year-olds.**

**Spiritual Training** (based on "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)")

**Missionary member Homes/parents should:**

- A. Impart to their 12- to 17-year-olds the knowledge of God through His Word, ensuring that they have a solid foundation in the Bible and the Letters in order to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and an understanding of the Family's fundamental beliefs.**
- B. Develop, implement, and regularly maintain a Word program designed to inspire in their 12- to 17-year-olds a hunger for the Word and with the purpose of making their Word time as alive, exciting, and applicable as possible.**
- C. Strive to teach their 12- to 17-year-olds the use of the spiritual weapons as presented in the Family publications. The weapons of praise, prayer, hearing from the Lord, use of the keys, working with spirit helpers, and building a personal relationship with Jesus, are all vital aspects of the spiritual training of our 12- to 17-year-olds.**

**Witnessing** (based on "[Responsibilities of an Individual Missionary Member](#)")

**Missionary member Homes/parents should:**

- A. Train their 12- to 17-year-olds in well-rounded missionary work. Provide sufficient opportunity for them to actively participate in and contribute to the various aspects of the Home's witnessing ministries; e.g., outreach and personal witnessing, soul winning, Activated, follow-up, [12 Foundation Stones](#)/Bible classes, reaching the rich and labor leaders, tool distribution, performing, witnessing at CTPs, provisioning, road trips, etc.**
- B. Be sure that their 12- to 17-year-olds' dress and deportment are appropriate for the type of witnessing they are doing.**

# Appendices

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# The Family International's Statement of Faith

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## Doctrinal Statement from the Family International

### 1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God, given to us by God our Creator to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105). We assert that the Scriptures are a sacred revelation, written by holy men of old who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21), and that these writings are the divinely appointed standard and guide to our faith and practice. Holding fast to the truth that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16), we strive to study, memorize, and obey it, that we may grow in faith, wisdom, and spiritual strength through our knowledge of and adherence to its tenets. God's Word as revealed in the Bible is the basis and cornerstone of all our beliefs and practices. It is the core of our spiritual strength and nourishment. Its principles are the foundation of the instruction we give our children, and its truth is the basis of the witness we give to others.

- Matthew 24:35; Romans 15:4; John 8:31–32; 1 John 2:5; Romans 10:17; Psalm 119:99–100; Jeremiah 15:16; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:15; 4:2; John 1:1,14<sup>1</sup>

### 2. God and the Trinity

We believe in the one true, eternal God, who is the all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present, invisible Spirit of love who created and rules the universe and everything in it. We believe in the unity of the Godhead, that there are three distinguishable but inseparable Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- Isaiah 43:10–11; John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 John 4:8; 5:7

### 3. Creation

We believe the biblical account of Creation as depicted in the book of Genesis, that it is to be accepted literally and not allegorically; that God, not chaos, created the heavens and the earth. We also believe that on the sixth day of Creation, God formed the first humans in His own image and after His own likeness. He formed Adam out of the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life, then later that day made Eve from Adam's rib; thus they became living souls by divine creation and not by random evolution. We also believe that God's visible creation provides clear testimony of His invisible existence. As our Creator, God deserves thanksgiving, reverence, and obedience from us as His creations.

- Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:20; Psalm 33:6–9; Jeremiah 32:17

### 4. The Fall of Man

We believe that the first man and woman were created innocent by their Maker, but through the temptation of Satan they voluntarily transgressed and fell from their sinless and happy state. As a result, all humankind are now sinners by nature, and are absolutely unable to attain righteousness without the saving power of Jesus Christ.

- Genesis chapter 3; Romans 5:12–21

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<sup>1</sup> All Bible verses are taken from the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted. Bulleted Bible references listed after each section are additional verses concerning that particular topic, whereas Bible references noted within the section refer to quoted text or provide background to the point made.

## **5. Jesus Christ, the Son of God**

We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who was miraculously conceived by divine intervention and born of the Virgin Mary, and was sinless throughout His life. He made a full atonement for the sins of the world by His death—the substitutionary sacrifice of the just for the unjust. We affirm that Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and humankind, and that He gave Himself as the only ransom for sinners. We believe in His physical resurrection and His bodily ascension into Heaven, His perpetual intercession for His people, and His soon coming personal visible return to the world in power and great glory, to set up His kingdom on Earth, and later to judge the living and the dead.

- 1 Timothy 3:16; Philippians 2:5–11; Hebrews 4:14–15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24–25; Romans 1:3–4; Matthew 28:18; Acts 1:9–11

## **6. Salvation by Grace**

We believe that all people by nature are sinners, but that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). We believe, therefore, that anyone who personally accepts God’s pardon for sin through Jesus Christ will be forgiven of his or her sin, reconciled to God, and will be able to forever live in God’s presence.

