



LOVING OUR COMMUNITIES TO CHRIST

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. WHAT IS THE MISSION AMERICA COALITION (MAC)?

Mission America is an unprecedented Coalition of Christian leaders who have prayerfully come together to mobilize the Church to pray for, care for and share Jesus Christ with every person in America. Alongside that mission is a parallel emphasis on seeking God for revival of His Church and the spiritual transformation of our nation. Since its inception, leaders from 81 denominations, over 350 ministries and dozens of ministry networks have been involved in the Coalition. *MAC* calls for active participation in *The Great Commission* to “go into all the world and preach the Gospel, making disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) and *The Great Commandment* “Love the Lord your God and . . . Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37, 39).

2. WHAT MAKES A MINISTRY OR DENOMINATION A MEMBER OF MAC?

Members of the *MAC* National Committee are personally invited to join the Coalition with their involvement being approved by the Facilitation Committee (governing board of *MAC*). Each member has been invited to be a part of the Coalition based on their: 1.) Theological agreement with *The Lausanne Covenant* and; 2.) Personal and ministry/denominational commitment to evangelism. *MAC* National Committee members agree to attend a once-a-year meeting of the Coalition and to provide financial or other support for the ongoing work of the Coalition.

3. WHAT IS MAC’S MISSION STATEMENT?

“The Whole Church taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole Nation – and to the World.”

4. WHAT IS MAC’S STATEMENT OF FAITH?

MAC subscribes to *The Lausanne Covenant*. This theological document was developed by participants from 150 countries at the 1974 *International Congress for World Evangelization* in Lausanne, Switzerland, a congress called by Rev. Billy Graham. Because of its overwhelming acceptance as a document that provided a new base for collaboration, *The Lausanne Covenant* is being used as a statement of faith by hundreds of ministries throughout the world. To read the document online, please go to www.lausanne.org

5. WHERE DID PRAYER/CARE/SHARE COME FROM?

In 1999, *MAC* launched the *Lighthouse Movement* – an effort to encourage people to pray for, care for and share Jesus Christ with every man, woman, young person and child in America. While many churches, ministries and denominations chose to use the “lighthouse” terminology, others did not and instead focused on the three major components of prayer, care and share. Over the past three years, the effort has moved its focus toward prayer, care and share as the essential components to a lifestyle of evangelism and has broadened the terminology beyond “lighthouses.”

6. IS THIS RELATED TO THE LIGHTHOUSE MOVEMENT?

The lifestyle evangelism vocabulary of prayer, care and share originated within the context of the *Lighthouse Movement*. However, the vocabulary is being used by many individuals, ministries and denominations that do not also reference lighthouses.

7. IS LOVING OUR COMMUNITIES TO CHRIST INCLUSIVE OF EVERYONE?

Christians who become involved in *Loving Our Communities to Christ* (LC2C) represent many denominations, backgrounds and ethnic groups. With theological agreement

based on *The Lausanne Covenant* and following the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, each person commits themselves, their congregation or their ministry to call God's people to His mission of *Loving Our Communities to Christ*. LC2C seeks to present the clear message of the Gospel to every person in the nation – regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, lifestyle or location.

8. IS THIS ANOTHER NATIONAL INITIATIVE OR CAMPAIGN?

Loving Our Communities to Christ turns national initiatives upside down by honoring the plans and initiatives of local cities and communities. LC2C was prayerfully initiated by leaders of cities and communities in collaboration with national leaders of denominations and ministries. It has been designed to be more like a pull down menu of services offered by national and regional denominations and ministries that local leaders access when they choose to. Local pastors, lay leaders, business men and women, city leaders, ministry leaders, etc. are crucial to its success. Because of the flexibility of this process, many communities may become involved in short-term, city-specific campaigns such as Bible distribution or hosting an evangelistic crusade, however the focus of LC2C is on long-term citywide transformation.

9. WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP OR RESOURCES?

MAC partners have many resources and ideas that cities may want to consider using. A list of those resources and links to other help available online will be posted soon at www.missionamerica.org. Additional information will be made available through the monthly MAC *EConnections* e-newsletter. For a free subscription to the e-newsletter you can signup at www.missionamerica.org.

10. HOW LONG WILL LOVING OUR COMMUNITIES TO CHRIST TAKE?

Because every community has different needs and is at a different stage of bringing leadership together, there is no pre-set timeframe in which LC2C must take place. LC2C is meant to be an ongoing strategy for community transformation; one that, as the Lord leads, will continue to regenerate itself over the months and years to come so that every person will have an opportunity to come to know Christ.