We believe that the salvation of humankind is wholly by grace (God’s gift of love, mercy, and forgiveness), through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who in infinite love for the lost, voluntarily accepted His Father’s will and became the divinely provided sacrificial Lamb who alone can take away our sins (Ephesians 2:8–9; Titus 3:5). Salvation can only be acquired through Jesus Christ. “I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

We are saved by believing in Jesus Christ and personally receiving Him into our hearts and lives, thus becoming spiritually regenerated or “born again.” “As many as received Him [Jesus], to them gave He the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12). “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

Once saved, the believer is saved forever. We believe that it is the privilege of all who are born again through faith in Jesus Christ to be fully assured of their salvation from the very day that they receive Him as their Savior. Just as the believer is saved by grace, he or she is sustained by grace: “Who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation” (1 Peter 1:5). “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:28).<sup>2</sup>

- Romans 3:23; 6:23; 3:10; 1 John 1:8; Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:12

## **7. The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit came forth from the Father to teach, instruct, inspire, and empower believers for their God-given mission. A believer receives a measure of the Holy Spirit when he accepts Jesus, but he can be filled to overflowing if he asks and desires to give himself more fully to the Lord. “Be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

We also believe the Holy Spirit is the personification of the feminine and maternal element of the Trinity of God and as such is the picture of a mother, the comforter, who loves, nurtures, comforts, and consoles the born-again child of God.

- Genesis 1:26–27; Proverbs 8:1,22–32; John 3:5–8; 14:15–18,26; 15:26; 16:7–11; Acts 1:8

## **8. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the baptism or complete filling of the Holy Spirit is a baptism of love, “for God is love” (1 John 4:8), and that it may be freely obtained by all believers who simply ask God for it, and that it is often given after the scriptural “laying on of hands” of other believers. The primary purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to empower the believer to witness the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others. “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me” (Acts 1:8).

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<sup>2</sup> While we firmly believe that the soul that God has saved and granted His free gift of eternal life to can never be lost, this is not a license for the believer to willingly sin. Because God is a holy and righteous Father who cannot overlook the sins of His children, if the believer persistently sins, He will chasten and correct him. The apostle Paul explains, “For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. For what son is there whom a father does not chasten?” (Hebrews 12:6-7).

Other ministrations of the Holy Spirit are to guide the believer into all truth, to comfort the believer, to bring all things that Jesus has said to the believer's remembrance, to assist the believer in prayer, and to help him or her understand God's Word.

- Luke 11:9–13; Acts 8:15–17; 1:8; Luke 4:18; Galatians 5:22–23; John 14:16,26; Romans 8:26–27

### **9. The Gifts of the Spirit**

We believe that it is the privilege of the Spirit-baptized believer to enjoy the benefits of the spiritual gifts outlined in 1 Corinthians chapter 12, which include wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, and prophecy. "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all" (1 Corinthians 12:4–5,7). All of these gifts that are bestowed by the heavenly Father upon His children are to be used and freely exercised in the congregation by both male and female members, so that the body of believers may be strengthened, encouraged, and edified by them.

- Joel 2:28–29; Acts 2:17–18; Matthew 7:11

### **10. The Gift of Prophecy**

We believe that prophecy is an important gift given to God's children through the Holy Spirit, and that prophecy should be an active part of our daily lives and ministry. As we acknowledge the Lord and ask Him to guide our paths, leaning not to our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5–6), we believe that He speaks to us personally with instruction, guidance, and encouragement. "He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men" (1 Corinthians 14:3). The gift of prophecy is available to all followers of Christ, as is any other gift of the Spirit.

It was foreseen in the Bible that prophecy would occupy a more important role in the Last Days<sup>3</sup>, the era we believe that we are living in now. "And it shall come to pass in the Last Days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy" (Acts 2:17).

- Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Corinthians 14:5; Revelation 19:10

### **11. Divine Healing**

We believe that healing diseased and afflicted bodies was a major part of Jesus' ministry while on Earth, and that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). He still desires to restore health to the afflicted that come to Him in faith. Through Christ's suffering on the cross, God has made provision not only for the salvation of the souls of all humankind, but also for the healing of physical infirmities, for "by His stripes [the wounds He received when He was beaten] we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Divine healing is a privilege available to all who believe.

Although we believe in God's power to heal illnesses, we believe that the decision as to whether to rely on prayer alone or to seek medical assistance in addition to prayer is a personal one, and members are free to avail themselves of medical assistance. As the Scripture says, "According to your faith it will be done to you" (Matthew 9:29 NIV).

- Matthew 4:23–24; 10:1; Mark 16:17–18; 1 Peter 2:24; Matthew 8:16–17; Psalm 103:3

### **12. Keys of the Kingdom**

We believe that the spiritual gifts that Jesus gave to His original disciples are available to His followers today. When Jesus said, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven" (Matthew 16:19), we believe that He was literally bequeathing the spiritual keys of the kingdom of Heaven, representing the full power of God, to His followers. Family members claim the keys of the Kingdom in prayer to release God's power to act in any given situation, in accordance with His will.

- Matthew 18:18; Luke 10:19; Revelation 1:18

### **13. The Fruits of the Spirit**

We believe that Christians who are filled with the Holy Ghost should manifest the fruits of the Spirit as detailed in Scripture: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Galatians 5:22–23 KJV).

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<sup>3</sup> The term "Last Days" refers to a period of time at the end of history as we know it, culminating in Jesus' Second Coming. This time is also known as the "time of the End," or the "Endtime."

- Ephesians 5:9; James 3:17–18; Matthew 7:16–20

#### **14. Angels**

We believe that God created an innumerable company of spiritual beings known as angels (literally, “messengers”). Angels are powerful immortal beings whom the Lord has assigned to watch over humankind, especially to protect and to minister to God’s people. “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” (Hebrews 1:14). Although angels are usually invisible in the physical realm, they can materialize and appear in human form and even walk amongst us without our being aware of them, which is why God’s Word tells us, “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels” (Hebrews 13:2).

- Psalm 34:7; 91:11–12; 2 Kings 6:15–18; Genesis 19:1–2; Judges 6:11–22; 13:2–21

#### **15. Departed Saints**

We believe that in addition to angelic ministering spirits, God also uses the spirits of departed believers to minister to and deliver messages to His people. Scriptural evidence of this is found in the account of the spirits of the departed prophets, Moses and Elijah, appearing and conferring with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration; and Saint John’s account in the book of Revelation of his conversation with a heavenly messenger sent by God to reveal to him mysteries of the future: “And when I heard and saw these things, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God’” (Revelation 22:8–9).

- Luke 9:28–33; Revelation 19:10; Hebrews 12:1,22–24

#### **16. Satan and His Demons**

We believe that one of God’s mightiest archangels, “Lucifer, son of the morning” (Isaiah 14:12), sinned and fell through his pride, jealousy of God, and ambition. He then became Satan [the Devil], the infernal foe of all righteousness. A third of the angels followed him in his rebellion against God, and thus became demons, evil spirits, which are presently active as his agents and associates in his malignant and God-defying activities. Satan’s evil spirits now influence many people, and are largely responsible for the rampant crime, violence, wickedness, and disease flooding the world. We hold Satan to be the open and avowed enemy of God and humankind, who, as a usurper, now rules as the unholy “god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV). He will be defeated at the apocalyptic Battle of Armageddon after the Second Coming of Christ (Revelation 20:1–3).

- Isaiah 14:12–15; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:7–9; Ezekiel 28:11–19

#### **17. Spiritual Warfare**

We believe that we are engaged in a relentless spiritual warfare. As we strive to obey God’s commands and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all whom we can, “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God” (Acts 26:18), our adversary the Devil does all that he possibly can to try to thwart our efforts. “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). Soldiers in the Lord’s Army must therefore “put on the whole armor of God” (Ephesians 6:11), and learn to skillfully wield the powerful spiritual weapons that God has entrusted us with, particularly the “shield of faith” and the “sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Ephesians 6:16,17). We are confident of victory, because God’s Word has promised us that “He [Jesus] who is in you is greater than he [the Devil] who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

#### **18. Prayer**

We believe that prayer, the communication between every child of God and his or her heavenly Father, is vital to our spiritual well-being. Through prayer, we declare our love for God and manifest our dependence on Him. Far from merely being a religious ritual or a spiritual exercise, prayer can release God’s power, in accordance with His will, and bring about change, supply, healing, and miracles. Jesus said, “Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them” (Mark 11:24).

We believe that interceding fervently in prayer for the needs of others is an important duty of every Christian: “Praying always ... with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18).

- Jeremiah 33:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 11:6; James 5:16; 1 Samuel 12:23; 1 Chronicles 16:11; Ephesians 6:18

### 19. The Lord's Supper—Communion

We believe that the Lord's Supper, called "communion," was instituted by Christ as a means for us to commemorate His death on the cross for our sins, and that partaking of its elements (the bread and wine) is a profession of the believer's faith. Communion is a simple ceremony whereby a group of believers partake of bread, which is broken, representing how Jesus' body was broken for the healing of our bodies; and wine, which represents how Christ's blood was shed for the remission of our sins. Scripture enjoins the believer to partake of the Lord's Supper with other believers until His return; therefore it is the privilege of all who know and believe in Him to commemorate His sacrifice on Calvary "till He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

- Matthew 26:26–28; John 6:51; 1 Corinthians 11:23–30

### 20. The Church: The Fellowship of Believers

We believe that the Church is the collective body of believers. The Church is referred to as "the body of Christ" as well as "the bride of Christ." Thus, it is not merely an ecclesiastical institution or organization—and certainly not a religious edifice or place of worship. "The Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands" (Acts 7:48). "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5 KJV). "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). We believe that the Church is the spiritual entity composed of those who have accepted Christ as their Savior, regardless of any affiliation with Christian organizations or denominations.