11. WHAT ARE THE STEPS?

The first step is to contact our Mission America Coalition Office by phone (760) 200-2707 to express your interest. Ask for the Next Steps document. A National Facilitator will be in touch with you following this initial contact to guide you through the next steps which are briefly outlined below.

- Complete City/Community Profile
- Letters of invitation from representative Pastors for engagement in the process. Pastors should represent a significant portion of church attendance in the community.
- Commitment to engage with the Mission America Coalition leadership for at least a three year period
- Agreement to the Lausanne Covenant
- Commitment to “Loving our Community to Christ” framework

12. IS THIS WORKING ANYWHERE?

Hundreds of communities throughout the United States are already involved in strategically impacting their community with the love and grace of Jesus Christ. While not expressly using the language of LC2C, these cities have gathered their leadership together and are prayerfully working together to share Christ in word and deed. For more information on these communities please go to www.cityreaching.com. Since the LC2C framework was unveiled in the fall of 2004, more than a dozen communities are currently evaluating the readiness of their area to become pilot communities.

13. HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO COST?

LC2C is a customizable, community-specific framework. Because the community chooses how the framework will be implemented, it's difficult to determine how much each area will need to invest financially. However, churches and individuals who are

committed to reaching their community should prayerfully and carefully consider how much financial support can be budgeted toward this effort, with the understanding that this strategy calls for more than a temporary investment of time and resources.

14. WHAT EXPERIENCE DO THE MISSION AMERICA COALITION'S NATIONAL FACILITATORS OFFER OUR LOCAL MOVEMENT?

The *MAC* National Facilitator Team brings with it more than two decades of experience in city-reaching. In addition to helping lead the *MAC* national movement, this team has served at the grassroots level as pastors in local churches and leaders of local city movements. They offer a wealth of practical experience acquired through on-the-job "training" in cities and through the development of an online community of city-reachers through www.cityreaching.com. This team can help you network with other Christians who are in various stages of reaching their community so you can share ideas, encouragement and strategies. *MAC* extends its services to communities that wholeheartedly embrace the concept of collaborative evangelism and that recognize the importance of a holistic, whole-city approach to community transformation.

15. WHAT KIND OF RESULTS CAN WE EXPECT?

Measuring results and setting expectations for each community is a locally-owned process. *MAC* can assist communities in establishing systems for setting goals and tracking progress, however local leaders are the best equipped to monitor the advancement of the Gospel in their area. Here is a sampling of the kind of benefits your community can expect to experience.

- Strengthen and expand your cityreaching movement.
- Increase effectiveness of outreach efforts that will grow your local congregations
- Consultation of Mission America National Facilitators for the development of a communitywide whole church strategic plan for loving our community to Christ. These leaders bring expertise and experience in working with over 750 city movements nationwide. They serve as a connection point for resources that will help your community pursue your strategic plan.
- Increase effectiveness of outreach through leveraging organizations and resources.
- Draw on the expertise and resources of hundreds of Mission America Coalition member organizations.
- Customized resources from Mission America Coalition partners to serve the needs of the community based strategic plan.
- Shared costs for services and resources.
- Breakthrough results with short-term, mid-term and long-term success measures.
- Practical steps for congregations and ministries to strategically collaborate in saturation evangelism throughout the city or community.

16. HOW DO WE MARRY JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY? (BALANCE OF PIETY AND SOCIAL ACTION.)

When the whole church comes together to take the whole gospel to the whole community, often this means that followers of Jesus with different approaches the discipleship process work together in unity for the first time. We have seen this bring a new appreciation for the richness of the Body of Christ in a community. This requires people of Christ-centered and Biblically-based faith to also be people of grace and love so that we seek first to understand one another. Our experiences in life are different and this often brings different understandings of how our lives in Christ are to be lived out. Some have come to find great pleasure in the development of a deep devotional and passionate prayer life. Others have found great joy in seeing God at work in bringing a more just society. Ultimately, we find our greatest joy in understanding that our Lord Jesus Christ is not either/or in these matters, but both/and. For in the person of Jesus Christ, we see the marriage of justice and righteousness and he is our model for living

out our faith as a holistic expression of both the demonstration and the declaration of the good news of God.