We believe that great spiritual benefit can be derived from fellowship with other like-minded believers, to engage in prayer, the reading of God's word, and fellowship meetings. Scripture also exhorts us not to abandon "the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25). Thus, we should endeavor to follow the example of the Early Church, whose members "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

- Acts 2:46; Ephesians 1:22–23; 2:19–22; 1 Corinthians 12:12–14; 1 John 1:3,7a

### 21. The Great Commission

We believe in the Great Commission that Jesus has given to His Church to evangelize the world: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). As such, every believer is commissioned to make Christ's love known to the world and to seek to win others into God's heavenly kingdom. We believe that a formal ordination into the Gospel ministry from a denomination or institution is not necessary, as all Christians are ordained by God to preach His Gospel and win others to Christ. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:16).

- Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Peter 3:15; Proverbs 14:25; Acts 26:18; 1 Corinthians 9:16

### 22. Consecration

We believe that the Christian's life should be consecrated to the Lord; that is, to "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1), so that He may work through us and in us "both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

Because our bodies belong to the Lord and are the temples in which the Holy Spirit dwells, we believe that Christians should strive to maintain a healthy lifestyle, in respect to diet, exercise, and rest. We do not believe in abusing our bodies with illicit drugs, tobacco, or harmful substances, or overindulging in the consumption of alcohol, or unhealthy food and beverages. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16). "You were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20).

### 23. Non-conformity to the World

We believe that Christians are called by God to "be not conformed to this world, but [to] be transformed by the renewing of [their] mind" (Romans 12:2). We adhere to the scriptural admonition to "love not the world or the things in the world" (1 John 2:15). We understand this to mean that the believer should avoid pursuits and practices of secular society that are incompatible with Christianity, as well as conformity to worldly attitudes and values contrary to God's teachings.

However, while we believe that Scripture bids God's people to "come out from among [unbelievers] and be separate" (2 Corinthians 6:17), we believe that this separation is primarily spiritual, as Jesus said that His disciples were to be "in the world" but not "of the world" (John 17:15–18). Christians should not isolate themselves, but should reach out to people in all strata of society, following the footsteps of Him who came to this world "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

## 24. Discipleship

We believe that it is a high privilege for a believer to respond to Christ's challenge to follow Him as a full-time disciple.<sup>4</sup> We also believe that Jesus' call to such full-time service remains essentially unchanged from His invitation to the fishermen on the shores of Galilee long ago: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).

It is our conviction from Scripture that the ideal of such discipleship entails a commitment to devote one's life to winning others to Christ, and to teaching and training others to follow Jesus as His disciples. "Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19–20). "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit [others won to Christ]; so will you be My disciples" (John 15:8).

Full-time discipleship also entails a renouncement and forsaking of the pursuit of material wealth, as well as worldly and materialistic ambitions and endeavors. "No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who enlisted him as a soldier" (2 Timothy 2:4). Christ plainly set forth the rigorous terms of the high standard of discipleship when He said, "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:33).

- Matthew 6:19–34; Mark 10:21; Hebrews 11:13; Luke 16:13

## 25. Cooperative Communal Living

We believe that the New Testament's account of the lifestyle of the Early Church offers us not only a historical narrative, but an exemplary pattern and model, which God intended succeeding generations of believers to follow. The Early Church's unselfish, cooperative lifestyle, in which "all who believed were together, and had all things in common" (Acts 2:44), proved to be exceptionally beneficial for the fledgling movement in terms of practical and economic concerns. Even more importantly, the close fellowship and spiritual unity fostered by this lifestyle provided the early disciples with needed support, fellowship, encouragement, and a spiritual haven. It was an example to nonbelievers that Jesus' followers could live together in harmony and cooperation—further proof of the love that they professed. Likewise, we today have found both the practical and spiritual benefits of cooperative communal living to be extremely advantageous in helping us achieve our goal of reaching all whom we can with the Gospel of Christ.

- Mark 10:29–30; Acts 2:44–45; 4:34–35; Psalm 133:1

## 26. Marriage and Children

We believe that God created and ordained the marriage union of man and woman and that marriage is the ideal relationship for the parenting of children and the forming of stable families.

We also believe that children are a wonderful gift of God with which He blesses and entrusts us, for "children are a heritage from the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is a reward" (Psalm 127:3). Therefore, it is our conviction that the physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs of children should be amply and competently met. We consider the care of the children God has given us to be a very important responsibility and a fundamental component of our daily lives and service to God, for which reason all members of our communities are encouraged to do their utmost to ensure that their children are reared in as healthy, loving, safe, and godly an environment as is possible.

We believe that it is the God-given responsibility of every Christian parent to impart to their children a deep appreciation, respect, and love for God and His Word, and the sacred principles contained in it, bringing them up "in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

- Psalm 127:3–5; 2 Timothy 3:15; Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Psalm 34:11; 1 Samuel 1:28

## 27. The Sanctity of Life

We believe that human life is sacred, and that it is the right of each person to be treated as an individual created in the image of God. It is our belief that as Christians our duty is to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31) by sharing the news of God's love and salvation for humanity, regardless of race, gender, color, creed, nationality, religious affiliation, or social status. We are exhorted to love and respect others without partiality (1 Timothy 5:21). We oppose acts of prejudice and violence.

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<sup>4</sup> "Disciple" is defined as "one who believes and follows the teachings of a master, and assists in the spreading of such teachings." While the Gospels exemplify the life of Jesus and His closest 12 disciples who renounced worldly pursuits, they also acknowledge that there are varying degrees of "following the teachings," which must be recognized and appreciated. We believe that the degree to which one commits his or her life to Christ is a matter of personal faith and conviction.

We are opposed to abortion. Scripture makes it clear that God esteems the unborn as a person with an identity, not merely as a mass of fetal tissue. The Lord said to the prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). Modern fetology makes a strong case that human life begins at conception, which means that the developing child deserves all the protection and safeguards that any of us enjoy.

We believe that neither suicide nor euthanasia are acceptable in the eyes of God. We maintain that life is a valued gift from God, and as the sole giver of life, God is likewise the only appropriate taker of life.

- Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Psalm 139:14–16; Jeremiah 2:34–35; Acts 7:19

## **28. Civil Government and Religious Liberty**

We believe in the Scripture's teaching that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and order of human society. "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake" (1 Peter 2:13). "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the powers that exist are appointed by God" (Romans 13:1).

The only exception to this would be in matters of faith, where obedience to a law of man would mean disobedience to the law of God. Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords, and in such cases where the laws or ordinances would violate our faith or duty to worship God or witness our faith to others, our position is the same as the apostles': "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

- Romans 12:18; 13:1–7; 1 Peter 2:17; Matthew 22:21; Proverbs 8:15–16; Revelation 19:16

## **29. Jesus' Law of Love**

We believe that Jesus' Law of Love as explained in Matthew 22:35–40 should govern every aspect of a Christian's life. An expert in the Mosaic law tested Jesus with this question: "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Jesus expressed it again in His famous "golden rule": "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12 NIV).

We therefore believe that if a person's actions are motivated by unselfish, sacrificial love—the love of God for our fellow man—and are not intentionally hurtful to others, such actions are in accordance with Scripture and are thus lawful in the eyes of God. "The fruit of the Spirit is love. Against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22–23).

It is also our belief that the Law of Love comprises the ultimate fulfillment and completion of biblical law, including the Ten Commandments, as it fulfills the spirit of all the Mosaic law. Saint Paul affirmed this when he said: "All the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Galatians 5:14). We therefore believe that through the Lord's salvation and His Law of Love, Christians are released from the hundreds of rules under the Mosaic laws in the Old Testament and are no longer required to observe them. They are, however, held to a higher law—Christ's Law of Love, which should guide all our interactions with others.

- Romans 13:8,10; James 2:8; Galatians 2:16

## **30. Perspective on Sexuality**

We believe that God created human sexuality, and we consider it a natural emotional and physical need. As evidenced by Genesis 1:28, sexual relationships between men and women were designed, ordained, and commanded by God. Long before Adam and Eve sinned, God told them, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." Later in verse 31 of the same chapter it says that God "saw everything that He had made"—which clearly included the first man and woman as well as their bodies and sexuality—"and behold, it was very good."

Thus, it is our belief that heterosexual relations, when practiced as God ordained, designed, and intended between consenting adults of legal age, is a pure and natural wonder of God's creation, and permissible according to Scripture.

- Titus 1:15; Romans 13:10; Galatians 5:14,22–23

## **31. The Bride of Christ**

We believe that it is evident throughout the Bible that the relationship between God and His people and Christ and His Church is akin to that of a bridegroom to his bride. The Scripture tells us, "For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is His name" (Isaiah 54:5), and that we are "married to Him who was raised from the dead [Jesus], that we should bear fruit to God" (Romans 7:4).

The marital metaphor is frequently used to describe the intimate spiritual unity between Christ and His people, and the fervency of the loving union of heart, mind, and spirit that accompanies this relationship. The book of Revelation describes the reunion of Christ with His Church in Heaven as His marriage: "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper" (Revelation 19:9). It is our understanding of the Scriptures that the followers of Christ are His bride, called to love and serve Him with the fervor of a wife. "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her" (Ephesians 5:25). He has promised to betroth us to Him forever (Hosea 2:19–20).

### **32. The Time of the End**

We believe in the fulfillment of the Scriptures foretelling the end of this world as we know it. It is our belief that we are now living in the time period known in the Bible as the "Last Days" or the "Time of the End," which is the era immediately preceding the return of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:1). His Second Coming will fulfill the Scripture, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever" (Revelation 11:15).

Seven years before Jesus' return, a powerful world leader known in Scripture as the "beast," "man of sin," "son of perdition," and "Antichrist" will rise to power (2 Thessalonians 2:3–4). Three and a half years into his reign, he will declare that he alone is God, and demand the world's veneration and worship (Daniel 9:27; Revelation 13:4,7). A mandatory universal financial system will be instituted during this time, permitting no one to legally buy or sell essential goods, except those who bear this demagogue's mark, name, or number (called the "mark of the beast") in their right hand or forehead (Revelation 13:16–17). The progression of these events will plunge the entire world into an unprecedented time of social chaos and religious persecution known in the Bible as the "Great Tribulation" (Matthew 24:21).

It is our belief that born-again Christians will remain on Earth during the time of the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:15–31). Multitudes of Christians will survive the Antichrist's onslaughts, boldly preaching the gospel of salvation until the Lord's return (Daniel 11:32–35). Many adherents of other religions will also rebel against this One World regime (Daniel 8:23–25).

The three-and-a-half-year period of Great Tribulation will climax in the return of Jesus Christ to the Earth (Matthew 24:29–30). All of the born-again believers will then be supernaturally delivered from their persecutors at the Rapture, the miraculous event when their mortal bodies will be gloriously changed and made like Jesus' own immortal resurrection body, as they rise to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17; 1 Corinthians 15:51–52)

The Antichrist's forces will then be annihilated by Jesus and His heavenly armies, in the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16–21). This will usher in a thousand-year rule of Christ on Earth, with peace, justice, and equity for all mankind (Daniel 2:44; Revelation 20:1–3). After this period, God will re-create a beautiful new Earth and atmospheric heavens (2 Peter 3:10–13). God's Heavenly City, New Jerusalem, will then descend like a stupendous jewel from above to the paradisiacal New Earth. "The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:3–4).

## Definition of a Missionary Member Pioneer Home

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A Missionary member Home of no less than three people 18 years and over intending to pioneer a new Home in a metropolitan area or country other than the one in which the majority of them reside, may apply for a FAF Pioneer Gift. The regional shepherds of the region in which the new Home is opening will consider the team's request for pioneer status according to the Home's proposed reasons for opening their Home, the city or country in which they are opening their Home, whether there are already any Homes in that metropolitan area, the amount of witnessing and tool distribution they presently do, their proposed means of support, and the extent and type of work they propose to establish in their new field. In most cases pioneer Missionary member Homes will be ones opening a Home in a metropolitan area that does not have any Family discipleship or Missionary member Homes. Pioneer teams asking to open a Home in a city with other Family Homes must follow the *Missionary Member Statutes'* guidelines for opening a Home in a city or metropolitan area with other existing Homes.

If the regional shepherds grant pioneer status to the new team, a pioneer gift will be sent to the pioneer Home after the reporting office receives the Home's first eTRF from their new field.

## Requirements for General and Active Members

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### General Membership

#### A. To be accepted as a General member of the Family International, an individual must:

1. **Understand what the Family is and what he/she is being considered a member of. To ensure that members have a basic understanding of what the Family is and what we believe, a prospective General member must have read at least the Family publication "Introducing the Family International."**

"Introducing the Family International" explains what the Family is, our main goals, message, and mission, our essential beliefs, our origins and founder, our lifestyle, and a brief mention of controversy and persecution.

2. **Read and understand the "General Membership Declaration of Intent."**

The "General Membership Declaration of Intent," point D., outlines what is expected of the General member. The "GM Declaration of Intent" does not have to be signed by the General member, but is meant to help General members understand what being considered a General member of the Family entails.

In certain sensitive countries, the "GM Declaration of Intent," and therefore the GM requirements, may be modified by the regional CGO board, with approval of WS Leadership.

3. **Be accepted by a two-thirds majority of the Home council.**

The Home will be held accountable to feed and minister to their General members, and therefore should determine who they accept as members by a two-thirds majority vote. The Home may want to vote on whether to accept someone as a General member before presenting him with General membership and the "GM Declaration of Intent." That way if he accepts, he is considered a member.

Once voted in, the Home should include him on the eTRF as a General member for as long as he fulfills the General member requirements.

#### B. For as long as he remains a General member, he must:

1. **Be subscribed to *Activated* if available in his language, or have the magazine delivered to him monthly by the Home.**
2. **Be regularly ministered the Word by members of a Family Home either in person or via email or mail.**
3. **Fellowship regularly with a Family Home or receive visits from Family members. If unable to fellowship in person, keep in touch by phone, email, or mail.**
4. **Give to the Home in some way, either of his finances, material goods, time, or a combination of the three.**
5. **Be a witness however he can, according to his faith and ability.**
6. **Generally conduct himself as a good Christian according to the godly principles of the Bible to love God and his fellow man; not be a reproach to the Family.**

**C. A General member may discontinue his membership at any time. His membership may also be discontinued at any time by a two-thirds majority of the Home council.**

A General member can choose to discontinue being a member, at which time the Home should stop counting him or her on the Home's eTRF. A Home may also revoke someone's General membership for failing to meet the requirements, or if the Home loses contact with him or her. This is done by a two-thirds majority vote, after which the discontinued member should be taken off the eTRF.

The Home may vote to reinstate a General member at any time by a two-thirds majority vote.

**D. General Membership Declaration of Intent:**

> I desire to become a General member of the Family International, and would like to be accepted as part of their [missionary]\* movement in this capacity. [\* the word "missionary" may be omitted in certain countries for security reasons.]

> I have received Jesus into my heart and have also received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I plan to grow in my faith in God by receiving and reading the *Activated* magazine, and I will also try to make time to read God's Word in the Bible and Family publications.

> I have read the publication titled "Introducing the Family International," and I am aware of the Family International's basic beliefs and doctrines.

> I would like to stay in touch with other members of the Family International on a regular basis, so that I can benefit from their fellowship. I will try to live and act according to the great commandments of the Bible to love God and love others and manifest that love through my actions. I will also testify of my faith to others when I have the opportunity.

> As a General member of the Family International, I will do what I can to help further the work and efforts of the Family community that I fellowship with, or other Family communities, whether it be through my time, finances, and/or services, according to my ability.

**Active Membership**

**A. To be accepted as an Active member of the Family, an individual must:**

**1. Complete the *12 Foundation Stones* course.**

"Introducing the Family International" and the "Family International's Statement of Faith" are required reading as part of the *12 Foundation Stones* course.

**2. Read all the *12 Foundation Stones* supplementary MLs.**

Each *12 Foundation Stones* class includes one ML which is required reading by the student, to help introduce them to the Words of David. Many classes also have a second, or in some cases a third or fourth ML which is optional reading for the student. However, in order to become an Active member, the student must have read all the supplementary MLs, as they provide an important foundation for being an Active member. Homes aren't required to read these supplementary MLs with their students. They can give them to the students as homework, which the students can read on their own. For a list of these supplementary MLs consult [www.familymembers.com/cgo](http://www.familymembers.com/cgo).

The prospective student can read these in any order at any time either before, during, or after the *12 Foundation Stones* course. If the ML is not available in the student's local language, they may read a similar ML that is translated or someone can do a running translation of the ML with the student. If neither of those is an option, the student is only required to read the one required ML with each Foundation Stone class.

**3. Complete the *Connexions* classes.**

The *Connexions* classes cover topics which Active members will read about in the *Link* magazine and in other AM pubs, such as a basic introduction to the keys, the spiritual weapons, loving Jesus, and the general principles of the Law of Love. It is therefore important that Active members are taught these classes before they become AM.

The *12 Foundation Stones* supplementary classes may be taught in any order at any time, either before, during, or after the *12 Foundation Stones* course.

**4. Read and understand the "Active Membership Declaration of Intent."**

The "Active Membership Declaration of Intent," point E., outlines what is expected of the Active member. The "AM Declaration of Intent" does not have to be signed by the Active member, but is meant to help Active members understand what being considered a part of the Family at this level entails and what is expected of them.

**5. Be accepted by a two-thirds majority of the Home council.**

The Home will be held accountable to feed and shepherd their Active members, and therefore should determine who they accept as members by a two-thirds majority vote. The Home may want to vote on whether to accept someone as an Active member before presenting him with Active membership and the "AM Declaration of Intent." That way, if he accepts, he is considered a member. Otherwise, when presenting it to the prospective member, it would be necessary to explain that should he accept, his membership still has to be voted on by the Home.

Once voted in, the Home should include him on their TRF as an Active member for as long as he fulfills the Active member requirements.

**B. If a former Family Disciple, Missionary Member, or Fellow Member wishes to become an Active member, he or she must first receive permission from the regional shepherds.**

The Home should request permission via the regional desk and must receive a reply before counting the former member as an Active member on the eTRF. The former member must also comply with points A.4–5.

**C. For as long as he remains a member, an Active member must:**

Note that these requirements are general expectations of Active members. Failure to comply with any of them on a single month does not result in automatic loss of Active membership. It's up to the Home to determine whether their Active members are generally living up to the standard articulated below.

- 1. Be subscribed to *Activated* if available in his language, or have the magazine delivered to him monthly by the Home.**
- 2. Be signed up for *Link* and *Living Word* publications, if available in a language he or she can read.**

Because they've completed the *12 Foundation Stones* course, Active members are eligible to receive *Link* and *Living Word* publications, which will help to feed them spiritually and give them a stronger connection with the Family as a whole. Any AMs included on the Home's eTRF are automatically signed up for this mailing which they will receive from WS; the Home simply needs to select the language and provide the AMs' addresses. If any of the AMs cannot receive the *Link* magazine at their own addresses for security reasons, they may receive their mailings at the Home's address.

- 3. Regularly, at least monthly, receive the Word from his Home either in person or via email or mail.**

In addition to *Link*, *Living Word*, or other publications which the AMs may receive via their WS mailing, they should also be fed regularly by the Home. This should be at least monthly, but ideally more frequently. This feeding can be in the form of Word classes, publications suitable for AMs, such as the *Rolled Gold* MLs, read in person or sent via email or mail. If an AM is working through the *12 Bridges* course, that would fulfill this requirement.

- 4. Fellowship monthly with his Home. If unable to fellowship in person, keep in touch by phone, email, and/or mail.**

Under normal circumstances, AMs should personally fellowship at least once a month with the Home they report to. If they're unable to, members of the Home can also visit them in their homes or meet with them elsewhere, which would count toward this requirement. If there's a particular month an Active member is not able to personally fellowship with the Home, he should at least be in communication through some other means such as phone, email, instant messaging, and/or mail.

Homes are permitted to have Active members who do not reside in the same city or country, and with whom they cannot realistically meet regularly in person. In that case, they must be in monthly contact with the Active member through other means.

- 5. Give regularly of his finances or material goods to the Home, as well as of his time.**

Active members play an important role in the Lord's financial plan, which is Family Homes being largely supported by their flocks. AMs should help to support the Home financially on a regular basis. There is no set definition of what "regularly" should be; that will depend on the capability and willingness of the Active member. Neither is there a set minimum amount that an Active member should be giving to the Home; it's understood that some AMs will be able to help more than others. An AM who is a student living with and supported by his parents, for example, may have very little personal finances and therefore not be able to give much.

Helping the Home financially in some way, shape, or form, is something that is generally expected of AMs, but there are no minimum requirements of amount or frequency, and it's left up to each Home to determine whether their AMs are fulfilling the spirit of this requirement. In an exceptional situation where an AM is willing to help the Home financially but unable to give anything at all for some time, the Home may continue to report him as an AM if he's an Active member in all other aspects.

Active members may also be encouraged to tithe by the Home in order to receive the Lord's blessings that come specifically as a result of tithing as per the Scriptures. However, this is not a requirement; whether or when they do will depend on how the Lord leads in each individual situation.

In addition to their finances, Active members are expected to give of their time to the Home in some way, according to their ability and the needs of the Home. Again, there is no set requirement of how frequent this must be or how much time the Active member should give. Rather, it's generally expected that Active members understand that it's part of their responsibility to help the Home in some way, play a part in the Home's missionary labors, or participate in projects when needed and according to their ability and talents.

#### **6. Witness however he can, according to his faith and ability.**

Homes should be teaching their Active members to be active witnesses. This is one of the most important requirements of Active membership, and what makes them "active." At the same time, how this plays out will be different for each Active member according to his circumstances and level of dedication. There are no specific requirements as to what type of witnessing AMs must do, or how often. Witnessing may include participating in Home witnessing activities, which not all Active members may have the opportunity to do, and/or being a wise witness in their work and within their circle of acquaintances, being an instant witness, etc. Learning to be active witnesses is something that Active members will grow into with time.

#### **7. Conduct himself as a good Christian according to the godly principles of the Bible to love God and our fellow man; be a positive reflection of the Family and be in unity with Family members in general.**

The conduct of Active members should generally reflect positively on the Home and the Family. Nevertheless, Active members are not held to the same high standard of conduct as Missionary members or Family disciples, and it's understood that they will have vices and weaknesses, and will not be the best example at all times. Active members should be making an effort to grow, and Homes should shepherd their Active members and help them to progress in their weak areas. At the same time, Homes should not have unrealistic expectations that their AMs are unable to fulfill given their circumstances and level of membership.

#### **D. An Active member may discontinue his membership at any time. His membership may also be discontinued at any time by a two-thirds majority of the Home council.**

An Active member can choose to discontinue being a member, at which time the Home should stop counting him or her on the Home's eTRF. A Home may also revoke someone's Active membership for failing to meet the requirements, or if the Home loses contact with him or her. This is done by a two-thirds majority vote, after which the discontinued member should be taken off the eTRF.

The Home may vote to reinstate an Active member at any time by a two-thirds majority vote.

#### **E. Active Membership Declaration of Intent:**

> I desire to become an Active member of the Family International and would like to be accepted as part of their missionary movement in this capacity.

> I have read the publications titled "Introducing the Family International" and the "[Family International's Statement of Faith](#)," and completed the [12 Foundation Stones](#) course, supplementary Letters and [Connexions](#) classes, and I am aware of the Family's mission and basic beliefs.

> I have received Jesus into my heart and have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I plan to grow in my faith in God by receiving and reading *Activated*, *Link*, and *Living Word* publications. I will also make time to read God's Word in the Bible and other Family publications.

> I will stay in touch monthly with the Family community that I am a member of, so that I can benefit from their fellowship.

> I will endeavor to live and act according to the great commandments of the Bible to love God and love others, and manifest that love through my actions. My general conduct should engender unity with other members of the Family, and reflect positively on the Family International.

> I will testify of my faith to others, according to my ability.

> I will regularly give financially or materially to the Family community that I fellowship with, and give of my time, according to my ability, in order to help further their missionary work and/or that of other Family communities.